



AFRAC
AFRICAN ACCREDITATION COOPERATION

Newsletter

March 2018



Notes from the Editor

The AFRAC Marketing and Communication Working Group presents this edition of the AFRAC News which contains very interesting articles. This edition includes highlights of the AFRAC General Assembly which was successfully hosted by Egypt Accreditation Council (EGAC) in the historic city of Cairo. Beyond hosting of the AFRAC GA, EGAC shares experience on successfully advocating for accreditation in Africa. Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS) also shared how advocacy for accreditation was made at the EU Business forum in Nigeria.

The hallmarks of the 2017 IAF-ILAC Annual Meeting in Vancouver Canada is also covered in this edition with updates such as the progress made by AFRAC members in achieving full signatory status, newly published standards and transition issues. From Nairobi Kenya comes an article on the Regional training on ISO 17011: 2017.

Articles on the meeting held between West African Regional Accreditation System (RAS) and AFRAC to reposition accreditation within the region and the emergence of NiNAS CEO as President of West Africa RAS are contained in this edition. These articles and more will make a pleasant reading.

The AFRAC Marketing and Communications Working Group thank all the contributors for submitting the articles on time. Your feedback on the articles and how this newsletter can be improved to make AFRAC News a preferred read will be welcomed. Kindly send your comments to fikiles@sanas.co.za. Please feel free to get in touch with any of the below representatives who are members of the AFRAC Marketing and Communications Working Group (AFRAC MCWG) or the AFRAC Secretariat to submit your articles:

- Ms. Susanah Munyiri (Convenor - KENAS)
- Ms. Fikile Skosana (AFRAC Secretariat - SANAS)
- Mr. Moez Boughlami (TUNAC)
- Mr. Getnet Tsigemelak (ENAO)
- Ms. Cheshta Matadeen-Domun (MAURITAS)
- Ms. Jeanne Francoise Ranorovelo (SADCAS)
- Eng. Mohammed Hassan (EGAC)
- Ms. Elizabeth Muema (KENAS)
- Mr. Ibra Fail Gaye (LSAHE)
- Mr. Ibra Fail Gaye (LSAHE)
- Ms. Lawrena Okoro (NiNAS)

Operating in line with our mission "To facilitate the use of accreditation as a tool to support trade and industrial development, improve competitiveness of African products and enhance the protection of the health and safety of the public and the environment." Ours is to ensure that the 'Confidence and Trust' that AFRAC inculcates is voiced and heard across the continent and beyond. Feel free to circulate it to those to whom it may be of interest. Enjoy your read.

Lawrena Okoro - AFRAC Newsletter Editor



Notes from the Chair

I am indeed delighted to present to our distinguished readers the 7th edition of the newsletter. The AFRAC newsletter has become an effective tool for reaching stakeholders of accreditation on topical issues. This edition offers a special opportunity to create awareness on AFRAC activities, and share information on efforts made by members of AFRAC to promote the goals and objectives of AFRAC, and support trade within their specific economies.

The AFRAC 2017 Annual General Meetings which was successfully held in Cairo Egypt, was decimated with capacity building sessions, committee meetings, and strategic meetings with cooperation partners. Beyond the changes in membership status of some Accreditation Bodies such as ENAO, KENAS, SADCAS, NiNAS, the meeting provided opportunity for trainings on different standards and guidance documents such as ISO/IEC 17011, ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17021-1:2016 and ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017, ILAC A3, and MRA decision making.

AFRAC strategic plan 2017 - 2021 clearly outlines the strategic goals and objectives which are currently being implemented to redefine the landscape of accreditation in AFRICA. It is expected that within this time frame, AFRAC will not only achieve recognition and global acceptance but will deliver excellent service and be self-sustainable.

The performance framework of the AFRAC Strategic plan 2017 - 2021 is already recording achievements within defined timelines. Some of these progresses made include working towards international recognition of AFRAC as region, increasing the number of qualified and registered evaluators, expansion of the AFRAC MRA scope, technical cooperation with other regions, membership drive and increasing awareness on AFRAC.

Beyond the region, AFRAC and its members are also achieving enviable heights in the global community on accreditation. AFRAC felicitates with accrediting bodies within the region that became signatories to AFRAC MRA, IAF MLA and/ or ILAC MRA or had its scope extended in the year 2017. These include:

- ENAO (Ethiopia) in the scope Testing (ISO 15189 and ISO/IEC 17025)
- KENAS (Kenya) in the scope Testing (ISO/IEC 17025), Calibration (ISO/IEC 17025), Testing - Medical (ISO 15189) and Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020)
- SADCAS whose signatory status in the ILAC MRA was extended to include Testing - Medical (ISO 15189) and Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020)
- EGAC (Egypt) was re-admitted following a successful re- evaluation conducted in February 2017.

Whilst we celebrate these achievements, AFRAC is aware that there is now, more than ever before, a great need for a functional quality infrastructure in Africa to facilitate trade. Africa as a continent is not only large but presents many opportunities including trade. However these opportunities are not optimized to translate into enhanced intra-Africa trade. This is one of the dark clouds over Africa's economy which AFRAC is striving to turn to a silver lining.

