We are delighted to introduce this first edition of the ARAC newsletter. We intend to make it a regular publication and to use it to keep you up to date with news and developments related to the ARAC Members’ activities, the MRA and its implementation. In this and future editions, we shall be highlighting member’s benefits from ARAC membership and the effect in their economies we shall also be reporting decisions and discussions which take place at the ARAC annual meetings when relevant.

Each newsletter will be posted on our website, Facebook page and Twitter @ARAC_Official. Follow us to check Accreditation and Conformity Assessment news in the Arab World.

We always welcome your feedback as we strive to be your reference for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment matters!

Finally, may I thank all of you who contribute to the ARAC communication activities and submit their articles and news.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter! 

Amina Ahmed
ARAC Chair
ARAC actively participates in the International Meetings of ILAC and IAF and also the meetings of a number of regional organizations that have common members with ARAC. This participation aims to keep ARAC members up to date with the international developments and to enhance cooperation with other regions. ARAC also started a number of Trainings in order to build the technical capacity of members.

**ARAC @International Meetings**

ILAC and IAF Joint Executive Committee meeting in Mexico April 2019

**ARAC @Regional Meetings**

ARAC Chair, executive members and full members participated in regional meetings of other regions for cooperation and joint activities.

ARAC Regional Workshop on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and ILAC requirements for ARAC Peer Evaluators
3 and 5th March 2019 in Dubai

ARAC annual meetings
Singapore, June 2019

ARAC in the ILAC/IAF annual joint meetings

ARAC Secretariat in the ILAC/IAF A-Series WG
ARAC Mid-Term Meetings were held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 3rd to 7th March 2019 hosted by the Emirates International Accreditation Centre (EIA). The meetings brought together more than 25 participants from ARAC Committees Chairs, Members, EIA, and UNIDO representatives. On the margin of these meetings a Regional Training Workshop for the ARAC Peer Evaluators on the implementation of the new version of the Standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and ILAC requirements was conducted on 3rd-4th March 2019.

During those meetings, the ARAC Committees discussed a wide range of issues, mainly:

- Extension of the ARAC MLA scope to cover the Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies certifying the competence of persons;
- Different options and scenarios for ensuring ARAC financial sustainability;
- Hosting ARAC Secretariat & registration as a legal entity;
- Establishment of new ARAC Working & Task Force Groups (e.g. Capacity Building and Proficiency Testing Groups);
- Launching of the first ARAC Proficiency Testing programs;
- Preparation for ARAC upcoming Peer evaluation that will be conducted by IAF and ILAC.
This year, ALGERAC celebrated its 30th anniversary, which took place on June 16, 2019, at the School of Light in Zédra. The event involved stakeholders of the accreditation, namely OIE, public authorities, press, accreditation committees, board of directors, and economic actors active in the logistics chain, in order to communicate the importance of certification and accreditation in the creation of value in logistics chains, thus facilitating international trade by building trust, in line with IAC's one-time accredited logos, recognized everywhere.

**Certificates Awarding ceremony**

At the same time, ALGERAC organized a ceremony for the awarding of certificates of accreditation for various fields of testing, inspection, calibration, and medical biology, to the benefit of OIE's having been accredited since the same day in 2018.

**ALGERAC MLAs**

Mutual recognition agreements established at international level and signed by accreditors, such as ALGERAC, make it possible to recognize the equivalence of certificates issued by accredited bodies. They facilitate the acceptance of products and services across borders and avoid duplication of controls.

This day was therefore centered on the theme of useful contributions of accreditation to supply chains in order to create value. Supply chains are the engine that delivers affordable, timely products and services to consumers, businesses, and the public sector. Accreditation, as well as standards, metrology and

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**Strong Cooperation with Stakeholders in Algeria**

The challenge for companies and public authorities, confidence in the supply chain is a matter of great concern in the context of international trade. 80% of these exchanges are based on information relating to tests, calibrations, inspections, or certifications. By ensuring the technical competence and impartiality of conformity assessment bodies that deliver this information, accreditation helps to meet this need for trust.

