



BULLETIN



UNION INTERNATIONALE DES LABORATOIRES INDÉPENDANTS

President: Ronald L. Harris (United States)

March 2003

2003 Diary For UILI External Representatives

by David H Stanger – Secretary General, Union Internationale des Laboratoires Indépendants

By the time this edition of the Bulletin has been issued, UILI's membership will have been represented at two key accreditation (ILAC) policy meetings held in Paris, France in February. At the invitation of the ILAC Chair, Mr. Mike Peet (SANAS), David Stanger will have participated in a weekend meeting to develop further ILAC's Strategic and Business Plan. In the same week he will be representing UILI and the ILAC Laboratory Committee (LC) at a two-day meeting of the ILAC Accreditation Policy Committee (APC). The APC agenda includes reviews of work programmes with international standards bodies, legal metrology and joint working groups with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) on inspection, image and integrity and their respective mutual recognition agreements.

In March UILI will be active at the 14th ILAC LC meeting in Orlando, FL, USA and the CASCO Chairman's Advisory Group (CAG) meeting, in Geneva, Switzerland. All UILI representatives will have their terms of reference up dated at our next Governing Board meeting in Tokyo, Japan on 28th March.

Pretoria, South Africa is the venue for the ILAC/IAF Joint Committee for Closer Cooperation (JCCC) providing UILI further opportunities to support clarification of accreditation versus certification issues and express the concerns of the laboratory community on ILAC/IAF merger talks with associated costs and the potential proliferation of accreditation marks.

To complete the year, a delegation from UILI will attend the 7th ILAC General Assembly and LC meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia in September and the 19th CASCO plenary in Geneva, Switzerland in November.

We value members' views on the work of these organizations and will report back on each meeting in a timely manner.

UILI Governing Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Tokyo on March 27 and March 28, hosted by JEMCA, the National Association member from Japan. As part of the agenda a review of UILI's objectives and business will take place. We invite any comments or suggestions for how UILI can provide additional value to you, our members. Provide any input you may have through any means listed on this "Bulletin."

Global News Briefs

Economic Prospects for 2003:

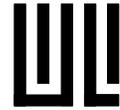
- * Germany will likely have GDP growth up less than 1.5%, better than 2002 but still weak. Germany's dominance will affect the whole European continent.
- * France would appear to look a bit better with GDP growth near 2%. No tax increases are expected.
- * Italy and the Netherlands would appear headed for about 1.5% growth. Spain is likely stronger with growth at 2.5%.
- * UK expected to continue its 2.5% growth rate. Adoption of the euro could create some problems with consumers.
- * Japan growth still weak, perhaps reaching 1%. Still many credit problems for banks to sort out.
- * South Korea will maintain solid growth with GDP up 5% in 2002.
- * Several African nations expected to see strong GDP growth. Tunisia, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana and Cameroon likely to grow 6%. Egypt, Senegal, and Morocco should also see stronger growth.
- * US remaining sluggish for first half of 2003 - uncertainty of military action in Iraq stalls activity. Second half could see stronger growth.

ID Theft

Many UILI members are, no doubt, following the trend toward utilizing the internet and other electronic programs to improve efficiency and service delivery to clients. There is little debate that in the future successful businesses will depend heavily on these tools.

At the same time, clients are growing more fearful of having personal or proprietary data stolen. It is important the laboratories redouble their efforts to ensure effective protections. Failure to do so can be costly, leading to loss of client confidence.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

The concern about privacy should not, however, deter UILL members from moving forward with web-based "self-service" for clients. Not only does it save the laboratory money, it can build strong client loyalty, which, in the long term, is the real reward. As clients become comfortable with your rapid services, it will become harder for them to switch laboratories, since their systems and yours get linked together.

There are members within UILL who have been very successful in this field and many of them are willing to share ideas. We'd be glad to help you get connected to one of these members.

China Cutting Tariffs

In an effort to comply with WTO policies, China is aggressively reducing duties on chemicals, cars, and other products and in the near future will phase out tariffs on computers and information technology items. They are not as strong presently on protecting intellectual property. The flood of fakes to the developing world is costing developed economies large sums. Sorting out the counterfeits could present opportunities for product testing members of UILL.

