



June 2003

Successful UII Board Meeting Held in Tokyo

The UII Governing Board met in Tokyo in March 2003, marking the first time the Board has held a meeting in Japan. The Board would like to express its sincere thanks to Dr. Hideo Tabata and Kenichi Asari (UII Board members) and to the other members of JEMCA (the Japanese member to UII) for all their efforts in making this historic event so successful. Their hospitality, friendship, and active participation made the meeting very special.



The UII delegation visits the National Institute for Environmental Studies outside of Tokyo.

Upcoming UII General Assembly

The next bi-annual UII General Assembly will be held in Amsterdam on Friday and Saturday, September 12 and 13, 2003. In addition to the election of officers and general business meeting, the newly revised Business Plan will be presented. Plans are also being considered to present a symposium on the use of the internet for a LIMS and interactive client linkage tool.

All members are asked to send agenda items for the General Assembly meeting to the UII office by 12 July 2003. They can be sent to www.uili.org and click on Contact Us. Or they may be sent to jallen@acil.org. More details will be provided in the next Bulletin.

Global News Briefs

- Trade liberalization within the WTO now seems further away. A new obstacle has surfaced called "Geographic indicators," allowing a product to bear the name of a region only if it's made there. At the moment, this indicator applies to only a small number of products, but the EU wants such indicators to also cover foods such as Muenster and Parmesan cheeses and Parma ham. Japan also has an interest regarding Kobe beef. The issue is intellectual control over niche-product labeling. Other countries are opposed, citing that these products have been sold for several generations and have become generic. Compromises on only certain items are likely.
- The outlook for Europe's economy is not encouraging. Weak exports and other events will keep the EU to a near-zero growth rate. The EU's strongest economy, Germany, will grow a small 0.3% this year, which will be a drag on other EU economies. Europe's sluggishness will have a negative affect on other world economies.
- SARS crises, although more media hype than world threat, will hamper world economies by slowing travel to the area, thus affecting airlines, slowing sales of technology products (such as mobile phones), and likely reducing imports of agricultural products into SARS affected areas. The beginning of this century seems to be the century of the virus. While a problem for everyone, the needed research to develop new drugs for treatment and prevention will create great opportunities for laboratories in that field.
- China's economy will likely lead the world in growth again in 2003. Growth expected to be 7%. Canada and Mexico will be relatively strong compared to overall world growth. Canada's GDP will grow about 2.7% and Mexico about 2.5%. These compare favorably to the expected global growth rate of only 2%. This 2%

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Affiliate Profile

As the Affiliates Representative, **David Stanger** recently contacted all Affiliate Members by post with a full report on recent activities undertaken on their behalf during 2002. He called for confirmation of their contact details and to return our 'fields of activity' questionnaire. Mr. Stanger also invited Affiliate Members to present a progress report on their organisation and to highlight their expectations from their member of UILL

Eurofins is the first Affiliate to respond to the invitation, which it is hoped will encourage other Affiliates to submit reports for publication in our Newsletter and on the UILL website.



Eurofins Scientific was created in 1987 to industrialise and market the SNIF-NMR® technology, a patented analytical method to verify the origin and purity of several types of food and beverages in cases where traditional testing methods are countered by sophisticated copies. Within a 15-years period, the Group grew from a start-up with 12 employees to become an international network of over 50 laboratories located in the Benelux, France, Germany, Scandinavia, Switzerland, the UK and the USA employing more than 2,000 staff.

Eurofins Scientific is a biotechnology company operating internationally to provide bioanalytical support services. The Group specialises in delivering analytical testing services to clients from a wide range of industries including the pharmaceutical, food and environmental sectors.

In February 2003, Eurofins announced its intention to take over GeneScan Europe AG, the world's leader in testing for ingredients from genetically modified plants.

Eurofins expectations from UILL are for effective lobbying to defend/promote the independent laboratories' collective objectives towards governments and policy makers at national and international levels (EU, ISO, etc.). Fight unfair competition from state or subsidised laboratories.

For contact details, please refer to your country's contact on : <http://www.eurofins.com>.

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Making the Web an Integral Part of Your Marketing and Business

Are you still waiting to implement a Web-based strategy for marketing and client interface purposes? If so, perhaps part of your reluctance may be that you believe only young people are really using cyberspace to any degree. You may believe that the typical middle-aged person is still not "wired." If that's the case, here's a prediction that may surprise you. By 2005 (less than two years from now) the average age of the "cybershopper" will be 48. And, considering their technical background, that average age is probably a bit higher for our laboratory clients.