Accreditation using quality standards and measurement traceability holds a lot of promises for trade in Africa. The AFRAC MRA is a veritable template which can support Africa's economic growth through effective participation in global trade by ensuring that African products and services compete favourably and are accepted globally.

Araya Fesseha - AFRAC Chair

Advocating for Accreditation in Africa

Africa is a big, ancient and condensed population continent. It consists of a considerable big number of countries. Africa is strategically placed geographically and attractive to support trade with the rest of the world considering that it is rich in agricultural produce, industrial and mineral ores and products. In order to facilitate inter and intra Africa trade, Africa considered developing and enhancing its quality infrastructure, the fundamental components of Quality Infrastructure being Standards, Metrology and Accreditation besides Market Surveillance and Conformity Assessment. The Pan African Quality Infrastructure PAQI with its four pillars, the Intra-Africa Metrology System AFRIMETS, the African Electro Technical Standardization Commission AFSEC, the African Organization for Standardization ARSO and the African Accreditation Cooperation AFRAC have formalized their cooperation as members of PAQI to achieve the objective of facilitating trade and contributing to the protection of health, safety and the environment in Africa and thereby improve Africa's competitiveness.

With the steady rise in products and services, which exceeded plurality ever, the presence of mechanism for consumer protection has become a necessity through the test, examination and inspection certificates for products in accordance with the recognized quality system. Here comes the role of accreditation, which ensures efficient quality system in accordance with the requirements of international norms and standards to confirm confidence in the role of CABs who grant certificates for systems and products as well as testing and calibration laboratories. Accreditation provides confidence in the certificates and test reports through a set of internationally recognized standards developed by ISO. These standards assure on several principles which are **credibility, competence and transparency** that lead to confidence in the results and reports on national and international scale. Accreditation also supports government's confidence in the tests and certificates through support to regulatory and supervisory functions.

As an African country, Egypt believed early in the importance of accreditation. EGAC was established in 1996 to assess and accredit conformity assessment bodies in Egypt to contribute to the Quality Infrastructure of Egypt and consequently facilitate trade between Egypt and other regions like EU, Arab countries and African countries. EGAC signed MRA/MLA with ILAC/IAF in 2009 and renewed and extended the signatory scope twice in 2013 and 2017. EGAC has granted accreditation to more than 400 Conformity Assessment Bodies with accreditation certificates internationally recognized. As these certificates are recognized all over the world, they facilitated export and trade procedures, reduced the costs required for testing and inspection of products as they are tested once and accepted everywhere, consequently enhanced the competitiveness of Egyptian products and opened the international markets to Egyptian products. The more scopes EGAC is recognized in, the wider the spread for recognized CABs, the higher capability for the Egyptian Products to go through external markets, hence the power point of accreditation.

Statistical information relevant to export and trade exchange shows an optimistic rate of increase yearly, a close relation to increasing competitiveness of Egyptian products and cost reduction, especially that of testing or inspection because due to internationally recognized certificates. Taking this into consideration, soon and very soon AFRAC will become ILAC/IAF signatory as a regional accreditation body, all NABs affiliated to AFRAC will be signatory and therefore their accreditation certificates will be recognized. It is therefore a desire that expected that all NABs of African countries and NAFFPs will be part of this regional accreditation system that will shape the level of competitiveness on the continent.

Hany El Desouki - EGAC

8th AFRAC General Assembly Meetings

The African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) held its 8th General Assembly meeting on 29 September 2017 at the Fairmont Nile City Hotel in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting was hosted by the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC). A number of training workshops and meetings were held before and during the week as follows:

- Workshops on ISO/IEC 17011 held from 23 to 24 September 2017; ILAC A3 held on 27 September 2017; ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17021-1:2016 and ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 held on 28 September 2017; and MRA decision making held on 27 September 2017.
- Marketing and Communications Working Group meeting, Calibration, Testing and Certification Technical Committee Working Groups; Evaluator Working Group and MRA Documents Working Group meetings held on 25 September 2017
- Inspections Technical Committee Working Group; Technical Committee and MRA Committee meetings held on 26 September 2017
- MRA Council meeting held on 27 September 2017

- AFRAC Executive Committee meeting held on 28 September 2017
- AFRAC General Assembly (GA) held on 29 September 2017.

The 8th AFRAC General Assembly meeting was officially opened by Mr. Hany El Desouki on behalf of Honourable Eng. Tarek Kabil the Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry at a ceremony held on Monday 25 September 2017 and attended by over 60 delegates from African countries mainly from accreditation bodies, regional trading blocs, international development partners such as Physikalisch - Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) Germany, accreditation cooperation partners such as the Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC).



