

INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FORUM, Inc.***IAF 12 - COMMUNIQUE***

The IAF held its 12th Plenary Meeting in Sanctuary Cove, Australia on October 29th and 30th, 1998 and its 1st Meeting as a incorporated organization in the state of Delaware in the United States of America on September 1998. The election of its first board of directors as well as a new Chairman Takashi Ohtsubo from JAB Japan and vice Chairman Thomas Facklam from TGA Germany took place. The Board members are Joe Dunbeck from ANSI RAB representing the accreditation bodies, Marcelo Taboada from OAA representing the emerging accreditation bodies, Ian Day from IIOC representing the certifiers and Dale Misczynski from ITIC representing the industry.

The European co-operation for Accreditation-EA, the South African National Accreditation System-SANAS and The Irish National Accreditation Board-NAB signed and were incorporated to the existing IAF MLA (Multilateral Recognition Agreement).

At the meeting was approved the budget for 1999 and no change was made to the fee structure. A decision on hiring of CEO was postponed.

IAF's plenary meeting was attended by 89 delegates and observers from 32 countries and economies, representing 41 accreditation bodies and 10 associate members as well as 5 international organizations. IAF, Inc. consists of 31 accreditation bodies and 10 associated members who have signed the IAF Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The plenary was presented with a draft of guidance for ISO/IEC Guide 65 requirements for product certifiers, for consideration and comments by the members. The MLA Policies and Procedures was revised and was presented to the members for comments. The Terms of Reference of the MLA Management Committee was approved by the plenary. It was mentioned the project that is being developed by UNIDO/ISO/IAF about Pre-Peer Evaluation, which has been already initiated and is of considerable importance for the emerging accreditation bodies.

IAF approved a resolution to investigate and develop proposals for the deepening of existing MLA's from recognition of equivalence to acceptance of specific results .

It was mention by the Chair that the IAF, Inc. has been accepted by ISO as a Liaison Member in ISO/CASCO, ISO/TC 176 and ISO/TC 207. It is giving consideration as to how IAF, Inc. might take fullest advantage of its new membership as an A-Liaison Member with the ISO/CASCO they share the same member body in a number of instances.

IAF, Inc is also considering how it might cooperate more closely with ILAC since they share the same member body in a number of instances.

The next meeting of the IAF, Inc. will take place in the last week of September 1999 in Vienna, Austria and will be hosted by UNIDO.