



Southern African Development Community (SADC) Cooperation in Measurement Traceability
Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa,
Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

REGIONAL COORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2004 - MARCH 2005

1. SADC MET WATER TESTING LABORATORIES PROFICIENCY SCHEME

During February 2004, the SADC MET Secretariat, with the assistance and support of PTB organized a workshop on Water testing proficiency scheme for laboratories in the region, as a first step towards the establishment and implementation of the actual scheme.

The actual inaugural PT scheme was undertaken in July-August 2004, organised by SADC MET with financial and logistical support from Germany's PTB, and managed by Umgeni Water as the PT provider under Merle Smuts, twenty five public and private laboratories participated.

The results of the PT were discussed at an evaluation working group meeting held during November 2004 in Pretoria. Facilitated by Dr Michael Kock of the University of Stuttgart (Institute of Water Engineering and Sanitation) in Germany, the pilot scheme provided an important component for improving the analytical quality of the water testing laboratories. To date, the implementation of a PT system for water testing laboratories in SADC and East Africa can be regarded as a major success.

A number of needs were addressed by the twenty five delegates. These include: Validation of methods, Equipment adequacy and Staff training. Furthermore, the delegates requested SADC MET to assist with the establishment of an association of water testing laboratories and to draft an interim constitution.

The meeting further requested that future rounds of the proficiency schemes include the measurement of heavy metals as well as that of the microbiological quality of water, the planning of which has already started, with now well over 40 laboratories from the region having confirmed participation. Proceedings of the Workshop can be accessed under the SADC MET website at www.sadcmnet.org

2. Metrology Support for SMEs Project

In April 2003, SADC MET established a new Technical Committee Number 5 (TC 5),

with the following broad terms of reference: *Develop and Implement a working Programme aimed at Improving Measurement Practices in small and medium enterprises*. TC 5 met in July 2004 and has since drawn up a comprehensive and detailed work programme, comprising several projects and activities for implementation in 2004-2005.

Firstly, the Measurement Practice Improvement Guide has been upgraded to take cognisance of SADC infrastructure and requirements. This was achieved through consultation with stakeholders and role players in SADC.

The importance of metrology support to SMMEs was the focus of a TC5 meeting held in Namibia during 2004. Activities planned under the TC5 programme include launches of national task teams within each SADC country comprising stakeholders, small business associations, chambers of commerce and export councils to drive metrology support activities to SMMEs. Furthermore, the Measurement Practice Improvement Guide will be translated into French and Portuguese.

Four pilot roll-out Workshops of the Measurement Practice Improvement Guide were carried out in April 2005, which focused on national stakeholder groups such as Export Promotion Councils, SMME bodies, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Government and National Standards Organisations; the aim being to utilise these groups to disseminate the Guide across industry. The full report on these Workshops has been attached to this report as an Annex.

Further work will entail completion of an impact assessment study to measure the level of measurement implementation in SMMEs and the success of the collaboration project.

3. SQAM AWARENESS SEMINAR IN LESOTHO

After some two years of struggling, SADC MET, with support from PTB, was able to coordinate and put in place arrangements for the holding of the Lesotho SQAM Awareness Seminar, from 11-12 April. All SADC-SQAM structures were represented, including the SADC Secretariat. A guest speaker from the Rwanda Standards Bureau presented some useful lessons and comparisons for Lesotho. It is hoped that the seminar provided the necessary impetus for Lesotho to build on in establishing its own SQAM facilities. SADC MET and SADC MEL have put together a draft proposal towards this end

4. SADC MET TECHNICAL COMMITTEES MEETING

During the 8th SADC MET Committee Meeting held in Mauritius in April 2004, the Secretariat proposed that, if possible, a separate meeting be held in November 2004 of all the technical committees to assess and evaluate progress on their projects.

In discussions held in the course of the year, the SADC MEL Secretariat informed the SADC MET Regional Coordinator that they were planning to run a Workshop on the OIML D 1 Document "Elements of Law in Metrology". It was agreed that the SADC MET Technical Committees Meetings be held back-to-back with the SADC MEL Meeting with D 1 Workshop as a joint event by the two Structures. The Meetings and Workshop were held in the period 8 – 11 November 2004 in Walfish Bay, Namibia at the invitation of the Namibian

Government. The SADC MET Secretariat also organised short training sessions on mass and temperature intercomparisons. Detailed reports of the Meetings were captured by each respective TC Chair and appear under their reports. A summary report, however has been included as an Annex to this report.

PTB support to this Workshop is gratefully acknowledged.

5. SADC MET QUALITY SYMPOSIUM

Under its Technical Committee 1 WG-QS, SADC MET organized its first quality symposium from 15-19 November 2005. Summary of activities carried out during the symposium

Day 1 and 2

Quality training – Documenting a quality system / ISO 17025 (provided by SANAS)

Day 3

Quality training – Documenting a quality system / ISO 17025 (provided by SANAS)

CSIR-NML Laboratory Visits – Mass, Dimensional, Temperature, Humidity, Pressure and DC low frequency laboratories

Informal gathering – including delegates, certain CSIR-NML staff, SADCA representatives, and PTB guest.

Day 4

Quality System Implementation Workshop

- Franz Hengstberger presented information regarding the global MRA (Mutual Recognition Arrangement).
- Dr Karl Jousten (PTB) presented some problems experienced in PTB during implementation and how these problems were overcome.
- Diane de Jager (South Africa) presented some information on the CSIR-NML quality system, some problems experienced during implementation and how these problems were overcome.
- Issues identified to be addressed during the workshop day were discussed by the SADC MET delegates, using the skills learned at the training received in the first 2,5 days and guidance received by facilitators and guests.
- Representatives from CSIR-NML Mass, Temperature, Humidity, Dimensional, Pressure and DC low frequency laboratories also attended for practical laboratory application discussions regarding implementation (all these labs have been assessed to ISO 17025 by SANAS)

Day 5

SADC MET Working Group for Quality Systems Meeting

Working Group objectives were discussed as well as a code of practice for review of quality systems in SADC MET.

Attendance certificates were presented to delegates

Feedback on effectiveness of symposium – questionnaires were returned to SADC MET WG Chairman (Diane de Jager – CSIR-NML)

The full report of the Workshop is available on the SADC MET website: www.sadcmnet.org

6. SADC MET DELEGATE ATTENDS BIPM/ILAC WORKSHOP

The SADC MET Chairperson and Regional Coordinator were invited by the BIPM to a Workshop on 7-8 March in Paris. The Workshop focused on the following issues:

- Assessors: selection and use for the accreditation process
- Scopes of accreditation- harmonise with CMC claims on BIPM database
- Process and sequence of events of the technical review processes
- Cost issues

The full report is available as an Annex to this report.

7. RC ATTENDS 13TH ARSO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At the invitation of the ARSO secretariat, the RC attended the 13th ARSO General Assembly which was held in Accra, Ghana. The General Assembly was preceded by an international Workshop on “ Standardization and Poverty alleviation in Africa”, at which the RC gave a presentation on: The Emerging Metrology Infrastructure in SADC: A model Roadmap for the African Continent”. The full presentation is available as an annex to this report.

The general Assembly proposed two tiers of membership, with full membership to ARSO being granted to Standards bodies on the continent, and metrology and accreditation bodies being granted associate membership. This is not acceptable and the RC pointed out that this would force other SQAM bodies to form their own continent wide bodies separate to ARSO.

8. OUTSTANDING PROJECTS

The following projects which were scheduled to take place in the 2004/2005 year were not implemented:

- measurement uncertainty courses
- mass key intercomparison

It is recommended that they be granted priority in the 2005/2006 year