

News on SADC World Accreditation Day Commemorations

June 9, 2014 marks World Accreditation Day (WAD) as a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities. This year's theme focuses on the role that accreditation plays in delivering confidence in the provision of energy. The inaugural World Accreditation Day was celebrated in 2008. The theme for the World Accreditation Day 2014 is **"Accreditation: Delivering Confidence in the Provision of Energy"**. This year, promotional activities took place around the world ranging from major events such as seminars/workshops/conferences, to television, radio and press coverage. For the 2014 WAD commemorations SADCAS provided all the NAFFPs with the WAD poster, brochure from ILAC/IAF, SADCAS press release based on the ILAC/IAF and draft programme for WAD conference. A paper and PowerPoint presentation on the theme of 2014 WAD were distributed to all those NAFFPs who indicated that they would be having conferences.

The SADC region has been commemorating WAD since 2009 and over the years the region has witnessed increased commemoration activities and increased awareness on accreditation issues. This year activities which were undertaken between June and August 2014 ranged from conferences to press releases and television to radio interviews. In some countries targeted marketing visits were undertaken to companies as part of the commemorations. Within the SADC region, WAD conferences were held in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and Tanzania.



Ms Peggy Serame—Deputy Permanent Secretary Economic Diversification Drive (EDD) - Ministry of Trade and Industry officially opening the conference

In Botswana WAD was commemorated on 9 June 2014 when a conference jointly organized by the National Accreditation Focal Point-Botswana and the Botswana Testing Laboratories System (BTLs) was held at Adansonia Hotel Hotel, in Francistown a city which is north east of Botswana. Prior to the conference, WAD was promoted by distributing the 2014 WAD press release among the various media houses in Botswana. This was done by the Public Relations Unit of The Ministry of Trade and Industry. The conference which was attended by 81 accreditation stakeholders including conformity assessment bodies from the food industry, health industry, civil engineering and construction industry as well as calibration laboratories in both public and the private sector from Botswana. The energy sector was also represented at the conference. Banners including WAD banner specifically produced with the 2014 theme and SADCAS promotional material were also put up and distributed at the conference. A small exhibition with various conformity assessment bodies displaying their services was also set up in conjunction with the conference. The

following six (6) organizations showcased their activities during the mini-exhibition; Betach, Botswana Bureau of Standards, BTLs, ROCIP, Lamworld Technologies and Linefeeds.

The conference was opened by Ms Peggy Serame, Deputy Permanent Secretary Economic Diversification Drive (EDD), Ministry of Trade and Industry. Eight (8) papers from the following representatives of stakeholders with an interest in accreditation were presented during the conference: SADCAS; Department of Energy; Lamworld Technologies; BTLs; Botswana Power Corporation (BPC); Tati Nickel; Water Utilities Corporation (WUC); and NAFFP - Botswana. In her paper Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer of SADCAS explained how accreditation provides peace of mind and assurance of the quality and safety of the products and services used in the provision of energy in daily life. She further encouraged businesses, governments and regulators to embrace accreditation and make accreditation work for them. In his presentation Mr Kuvare Venjonoka, the Principal Energy Engineer, Department of Energy, Ministry of Minerals Energy and Water Resources noted the benefits of accreditation to the energy sector in delivering confidence in the accuracy of results and safe provision of energy.

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Delegates in attendance at WAD Botswana Conference

In his paper Mr Obed Motsomi, the CEO of Lamworld Technologies an accredited private calibration laboratory, outlined the role of metrology/calibration laboratories in ensuring a credible measurement system. He highlighted the importance of a credible measurement system in overcoming technical barriers to trade and for compliance with requirements. The Secretary of BTLs Mr Pilot Masinga, informed the conference about the roles of BTLs which includes amongst others to collaborate with the NAFP and SADCAS in the promotion of accreditation in the country and to conduct audits of member laboratories against ISO/IEC 17025 to establish their readiness for accreditation. The BTLs also assists laboratories in Botswana to prepare for accreditation and also provides overall support to the accreditation initiatives in the country/region and participates in international accreditation activities. In his paper Mr M Letileng from the BPC explained that accreditation is a key component in the services of energy providers because it provides a platform for building confidence in the provision of energy. Accreditation enhances quality of service delivery and confidence in quality of electrical energy produced and consumed by customers.

