Communique
June 6-8, 1994 - Geneva

During its fourth meeting in Geneva, June 6-8, 1994, the IAF participants affirmed their commitment to removing technical barriers to trade through the promotion of worldwide acceptance of quality system certifications/registrations and product conformity certification.

Suppliers are increasingly asking independent bodies (certification or registration bodies) to confirm that supplier quality systems comply with the ISO 9000 series of standards and that their products comply with technical standards. The purpose is to give assurance of quality, principally to buyers, and increasingly to regulators. To give added confidence in these certificates many of the bodies which issue them seek accreditation from authoritative national accreditation bodies.

The International Accreditation Forum is the worldwide forum where these accreditation bodies come together so that they can cooperate to achieve equivalence in their accreditation programs. The aim is to build confidence in, and worldwide acceptance of, certifications and registrations issued by accredited bodies.

Two new members were welcomed at this meeting, Argentina and Malaysia. It was noted that IAF now has 30 participating countries, 16 were represented at the meeting. It was again emphasized that the IAF is open to all accreditation bodies. The list of the participants of this meeting is attached. Observers from ISO, [LAC and HOC attended the meeting. It was also agreed that any international or regional organization representing certification/registration bodies may participate as observers.

The meeting participants:

1. expressed satisfaction at the growing contribution of the use of accredited certifications/registrations in promoting international trade;

2. welcomed the joint initiative of Chrysler, Ford and General Motors to rely on accredited ISO 9001 certification / registration for assurance of their suppliers' capability;

3. identified the need for common understanding of the significance of quality system certification as a means of assuring quality;

4. rearmed its willingness to work with ISO/EEC in its QSAR initiative on the understanding that it would use, not duplicate, accreditation;

5. recognized the emerging international significance of Environmental System certification and agreed to work toward international coordination of accreditation in this field;

6. agreed to extend its objectives to promote the international acceptance of product conformity certification:

7. agreed to consider at its next meeting the accreditation issues related to various proposals for certification/registration of software quality systems;

8. asked LAY working group 1, dealing with the IAF interpretation of EN 45011, EN 45012 and ISO/IEC related documents, and IAF working group 2, dealing with the development of procedures for establishing multilateral agreements, to complete their work during the next meeting of the IAF;

9. agreed to meet again in Geneva January 18-20, 1995.

Legend:
IIOC Independent International Organization for Certification
ILAC International Laboratory Accreditation Conference
QSAR ad hoc planning group for Quality System Assessment Recognition

PARTICIPANTS FROM NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BODIES

Marcelo Taboada
Buenos Aires Quality System
Argentina

Mario Osvaldo Witmer
Argentine Standardization Institute
Argentina

John Hulbert
Joint Accreditation System
Australia and New Zealand
Australia

Jose Joaquim do Amaral Ferreira
Brazilian Certification Committee
Brazil

Reinaldo Baibino Figueiredo
National Institute of Metrology,
Standardization and Industrial Quality
Brazil

Gerry Bartels
Standards Council of Canada
Canada

Ronald S. James
Standards Council of Canada
Canada

Xiao Jianhua
China National Accreditation Committee
for Quality System Registration Bodies
China

Me Jun
China State Burea of Technical Supervision
China

Thomas Facklam
German Association for Accreditation
Germany

Monika Wtoka
Office of the German Accreditation Council
Germany

Enrico Martinotti
Accreditamento Organismi Certification
Italy

Takashi Ohtsubo
The Japan Accreditation Board for Quality System Registration
Japan

Shoichiro Okujo
The Japan Accreditation Board for Quality System Registration
Japan

Jeong-Kwu Park
Industrial Advancement Administration
Korea

JangSop Han
Industrial Advancement Administration
Korea

Hong-Soon Chang
Korean Bureau of Standards, Industrial Advancement Administration
Korea

Rajinder Raj
Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia
Malaysia

Christer Bjorck
Swedish Board for Technical Accreditation
Sweden

Lars Ettarp
Swedish Board for Technical Accreditation
Sweden

Hans-Peter Ischi
Swiss Accreditation Service
Switzerland

Jean-Pierre Jaunin
Swiss Accreditation Service
Switzerland

Harry Gundlach
Dutch Council for Certification
The Netherlands

Paul Hewlett
National Accreditation Council for Certification Bodies
United Kingdom

George Lofgren
Registrar Accreditation Board
United States

James R. Roberts
Accreditation Committee of the American National Standards Institute
United States

John Stratton
Registrar Accreditation Board
United States

OBSERVERS FROM INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Juichi Nagano
International Organization for Standardization

Pierre-Michel Volandre
International Organization for Standardization

Linda Campbell
International Independent Organization for Certification

Jeffery L. Homer
International Independent Organization for Certification

John W. Locke
International Laboratory Accreditation Conference

INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FORUM SECRETRARIAT

Leroy M. May
American National Standards Institute
United States

George T. Willingmyre
American National Standards Institute
United States