As in previous years, the Day was celebrated in Algeria by ALGERAC to encourage the public to learn about the ways in which accreditation contributes to building a safer world and supporting businesses, governments, and regulators.
EGAC participated as the sole assessment and accreditation body in Egypt in the Africa Food Manufacturing Exhibition. The Exhibition is considered one of the largest food processing and packaging exhibitions in Egypt and includes the latest developments in the industry, with the largest and most famous suppliers in the market as well as the latest trends and innovations in the food industry. The exhibition features pavilions for the country, featuring new and exciting technologies from around the world.

EGAC participation in the exhibition is also part of EGAC activities to commemorate the World Accreditation day, which will be held this year on the theme of Accreditation: Adding value to supply chains, which will be celebrated by all accreditation bodies worldwide.

The Africa Food Manufacturing Exhibition, held this year under the auspices of the Egyptian Ministry of Commerce and Industry, presents the full life cycle of the food and beverage manufacturing process. The exhibition focuses on packaging techniques such as packaging machines and processing techniques that include automation, robots, food ingredients including raw materials and flavors, logistics such as storage and transportation.

This exhibition serves as a gateway to trade between African countries and the rest of the world through its interactive platform of cutting-edge technology and business opportunities, offering a unique opportunity for manufacturers and shareholders to meet top buyers in the region under one roof.

EGAC, through its presence in the exhibition, aims to identify and raise awareness about the importance of obtaining accreditation in order to comply with international requirements and specifications for the quality of goods and services and to ensure the results of inspection, testing and inspection in accordance with international standards and to enjoy the international recognition of the accreditation issued by EGAC.

In the framework of the activities and efforts of the Egyptian Accreditation Council EGAC to spread the culture of quality and accreditation in Egypt, especially in the Egyptian industrial society, in order to raise awareness of the importance of obtaining accreditation to the conformity assessment bodies operating in Egypt.
The recognition status from ILAC was maintained in Testing, Calibration and Medical laboratories besides Inspection bodies. EGAC updated its quality system according to the requirements of the new standard ISO/IEC 17011:2017. EGAC successfully passed AFRAC evaluation in March 2019 to confirm that EGAC has revised their Management System to bring it in alignment and compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011:2017. EGAC also started to accredit testing and calibration laboratories according to the new standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017. In addition to the international recognition of ILAC/IAF, EGAC also is recognized from AFRAC and ARAC as regional accreditation bodies. During this May, EGAC will sign BLA with EA for accreditation of Proficiency Testing providers PTP according to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043.

EGAC succeeded to maintain and extend its international recognition from ILAC/IAF to be continued till 2021.

EGAC Communication activities:

EGAC, through its communication activities, aims to identify and raise awareness about the importance of obtaining accreditation and acceptance of accredited services internationally, regionally and continentally from:

- the international accreditation organizations (ILAC / IAF, ARAC and continental AFRAC), as well as the importance of accreditation in the promotion of local industries, foreign trade and protection of local markets
- Products that are not compatible with the technical legislations of the Egyptian and international market.

It also explains the steps to obtain accreditation to all the conformity assessment bodies with the availability of the latest interactive materials and information of EGAC, which answer all queries of the applicants for accreditation.

EGAC Brochures:

EGAC official social networking account is published through facebook with URL: facebook.com/www.egac.gov.eg

During this May, EGAC will sign BLA with EA for accreditation of Proficiency Testing providers PTP according to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043.
Boosting Excellence in Accreditation

ENAS Launches Three Initiatives

In line with the vision of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to be one of the best countries in the world by the year 2021, the Emirates National Accreditation System (ENAS) following UAE government vision and National Agenda in which 3 initiatives where launched to support the objectives of ENAS and its role within the Country within the national quality infrastructure and to improve the provision of its services within The UAE System of Controlling and Monitoring Conformity Assessment Bodies. Furthermore, to ensure consistent level of excellence performance and considering customer centric as a main methodology to achieving happiness for ENAS stakeholders and partners.

TAWASAL with ENAS

This initiative was launched in the year 2017 aiming for more effective communication and engagement of ENAS interested parties and customers. Since then, ENAS has been actively and frequently conducting workshops and meetings within the frame of this initiative, that helped ENAS in understanding the needs and expectations of its interested parties, and supported ENAS harmonization programs for its assessors, and its awareness and informative campaigns for its partners and customers.