From left to right: Dr Ali Elbireer, CEO of ASLM; Mr. Araya Fesseha, AFRAC Chair ; Mr. Hany El Desouki, Executive Director of EGAC; Representative of IHAF



Delegates at the 8th AFRAC GA opening Ceremony

The Executive Director of EGAC Mr. Hany El Desouki welcomed delegates to the 8th AFRAC Annual meetings and thanked the AFRAC for the opportunity afforded to EGAC to host once again this special event in Egypt highlighting EGAC role in the establishment of AFRAC and EGAC participation in other regional accreditation co operations such as the Arab Cooperation in Accreditation (ARAC) and the European Accreditation (EA) and the reasons for participation in these fora. He noted the many opportunities the continent of Africa has and highlighted the need for a good Quality infrastructure to facilitate trade and take advantage of the huge opportunities presented. In his remarks Mr. Araya Fesseha, the Chairman of AFRAC noted that Africa as a continent was lagging behind in quality issues even though civilization started on the continent citing the pyramids as a symbol of civilization. He then outlined the efforts and achievements of AFRAC over the years and in particular the progress made towards international recognition, and the collaborations and developments under the Pan African Quality Infrastructure whose activities are fully aligned to the Africa Union's priority areas for economic development. He noted the poor participation by African countries in AFRAC, the one stop shop for accreditation issues and called upon the Honourable Minister to assist in the membership drive. He then thanked Egypt for hosting the 8th AFRAC General Assembly meeting and PTB Germany and other cooperating partners for the support provided to AFRAC thus far.

In his presentation on the United Arab Emirates' initiative on the International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF), the representative of IHAF highlighted the size of halal trade worldwide which is now estimated to be US\$ 2 trillion and poised to grow further. "85% of meat used in Arab countries is from outside the region most of which are not Moslem hence the need for assurance" he said. He noted that both the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) do not take care of Islamic principles in accreditation hence the establishment of IHAF. Already 20 countries have signed up to IHAF. He then invited AFRAC members to consider joining IHAF, a matter which was discussed during the week of meetings and is under consideration by AFRAC.

In his remarks Dr Ali Elbireer, the CEO of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) outlined the role of ASLM in preparing medical laboratories to a level that accreditation bodies can accredit them. He further outlined the platforms used for this purpose i.e. the Strengthening of Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) and Stepwise Laboratory Quality Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA), the partners involved and the achievements so far with a number of laboratories having been accredited under ISO 15189. He then called for strengthened collaboration amongst all the stakeholders in order to improve the health care delivery system of which the accreditation of medical laboratories is a key strategy.

A number of training workshops were held in conjunction with the 8th AFRAC GA starting with the workshop on ISO/IEC 17011 held from 23 to 24 September 2017 and attended by over 38 participants from EGAC, KENAS, MAURITAS, NINAS, TUNAC, SANAS and SADCAS as well as observers from ECOWAS. The workshop which was designed to highlight the requirements of the new edition of ISO/IEC 17011 the key accreditation standard that accreditation bodies have to comply with for international recognition was very

ably facilitated by Mrs Susanah Muniyiri Ochieng, KENAS (Kenya) and a member of ISO CASCO WG 42. The training workshop was highly interactive with exercises interspaced throughout the 2 days of workshop allowing for exchange of information on implementation of the new edition amongst developed and emerging accreditation bodies from Africa.



Delegates at the ISO/IEC 17011 training Workshop



Attentive participants at the ILAC A3 Workshop



ISO/IEC 17025 Workshop

This was followed by a workshop on ILAC A3 which was held on 27 September 2017 and very ably facilitated by Mr. Mahmoud Eltayeb. The objective of the workshop which was attended by 36 participants was to inform accreditation bodies on how to use A3 in undertaking a self- evaluation and to report on performance of the accreditation bodies. The facilitator walked participants through all the 3 parts starting with the introduction, the report template and steps in the evaluation process of the new version of ILAC IAF A3 which is due to be published shortly. Group work was undertaken on the various clauses of the standard 4.5, 5, 6.2, 7.7, 7.13 and 9.7, where participants were required to indicate what goes into the self -evaluation report. This workshop was very useful and will no doubt assist in the preparation of the self-evaluation report which forms the basis of any peer evaluation process.

The training workshop on MRA decision making was held on 27 September 2017 and facilitated by Mr Moez Boulghami the AFRAC MRA Committee and Council Chairman. In his presentation on the MRA decision making process, Mr Moez Boulghami outlined the terms of reference (TORs) and competence requirements of the MRA Committee and Council, composition, importance of confidentiality declarations, the decision making process and the timelines thereof as outlined in MR 001.

The last workshops were held on 28 September 2017 starting in morning with a half day training workshop on ISO/IEC 17025 facilitated by Mr Pilot Masunga of Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) who walked participants through the ISO/IEC FDIS 17025: General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, highlighting the changes in the new edition of the standard which is expected to be published by end of November 2017. In the afternoon a workshop to update delegates on the new editions of ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016: Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems Part 2: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of environmental management systems and ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017: Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems Part 3: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems was held and facilitated by Dr Hazan Sharaf El Din.

The meeting reviewed the progress made on the 2016 work plan and developed the 2017 work plan which includes the strengthening liaison with other PAQI technical committees and developing guidance on remote assessments and flexible scopes requirements now elaborated on in the upcoming new version of ISO/IEC 17011 and, continuing with awareness raising and development support activities. The following are worth noting: Mr. Michael Talam of KENAS (Kenya) was appointed as the Certification Working Group Chair; Dr Lawrena Okoro was appointed the editor of the AFRAC Newsletter for 2018; AFRAC activated its Social Media platforms; Mr Adel Rezk (EGAC) and Mrs Susanah Munyi Ochieng (KENAS) were qualified as peer evaluators bringing the total number of qualified peer evaluators to 10; A register of the combined SADCA/AFRAC/ARAC pool of evaluators was prepared; The meeting noted the progress with the evaluation of AFRAC as region, with the office evaluation and clearance of findings completed, witnessing of evaluations of EGAC and SANAS also completed and findings raised cleared, and witnessing of the decision making underway at these meetings. The MRA council admitted ENAO & KENAS to the AFRAC MRA.

