



Summer 2005

Economic and Political Outlook

- * Oil is going to remain tight until the end of this decade and likely beyond. Capacity will increase at only a modest pace, but this after a long period of little exploration. Expect higher prices to remain. Fuel efficiency will rise as an issue if prices climb to yet higher levels, notably in autos. Other forms of energy will grow. Capacity of refineries will continue as a major problem. All these issues may well provide opportunities for laboratories in the environmental and automotive research and testing fields.
- * Global trade talks are not making the progress sorely needed. Developing countries are slow to see the need for balance in negotiations--demanding what's in their best interests without compromise, leading developed countries to backtrack on willingness to open their markets. This is a major global problem and threatens to slow progress made toward improving the economies of developing countries. New head of World Trade Organization, Pascal Lamy, a former EU trade head, has proven capable of finding common ground in debates and brings some hope of new progress.
- * The rejection of the revised EU Constitution by two members will likely have a negative impact on the European economies. The revisions would have simplified the decision making process of the bloc. A few countries were able to block freer trade in services which would be an economic plus and this problem will now remain in future efforts to make the EU a more open market.
- * A new effort between U.S. and EU to coordinate regulations regarding import and exports has begun, encouraged by firms in both the U.S. and EU. Major issue is difference of philosophy on safety issues. The EU tends to assume risk is present unless proven otherwise and U.S. has the opposite attitude, so agreement won't be easy. Laboratories should watch developments here as they could affect testing requirements.

UILI March 2005 Board Meeting



Attendees at the March, 2005 UILI Board meeting in Brussels, Belgium. Left to right: Dr. Manahan Fernández Alonso, David Stanger, Dr. Erik Soers, Drs Luc Scholtis, Gib McIntee, Joan Walsh Cassedy, Ron Harris, and Dr. Hideo Tabata.

CCIL News

Environmental Laboratories Accreditation Update

Since the termination of the Canadian Association of Environmental Analytical Laboratories/ Standards Council of Canada (CAEAL/SCC) partnership (in January 2005), the situation has developed pretty much as predicted. CAEAL is in the final stages of becoming a fully recognized accreditation body. It is now a full member in APLAC (Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and expects to have full APLAC recognition (which requires an audit) by November 2005. CAEAL now fully accredits 144 Canadian environmental labs compared to 174 that had been accredited under the CAEAL/SCC partnership.

SCC has been gearing up to service those labs that wish to maintain an SCC accreditation rather than a CAEAL accreditation.

CCIL is doing its best to ensure that laboratories are free to choose between these two providers--or even others as the case may be. Thus, CCIL is advocating to all regulatory bodies to specify accreditation to ISO 17025 rather than naming an accreditation agency in a regulatory document. To this end, Allan Maynard, CCIL's Executive Director, prepared a position paper that was published in the May 2005 edition of Environmental Science and Engineering (ES&E).

Unfortunately CCIL has not been successful in preventing a situation in Ontario that requires labs to be accredited by both SCC and CAEAL.

Fees for Nuclear Density Gauges Questioned

Allan Maynard, CCIL's Executive Director, has written a letter to Dr. Ramiz Jammal, the Director General of the Directorate of Nuclear Substance Regulation within the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). The letter pointed out CCIL's concerns with both the fee structure

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JEMCA News

Dr. Hideo Tabata Steps Down as JEMCA President

At the 32nd Stockholder's Meeting held on 24 May 2005 in Tokyo, Japan, JEMCA (Japan Environmental Measurement & Chemical Analysis Association) elected a new President, Mitsuhiro Kasai (President of Environmental Science Laboratory, Japan). **Dr. Hideo Tabata**, led JEMCA for six years. Since 2001, he has been working as a Board Member of UIII and an Affiliate Member of ACIL. At the meeting, it was resolved that Dr. Tabata will continue representing JEMCA at UIII and ACIL. He gave a speech, and at the end, he thanked the audience for attending, and for the support he received during his presidency. The following message is the text of Dr. Tabata's speech:



Message

Today, first of all, please let me express my warmest appreciation for the considerable support and efforts made during my presidency by JEMCA's competent supervising ministry; the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of the Environment, JEMCA's Vice Presidents, Senior-Managing Director, Board of Directors, and the membership. Since this will be my last day as President, I would like to reflect briefly on the past six years.

