

SADCMET WORKSHOP ON ASSISTANCE TO SMEs

During August 2002 the SADCMET secretariat organized workshop on metrology assistance to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). This was done in conjunction with the annual South African Test and Measurement Workshop, at which the NML also unveiled its Measurement Practice Improvement Guide for use by South African SMEs. Two delegates per SADCMET member were sponsored by the PTB (Germany) to attend the event. It was agreed to review the South African Guide for possible use in SADC and SADCMET was asked to form a Technical Committee to deal with this matter.

A SADCMET CD ROM with all the presented papers is available from the secretariat and the presentations can also be downloaded from the [SADCMET website](#).

STUDY VISIT BY UEMOA DELEGATION

Eleven delegates from the French-speaking West African (UEMOA) Region visited selected SADC countries during November 2002 to study the regional and national SQAM infrastructure in the region. The [Union Economique et Monetaire Ouest Africaine](#) (UEMOA) includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo and is currently in the process of setting up and implementing a regional program on Quality, Normalisation, Accreditation and Metrology – QNEM. The SADC countries visited included Malawi, Mauritius and South Africa. Discussions on potential co-operation and joint projects were held with national and regional SQAM institutions, which included SADCMET.

Pictured above are Dr Musarurwa (CSIR-NML), Dr Mvuma (CSIR-M&Mtek), Dr Hengstberger (CSIR-NML) and Ms Kamusime (Uganda National Bureau of Standards) with the UEMOA delegates during their visit to the CSIR-NML.

CSIR-NML (SOUTH AFRICA) APPOINTS NEW MANAGER

Dr Wynand Louw has been appointed as manager of the [National Metrology Laboratory](#). Announcing the appointment, the Director of the CSIR Division to which the NML belongs (Dr Hoffie Maree) briefly outlined the rigorous process that was followed to ensure that a competent candidate was selected to lead the NML into the future. Congratulating Wynand, Mr S Moodliar, Chief Director in the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), commented that Standards, Quality, Accreditation and Metrology play a pivotal role in enhancing the development of international trade and highlighted the fundamental role of metrology in underpinning the process.

CSIR-NML HOSTS CCQM WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

The [Consultative Committee for Amount of Substance \(CCQM\)](#) (Comité Consultatif pour la Quantité de Matière), established in 1993, held its gas and organic working group meeting at the National Metrology Laboratory of the CSIR during November 2002. Present activities within the CCQM concern primary methods for measuring amount of substance, international comparisons, establishment of international equivalence between national laboratories, and advice to the CIPM on matters concerned with metrology in chemistry.

Attended by delegates within the chemical fraternity representing nineteen international organisations and National Metrology Institutes, a number of issues pertinent to chemical metrology including research, new developments and intercomparisons were discussed. A number of working groups have been established within the CCQM and include:

- CCQM Working Group on key comparisons
- CCQM Working Group on gas analysis
- CCQM Working Group on electrochemical analysis
- CCQM Working Group on inorganic analysis
- CCQM Working Group on organic analysis
- CCQM Working Group on bioanalysis

SADCMET WORKSHOP ON CHEMICAL METROLOGY

The first SADCMET workshop on Chemical Metrology took place in conjunction with the CCQM working group meetings in November 2002. It was attended by the international delegates present for the working group meetings as well as PTB-sponsored delegates from each SADC country. The theme of the workshop was "The role of metrology in monitoring food, health and the environment in Southern Africa". The SADCMET delegates present also used the opportunity to hold a meeting of the SADCMET TC-1 Working Group on Chemical Metrology (WG-QM).

The papers delivered at the workshop can be downloaded from the [SADCMET website](#).

NEW-LOOK SADCMET WEBSITE

Following the lead of its sister organization SADCSTAN, which had earlier registered a separate SADCSTAN website <http://www.sadcstan.org>, the SADCMET secretariat has registered a separate website <http://www.sadcmnet.org>. The new website is not merely a move of the information available previously at the SADC SQAM website (<http://www.sadc-sqam.org>), but involves a new look for the web pages as well as a further extension and update of the available information. An example of the new capabilities is an online registration form for SADCMET events.

Both the SADC MET and SADC STAN websites can still be reached via links from the SADC SQAM website, which look exactly like the internal links to the SADCA, SADC MEL and SQAMEG information pages. In the new arrangement, the SADC MET and SADC STAN secretariats have more individual control over both the content as well as the look and feel of their websites, while still being linked to the SADC SQAM website.

REMOTE UPDATING OF SADC SQAM WEBSITE FINALIZED

The country-specific information pages on the SADC SQAM website (<http://www.sadc-sqam.org>) can now be updated by each member country directly from their own computer. A decision still has to be made whether a training session should be organized for all country representatives (responsible persons for updating) or whether this training should be provided to country representatives whenever an opportunity arises during a visit.

