



International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF)
International Laboratory Accreditation
Cooperation. (ILAC)



9th August 2013

Further harmonisation of Activities within IAF, ILAC and the Regions

The ILAC and IAF Executive approved, at their joint meeting (JEC) in Frankfurt 2 May 2013, the distribution of the attached report “Further harmonisation of activities within IAF, ILAC and the Regions” for comments.

The report was prepared by a Task Force established in June 2010¹ with the purpose to consider further harmonisation of activities within IAF, ILAC and the Regions following the outcome of the ballot on the change of structure of ILAC and IAF in December 2009.

The terms of reference for the Task Force Group (TFG) are referenced in the report.

The key issue discussed in the report is how the future co-operation among the regions and between the regions and the global system (ILAC and IAF) shall be structured and which tasks shall be handled at the regional level and the global level.

The underlying issue during drafting of the report has been: *Is the current infrastructure for global accreditation fit and suitable to serve the future market for accreditation and conformity assessment?*

To prepare for the global discussion of that issue – which is central to the future development of ILAC and IAF – the JEC decided to circulate the report to the ILAC and IAF members and stakeholders and invite the regions, unaffiliated bodies and stakeholders to provide feedback on the report and to come up with proposals or recommendations for the future co-operation among regions and the global system, including proposals for the future infrastructure at the global level.

The discussion of the report will be launched at the annual meetings in Seoul in October 2013, including an introduction to the specific issues the parties may focus on during their discussions of the report.

Feedback from the regions, unaffiliated bodies and stakeholders should be available in advance of the annual meeting in Bangkok in 2014, where a discussion of future co-operation and infrastructure will be on the agenda for the Joint General Assembly (JGA).

Deadline for comments to the report will be agreed during the JGA meeting in Seoul and the parties – in particular the regions – are encouraged to consider how the regional discussion of the report should be scheduled so that the comments and recommendations are available in advance of the Bangkok meeting in 2014.

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Randy Dougherty
IAF Chair

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Peter Unger
ILAC Chair

¹ Members of the TFG have been representatives from the regions: Vagn Andersen (Convener), Nigel Jou (who replaced Chang Kwei Fern), Shinichi Iguchi, Ileana Martinez (who replaced Beatriz Garcia), Ron Josias, Dorsaf Zangar (until end 2011), Graham Talbot, Masego Marobela, and Steve Keeling.