



## **IAAC Report to SIM**

### **IAAC General Assembly meetings**

IAAC held its 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly annual meetings virtually, from August 12-19, 2021. 120 representatives from accreditation bodies and conformity assessment organizations in the region attended IAAC's meetings via Zoom. The Certification, Inspection and Laboratories subcommittee members reviewed the actions carried out up-to-date and held discussions about technical accreditation topics of interest to the region. The MLA Group and Committee reviewed the remote peer evaluation reports and discussed issues regarding the improvement of the MLA process during the pandemic. We wish to thank the IAF Vice-Chair, ILAC Vice-Chair, APAC MRA Chair, ARAC Secretary, COPANT and SIM Secretaries, and other international representatives for their participation during the IAAC General Assembly.

IAAC is in the process of implementing the 2021-2026 IAAC Strategic Plan which was approved in December 2020, starting with the selection and hiring of a new Technical Secretary who will work in coordination with the Executive Secretary, to address the current needs of the member Accreditation Bodies and Stakeholders.

### **IAAC celebrates its 25 Years**

IAAC is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and will hold a virtual event with presentations from founding members who will speak about the development of IAAC as a Cooperation and plans for the future of accreditation in the region. You are welcome to join us in this celebration, more details will be available on the IAAC website.

### **IAAC Membership**

IAAC currently has a total of 60 members, 26 of which are full members, 6 are associate members and 28 are stakeholders.

Since last year's General Assembly IAAC accepted 6 new members, two full members, two associate members and two Stakeholder members. This represents an increase in membership compared to 2020, despite the difficult pandemic year. SIM became an Associate member of IAAC in 2021, which strengthens the relationship between IAAC and SIM, who have enjoyed close collaboration for many years.

### **IAAC MLA Signatories**

IAAC currently has a total of 21 MLA signatory members from 18 countries. The IAAC MLA membership continues to grow organically. In July 2021, one IAAC MLA signatory extended its Management Systems subsopes to include



Anti-Bribery Management Systems (ABMS) and also extended its Product Certification MLA to include the GLOBAL G.A.P. scope.

### **IAAC MLA recognition by IAF and ILAC**

IAAC is recognized by IAF and ILAC as Regional Cooperation for the main scopes of Testing (including Medical) and Calibration Laboratories; Inspection Bodies; Proficiency Testing Providers (PTP); Reference Materials Producers (RMP); Management Systems Certification Bodies (with subsopes QMS, EMS, FSMS, ISMS, MDMS and EnMS), and Product Certification Bodies (with sub scope Global G.A.P). ILAC recognized the IAAC MLA for the scope of Reference Materials Producers (RMP) as of June 2021.

IAAC is undergoing an IAF peer evaluation to extend MLA recognition to the scopes of Persons Certification Bodies and Green House Gases (GHG) Validation/Verification.

### **The IAAC officers**

The current key IAAC officers are:

Liliane Somma of OUA, Uruguay, IAAC Chair

Andrea Melo of Cgcre, Brazil, IAAC Vice-Chair

Elias Rafoul of SCC, Canada, IAAC Treasurer

Robert Knake of A2LA, USA, as MLA Group & MLA Committee Chair

Paola Marsico of OAA, Argentina, as MLA Group & MLA Committee Vice-Chair.

Alba Cabrera of ONA, Paraguay, as Management Committee Chair

Maria Miranda of ONARC, Cuba, as Management Committee Vice-Chair

Carlos Archila of OGA, Guatemala, as Technical Committee Chair

Sharonmae Shirley of JANAAC, Jamaica, as Technical Committee Vice-Chair

Victor Gandy, IAAC Executive Secretary

### **Training Activities**

#### **Virtual workshop on ISO / IEC 17029**

IAAC held a 2-day virtual workshop on ISO / IEC 17029 “General Principles and Requirements for Validation and Verification Bodies” on February 22-24, 2021, presented by Stefanie Vehring from Germany's VBTÜV. 133 participants from accreditation bodies and conformity assessment bodies from the Americas joined the conversation.

#### **Virtual workshop on ILAC P10**

IAAC held a virtual workshop on ILAC P10 “ILAC Traceability Policy in Results Measurement” on January 26, 2021. The speaker was Giulia Suriani from Italy's accreditation body, ACCREDIA. Topics included key changes in the new version, options for metrological traceability routes, internal calibration, and competency of refrigerant management plans. 120 people from accreditation bodies participated in the workshop.