8. QSAE AND CSIR-NML EXTEND THEIR COOPERATION

During November 2002 the existing MOU between the NML and the Quality and Standards Authority (QSAE) of Ethiopia was extended with a further framework agreement on a comprehensive training plan for QSAE personnel, involving attachment of QSAE personnel to the NML for extended periods of time and assistance to the QSAE with the implementation of a suitable laboratory quality system.

As a first action under this programme, the QSAE metrology manager, Mr Mesfin Teklehaimanot and the head of the QSAE calibration laboratories, Mr Wondwosen Fisseha, visited the CSIR-NML from 24 – 26 February 2003 to study the implementation of the NML's quality system with regard to ISO standard 17025. During a further visit, the Ethiopian Vice-Minister of Defence and QSAE Board, Mr Hailemelekot Giorgis and the Director General of QSAE, Mr Messai Girma visited the CSIR-NML on 3 March 2003. Their focus was a visit to the Mobile Measurement Laboratory, which the CSIR-NML had built under contract to UNIDO for use in Mozambique. According to the visitors, the acquisition of a facility of this type by the QSAE was a matter of high priority.

9. BOBS CALLS ON CSIR-NML EXPERTISE IN DESIGN OF NEW METROLOGY LABS

The Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) awarded phase two of a consultancy project for the design of their new metrology laboratories to the CSIR-NML (South Africa) during January 2003. The project entails the NML providing specialist consulting services to the BOBS design team concerning the detailed design and layout of the metrology laboratories.

10. SON AND CSIR-NML SIGN MOU ON COOPERATION IN METROLOGY

A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Metrology was signed between the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) and the CSIR-NML on 16 August 2002. Apart from mutual cooperation in metrology matters, the two organizations also agreed to work together to promote the establishment of internationally credible metrology structures throughout the African continent.

11. CSIR-NML ASSISTS NIS (EGYPT) AND KEBS (KENYA) IN THE FIELD OF PHOTOMETRY AND RADIOMETRY

During February 2003, CSIR-NML staff advised their counterparts in Egypt and Kenya on the upgrading (Egypt) and establishment (Kenya) of metrology facilities in photometry and radiometry. This was done at the request of the national Metrology Institutes in these countries, both of which have MOUs on cooperation in metrology with the CSIR-NML. In the photograph on the left, Dr Hengstberger (CSIR-NML) is seen with Dr Adel Shehata of NIS during the visit.

12. SQAM AWARENESS SEMINAR IN ANGOLA

One half-day SQAM awareness seminar for top decision makers and one full-day SQAM awareness seminar for other stakeholders were held in Luanda (Angola) over the period 15 – 16 July 2002. Speakers included Dr Steve Carpenter (NIST - USA), Dr Vera Poncano (IPT - Brazil), Ms Paulina Tembane (INNOQ – Mozambique), Mr Frederick Hamutunda (ZABS - Zambia) and Dr Mukayi Musarurwa (CSIR-NML, South Africa). Several of the speakers were sponsored by PTB. Over 70 delegates including senior government officials and stakeholders from industry attended the seminar. According to the opinion of the local organizers (IANORG), another seminar should be held in 2003 to build on and re-enforce the interest generated during the first one.

13. SQAM AWARENESS SEMINAR IN MOZAMBIQUE

The Mozambique SQAM awareness seminar was held over the period 21 – 22 November 2002. Speakers from all the SADC-SQAM structures (SADCMET, SADC MEL, SADCA and SADCSTAN) participated, as well a representative for the SADC Secretariat and speakers from Portugal's IPQ and Brazil's IPT. It was oversubscribed with about 140 attendees from government, industry and parastatals. The seminar was characterised by intensive debate and discussions and was a huge success. The kind sponsorship of PTB for several of the speakers is gratefully acknowledged.

14. SADCMET DELEGATES ATTEND MEETINGS IN JAPAN

The 10th meeting of the Joint Committee of the Regional Metrology Organisations and the BIPM (JCRB) was held at the National Metrology Institute of Japan in Tsukuba, Japan during the period 3-4 March 2003. Mrs M Marobela (BOBS) and Dr Franz Hengstberger (CSIR-NML) attended the meeting on behalf of SADCMET. The meeting was held at an important time, where the end of the transition period of the CIPM MRA is approaching at the end of the year. A document is being prepared that will review the progress, over the last four years of the JCRB operation. While all available evidence in support of an NMI CMC claim was previously admissible, new or revised CMCs must be supported from the end of 2003 by either CIPM or RMO comparison results. In addition, accreditation or self-declaration of the NMI quality system must be in place. SADCMET greatly appreciates the contribution of PTB to the travelling costs of the SADCMET chairperson.

The two SADCMET delegates were also able to attend one of the Centenary Workshops scheduled throughout 2003 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the National Metrology Institute of Japan (NIMJ). The workshop was held on 5 March, immediately after the JCRB meetings.

On 6 March 2003, Dr Hengstberger participated in a meeting of the APMP Developing Economies Committee (DEC) on behalf of the CSIR-NML, which is an Associate Member of APMP and a member of the APMP DEC.