Last year, JEMCA had its thirtieth Anniversary. It was an especially impressive event for me. In the anniversary, JEMCA put on several events, such as an essay competition, a round table discussion with JEMCA's competent supervising ministry, commemoration ceremony, etc.

Aside from these events, JEMCA has been mainly promoting five activities:

1. Response to new regulations: In 1999, my first year as President, discussions

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for new regulations started, and new laws were established to meet the needs of society, such as legislation dealing with analyzing ultra-trace substances. In 2001, the *Measurement Law* was revised. The next year, *MLAP (Specified Measurement Laboratory Accreditation Program)* came into force, and guidance for Quality Control of Analyzing Dioxin were declared. Later on, countermeasures against environmental issues were actively promoted. The *Soil Contamination Countermeasures Law (2002)*, the *Chemical Substances Control Law* and the *Air Pollution Control Law* were partially revised. Speaking of a global treaty, in 2002, Japan ratified the *Stockholm Convention on POPs*, and in 2003, the *RoHS Directive* came into force. On the whole, I feel that environmental testing has become a requirement in Japan from the point of promoting public health.

2. Member benefits:

Due to the growth of our membership and to improve facilities for our members, in 2002, JEMCA constructed the *JEMCA Building*.

3. Strengthen liaison between administrations: JEMCA promoted mutual understanding between JEMCA's competent supervising ministry, and revised the JEMCA's Constitution to match the current social situation.

4. Secure social confidence of JEMCA members:

JEMCA held several seminars and Proficiency Testings for the purpose of obtaining MLAP and ISO/IEC17025 accreditation. Since 1999, we implemented 27 Proficiency Testings using environmental items, such as heavy metal, organic matter, and other contaminants.

5. Global activities:

JEMCA joined UILI and ACIL, and exchanged information among environmental testing laboratories from several countries. At the last UILI Board of Governors Meeting held in Brussels on 18 March 2004, JEMCA's proposal for Proficiency Testing has paved the way for *One Stop Testing*.

On the other hand, there are still plenty of issues that have to be resolved. Against the deceptive labeling by companies currently in Japan, JEMCA has an even greater social re-

sponsibility. Regarding the rapid change of environmental regulations in and out of Japan over the past six years, I think there are at least three things that JEMCA should do to keep up with.

First, sound implementation of JEMCA's Code of Ethics, which was written this year.

Second, improvement of environmental testing skills, such as developing schemes to certify skill levels.

Third, implementation of *One Stop Testing*, in cooperation with UILI and ACIL. WTO is leading free trading currently; we urgently need to standardize testing of especially food products.

I hope that these actions will be pursued. It has been an honor being President of JEMCA for these six years. I wish for the prosperity of this environmental testing industry under our new president Mr. Mitsuhiro Kasai. ■

CCIL (Continued from page 2)

(100% fee increase over the past 2 years) and the consistency of audits (which will eventually affect a laboratory's fees). CCIL feels that the fees are high in relation to the auditing effort. CCIL is planning to meet with some key people within CNSC before the end of the summer.

Strategic Planning

CCIL's Board of Directors undertook this strategic planning initiative in the Spring of 2005. The **first component** of the strategic planning involved a questionnaire that was sent to each director. The main objective of this questionnaire was to determine CCIL's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (referred to as the SWOT analysis). The questionnaire and resulting report was completed by May 25th, 2005.

The National Board then met on June 13th for the **second component** of the strategic planning session. Three priority topics had been selected from the SWOT analysis for further discussion. The main purpose of the discussions was to establish CCIL's strategic direction for the next 2 to 5 years.

The results of this session are being prepared in a document to be sent to the membership prior to the Annual General Meeting. Comments, suggestions and recommendations will be sought from the general membership prior to the AGM. ■



UILI News

Richard Scales Affiliate Representative Nominee

Richard Scales, of Al Hoty Stanger Ltd., has accepted the nomination to be the new Affiliate Representative to the UILI Board of Governors. If elected by the Affiliate Members, he will take office at the General Assembly meeting to be held in London on 30 September 2005.