Mr Alpha M. Tshwenyego, Manager Risk & Compliance Management, Tati Nickel Mining Company articulated the benefits that businesses expect from accreditation such as: third party recognition; achievement of international recognition of its technical competence; gaining the confidence of customers and interested parties; better corporate image in the eyes of regulators, customers, employees as well as the society at large; opening doors to new markets both locally and internationally; achieving and maintaining high standard of operation through sound quality assurance system through technically competent employees; identifying areas for improvement and benchmarking with peers for continual improvement; greater quality awareness amongst employees and reduced defects, scraps, rework failures and improved service recovery; and the bottom line increased profit margins due to reduction or elimination of the need for re-testing of products. The Quality Manager of WUC, Mr Teddy B. Ditsabatho whose laboratory is accredited by SADCAS underscored the importance of quality assurance/control to support accuracy, reliability and reproducibility of test results. He further indicated that the WUC laboratories use certified reference material (CRMs) and participate in Proficiency Testing (PT) Schemes. He also outlined the benefits that WUC had reaped since accreditation such as increased customer base, increased number of requests for tests, and increased revenue base as well as increased confidence by the laboratory staff/laboratory. The last presentation was made by Mr Uno M. Tapela, Chief Industrial Officer, Department of Industrial Affairs, Ministry of Trade and Industry who proudly presented the NAFP – Botswana achievements over the past few years. The closing remarks were given by Ms J. Mbada, Managing Director of Betach Laboratories.

Lesotho joined the rest of the world to commemorate the World Accreditation Day on the 25 June 2014 by holding half a day workshop. More than 30 delegates from regulators in the energy and environment sectors and other stakeholders from the energy sector including gas, electricity and renewable energy companies who harness and exploit wind and solar energy attended the workshop. A United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) consultant on SQAM issues who was on mission to determine Lesotho's needs also attended the workshop. The event was covered by the national television, several radios and print media. The interest was prompted by the fact that a week before the workshop, Mr Molebatsi Rabolinyane, the Director of Standards, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Cooperatives and Marketing was interviewed by one local newspaper.



Participants attending WAD workshop in Lesotho

The workshop was opened by Mr Molebatsi Rabolinyane, who outlined the objective of WAD commemorations and explained the importance of accreditation and what it means to the energy sector. The workshop discussed issues on solar energy, role of government on the provision of energy, measurement in energy, ISO 50001, the international standard on energy management systems, radiation project and nuclear protection bill and the theme of the day; Accreditation – Delivering confidence in the provision of energy.

SADCAS work and activities were discussed at large and SADCAS brochures were also distributed to participants.

In Mozambique, WAD was commemorated on the 9 June 2014 through a press release which was published in the electronic media in Mozambique.

In Namibia, WAD was commemorated on 7 July 2014 when a conference organized by the NAFP–Namibia was held at Nampower Conference Centre, in Windhoek the capital city of Namibia. The conference was attended by 30 accreditation stakeholders including conformity assessment bodies from the energy sector, mining sector, food industry, health industry, civil engineering industry as well as calibration laboratories from both public and the private sector from Namibia.



Mr Rojas Manyame—General Manager Regulations, Electrical Control Board presenting his paper

The conference was opened by Mr Benjamin Rinauke Katjipuka, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary for Trade and Commerce, Ministry of Trade and Industry. Four (4) papers from the following representatives of stakeholders with an interest in accreditation were presented during the conference: SADCAS, Electricity Control Board (ECB) and Namibia Standards Institute. In her paper entitled “Accreditation: delivering Confidence in the Provision of Energy”, Mrs Maureen Mutasa explained how accreditation provides peace of mind and assurance that the products and services used in the provision of energy in daily life and encouraged the various stakeholders to embrace accreditation and to utilize SADCAS services. In his presentation Mr Rojas Manyame, the General Manager - Regulations, ECB outlined the role of the ECB in the provision of appropriate, clean and environmentally safe energy and noted the importance of standards and accreditation in ascertaining stakeholders’ certainty and consistency in the quality of products and in the improvement of efficiency and cutting on emissions as well as in sustainable energy provision.