TAZAYED with ENAS

This initiative was launched and inspired by UAE initiative for the year 2018 “Year of Zayed”. It aims to support Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in UAE to increase their knowledge and understanding of the ENAS Accreditation schemes related requirement, and eventually improve their level of competence exceeding their customer's expectations, and will give a platform for discussions to harmonize the implementation of the Accreditation requirements and qualify technical expertise in different conformity assessment sectors through a series of highly specialized workshops and training activities.

TAMAYZ with ENAS

This initiative was officially announced by the Director of the National Accreditation Dr. Rehab Al Ameri in the closing of ENAS Assessors/ Experts Harmonization Meetings series December 2018. It sets a recognition framework for those who contributed and added value through ENAS journey.

This initiative based on appreciating ENAS stakeholder, and partner on annual bases which will include Awarding for different categories (Assessor, Regulators, Influencer……). Furthermore, this initiative also aim to build a cohesive relations between all contributors within the accreditation supply chain, which will highlight and value all efforts taken by each player within the system in a principle of “Accreditation made Excellence”

Director of ENAS Dr. Rehab Al Ameri
GCC International accreditation conference

The GIAC international conference is the first of its kind in accreditation in the Arab region.

GCC Accreditation center (GAC) with cooperation with Ministry of Industry commerce and tourism have been organized the GCC International accreditation conference in Bahrain at 19-20 March 2019 under the name (Accreditation Impact on Economic Visions and Sustainable Development)

Partnership with Stakeholders

The GCC Accreditation Center's accreditation activities enhance the sustainable partnership with the relevant bodies in the member states to serve the GCC's interests and to strengthen the use of the international accredited services in the quality infrastructure to achieve the strategic goals and desired benefits at the Economic level.

More than 200 attended the conference and there were five main sessions:

1. Economic Visions Towards Building Confidence In The GCC Commons Outcomes
2. Enhancing Quality Infrastructure Efficiency to Facilitate Trade Exchange Among GCC Countries
3. The role of accredited conformity assessment services in ensuring safety of the products
4. Accreditation for Supporting Industry and Enhancing Global Market Access
5. Accreditation helps building confidence, complementarily and development of Local Content.

More than 20 speakers covered those main topics. Ms. Aminia Mohammad Chair of Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC) attend the conference and present the ARAC.

In the service of the GCC Economies!

200 Participants
Regional & International Guests

ARAC Chair Participates to GIAC
Kuwait Accreditation Affairs Section KAAS

MoU with EIAC

Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the State of Kuwait (Public Authority for Industry) and the Government of Dubai. Government of the United Arab Emirates (Emirates International Accreditation Center-EIAC) concerning international cooperation in accreditation activities.

Emirate of Dubai – United Arab Emirates, Monday June 17th 2019

This Memorandum of Understanding came into effect the will of both sides to promote a good work relationship through cooperation in the fields of accreditation especially those concerning the applicable accreditation practices and procedures.

Voting on CASCO documents

Voting on the projects of the international standards issued by the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment CASCO

MoU with EIAC

The Public Authority for Industry (PAI) in the State of Kuwait and Emirates International Accreditation Center EIAC in the UAE had ratified a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in an aim to promote partnership and mutual cooperation in the field of international accreditation activities in the following scopes:

- Testing Laboratories, Calibration Laboratories, Medical Laboratories, Inspections
- Bodies, Product Certification Bodies, Personnel Certification Bodies,

MoU Ratification

The Memorandum had been ratified by Mr. Abdulkaeen Al-Taqi Abdulkaeen General Manager of the Public Authority for Industry in the State of Kuwait and Mrs. Ameena Ahmed Mohammad the Executive Manager of Emirates International Accreditation Center in the UAE. The ratification took place at the Municipality of Dubai. It was attended by several leaders and managers from both sides including Mr. Dawood AlHajjey General Manager of the Municipality of Dubai, the chairman and board members of EIAC, and Eng. Mohammad AlKuwari Assistant Undersecretary Deputy General Manager for Standards and Industrial Services – PAI and Eng. Maasooma Akbar Head of Accreditation Affairs Section At PAI.

