



Summer 2006

UILI Elects New Officers at 2005 General Assembly

The membership of UILI elected new members at the 20th General Assembly meeting held 30 September 2005 in London, UK.

G. G. McIntee (Canada) remains President, **Dr. Manuel Dorado** (Spain) remains a Vice President and is joined as Vice President by **Stephen Vincent** (USA). **Dr. Hideo Tabata** (Japan) remains the Treasurer and **Drs Luc Scholtis** (The Netherlands) will continue as Secretary-General.

All terms are for two years.

In other business, Honorary Membership was bestowed upon **Dr. Ken Albutt** (United Kingdom). Dr. Albutt is a former president of UILI and remains knowledgeable about the independent laboratory business in the UK. He was presented with a certificate of Honorary Membership and a gift bearing the UILI emblem.

Dates and Sites of Upcoming UILI Meetings Set

At the General Assembly and the accompanying Board of Governors meeting held in London in September 2005, the Board decided to hold the next General assembly meeting in Belgium in Fall 2007.

The next Board of Governors meeting will be 8 September 2006 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The Spring 2007 meeting will be in Tokyo, Japan, and the Fall 2007 meeting will be in conjunction with the General Assembly meeting in Belgium.

More specific information about agendas and hotels are on the UILI Web site www.uili.gov, from info@uili.org, or from the General Secretary, Drs Luc H A Scholtis, at luc.scholtis@labwing.com.

UILI News

UILI Proficiency Testing Program

In early December 2005, the first UILI performance test (PT) sample project was initiated.

This first study involved the analysis of a homogenized sediment/soil sample for metals. There were two samples provided, one with a low concentration of metals and another of higher concentration.

Participating laboratories analyzed these samples according to their methods of choice and reported results back to UILI. Results included documentation of the digestion and chemical analysis methods that the laboratory used to perform these analyses.

Approximately 6.5 grams of each sample were provided. Analytes of interest may have included the following: Antimony (Sb), Arsenic (As), Beryllium (Be), Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Copper (Cu), Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg), Nickel (Ni), Selenium (Se), Silver (Ag), Thallium (Tl), and Zinc (Zn).

Laboratories chose to analyze some or all of these metals. The price to participate in this international round robin was the equivalent of \$200 USD. Samples were shipped to laboratories in December 2005 and January 2006, with results returned to UILI in March 2006.

The overall project coordinator was **Dr. Hideo Tabata**, of JEMCA, with **Stephen Vincent**, UILI Vice Chairman, leading the U.S. participation. UILI will report the results of this PT study to participating laboratories in the summer of 2006. This report will be confidential. Laboratories are listed by code, with only the individual participating laboratory knowing their code number.

"The UILI Performance Test Program provided an excellent opportunity for laboratories to evaluate their ability to perform trace metals analysis on a reference material that was analyzed by around 200 laboratories worldwide.

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Member Association News

BELGIUM

Jan Soers Leads Belgian Laboratory Association

The Belgian Association (Union Professionnelle des Laboratoires d'Essais, d'Analyses et de Recherches) has elected **Jan Soers** the new president at their General Assembly on February 21, 2006. Mr. Soers will also lead the Belgian delegation to the UILI (Union Internationale Des Laboratoires Independants) Governing Board. The alternate will be his father, Erik Soers.

Erik Soers, in his letter announcing the election, thanked the current and former presidents of UILI as well as Board members for their constructive collaboration during his years of active service within UILI.

JEMCA

Since 1999, the Japan Environmental Measurement & Chemical Analysis (JEMCA) has been conducting Proficiency Testing (PT) cooperate with the Japan Society for Analytical Chemistry (JSAC), based on ISO/IEC Guide 43-1, 1997 (Proficiency Testing by inter-laboratory comparisons-Part1: Development and operation of Proficiency Testing schemes. There have been about 11,450 laboratories participating in this, the 30th Proficiency Testing Program. The main target compounds are metals (10), inorganic substances (8), VOC (4), pesticides (3), and others (5) in water, air, and soil.

JEMCA has been actively supporting UILI's PT sampling program. In the JEMCA PT, results can be submitted over the internet. They established an automated program for statistic evaluation based on ISO standards and have modified this program for the International PT study. Due to this prompt system, they can get the following results automatically:

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JEMCA evaluated the results from other countries by this automatic evaluation system. They reported preliminary results of all partici-

pants to the International PT sample program at the UILI Board of Governors Meeting in Madrid on April 7, 2006. ■

UNITED STATES

ACIL has contacted two state environmental regulatory agencies, one in New Jersey and the other in California, concerning changes in their environmental regulatory laws.

The State of California passed a law that regulates improvement in the environmental laboratory testing in that state. However, the associated regulations that govern the actual accreditation program and laboratory licensing and accreditation are now more outdated than before. ACIL requested that the California Department of Health Services update the associated regulations before the new law goes into effect at the end of 2006.