Global Efforts to Reduce Trade Barriers

Efforts by the World Trade Organization to cut trade barriers on services have been slowed by agriculture trade disputes that take up much of WTO resources placing service barriers as a lower priority. This situation is unfortunate for UILL members and member countries. Bilateral agreements have a better chance of opening opportunities in specific countries for the near term.

Regional Developments

Trade relations at the regional level are increasing at the same pace as agreements being registered with the World Trade Organisation (WTO). In the last quarter of 2002 Japan announced a series of agreements in the Asia/Pacific region and last January the US announced the initiation of a free trade deal with five Central American countries (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala). These five countries have already concluded similar deals with Canada, Mexico and Chile. Below is the first of three articles providing our Members with an overview of institutional developments in the Americas, Europe and the Far East.

New Constitution for an Enlarged European Union

Can it be achieved in a year from now at a ceremony in Rome? 25 countries sign an historic new constitution for Europe. The progress recorded by the convention last year on the future constitution for Europe is remarkable and surprising. The meetings are chaired by Mr. Valery Giscard d'Estaing, former President of France. He has compared its work to the Philadelphia convention of 1787.

Since February 2002, the convention has developed into something of substance. In public and private debate, some 46 years after the treaty of Rome created the EU, the future shape of an enlarged EU is being negotiated. This convention was established at the EU summit in Laeken, Belgium at the end of 2001. An enlarged Union of 25 members has made the redesign essential otherwise all three major institutions, Council of Ministers, EU Commission and European parliament will come to a grinding halt. The convention is seeking a solution between those who favour more intergovernmental co-operation and those who advocate a more federal model of deeper integration.

There appears to be consensus on policy relating to a Constitution for Europe; Charter of Fundamental Rights; immigration and migration; simplifying Europe from its "three pillar" structure and the role of national parliaments.

Ten key issues that cut across traditional national positions need to be resolved.

They are:

- * strengthening the European Council which is the forum for national leaders; coordinating foreign policy;
- * developing a mutual defence pact against terrorism;
- * increasing the role of the EU Commission;
- * creating a 'Congress of the Peoples of Europe';
- * composing a mechanism for a country to leave the union in an orderly fashion;
- * increasing tax harmonization e.g. VAT and corporation tax;
- * re-branding the new-look EU 'United Europe';
- * forming an assembly for euro zone ministers and finally, what may be the hardest issue,
- * a solution to what happens if a country refuses to ratify the new treaty?

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing aims to produce a complete text for the convention to debate in April and a

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

final document to be presented at a EU Summit at Thessalonica, Greece in June this year. Will it happen and last for 50 years or more?

ACIL News

ACIL Launches New Web-Based Member Services

With the New Year, ACIL (American Council of Independent Laboratories) inaugurated a new Web site, replete with enhanced features to encourage member communications and facilitate ACIL services.

Through the new Web site, www.acil.org, ACIL staff is able to take advantage of inherent efficiencies in the Internet when creating and distributing important information to members.

The first feature many members will use is the meeting registration section. They clicked on the Meetings and Events icon to view the agenda for the Mid-Winter Meeting, February 10 -11, 2003, and registered on-line in the new, secure form. An automated acknowledgement was sent to them immediately.

Members and friends also use the calendar feature to check dates and locations of upcoming section and committee meetings, as well as the Annual and Business Practices meetings.

Although all of the features are not yet fully implemented, an exciting development soon to be completed will be a searchable online directory, by which members will be able to search for another member, retrieve a phone number or click on the email address to send a message—instantly.

Perhaps most importantly, members can log on and update their personal information at any time. Prospective clients have relied on ACIL for referrals for years and now members can control the information the public and other members see about their company. Many members have long considered the online referral directory, listserv notices and office referrals an outstanding benefit of membership. Now, it's automated and they are in control!

Also soon to be implemented is a site for section and committee records and information. Minutes, government documents and press notices will be posted in a secure member-only site.

For further information on the Web site please contact Beverly Adams at badams@acil.org.

