

**Communiqué
11 January, 1994 – Geneva**

Representatives from organizations that operate or intend to operate regional or national programs/systems for the accreditation of bodies dealing with various aspects of conformity assessment, held their third meeting commencing January 12, 1994. The list of 30 participants representing 14 countries is attached. A number of new participants were welcomed and it was reemphasised that the IAF is open to all accreditation bodies and their active participation is sought. It was also agreed that any international or regional organization, representing certification/registration bodies may now participate as observers.

The participants reaffirmed their desire to continue the process of cooperation, which began in 1993, by engaging in discussions to achieve equivalence of their accreditation programs in order to build confidence in the certifications and registrations issued under programs of accredited bodies.

The IAF participants reaffirmed their commitment to removing technical barriers to trade and the promotion of worldwide acceptance of quality system certifications/registrations. In support of this position, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate with ISO and IEC and to continue support of their activities, in particular those of the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO) and the ISO/IEC ad hoc planning group on Quality System Assessment Recognition (QSAR).

Agreement was reached to establish an IAF working group to develop a structure and procedures for peer assessment among accreditation bodies using agreed requirements for accreditation. The work is designed to lead to a system for world-wide multilateral acceptance of accredited certification/registrations of quality systems.

Further, the IAF established another working group to develop assessment and recognition guidelines to ensure consistency in the processes used by certification/registration bodies.

The working group results will be circulated for comment and eventual endorsement and use by IAF partite bodies.

The Forum welcomed QSAR's current intention that international recognition of quality systems certificates should be based upon accreditation bodies recognizing each other on the basis of a system of peer assessment. The IAF believes that this concept could provide a simple, efficient System with minimum bureaucracy, based upon existing organizations, and offers its active support in developing the program.

The meeting concluded with the IAF participants setting four objectives:

1. to review and comment, by April 30, 1994, on the working groups' reports to be circulated by January 31, 1994;
2. to consult with the organizations they represent on the working groups proposals with a view to obtain endorsement;
3. to continue to support the work of ISO/CASCO and seek to contribute IAF expertise through comment on the QSAR draft proposal.
4. to meet again in Geneva 6-7 June, 1994

PARTICIPANTS TO THE IAF MEETING

Australia and New Zealand

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Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand

Brazil

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Chairman
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Mr. Gerry Bartels
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Director-General
Swedish Board for technical Accreditation (SVVEDAC)

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Mr. John H. Stratton
Chairman, Operations Council
Registrar Accreditation Board (RAB)

OBSERVERS TO THE IAF MEETING

Mr. Ian J. Day
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International Organization for Certification (IIOC)

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