The Committee meetings were followed by the 8th AFRAC GA Meeting during which a total of 31 resolutions were adopted. In his report to the General Assembly the AFRAC Chairman, Mr. Araya Fesseha reviewed the achievements of the 2012 to 2016 Strategic Plan which were all on target especially in working towards international recognition of AFRAC as region, number of qualified and registered evaluators, expansion of the AFRAC MRA scope, technical cooperation with other regions, membership drive and increasing awareness on AFRAC. Some activities such as introduction of AFRAC fees which are critical towards AFRAC sustenance were on hand pending registration of AFRAC and have been carried over into the EXCO 2018 work plan. As at the time of the GA AFRAC had 6 Arrangement members, 1 full member, 2 associate members and 6 stakeholder members.



From Left to right: Mrs Mutasa AFRAC Vice Chair, Mr. Fesseha AFRAC Chair and Mrs Yolanda Vinnicombe AFRAC Secretariat



The 8th AFRAC GA in session

He noted the limited accreditation market in Africa and called upon countries to develop technical assistance projects to develop the conformity assessment infrastructure. He further noted the limited scope of measurement traceability within some African States and encouraged countries to develop their quality infrastructure accordingly and to structure them along the value chains for the prioritized economic development sectors. The GA received the reports of the MRA Committee and Technical Committee and approved their respective 2018 work plans as presented by the respective committees' Chairmen. The GA also approved the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2016 and the 2018 budget as presented. Various reports were presented to the General Assembly by PTB Germany, IAAC, APLAC, ILAC, IAF, PAC, ARSO, SADCA, ARAC and PAQI. The GA re-elected Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer of SADCAS as the AFRAC Vice Chair and Mr. Moez Boughalmi (TUNAC) as Chairman of the MRA Committee and elected Mr. Mpho Phaloane Senior Manager, SANAS as the Chairman of the Technical Committee for terms of office in accordance with the AFRAC Bylaws. The GA thanked EGAC under the patronage of His Excellency Eng. Tarek Kabil, Minister of Trade and Industry for hosting the 8th AFRAC GA and for officially opening the meetings. The newly admitted members of AFRAC including SADCAS whose scope of recognition was extended to include medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection (ISO/IEC 17020) signed their certificates while the Arrangement members all signed their respective MOU as commitment to abide with AFRAC by laws and the various members' obligations at a gala dinner held whilst cruising along the Nile River to mark the end of the GA meeting on 30 September 2017.

Maureen Mutasa – AFRAC Vice Chair / SADCAS

2017 Joint IAF/ILAC Annual Meetings

The 2017 joint annual meetings of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) were held at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel in Vancouver, Canada from 21 October to 31 October 2017. A total of 350 delegates attended the meetings with the following economies from the Africa region attending the meetings: AFRAC and ARAC represented by some members of the regional cooperations' executive members; 15 SADC countries represented by SADCA; and accreditation bodies ALGERAC (Algeria); EGAC (Egypt); ENAO (Ethiopia); KENAS (Kenya); NINAS (Nigeria); MLSCN Accreditation Service (Nigeria); SADCAS (13 SADC Member States); SANAS (South Africa); SEMAC (Morocco) and TUNAC (Tunisia). The meetings started with a series of IAF Working Group meetings followed by ILAC and IAF Committee meetings which were held in parallel. The ILAC and IAF General Assemblies and the joint ILAC/IAF General Assembly were held during the last 3 days of the meeting from 28 to 30 October.

Membership and Signatories – Four organizations including the Foundation FSSC 22000 were admitted to the IAF Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) since the 2016 annual meetings held in New Delhi, India. The Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC) was admitted as a regional accreditation group IAF MLA Signatory in the main scope: Management Systems Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1; sub-scope: Level 4: ISO/TS 22003; Sub-Scopes: Level 5: ISO 22000; ISO 9001, ISO 14001. Four (4) accreditation bodies were admitted as MLA signatories for the various main scopes of Management Systems, Product and Personnel certification bodies including KENAS (Kenya) which was admitted in the Main Scope: Management Systems Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1; Sub-Scope Level 4: ISO/TS 22003; Sub-Scopes Level 5: ISO 22000, ISO 9001, ISO 14001. Five accreditation bodies had their scope extended to the various main scopes of Management Systems (ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO /TS 22003 and ISO 27006, Product and Personnel certification bodies. This brought the total membership of the IAF to 106 comprised of 81 accreditation body members, 19 Associate members and 6 regional group members.