In a paper presented on behalf of Mr Mundembe the Manager of the NSI’ Metrology Division an accredited national metrology institute for Namibia, Mr Blasius Matchai outlined the role of metrology/calibration laboratories in ensuring a credible measurement system in the provision of energy from petrol pumps, gas/electricity/water meters to tyre pressures. In another paper by a representative of the NSI, Mr Melchior Ambunda explained the role of certification bodies in the provision of energy. He mentioned that although the NSI had already adopted ISO 50001 the international standard for energy management systems, certification to the standard is yet to be done.



Delegates at 2014 Namibia WAD Conference

The closing remarks were given by Mr Katjipuka who reiterated the importance of adequate energy provision in socio economic development and the importance of accreditation in delivering confidence in the provision of energy. He thanked all the delegates for their time and fruitful engagements. Delegates were given T shirts and SADCAS brochures were distributed at the conference.

In Swaziland, WAD was commemorated on the 19th June 2014. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade partnered with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy in commemorating this day since the theme focused on the energy sector. Preparations for this day began in April 2014. Meetings between the two Ministries were held to determine how the day was going to be commemorated. Before the day, articles on accreditation were published in the local newspapers, the Swazi Observer and the Times of Swaziland and a radio interactive programme was held by two NAFPP representatives and two Energy Officers. For further awareness, the Chief Quality Systems Administrator and the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade were interviewed on different occasions on the WAD. The team also conducted a television breakfast show and distributed information to relevant stakeholders on accreditation.

On 19 June 2014 the commemorations started with a march led by a police band, from a major shopping complex through the industrial site to Matsapha Town Council conference room where participants were addressed by key speakers for the day.



Police Band leading the 2014 Swaziland WAD commemorations march



Stakeholders marching to conference venue

Government officials from different ministries and stakeholders from the energy sector and other sectors were present to commemorate this day. For the march, participants wore T-shirts donated by GALP Energia Swaziland, a petroleum company based in Swaziland. Upon reaching the Matsapha Town Council Conference room, participants were registered and given promotional materials from SADCAS and T-shirts bearing the theme.



Mrs Nonhlanhla Mnisi—Commissioner of Cooperatives who represented the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade at the commemoration

The Programme Director was Ms Phindile Dlamini who welcomed everyone and made introductory remarks about the event. The Deputy Director from the Energy Department gave a key note address whilst a representative from Swaziland Water Services Corporation gave a presentation on the role of testing laboratories in the provision of energy and the benefits of accreditation. The NAFPP also gave a presentation entitled "Accreditation: Delivering confidence in the provision of energy".

Mr Msebe Malinga, the Registrar of Companies, who was representing the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade introduced the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade, who was also represented by Mrs Nonhlanhla Mnisi, the Commissioner of Cooperatives. To mark the end of her speech, Mrs Mnisi presented certificates to participants who undertook training on ISO/IEC 17025 from 7 to 11 April

2014. The training was conducted by SADCAS.

In Tanzania, World Accreditation Day in Tanzania was celebrated on 9 June 2014 at Blue Pearl Hotel in Dar es Salaam. A total of 63 stakeholders mainly from conformity assessment bodies' i.e. calibration/testing laboratories, medical laboratories as well as certification and inspection bodies attended the conference.