Richard, a British national, is currently stationed in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia, at the head office of Al Hoty Stanger and oversees their 10 laboratories in the Middle East. Since 1990 he has been Deputy General Manager and has been with the firm since 1983. He is an expert on independent testing of construction materials, particularly regarding the performance of reinforced concrete in the harsh climate of the Middle East.

Mr. Scales will succeed **David Stanger, OBE**, also of Al Hoty Stanger Ltd, who is retiring after six years as UILI's Affiliate Representative. He has been an Honorary Member since 1993 and an active supporter of UILI for over thirty-five years.

The Netherlands News

Proficiency Testing Program

The Institute for Interlaboratory Studies in Spijkenisse, The Netherlands, announces its complete proficiency test program for the period of September 2005 – June 2006. This proficiency testing is for all types of fuels.

The Institute for Interlaboratory Studies is an ISO 9000 (2000) certified organization. The Program Coordinator, Ing. R. J. Starink, can be contacted at iisnl@sgs.com. The organization's internet address is www.iisnl.com.

ILAC News

IEC and ILAC Sign Agreement

The IEC and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to make official a working relationship that had been operating informally since December 2002.

IEC General Secretary Aharon Amit and ILAC Chair Daniel Pierre signed the MoU at IEC Central Office in Geneva on 9 February 2005.

In December 2002 the IECEE CB Scheme and ILAC member IANZ carried out their first joint assessment at Wakefield Laboratories in Auckland, New Zealand. Several other test laboratories have been through the same process with the CB Scheme and other ILAC member accreditation bodies since then. Recently, IECEx was involved in joint assessments with the National Association of Testing Authorities, the Australian ILAC member. This makes the process more efficient and less costly because instead of two separate assessments covering the same activities, laboratories can have one joint assessment.

The other aspect to the IEC/ILAC MoU has to do with the common understanding of ISO/IEC 17025 *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*, which is dealt with by the joint working group set up between the IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) and ILAC.

According to its website, ILAC "is an international cooperation between the various laboratory accreditation schemes operated throughout the world." Accreditation bodies demonstrating compliance with ISO/IEC Guide 58 and now ISO/IEC 17011, through ILAC's peer evaluation process, are admitted to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement.

The IEC's three conformity assessments systems are the IECEE for electrical equipment, the IECEx for electrical equipment used in explosive atmospheres and the IECQ-CECC for electronic components.

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ACIL News

Smithers' Chairman Herman Hochschwender Dies

Herman Karl Hochschwender, chairman of Smithers Scientific Services and an active member of both UILI and ACIL, died Thursday, April 28, 2005, in Naples, FL, at the age of 85.

Born in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1920, Mr. Hochschwender came to the United States in 1930, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Yale University, and did post-graduate work at Harvard Business School. In 1944, he moved to Akron, Ohio, where he lived most of his life.

Mr. Hochschwender was president of UILI from 1984 to 1990. He was instrumental in bringing ACIL into membership with UILI. He was made an Honorary Member of UILI on September 29, 1995.

He founded Hochschwender & Associates in 1959 and in 1972 acquired Smithers Laboratories to form Smithers Scientific Services Inc. He served as chief executive officer and later as chairman of the board until his death.

In addition to UILI, he was a member of the International Laboratory Assurance Co. (ILAC), the American Society of Testing & Materials (ASTM), the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA).

He authored a number of articles and papers on testing, research and management subjects related to the rubber and plastics and supplier industries, and addressed numerous technical and lay groups on a variety of subjects in his fields of expertise. In 1983, he headed a joint mission of the ACIL/State Department group to Japan to explore and develop the possibilities of increased trade with Japan by independent testing laboratories.

He was involved in developing the independent testing laboratory business in Asia through an ACIL/State Department mission, the US Chamber of Commerce, and as president of UILI.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Hochschwender is survived by six children, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. His son, **J. Michael Hochschwender**, is currently the President of Smithers Scientific Services and a member of the ACIL Board of Directors.

New NIST Service Tracks Foreign Tech Regulations

Want to know about pending changes in technical regulations in Brazil, the United Kingdom, Korea or any of the 148 nations that are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO)? Then sign up for the *Notify U.S.* service unveiled July 1 by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Notify U.S. is the successor to Export Alert!, the e-mail notification system previously offered by NIST and the International Trade Administration. This new Web-based service offers a fast, comprehensive, global perspective on proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures that might influence U.S. access to export markets. *Notify U.S.* provides users with access to notifications and full texts of regulations issued by the WTO members. In addition, users can monitor proposed changes across chosen countries and 41 fields of industrial or technical activities, or they can select a subset of fields.