In New Jersey, ACIL has taken strong objection to the amendments to the law itself that governs requirements for state quantitation limits (NJQL). The New Jersey law would include arbitrary criteria that would systematically eliminate 50% of the New Jersey accredited commercial and government laboratory capacity. ACIL contends that the state rules would not reflect the national method detection limit (MLD) procedures that the USEPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) is under court order to change.

ACIL's Annual Meeting will be 7-10 October, in San Antonio, Texas, USA. The theme is "Connecting – Great Ideas, Great Laboratories, Great People." Additional information and registration forms are available at the ACIL Web site, www.acil.org.

The National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC) will be held 27-31 August 2006 in Washington, DC. NEMC provides the principal forum for addressing policy and technical issues affecting monitoring in all environmental media (i.e., water, air, soil, and wastes). The focus of this 22nd annual conference includes new approaches for analyzing conventional and emerging pollutants in water, soil, and air. All UILI members are invited to attend the conference. Additional information is available at the NEMC Web site, www.nemc.us. ■

Affiliate Member News

UILI Continues Tiered Dues Structure for Affiliate Members

At UILI's Board of Governors meeting in September 05, the Board decided to continue the two-tiered dues structure for affiliate members.

For independent laboratories seeking Affiliate Membership with 10 laboratory employees or fewer, the annual UILI dues are 75 €. For companies with more than 10 laboratory employees, the annual dues level remains at 150 €. Dues invoices to current Affiliate members will be mailed by 01 July 2006.

ISO Update

ISO 17025: 2005 – An Update on Implementation

David Stanger
UILI Affiliate Member Representative

For a period in excess of five years, the endeavours of UILI and the majority of ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) stakeholders has been to preserve the integrity and status of our international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and its relevance to our customers. Last year we celebrated or were relieved to witness the publication of the new edition that started its life as ISO Guide 25. The ILAC Laboratory Committee (LC), with active UILI participation, has been a key player in seeking clarification on wording that can be included on the accreditation certificate accrediting bodies issue to their laboratories that meet the requirement of ISO/IEC 17025:2005.

Those accreditation bodies and accredited laboratories choosing to make use of the ILAC/IAF/IAO Joint Communiqué may use the following statement on the accreditation certificate and their accredited laboratories on test reports:

"This laboratory is accredited in accordance with the recognized International Stan-

ard ISO/IEC 17025:2005. This accreditation demonstrates technical competence for a defined scope and the operation of a laboratory quality management system (refer joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communiqué dated 18 June 2005)"

As this statement makes no reference to ISO 9001:2000, the significance of the ISO/IAF/ISO Joint Communiqué, reproduced below, aims to clarify the alignment between ISO 17025:2005 and ISO 9001:2000 regarding **management system requirements** becomes apparent. Hard copy can be downloaded from the ILAC Web site - www.ilac.org.

Joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communiqué
on the
Management Systems Requirements of
ISO/IEC 17025:2005,
General Requirements for the Competence of
Testing and Calibration
Laboratories

A laboratory's fulfillment of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 means the laboratory meets both the technical competence requirements and **management system requirements** that are necessary for it to consistently deliver technically valid test results and calibrations. The **management system requirements** in ISO/IEC 17025 (Section 4) are written in language relevant to laboratory operations and meet the principles of ISO 9001:2000 **Quality Management Systems – Requirements** and are aligned with its pertinent requirements.

Signed:
ISO Secretary General, ILAC Chair, IAF Chair
2005-06-18

I conclude this summary of recent events by drawing members attention to an e-mail issued by the ILAC Secretariat on the 20th December, 2005 (copy held by UILI Secretariat) that included a note on Clarification on Use of ILAC/IAF/ISO Joint Communiqué dated 18th June, 2005. It states that the actual text of the Communiqué itself is not allowed to be reproduced on either the front or back of Accreditation Bodies certificates or Accredited Laboratory test reports. It also states that laboratories may send this package of information to their existing and potential clients, as required.



ILAC News

ILAC – LABORATORY COMMITTEE

David Stanger
 UILI Affiliate Member Representative

Members are advised that the second ILAC Laboratory Committee meeting for 2005 was held in Auckland, New Zealand, last September as part of the ILAC Plenary. UILI’s report was included in the proceedings. Following that meeting, the next Laboratory Committee (LC) meeting was held in Madrid, Spain, on 8-9 May, 2006. As UILI could not send a representative to the meeting in Auckland, this report has been possible by the assistance of the LC Chair, Tony Anderson (NCSL International) and provides members with an overview on a few of the many agenda items covered at the meeting.

The practice of issuing invitations to the Chair of all ILAC committees was continued. The LC meeting was attended by the Chair of the ILAC Accreditation Committee, Merih Malmquist; the ILAC Secretary, Alan Squirrell; and the ISO/CASCO Secretary Peter Dennehy. Such invitations add great value to the LC meetings towards a better understanding between the views of laboratories, accreditors, and ISO’s committee on conformity assessment (CASCO).

