

## *Communiqué*

### **IAF Upgrades its own Procedures**

#### **IAF Thirteenth Annual Meeting**

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of members of IAF was held in the United Nations Centre, Vienna, Austria, on 29 and 30, September, 1999. The meeting was hosted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, and was attended by 116 delegates, representing 73 organisations (including 43 members of IAF) from 42 economies.

The major issues before the meeting were associated with the changed legal situation now that IAF was an incorporated body. Members reviewed the organisation and management of IAF and agreed on a number of changes. Members agreed to set in train amendment of the governing documents of IAF, notably the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the Bylaws. It was expected that these and other procedures documents would be revised over the coming year and submitted to members in time for approval at the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Members adopted a Complaints procedure, which would provide for a systematic handling of all complaints to ensure that IAF processes met the needs of members and stakeholders.

Members resolved to admit to membership BELCERT, CACEB and HKAS as Accreditation Body Members and PAC as a Regional Group Member. However they deferred consideration of a number of other applications for membership until the MoU and Bylaws had been revised. Members considered a proposal for a new basis for the calculation of membership fees and agreed to vote on the proposal out of session.

During the meeting eight new members were admitted to the IAF Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MLA) – PAC as a regional MLA Group of Accreditation Body Members, and INMETRO (Brazil), BELCERT (Belgium), CNAB (China), CAI (Czech Republic), KAB (Korea), DSM (Malaysia) and SAC (Singapore) as Accreditation Body Members.

Members adopted amendments to the MLA Policies and Procedures document and to the use by accredited certification / registration bodies of a standard set of words to indicate the accredited certificates were issued under the IAF MLA, and had acceptance by all MLA members.

Members agreed to more work to be carried out on upgrading the MLA and enhancing its integrity and value to stakeholders. The agreed that over the next year work should be done to investigate whether the MLA should be extended to cover Environmental Management Systems.

Members agreed that the existing IAF Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC Guides 61 and 62 should be reviewed, with a view to ensuring uniformity of application of both guides among IAF members and their accredited bodies.

IAF adopted a policy of encouraging the development of accreditation bodies in less developed economies.

IAF adopted guidance on the transition from certifications to the ISO9000:1994 series of standards to the ISO9001:2000 standard, which was expected to be issued late in 2000.

Members agreed that the Fourteenth Meeting would be held in Washington DC, USA on 9 and 10 November, 2000.

For further information contact –

The Secretary IAF, at email <iafsecr@email.com>

or see the IAF web site at <<http://www.iaf.nu>>