As in *Export Alert!*, users will receive e-mail messages informing them when proposed regulations are issued by countries or in fields of technical activity they monitor.

The new, free service is operated by NIST's National Center for Standards and Certification Information (NCSCI). NCSCI is the nation's designated Inquiry Point under the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. At the request of *Notify U.S.* users, the Center will secure the full text of a proposed regulation referenced in a notification. To learn more and to sign up, go to the *Notify U.S.* Web site at www.nist.gov/notifyus.

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ACIL (Continued from page 5)

NACLA Adopts New Standard

The new international standard for the competence of Accreditation Bodies (ABs) was discussed at length during the 2005 Laboratory Accreditation Forum-Annual General Meeting of the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA). The event was held in early April at the Sheraton Columbia Hotel, in Columbia, MD.

In a related development, the NACLA Board of Directors/Operations Council formally adopted the new standard as the basis for its program of evaluation and recognition of U.S. ABs, effective January 1, 2006. The standard is ISO/IEC 17011:2004, Conformity Assessment – General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies.

The keynote presentation at the Forum-AGM was given by Peter Unger, President of the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), who was the single U.S. representative on the working group that drafted 17011. He highlighted the major changes in 17011 from the current international standard, ISO/IEC Guide 58. They include:

- 17011 is the standard not just for ABs of testing laboratories (NACLA's focus), but for four other kinds of conformity assessment bodies;
- AB must be a third party;
- Structure must provide opportunity for effective involvement of interested parties;
- Greatly increased emphasis on impartiality;
- Stricter requirements on sufficiency and competence of persons involved in the accreditation process;
- ABs assessors must be observed regularly, normally every three years.

An array of experts addressed other critical issues in laboratory accreditation, including assessor qualifications, selection and training, and the growing importance of proficiency testing. Speakers from Verizon and the U.S. Dept. of Energy gave their opinions on what can be done to increase the credibility of accreditation to industry and government. Details can be found on the NACLA Web site at (www.nacla.net).

Regulatory Updates

ANSI (American National Standards Institute) as the US Member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has received a proposal for a New Field of Activity entitled "Potentially explosive atmospheres - Explosion prevention and protection."

The proposed scope of the new technical committee is: "Standardization in the field of explosion prevention and protection. Drawing up of standards relating to test methods for determining the flammability characteristics of substances, for equipment and protective systems for use in potentially explosive atmospheres, equipment and systems for explosion prevention and protection and terminology and methodology in the field of potentially explosive atmospheres. "Excluded: Standardization of electrical apparatus for explosive atmospheres (dealt with by IEC/TC 31)."

ANSI has been contacted to learn if the US would support the creation of a new technical activity in this field and would be willing to participate in the work of a new Technical Committee.



ILAC (Continued from page 4)

The ILAC website has been updated to include the Joint IAF-ILAC A- Series (A1 - A3) documents, a new P-Series document and revised versions of some existing ILAC documents as follows:

New Documents -

IAF/ILAC A1:2005
IAF/ILAC MRAs: Evaluation of a Regional Group

IAF/ILAC A2:2005
IAF/ILAC MRAs: Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body

IAF/ILAC A3:2005
IAF/ILAC MRAs: Key Performance Indicators
ILAC P12:2005
Harmonisation of ILAC Work with the Regions

Revised Documents -

ILAC P5: 2004
ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement) now available in Publications area

ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Terms of Reference and Composition of the Arrangement Management Committee

Other Recently Added Documents -

ILAC S3: 2004
ILAC Strategic and Business Plan
IAF/ILAC A4:2004
Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020

These documents are all available from the Publications Section of the ILAC website at www.ilac.org.



**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.

**UILI
1629 K Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-1633 • USA
Phone: Int +1 202 887 5504
Fax: Int +1 202 887 0021
www.uili.org • info@uili.org**



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**UILI • 1629 K Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-1633• USA
Phone: Int +1 202 887 5504
Fax: Int +1 202 887 0021
www.uili.org • info@uili.org**