The topic of Proficiency Testing (PT) frequency required by Accreditation Bodies was reviewed as was the ILAC/IAF Partnership Agreement. The later topic was formalized at the ILAC Plenary, which adopted two resolutions confirming that both ILAC and IAF Chairmen now participate in the ILAC Executive Committee meetings.

Of note are the following:

- the harmonization of cross frontier activities by a working group of the ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC);
- the publication of ILAC S5:2005 ILAC Procedures for Disputes, Complaints and Appeals;
- the announcement that ISO/TC212 has started a short term review of ISO/IEC 15189 for medical laboratories is to be aligned with ISO 9001:2000 were subject to discussions.

The later topic has the potential to be a repeat of the alignment of ISO/IEC 17025 with ISO 9001. It is up to those UILI members using this international standard against which they are accredited to make their views on what elements of their standard they wish to see aligned with ISO 9001:2000.

The second LC two day meeting this year will be held in Cancun, Mexico, during the ILAC 2006 Annual Meetings to take place on dates to be announced from 6 to 15 November, 2006.

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Anonymity of results allowed self-evaluation of laboratory performance. Statistical evaluation of all of the results allowed comprehensive comparisons of data and gave individual laboratories valuable insights concerning their labs performance”, said **Steve Vincent**, UILI Vice-President and proficiency testing coordinator.

The initial PT program was deemed highly successful. The next round of PT samples may involve other analytes and matrices. UILI hopes that this program will provide valuable information to laboratories worldwide on how they perform compared to an anticipated 250 other labs that will be analyzing this same sample. Additional information about participating in upcoming UILI proficiency testing programs is available from Steve Vincent at svincent@caslab.Com.

Relevance of Various International Agreements on Metrology to Trade Legislation and Standardization (dated 23 January 2006)

Trade fuels economic growth in developed as well as developing nations.

Measurements play an essential role in developing confidence between trading partners and in demonstrating that goods comply with written specifications and legal requirements; a process which involves making comparable or equivalent measurements in different countries. Any lack of acceptance by regulatory or other trade-related authorities in an importing country

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of the measurements made in an exporting country can become a technical barrier to trade.

The International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), the International Organization for Legal Metrology (OIML) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) work closely together in order to promote a world-wide metrology system.

The common statement describes the missions of each of the three organizations and their complementary, but mutual supportive, work. It also highlights the importance of their Mutual Recognition Arrangements to underpin the unified world-wide metrology system for industry, commerce and world-wide trade. The

Economic Outlooks

* China continues to prove it is emerging as a major world economy. It is much more, today, than just an offshoring site for foreign companies looking for cheaper labor and supplies. China's domestic market is expanding rapidly. As larger clients of UILI members move operations into China to do business, some laboratories will see the need/opportunity to follow their larger clients to China. The biggest opportunities will be in transportation, telecommunications, logistics, land-use planning, and environmental services.

Here are some suggestions for entering China effectively:

First, do extensive market research, develop local contacts, and consider hiring consultants to assist in dealing with the unfamiliar world of business in China.

For smaller firms, like most UILI members, joint ventures will probably be the best route to take. Take time to pick a reliable joint venture partner.

Personal relationships are important, as is an understanding of and respect for Chinese customs.

Employ a trusted translator and resist corruption, even though it may seem more common in China.

And, finally, don't expect an early entry into China will keep competition away-as rapidly as

the economy is growing, competition won't be far behind.

* Much of the same story is true for India. Their economy is growing at a 6-8% annual pace and international involvement is moving beyond outsourcing to basic services and manufacturing. One of the greatest opportunities for UILI members will be in the construction and engineering areas. India is expected to invest \$125B in infrastructure in the next five years, creating a large demand for related construction materials testing services. One of the major factors in making India so much more attractive to foreign investment recently is the fact that the Indian government has a track record of 15 years of political reform that has produced a predictably legitimate democratic environment.

* Movement to leftist governments in several South American countries may not lead to outright nationalization of industries, but will likely create an anti-business sentiment in their economies that at least raises a red flag for any members either working in these countries or working for clients with major activity there. It can also be reasonably expected that free trade with these countries will become problematic.

* With the strengthening of many European economies, an increase in the number of EU companies acquiring or merging with U.S. firms is likely. This may be good, bad, or of no consequence for UILI members but worth watching for both threats or opportunities relative to the member's clients.

* Energy costs will continue to be a major concern. With or without any drastic oil supply cuts by Iran, the growing economies of the world are demanding more and more of this finite resource. And Russia has now begun to exert its own efforts to keep oil prices high to support what it sees as a major economic growth opportunity with its oil reserves. Pressure will build for alternative fuel sources creating an opportunity for services or even research provided by UILI members. This will be a grow-

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ing issue for many years to come. And, obviously, since all of our economies have come to rely on cheap energy, any major increases can have negative short term economic consequences, emotional or real.

* Japan's growing economy, after nearly 10 years of stagnation, is good for the world's economies. It means Japan now begins to be a major importer again of such goods as aircraft equipment, home appliances, agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment. And, expect the yen to gain against the dollar. ■



**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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