Many laboratories are already using the Web for much of their operations, both related to the client and their own internal management systems. Several companies have been formed offering services specifically to laboratories in helping them initiate web based systems. The best part of these kinds of systems is that they are available to everyone, including the smallest laboratories. The Web is free and getting started is getting easier and very inexpensive.



ACIL News

ACIL's Government Relations Committee has recently established a new subcommittee called the Homeland Security/Bio-terrorism subcommittee. The US Government has just begun its preparedness mechanisms. The subcommittee was formed to address the potential impacts of these new initiatives on the laboratory industry, both favorable and unfavorable. Changes in the business climate and operations resulting from preparations against terrorism and bio-terrorism are now and will in the future impact every segment of the testing industry.

The Government Relations Committee also established the Accreditation Subcommittee, which will develop position papers on issues surrounding accreditation. In addition, the committee will serve as a sounding board within ACIL for accreditation issues.

NEMC 2003 and Homeland Security

The 19th Annual National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC) will be held this year from July 21 – 24 in Arlington, Virginia, USA. Organized by United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and ACIL's Independent Laboratories Institute, the focus of this year's conference includes homeland security issues as they apply to environmental monitoring for terrorism agents plus new approaches for analyzing for conventional pollutants in water, soil, and air.

Three homeland security sessions will address various issues of direct interest to commercial laboratories. *Homeland Security – Laboratory Capability and Capacity* consists of nine papers dedicated to this combined business and technical topic. Elizabeth George opens the session titled, *Developing New Approaches for Incident Monitoring*, with "An Overview of the Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate's Chemical and Biological Countermeasures Research Portfolio." Five additional talks detail new technology being developed. The third session addresses *Current Methods for Monitoring for Terrorism Agents in the Environment*.

Over eighty additional papers cover other current topics. This conference promises to be one of the most important events of the year for the commercial laboratory industry and its clients. The complete technical program and online registration is available on the conference web site at www.nemc.us. Please direct additional questions to the ACIL office.

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number is about the same as last year, but well behind the average global growth rate from 1992-2001 of 3.5%. Japan's economy now appears headed for another year of contraction and is still faced with bad debts and large welfare programs.

Aging Populations Around the Globe

The aging population in many of the world's major economies is a major concern. It puts a strain on social programs for the aged, causing a drag on the country's budget.

The problem is largest for Europe and Japan. In addition to the higher number of retirees who will swamp fragile pension systems, Europe and Japan lack the stream of immigrants to replenish their labor forces as native-born workers age. The US will fare better in this regard as its population is expected to keep growing well past mid-century due to a healthy influx of immigrants. Populations in Europe and Japan will begin to decline after 2010. Labor shortages will bid up wages, hurting competitiveness and cutting growth by about 0.7% a year in Japan through around 2028 and about 0.4% annually in the EU.

Another fallout of this aging population is that exporters into the EU, Japan, and to an extent the US, will see demand in these markets gradually decline. The developing world will offer the growth opportunities in the longer-term future.



ILAC News

**ILAC - Laboratory Committee - ISO/IEC
17025:1999 - WORK ITEM**

The ILAC Executive Committee in February 2003 endorsed the Laboratory Committee (LC) Proposal for a Review of Progress in the Implementation of Requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 and has asked the LC to lead the project. The LC members welcomed this development, but timely completion would depend on input from LC members, including UILI and the other standing ILAC Committee.

The first step is to prepare the plan and then the questionnaire. The participants at the meeting agreed that the information this project will provide will be very useful when 17025 comes due for revision at the end of 2004.



**Union Internationale des Laboratoires Indépendants
International Union of Independent Laboratories
Internationale Vereinigung Unabhängiger
Laboratorien**

OBJECTIVES

To represent the professional and commercial interests of private sector laboratories and scientific consultants on an international basis.

To provide a forum for the international exchange of views on matters of common interest including, for example, laboratory quality assurance, laboratory accreditation, product certification, national and international standards, and international barriers to trade.

To promote the international status of laboratories and scientific consultants and emphasize their important role in international trade.

To establish an international network of scientific contacts to act in the professional and commercial interests of its members.

To strengthen the bond of friendship between

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