IAF GA in session



ILAC General Assembly in session

On the other hand, ILAC admitted one organization into the Affiliate membership category and 3 accreditation bodies into the Associate membership category. The Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC) was admitted as a regional accreditation group signatory to the ILAC MRA for the accreditation of calibration (ISO/IEC 17025), testing (ISO/IEC 17025), medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection (ISO/IEC 17020). A total of 12 new signatories were admitted to the ILAC MRA including: ALGERAC (Algeria) in the scope calibration (ISO/IEC 17025), testing (ISO/IEC 17025) and inspection (ISO/IEC 17020); ENAO (Ethiopia) in the scope Testing (ISO 15189 and ISO/IEC 17025, KENAS (Kenya) in the scope Testing (ISO/IEC 17025), Calibration (ISO/IEC 17025), Testing - Medical (ISO 15189) and Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020 and SADCAS whose signatory status in the ILAC MRA was extended to include Testing - Medical (ISO 15189) and Inspection (IO/IEC 17020) whilst EGAC (Egypt) was readmitted following a re- evaluation conducted in February 2017. The signatory status of the Papua New Guinea Laboratory Accreditation Scheme, PNGLAS to the ILAC MRA for the accreditation of testing laboratories in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 was suspended on 14 August 2017 at the request of PNGLAS for temporary voluntary suspension to the APLAC MRA Council. This brought the total membership of the ILAC to 143 from 119 different economies worldwide comprised of: 97 Full Members (signatories to the ILAC MRA) representing 100 economies; 11 Associates representing 11 economies; 11 Affiliates representing 15 economies; 24 Stakeholders form 16 economies; and 6 Regional Cooperation Bodies. Over 57,000 laboratories and almost 8,800 inspection bodies are accredited by the ILAC Full Members (signatories to the ILAC MRA).



Mrs Maureen Mutasa, SADCAS CEO and Board Chairman receiving the ILAC MRA Certificate from Mrs Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, Chairman ILAC



Mrs Susan Munyiri Ochieng Acting CEO KENAS receiving the ILAC MRA Certificate from Mrs Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, Chairman ILAC with KENAS Management and Board representative



Mr. Araya Fesseha, ENAO CEO receiving the ILAC MRA Certificate from Mrs Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, Chairman ILAC



Mr. Hany Desouki Executive Director EGAC receiving the ILAC MRA Certificate from Mrs Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, Chairman ILAC



Mr. Mahmoud Eltayeb, Chairman of ARAC receiving the ILAC MRA Certificate from Mrs Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, Chairman ILAC

AFRAC Members attended quite a number of the IAF & ILAC meetings which saw transition arrangements for the following agreed upon: ISO/IEC 17011:2017, ISO/IEC 17025:2017, ISO 9001:2015 & ISO 14001:2015, ISO 50001, ISO 22000, ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017, ISO14064-1&2 and endorsement of ISO/IEC 20000-6:2017 and 20000-1:2011 as normative standards for service management systems. The members also had an opportunity to attend a workshop on the binary effect of Impartiality & Independence arranged by the ILAC Inspection committee. The 2017 ILAC/IAF meetings were once again a good opportunity for networking, sharing experiences and keeping up to date with accreditation developments worldwide. The meetings provided an invaluable opportunity to enhance collaborations and strengthen the credibility of accreditations worldwide. The 2018 ILAC/IAF Annual meetings will be held in Singapore in October.

Maureen Mutasa – AFRAC Vice Chair / SADCAS

A Glance at EGAC – 2017

2017 was a very active and exciting year in EGAC as many activities were carried out in this year.

- **In February 2017**, EGAC was successfully evaluated by ILAC/IAF to renew EGAC signatory status with the International Organizations. The evaluation was in the scopes of Testing, Calibration and Medical Labs, Inspection Bodies and Certification Bodies of QMS and EMS. EGAC signatory scope status was also extended to include FSMS.
- **In March 2017**, EGAC was successfully evaluated by ARAC to renew its recognition and in the framework of ARAC recognition by ILAC/IAF. The evaluation was implemented in the same scopes and to extend the recognition scope to include FSMS.
- **In May 2017**, EGAC submitted his application to sign BLA with European Accreditation EA in the scope of PT providers. It is expected to be evaluated by EA in June 2018 as scheduled by EA MRA committee.
- **In July 2017**, EGAC was successfully evaluated by AFRAC to renew its recognition and in the framework of AFRAC recognition by ILAC/IAF. The evaluation was implemented in the same scopes and to extend the recognition scope to include FSMS.
- **In October 2017**, EGAC signed certificates of renewal of MRA/MLA signatory by ILAC/IAF in their joint General Assembly held in Vancouver, Canada. ARAC also signed MRA/MLA in the same event.



Hosting CNAS



ARAC Evaluation

- **In September 2017**, EGAC hosted AFRAC General Assembly and Meetings held in Cairo from 23 - 29 September 2017 under patronage of H.E. Minister of Trade and Industry with participation of more than 60 representatives from various African countries and Egyptian government and organizations. This event had a wide spread coverage in Egyptian Media including official TV and space channels in addition to electronic news websites.
- As a beneficiary of a twinning project between EU and Ministry of Trade and Industry named Trade and Domestic Market Enhancement Program TDMEP, EGAC succeeded to extend its scope of accreditation to include 3 new scopes: Accreditation of Proficiency Testing Providers under ISO/IEC 17043:2010, Accreditation of Product Certification Bodies under ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and Accreditation of Persons Certification under ISO/IEC 17024:2012. EGAC accredited two new PT Providers in 2017.
- **In November 2017** and in the framework of cooperation between EGAC and correspondent Accreditation Bodies, A delegation from Chinese National Accreditation Services CNAS visited EGAC. The main purpose of this visit is to prepare for signing a MOU between the two parties. It was decided that the MOU will be signed during the 2018 mid-year meetings of ILAC/IAF in Germany. CNAS delegates were acquainted with all EGAC procedures and accreditation requirements and also received considerable information about Egypt technical regulations and rules especially those issued by Ministry of Trade and Industry for organizing Export and Import.
- EGAC celebrated WAD through holding awareness workshop to introduce the updated policies of accreditation and new publications and regulations from ILAC and IAF.



