



AFRIMETS

Inter-Africa Metrology System
Système Inter-africain de Métrologie

CCRI Report

Introduction

The idea of a greater African metrology system was conceived in 2004-2005 and AFRIMETS was established during 2006-2007. The Inaugural General Assembly meeting was held at the premises of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in Midrand, 1-2 July 2007 where a Memorandum of Understanding was finalised and signed by representatives of bodies representing national metrology institutes from 38 African countries. The second General assembly was held in Tunis in July 2008. AFRIMETS Structures ratified at the GA were

- TC1: Metre Convention, CIPM MRA and OIML (RMCO)
- TC2: Metrology Education and Training (RET)
- TC3: Metrology Infrastructure Development (RID)
- TC4: Metrology Legislation (RLEG)
- TC5: Metrology Support for SMEs replaced by Metrology Awareness (RMA)

Structures closely mirror SADC MET structures with TC's having Scientific & Industrial and Legal Metrology sub sections.

TC chairs were elected from Institutes/laboratories that have membership or at least observer status of the CIPM CC. This is to ensure proper communication with CC Chairs. Comparisons will mostly be organised by these institutes/laboratories and TC chairs will be able to co-ordinate CMC reviews. For CMC reviews, technical experts will be added from other RMOs (where necessary).

Activities

Approval of SIM.RI.6.2005 CMC's in January 2009. This is still mainly done by the TC chair with the help of the people involved in CCRI activities from Afrimets.

NMISA ionising radiation laboratory hosted a scientific visitor from Nigeria, Prof Fatai Balogun the director/CEO of the national institute of radiation protection and research in Nigeria for two weeks, 12-23 January 2009. The scientific visit was linked to a project for the establishment of a postgraduate training centre for radiation protection in Nigeria and further expose Prof Balogun to the requirements for efficient running of an SSDL.

A joint SADC MET and AFRIMETS TC Chairs workshop was held on 2 - 3 March 2009 in Pretoria. Requirements for a quality system and CMC review in the region were discussed. Also challenges of transporting the artefacts for comparison in the region were discussed.

Currently it is very difficult to transport artefacts, because there is no arte carnet system and therefore different custom requirements are used in the region. Some of the requirements hinder some laboratories to participate as they have to pay a deposit for artefacts whilst they are in the country and may get refunded when artefacts go out of that country; with most laboratories from developing economies these funds are not usually available.

Most ionising radiation laboratories in the region are not within national metrology institutes. An invitation has being extended to all ionising radiation laboratories, including those that are members of the IAEA/WHO secondary standard dosimetry laboratories (SSDL's) network, to join AFRIMETS as associate members (at no cost). This will benefit laboratories in that they can participate in all activities of AFRIMETS, except that they will not have a vote (the vote for the country resides with its official representative).

The 3rd AFRIMETS General Assembly will be held from 12 to 17 July 2009 in Pretoria, South Africa. The first three days will be dedicated to technical working group meetings and the GA will commence on the afternoon of 15 July. A special working group meeting will be held for ionising radiation. The focus will be to establish what the capabilities of the members are, whether there is an established quality system in their laboratories, their comparison needs and also their need for a proficiency testing scheme. Working groups will be set up for quality and comparisons. The working group for comparisons will also be responsible for reviewing CMC's. The technical committee of ionising radiation plans on working closely with the AFRA/IAEA.