The conference was officially opened by Mr Uledi Mussa, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Industry and Trade. In his opening remarks Mr Uledi congratulated all accredited conformity assessment bodies for the demonstrated technical competence which provides confidence to the end user, removes need for repetitive testing, certification and inspection, reduces cost and increases access of Tanzania products and services to the international markets. He said accreditation is paramount as it provides assurance and confidence that traded products and services not only conform to specifications but also meet legal and regulatory requirements thus serve to protect public interests in general. He also pointed out the need for safe energy provision to meet the needs of the country's current population without negatively impacting future generations to the newly discovered oil and natural gas. He ended his opening remarks by urging all conformity assessment bodies dealing with inspection, certification and testing of energy related fields to have their facilities accredited so as to provide confidence in the products and services provided to the public while protecting the environment.



Participants at WAD Commemoration in Tanzania

Six presentations were made during the conference starting with a paper by Mrs Kezia Mbwambo from Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) on the role of accreditation in delivering confidence in the provision of energy. She briefly outlined the issues with regards to energy provision, role of accreditation and benefits provided by accreditation. This was followed by a paper by Mr Gerald Maganga from Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) who gave a very informative presentation on the role of regulators in the provision of energy. He summarized the contribution of the energy sector in the economy, duties and function of EWURA, regulatory tools, achievement and challenge. In his paper on the use of natural gas in Tanzania,

Engineer. Baltazar Mrosso from Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) briefly enlightened delegates on the discovery of natural gas in Tanzania, the development of new natural gas infrastructure and the benefit of using natural gas. Mr Anectus Ndunguru from TBS Metrology Laboratory outlined the role of metrology in ensuring a credible measurements system in the provision of energy whilst Mr Liberatus Kalinga also from TBS Electrical Laboratory presented on role of testing laboratories in the provision of energy. The session ended with a paper by Ms Stella Mrosso the NAFP - Tanzania who gave an overview of SADCAS and outlined the role of the NAFP. She also briefly outlined the ISO/IEC accreditation standards, accreditation processes and cost as well as accredited facilities within Tanzania. In her vote of thanks, Mrs Agnes Mneney, Director of Testing and Calibration Packaging Centre at TBS thanked all the speakers for their excellent and informative presentations and more important for sharing the experiences in accreditation with other stakeholders at seminar.

In Zambia, WAD was commemorated on the 9th June 2014 through a press release which was published in the daily mail and Times of Zambia Newspapers on 9 June 2014. The press release was also circulated to stakeholders. The Zambia Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry where the NAFP- Zambia is housed officially launched WAD on the national television, the Zambia national Broadcasting Corporation.

In Zimbabwe, WAD was commemorated on the 1 August 2014 at the Elephant hills Hotel in Victoria Falls. The celebration coincided with the 7th Annual Congress of the African Society of Blood Transfusion (AfsBT). In one of the congress sessions which was on accreditation, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa made remarks on accreditation. The session was attended by more than 50 participants drawn mainly from medical scientists, blood bank staff, etc. from across Africa and the world. The theme of the congress was "Safe and Sustainable blood services lifeblood of the future". The SADCAS CEO was accompanied to the congress by Mr Silas Makowe and Mrs Mildred Machiri representatives of the NAFP -Zimbabwe who met the SADCAS CEO's attendance costs. A press release on WAD was also published in the local newspapers on 9 June 2014.

During the session a representative from an accredited blood bank in South Africa gave a paper on facilitating an in house PT for an accredited blood service provider. This was followed by a speaker from CIMAS a medical laboratory based in Harare, who shared their experience in implementing ISO 15189: 2012 culminating in accreditation of the laboratory by SADCAS in July 2014. Another Medical laboratory representative from Chitungwiza Hospital and representatives working with Blood Banks in Kenya and Mozambique also shared their experiences through the WHO SLMTA process which was originally designed for medical laboratories. Accreditation of blood banks presents an opportunity to SADCAS which must be explored.



From left to right: NAFP-Zimbabwe Mr Silas Makowe
Mrs Mildred Machiri with Mrs Maureen Mutasa—

Delegates attending the session on accreditation during the 7th AfSBT Congress
held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