Hosting the AFRAC GA

EGAC official social networking account is published through Facebook with URL (<https://www.facebook.com/www.egac.gov.eg>).

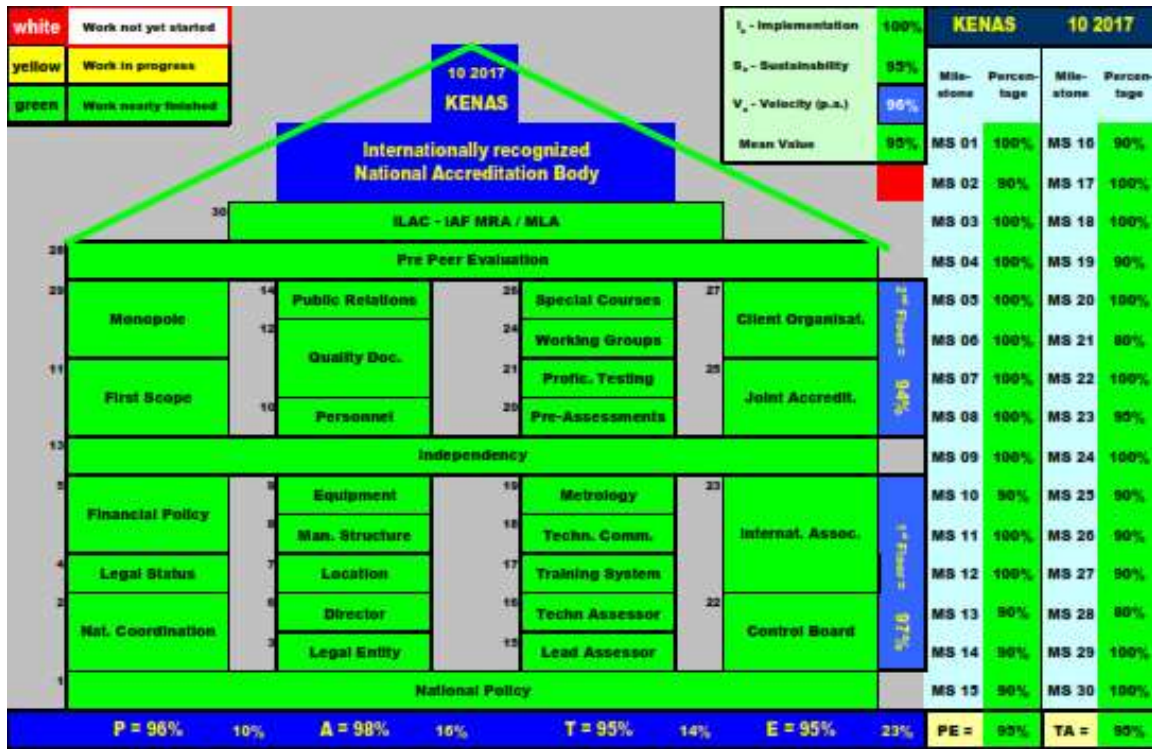
Hany El Desouki - EGAC

The KENAS Midas Touch

Have you ever wished that everything you touched turned to gold? The mythical King Midas did and when he got what he wanted, he soon discovered he didn't want what he got! KENAS set itself Big Hairy Audacious Goals (BHAG) as defined by James Collins and Jerry Porras in their book 'Built to last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies'. This was to achieve recognition at regional and international level for all its schemes at once. KENAS accredits Testing laboratories including Medical, Testing, Calibration Laboratories, Inspection Bodies, Certification Bodies and Proficiency test service providers. The Mutual recognition was desired to facilitate trade by providing a level playing ground for competitiveness by enabling reciprocity of accredited conformity assessments while enhancing safety and protecting the environment. It was therefore of utmost importance that the Sole Accreditation Body in Kenya accrediting conformity assessment bodies sign up to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement, the IAF Multi-lateral Arrangement and the AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement. In order to achieve our BHAG we had to:

1. Demonstrate strength of character by turning the immense challenges we faced into opportunities
2. Focus despite having set-backs and hence kept at it until we were successful
3. Be clear and concise in what we wanted to achieve and have everyone pull in the same direction.

4. Build Relationships through-out our journey where coaching, mentorship, under-studies and attachment arrangement were utilized to speed up the knowledge and application curve.
5. Identify the little things that counted especially in moments of set-backs.



THE KENAS House

This clearly shows that the five points of the Midas Touch as articulated by Robert Kiyosaki work! The hours put in building our house, developing and providing information, collating the information for peer evaluation, coordination of a multi-faceted evaluation team who came from 5 continents; representing ILAC, AFRAC and IAF was not in vain.