CASCO Documents

The Accreditation Affairs Section voted on the following:
- The project of the international standard "CIB on CD of ISO 22003"
- The project of the international standard "Common Elements in CASCO standards 2nd CIB”
- The project of the international standard "ISO/IEC 17000"

Objectives

This relationship is also, promoted through the exchange of information between the two parties in the field of accreditation and other related fields and through coordinating the work between them on all levels nationally, regionally, and internationally. In this matter, both sides are willing to contribute in promoting and to facilitate the trade exchange between each other and the other GCC countries as well. On the international level, both sides are willing to provide trade-related solutions by applying the international standards and practices. They both agreed to provide such contribution by the exchange of technical programs, accreditation documents, and common project plans in addition to coordinating common accreditation practices and common
Sudanese Accreditation Council (SDAC) News

- The great efforts that the Sudanese Accreditation Council SDAC has put in since its establishment culminated in the successful completion of assessing the first three national laboratories. The first two accredited laboratories are:
  - The Sudanese Standard and Metrology Organization's Central Laboratory; its accredited scope is within the field of food and water testing.
  - The Sudanese Electricity Distribution Company’s Central Laboratory for Technical service and Calibration; its accredited scope falls under the field of petroleum product testing.

Progressing steadily toward the International Recognition

01. As a step toward achieving international recognition, SDAC membership in AFRAC has been successfully upgraded to an AFRAC Full Member.

02. The internal audit of the Sudanese Accreditation Council SDAC was conducted to determine the conformance of its management system to the requirements specified in ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and to identify opportunities of improvement. Prior to

03. The successful completion of assessing the first three national laboratories and, SDAC documents are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure its compliance with the latest release of the standard ISO/IEC 17011:2017.

SADC Activities at the Regional and International Levels

Driven by the envisaged impact of SDAC on the national economy growth through reducing technical barriers to trade and its role in society protection, SDAC is working hard to accelerate the process of being an internationally recognized accreditation body. And within the framework of the continuous improvement of

SADC Celebrating WAD 2019

- SDAC celebrated the World Accreditation Day worldwide in celebrating the World Accreditation Day 2019 under the theme: Accreditation: Adding Value to Supply Chains. Dr. Kamal Elhadi, the Secretary General of SDAC, demonstrated in his keynote speech how accreditation can be used as a tool that helps in assuring confidence in supply chains and managing potential risk associated with them. The presentations delivered during the event illustrated the concepts and principles underlying supply chains management and highlighted the role that accreditation play in supporting supply chains. The event audience consisted of representatives of interested parties from public and private organizations.

SADC contribution to ARAC

- SDAC participates actively in the events organized by regional accreditation groups, SDAC attended the ARAC latest mid-term meetings held in Dubai from 3 to 7 March 2019. SDAC representatives were involved in the meetings of Marketing and Communication Committee, Technical Committee, Executive Committee and MLA Committee. SDAC also participated in the ARAC latest mid-year meetings held in Nairobi, Kenya from 29 April to 2 May 2019.

- Moreover, with the view to implementing SDAC’s plans to incorporate medical laboratories testing in its accreditation schemes. A training program for qualifying SDAC Assessors according to the requirements of ISO 15189-2013 was organized.

SDAC staff with the internal audit team. The program is within the context of AFI’s A5/UNIDO project to support Sudan in developing its accreditation infrastructure.

TUNAC’S JOINT CELEBRATION TO MARK
25 YEARS OF SERVICE
& 2019 WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY

The Tunisian Accreditation Council “TUNAC” hosted a forum under the theme “TUNAC Accreditation: At the Service of Tunisian Economy” followed by a lunch on 27 June 2019.

The forum was attended by 250 guests and held at the El Mouradi Gammarth Hotel in Tunis, Tunisia and was graced by Honourable Mr Slim Feriani, the Tunisian Minister of Industry and SMEs.

Guests included representatives of the AFRAC represented by Mrs Maureen MUTASA Vice Chairman, ARAC by Mr Metaab Mezini, Vice Chair, UNIDO by Mr Rafik Fekih, (BELAC) represented by the Director, Ms Maureen Logghe, PTB by by Ms Iris NADOLNY, former directors of TUNAC, industry associations, conformity assessment bodies mainly from Tunisia and TUNAC’ expert and assessors.

The Director General of TUNAC, Mr Yassine Wali welcomed guests and thanked cooperating partners UNIDO, SIDA, SWEDAC, PTB Germany for their contributions towards TUNAC success over the years and in sponsoring the forum.