ACIL Mid-Winter Meeting 2003

ACIL hosted a successful meeting dealing with government relations issues. Papers presented at the meeting can be viewed at

<http://www.acil.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=99> or by going to the ACIL web site, www.acil.org, click on Meetings and Events, go to February 10, 2003 on the calendar, then click on ACIL Mid-Winter Meeting Presentations.

Any interested UIL members who are not members of ACIL should contact the ACIL office at 1-202-887-5504 or MKelley@acil.org to inquire about registration.

NEMC News

The Independent Laboratories Institute, the educational foundation affiliated with ACIL, is managing the National Environmental Monitoring Conference under a cooperative agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency. Now in its 19th years, the conference will be held July 21 – 24, 2003 in Arlington, VA.

NEMC is the new name for the venerable Waste Testing and Quality Assurance (WTQA) Symposium. The name change reflects WTQA's growth and diversification and EPA's commitment to provide a forum for addressing policy and technical issues that affect monitoring in all media and across all environmental programs.

The conference brings together scientists, analysts, engineers and managers from Federal and State agencies, the regulated community, and from the laboratory and engineering support communities in an informal setting on the edge of our nation's capital. A special focus of the conference this year will be emerging methods and technologies in analysis of chemical weapons.

Details on the conference topics and abstract submission may be obtained from the Internet at www.nemc.us and the program will also be posted there.

CCIL News

Reporting of Uncertainty

On January 1, 2003, all Canadian environmental lab members will be required to have in place a method of reporting the uncertainty associated with every analytical result. The CCIL (Canadian Council of Independent Laboratories) Uncertainty Committee has had two teleconferences to discuss methods of calculating uncertainty in environmental samples.

The committee agreed upon a method for type A situations that is adapted from the Eurachem/CITAC Guide "Quantifying Uncertainty in

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

Analytical Measurement (2nd edition, Appendix E.4.2.1)", and from Thompson and Howarth (1978). It will not be applicable to all situations, but will be suitable for the estimation of uncertainty of most common environmental test methods. The model assumes that any bias, if present, is not corrected for, but is instead reported as a separate entity, independent from uncertainty.

The committee will next look at CAEAL's (Canadian Association of Environmental Analytical Laboratories) new uncertainty policy 1.4 released November 12, 2002 and then decide on a method for calculating uncertainty of microbiological and non-routine tests.

The committee has been requested to develop a training seminar on these uncertainty calculations in real world scenarios. The seminar would be made available to interested member or non member firms at a set fee to be determined later. Anyone interested in securing information on the seminar should contact Francine at the CCIL at ccil@magma.ca.

Ontario, Canada Safe Drinking Water Act

CCIL's (Canadian Council of Independent Laboratories) concerns with the new Drinking Water Act were communicated to the MOE (Ministry of the Environment) by letter dated November 27th, 2002 addressed to Anna Kime, Manager of the Water Policy Branch MOE.

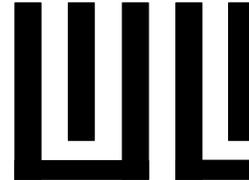
The major items of concern to CCIL are:

- MOE's lab inspections are welcomed as long as they do not duplicate the activities already performed by CAEAL (Canadian Association of Environmental Analytical Laboratories).
- Public accessibility to laboratories' audit reports could have severe consequences.
- Only audits by CAEAL and only the audit results pertinent to drinking water need be made available. Audit reports are highly technical, and as such only interpretable by trained lab QA staff. Misinterpretation by the public or media may unnecessarily jeopardize the integrity of the laboratory industry.
- Severe fines ranging from \$4 million to \$10 million would be devastating to the private lab industry and will cause errors and omission insurance rates to rise prohibitively.
- Allowing MOE to prescribe the qualifications, training and level of expertise of lab staff exceeds the requirements of delivering safe drinking water to the public. The ISO 17025 standard administered by

CAEAL deals effectively with the training and qualification of lab staff.

- The potential costs of duplication, prohibitive fine schedules, errors and omissions insurance are real concerns most strongly impacting smaller labs.

The CCIL will keep their members informed of future events.



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 members.

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