KENAS was granted full signatory as an arrangement member of AFRAC MRA in October 2017 and became the sixth Accreditation Body to sign up to the AFRAC MRA after a successful peer evaluation. The AFRAC MRA Council approved that KENAS be admitted to Signatory status as Arrangement Member of the AFRAC MRA for the following scopes:

- a) Calibration to ISO/IEC 17025
- b) Testing to ISO/IEC 17025
- c) Medical Testing to ISO 15189
- d) Inspection to ISO/IEC 17020
- e) Certification to ISO/IEC 17021-1 in the following sub-scopes:
 - QMS (ISO 9001)
 - EMS (ISO 14001)
 - FSMS (ISO 22000)



Ag. CEO, KENAS, Mrs Susanah M-Ochieng Leads the Kenyan Delegation in signing the AFRAC MRA



In the same month, KENAS was admitted as an ILAC MRA signatory for Testing (ISO/IEC 17025), Medical Testing (ISO 15189), Calibration (ISO/IEC 17025) & Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020). KENAS was also admitted as an IAF MLA signatory for Management System Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1 with a Sub-scope level 4: ISO/TS 22003 and a Sub-scope level 5: ISO 22001, ISO 9001 & ISO14001. This laudable recognition came two weeks hot on heels of KENAS admission as a full signatory to the AFRAC MRA by the AFRAC.



KENAS Team receiving the ILAC MRA Certificate



The KENAS Team receiving the IAF MLA Certificate

The MRA and MLA signatory status provides an opportunity for accredited Conformity assessment bodies to demonstrate equivalence and hence ensuring that businesses that depend on test, inspection, calibration, certification results have greater confidence in accredited test, inspection, calibrations reports and certifications that they rely on to make informed decisions. This also helps in facilitating trade since the equivalence that comes with accreditation of a conformity assessment body by an MRA/MLA signatory provides for one test, one inspection, one certificate accepted everywhere.

To all who have been on this journey with us: our clients, staff, technical and accreditation committee members, the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Industry Trade and Cooperatives, the KENAS Board of Directors, support partners like CDC, TMEA, with a specific mention of PTB – who walked with us every step of the way, ILAC & IAF through their Joint Development Support Committee, regulatory agencies in Kenya, other accreditation bodies who enabled the under-studies to happen: RvA, SWEDAC, UKAS, DANAC, CNAS, JAB, SAC, SANAS, HKAS, our suppliers and other stakeholders who may have contributed in one way or another, we are truly indebted to you

As a parting shot if you think that this is an easy achievement, I dare you to name one Accreditation Body in the world that has achieved triple recognition to five (5) scopes and three (3) sub-scopes all at once on an initial evaluation

Susanah Munyiri-Ochieng – AFRAC MCC Chair / KENAS

NINAS Advocates for Accreditation in EU- Nigeria Business Forum

The 6th EU-Nigeria Business Forum took place on 5 and 6 October 2017, in Lagos. The event was organized by the European Union Delegation, in collaboration with the European business and investment delegations in Nigeria, and European embassies and consulates. The interactive forum brought together European and Nigerian business representatives and policy makers to discuss trade and investment opportunities the barriers to trade and best practices to overcome them.

The forum afforded the Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS) the opportunity to provide insight on the value of accreditation to international trade. NiNAS CEO, Mr. Celestine Okanya, shared the benefits of accreditation to the regulators, manufacturers, conformity assessment bodies, the Nigerian government, and consumers.

The theme of the forum was “**Youth as Engine of Broad-Based Economic Transformation**” and discussions centered on how young people can impact Nigerian economic growth in the field of ICT and agribusiness; with a session on empowering women entrepreneurs.

In attendance were the Head of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria, Ambassador Ketil Karlsen; Honorable Minister of Communications Technology, Mr. Adebayo Shittu; Executive Governor of Lagos State, represented by the Commissioner for Science & Technology; Honorable Minister for Agriculture, represented by Director for Agribusiness; and the UNIDO Representative to Nigeria & ECOWAS, represented by Dr. Chuma Ezedinma.

EU-Nigeria Business Forum is a collaborative effort of the European Union and its Member States present in Nigeria. Since 2012, the Forum has served as a platform for investors and business people to interact to gather essential market information and build strategic partnerships to boost domestic investments and access to the EU market. Nigeria National Accreditation Service was established within the framework of National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria (NQIP), funded by the EU and implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).



NINAS CEO EMERGES AS PRESIDENT OF THE WEST AFRICAN REGIONAL ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

The West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP) with support from the European Union and implemented by UNIDO conducted a 4-day workshop from 09 November to 12 November, 2017, in Abuja, during which the Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS) emerged as chair of the Regional Accreditation System (RAS).

The objective of the workshop was the establishment of a Regional Quality Infrastructure for the ECOWAS sub-region through the organization of Constitutive Meetings of the Regional Accreditation System (RAS), the Community Committee for Metrology, Technical Regulation and Conformity Assessment.

The constitutive meeting of the ECOWAS Regional Accreditation System and Community Committees witnessed the election of their respective chairmen and vice chairmen and adopted a work plan for the year 2017-2018 to enable implementation of the rules of procedure, which were also adopted during the meeting

The election of NiNAS as the RAS chair saw the emergence of the NiNAS Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Celestine Okanya, as the President of RAS.