The Quality Infrastructure Council of the Americas, (QICA), held virtual workshops on “**Determination of calibration intervals ILAC G24 - OIML D10**” held on October 27 and 29, 2020, in Spanish and on November 2 and 4, 2020, in English. There were 151 participants from metrology (SIM), accreditation (IAAC), and standards (COPANT) organizations and institutions. Claudia Santo was the instructor.

QICA held a virtual workshop on “**Managing risks and opportunities in Testing and Calibration laboratories**” held on November 10 and 12, 2020, in English and Spanish. There were 111 participants from metrology (SIM), accreditation (IAAC), and standards (COPANT) organizations and institutions.

#### **IAAC Peer Evaluators virtual forum**

IAAC held its **2<sup>nd</sup> Peer Evaluators Virtual Forum** on October 5, 2020. 116 IAAC peer evaluators joined the Zoom meeting for a training on the Frequently Asked Questions on the implementation of ISO/IEC 17011, a review of the approved MLA procedure to carry out remote peer evaluations, and a discussion on the Guidance document to conduct remote peer evaluations. These virtual sessions allow peer evaluators to provide feedback and ask questions on the new procedures that are being implemented by IAAC.

#### **Technical Cooperation Project**

IAAC is participating in a technical cooperation project titled "Quality Infrastructure for Circular Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean" by the 3 regional organizations for accreditation, standards and metrology: IAAC, the Panamerican Standards Commission (COPANT) and the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM). Sponsor organizations included the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) of Germany and the Organization of American States (OAS). Circular Economy is a topic of great relevance worldwide and IAAC members have the unique opportunity to participate in their countries' efforts as key players, demonstrating that accreditation goes hand in hand with innovation and development of new economic paradigms.

The project focuses on three value cycles: plastics, construction and agri-food. In June 2021, a project launching event was held with participating members from the countries of the region in the three working groups identified for this project.

In the second week of October 2021, IAAC, SIM and COPANT members participated in the first regional workshop to begin drafting country projects in the three areas. Over 100 representatives of accreditation, standards and metrology organizations participated in an interactive planning workshop under the guidance of experts in Circular Economy, using the CABUREK methodology.

16 accreditation bodies will participate in the development of national circular economy projects together with their quality infrastructure partner organizations.



IAAC recently submitted an application for membership, on behalf of QICA, to become part of the Circular Economy Coalition. We hope to hear from you soon.

### **Cooperation with the Regions**

In April 2020, IAAC held a virtual meeting with SIM representatives to discuss the issue of giving continuity to the traceability of measurements in the framework of the assessments and peer evaluations. IAAC concluded that it was necessary to develop an IAAC Guide for maintaining metrological traceability during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Guide GD 045 is available on the IAAC website in the Guidance documents page.

The Chairs of IAAC, COPANT and SIM attend each other's General Assemblies whenever possible. IAAC and SIM representatives exchange ideas and provide feedback to its Committees on technical issues of mutual interest. The IAAC, SIM and COPANT Secretariats collaborate and work together on Technical Cooperation project activities and other issues of regional interest.

IAAC has strong relationships with regional accreditation Cooperations. IAAC and the Asia-Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) regularly carry out joint peer evaluations of their common members, regularly share peer evaluators as well as MLA practices. IAAC carried out 2 joint peer evaluations with APAC in 2021. The APAC MRA Chair attended the IAAC MLA virtual meetings in August 2021.

IAAC regularly exchanges technical information with the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), the Southern African Development Community Accreditation (SADCA) and the Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC), regarding best practices in MLA management. IAAC also exchanges information with the European Accreditation Cooperation (EA) on the latest developments and trends in the region.

### **New IAAC logo and redesigned website**

IAAC is promoting its new corporate image. Last year IAAC designed and approved a new logo which has been incorporated in the management system documents and on the IAAC website. The IAAC website was redesigned and is easier to navigate. You may visit it at [www.iaac.org.mx](http://www.iaac.org.mx).

### **IAAC Meetings**

The next IAAC meetings are scheduled to take place virtually in March 2022.