ARAC attends
TUNAC Celebration of
25 Years
of service

Eng Moteb Mezani
ARAC Vice-Chair

Mr Rafik Fekih,
UNIDO representative

Mrs Maureen Mutasa
AFRAC Representative

Mr Yassine Wali welcomed guests and thanked cooperating partners UNIDO, SIDA, SWEDAC, PTB Germany for their contributions towards TUNAC success over the years and in sponsoring the forum. This was followed by a series of congratulatory addresses and well wishes by the invited guests starting with Mr Metaab Mezini, ARAC Vice Chairman, Mrs Maureen Mutasa AFRAC Vice Chair, Mr Rafik Fekih, UNIDO Representative and Mr Bechir Boujdaï, the Vice Chairman of the Tunisian Association for Industry, Trade and Handicraft. This session of the forum ended with an address by the Honourable Mr Slim Feriani Minister of Industry and SMEs.
The second session of the forum started off with a presentation by Mrs. Noura Haddaoui, TUNAC who reminisced on the establishment of TUNAC highlighting the key milestones and achievements of date. This was followed by presentations by representatives of National Union Chamber of Testing Laboratories, National Union Chamber of Metrology, Office of the Upgrade and Tunisian Export Promotion Center “CEPEX” on the various programmes in place to assist conformity assessment bodies to work towards accreditation. A series of testimonials were then presented by various accredited conformity assessment bodies during which they shared the challenges faced and how these had been addressed and also highlighting expected service improvements by TUNAC.

AFRAC Speech
In her address, the AFRAC Vice Chair Mrs. Maureen Mutasa congratulated informed about the purpose of World Accreditation Day which is to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation which she said has an impact on every aspect of our daily lives, health, economic and social development, facilitating trade, in protecting the environment in which we live etc. She noted that TUNAC a founding member of AFRAC, one of the 3 first signatories of the AFRAC MRA, was working with other accreditation bodies in Africa in developing accreditation infrastructure.

The Invited Guests:
Mr. Metaab Mezini, ARAC Vice Chairman, Mrs. Maureen Mutasa, AFRAC Vice Chair, Mr. Rafael Fekih, UNIDO Representative and Mr. Bechir Boujdai, the Vice Chairman of the Tunisian Association for Industry, Trade and Handcraft. This session of the forum ended with an address by the Honourable Mr. Slim Feriani Minister of Industry and SMEs.

H.E noted the remarkable progress made by Tunisia over the years including the achievement of MLA signatory status in iILAC and IAF which was contributing towards economic and social development of Tunisia.

WAD 2019: Accreditation: Adding value to supply chains
Supply chains provide a vital role in delivering products and services for consumers, business and the public sector in a timely, cost-efficient and quality manner. Accreditation and, with it, other quality infrastructure tools such as standards, metrology and conformity assessment, provide widely accepted tools that help deliver value to the supply chain. These tools help with trust and assurance, enabling confidence in both final products and services and the manner in which they are placed on the market and used.

Appreciations
After the keynote address H.E the Minister presented plaques to the guest speakers and accreditation certificates to the first 10 testing laboratories accredited to the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025 published in 2017. A certificate was also presented to the only medical testing laboratory accredited by TUNAC so far.
Our members
Our Pride

Most liked photos
Eng. Lana Marashdeh (JAS-AU)

Most viewed videos
Chair speech for WAD 2019
116,298 People Reached

Yousef AIJasmi (EIAC) & Rafik Feki (UNIDO)

Arabic version of WAD video
100,709 People Reached

ARAC Members Group Photo

PALAC speech in ARAC GA
79,487 People Reached

ARAC Chair wins
Women's Award 2019

In honor of her role in the development of accreditation in the UAE and the Arab region, Amina Ahmed Mohammed, Chair of the ARAC, CEO of EIAC wins the professional category overall winner during the Emirates Women's Award 2019 in its sixteenth session.

EGAC Executive Director Honored as one of 100 influencing Arab personalities

Speech of Eng. Hany El Desouky, Executive Director of EGAC was honored as one of the 100 most influencing personalities in the Arab world, this award reflects the important efforts of Accreditation in Egypt and the Arab economies as a major tool supporting the quality infrastructure and boosting trade.
Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together.

Paul Ryan
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