Representatives of Member States and regional accreditation bodies used the occasion to request ECOWAS to assess the RAS through the Community Council for Quality (CCQ) based on its approved work plan and objectives.

Participants of the meeting included regional organizations such as the West African Monetary Union (UEMOA), the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FEWACCI), the Federation of Employers' Organizations in West Africa (FOPAO), the West Africa Accreditation System (SOAC), the Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NINAS), and the Ghana Accreditation Service. ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States is a 15-member regional group with a mandate of promoting economic integration in all fields of activity of the constituting countries.



Lawrena Okoro- NINAS

A Meeting of the Minds: ECOWAS and AFRAC

A high level meeting between the AFRAC Executive Committee and the ECOWAS delegation who were attending AFRAC GA meetings for the first time was held in Cairo, Egypt. The ECOWAS Commissioner stated that they were in the process of building the West African Accreditation System and were therefore seeking technical support from AFRAC as it positions itself to be the voice of accreditation in Africa. Various testimonies were given as follows:

NINAS had made a lot of progress and were ready to start accreditation of CABs before the end of 2017. It was noted that training of assessors was conducted in Nigeria, Niger, Ghana, and Cote de'voir in order to build capacity for assessment; this was done under UNIDO support.

Ghana Accreditation Body though established had slowed down a little due to the anchorage of its establishment. It was further noted that both the National Policy and the Industrial Policy had provided for establishment of an accreditation body and hence they are on course with the establishment of Ghana Accreditation Body as a company limited by guarantee anchored under the Industrial Policy and the National Policy. They requested that AFRAC advocates for establishment of accreditation bodies within the continent.



The ECOWAS Delegation led by Commissioner Traoure (seated, second right) and the AFRAC EXCO Led by Mr. Araya (Seated, first left)

It was noted that there is a multi-economy accreditation body; SOAC, that serves 8 Francophone Western Africa countries. They intend to take good opportunity to engage with AFRAC in capacity building

It was stated that ECOWAS is driving Western Africa regional programs and hence intend to invite AFRAC at their regional meetings to help shape the accreditation outlook for the region.

The AFRAC Chair stressed on the need to work together for the common good of Africa and hence welcomed the collaboration. He stated his elation at the progress made on the accreditation system in Western Africa stating that this will go a long way in embedding the accreditation agenda and hence quality within the continent. He further stated that ECOWAS is not coming to AFRAC but coming home and hence it is not about ECOWAS asking AFRAC for help but it is about ECOWAS taking their rightful position within AFRAC.

AFRAC is incorporated in the TBT annexure of the TFTA and hopefully will be incorporated in the TBT Annexure of the CFTA. The countries with established ABs are 12, and AFRAC desires that this gets to 33 within the next five years.

Susanah Munyiri-Ochieng – AFRAC MCC Chair / KENAS

Regional Training on ISO/IEC 17011:2017: Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi from 11 – 13 December 2017

The regional training on ISO/IEC 17011:2017 came hot on the heels of the publication of the new standard published in November 2017. The ISO/IEC 17011:2004 standard underwent a revision by the ISO/CASCO WG 42 that resulted in the publishing of ISO/IEC 17011:2017: General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.



Participants from Sub-Saharan Economies and the Facilitators

In line with the frame work of the ISO Action plan for Developing Countries (APDC) 2016-2020, ISO in conjunction with the National Standards Body –the Kenya Bureau of Standards organized the regional training that drew 30 participants who were representatives of Accreditation Bodies, National Accreditation Focal points and National Standards Bodies from the Eastern and Southern African region. Members from Accreditation Bodies that were represented included SANAS KENAS, ENAO, Sudan Accreditation Council, MAURITAS, SADCA (Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and Namibia). Representatives from other National Focal points included Uganda and Burundi.

The training was conducted by Cynthia D. Woodley, the Chief Operations Officer and Psychometrician, Professional Testing Inc.,USA; the co-convener of ISO CASCO WG 42 and Sean MacCurtain the Secretary of the Policy development Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO), ISO/CS.



The Facilitators Sean MacCurtain & Cynthia Woodley

The objectives of the training were to;

- ✓ Highlight the changes in the new edition of ISO/IEC 17011:2017.
- ✓ Achieve a deeper knowledge of all the requirements of the standard and application by the accreditation bodies whose output would improve the overall performance.
- ✓ Have a harmonized approach with regards to understanding the requirements of the new version of the standard.

The training included a set of interactive instructional methods such as lectures, group activities and sharing of experiences. Through these the information was conveyed to the participants in an effective and practical manner.

The forum provided mechanisms and techniques as well as discussions on recommendations to assist participants in implementation of accreditation requirements. In addition the participants were able to exchange experiences and network especially between Accreditation bodies and National Focal points.



Workshop in Session

In her closing remarks to the participants the Acting CEO of Kenya Accreditation Service, Susanah Munyiri-Ochieng stated that it was important for the ABs within the region to embrace knowledge management principles and sharing of information since this will go a long way in building the capability of our Human Resource while enhancing the competence in new and emerging areas in the continent.

Our appreciation goes to ISO for organizing and funding the training and conducting it in the African Region. Further we appreciate that the training created a forum for Accreditation bodies and National Accreditation Focal Points to network and continue to share and exchange information even after the training.

Everlyn Kabong'o – Case Officer - KENAS

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