



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

ACTING REGIONAL COORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2006 - MARCH 2007

1. SIM GENERAL ASSEMBLY, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRASIL, SEPTEMBER 2006

The SIM General Assembly and related meetings, held in Rio de Janeiro from 13 -17 September 2006, were attended by the SADC MET Regional Coordinator, Dr Mukayi Musarurwa, accompanied by the SADC MET TC1 WG for Quality Systems Chair, Mr Michael Streak.

The SADC MET Regional Coordinator presented a report to the SIM General Assembly on the activities of SADC MET in the preceding year, while the SADC MET TC1 WG for Quality Systems Chair also attended the equivalent SIM Quality Meetings as an observer to the SIM process of evaluating and confirming SIM NMI's quality systems in support of their CMC claims.

Included in this was a visit to INMETRO Laboratories, the Brazilian NMI.

2. JCRB, PARIS, FRANCE, OCTOBER 2006

The JCRB meeting, held in Paris on 6 October 2006, was attended by the SADC MET Regional Coordinator, Dr Mukayi Musarurwa, accompanied by the SADC MET TC1 WG for Quality Systems Chair, Mr Michael Streak.

The SADC MET Regional Coordinator presented an SADC MET RMO report to the JCRB outlining some recent activities in SADC MET and the current status of CMC's in the region.

3. RESIGNATION OF THE SADC MET REGIONAL COORDINATOR FROM NML SOUTH AFRICA

Regrettably Dr Mukayi Musarurwa resigned from NML South Africa at the end of October 2006 in order to pursue a private commercial venture. Mr Michael Streak has been requested by the NML Manager to stand in as SADC MET Regional Coordinator until such time as a new person can be appointed to take on this role. It is anticipated that advertisements will be formulated for this purpose early in May 2007. The delay experienced in doing this has been due mainly to the anticipated change in legal status of the NML South Africa, expected now to be effective from 1 May 2007.

4. SADC MET WATER TESTING LABORATORIES PROFICIENCY SCHEME

The fourth Water PT Workshop was held in Gaborone, Botswana from 20 -24 November 2006, following from the previous three held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in November 2005, Windhoek, Namibia in February 2004 and in Pretoria in November 2005 (reports are available from <http://www.sadcmnet.org>). The aim of the Gaborone workshop was to evaluate results of the third water PT round and identify weak points in the analysis. It was evident that there is still a need for improvement in nearly all laboratories.

The first steps to a microbiological PT System were taken, whereby the Uganda Bureau of Standards was appointed as the PT provider and a first round is tentatively planned for mid 2007.

The SADC ASSOCIATION OF WATER TESTING LABORATORIES (SADCWATERLAB) had its general assembly meeting during the workshop

The workshop included a training course on method validation, organized and presented by the Mrs Angeliqe Botha from the NML, South Africa.

5. APMP GENERAL ASSEMBLY, DELHI, INDIA, DECEMBER 2007

The APMP General Assembly and related meetings, held in Rio de Janeiro from 13 -17 September 2006, were attended by the acting SADC MET Regional Coordinator, and the SADC MET TC1 WG for Quality Systems Chair, Mr Michael Streak.

A report was presented to the SIM General Assembly on the activities of SADC MET in the preceding year, and the APMP Technical Committee for Quality Systems meeting was also attended.

6. MASS LABORATORIES ACCREDITATION PROJECT

SADC MET, with the active support and assistance from PTB, is running a project to enable member laboratories to achieve accreditation of their mass labs. A task team has been formed to assist with evaluation and review of member labs' quality manuals and mass procedures as a first step towards this process. It was hoped that by the end of 2007, a total of 9 mass labs from the region will have been accredited to ISO 17025.

The participating countries (on basis of those who submitted their documents by the deadline) are:

Botswana
DRC
Egypt
Ethiopia
Kenya
Mozambique
Tanzania

Zambia
Zimbabwe

The task team members are allocated specific NMI's to assist with their evaluations. The NMI's will henceforth, be dealing directly with the team member allocated to them.

The allocations are as follows:

NMI's	Task Team Members
Ethiopia	Ireen Field
Egypt	Ireen Field
Zimbabwe	Ireen Field
Kenya	Benny van der Merwe
Zambia	Benny van der Merwe
Mozambique	Benny van der Merwe
Botswana	Ronel Steyn
Tanzania	Ronel Steyn
DRC	PTB

The process of evaluating most of the participant's quality systems off site has been conducted and a number of on site visits by task team members have been conducted, with the continued sponsorship from PTB. Communication with the participants appears to be an ongoing challenge. A meeting of the task team is planned for June 2007 to discuss and evaluate progress made with regards to the project.

6. BIPM/ILAC AND RMOs/RABs MEETING, PARIS, MARCH 2007

The now annual forum between BIPM and ILAC, including representatives from the Regional Metrology Organizations (RMOs) and the Regional Accreditation Bodies (RABs) was held in March 2007, at the BIPM in Paris, France.

Unfortunately the SADC MET Secretariat was unable to attend and requested Mr Mike Peet of SADCA to attend on behalf of SADC MET. Brief feedback received from Mr Peet indicated that the main discussion point at the meeting was the CMC vs BMC issue and that progress in resolving this issue has been slow and no consensus has been reached on the way forward.

7. AFRIMETS

AFRIMETS was launched in March 2006. Among other things it was agreed upon that a Task Force /group should be formed to take care of the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)

NEPAD and SADC MET (which presently acts as the interim AFRIMETS secretariat) convened the task group meeting where all the participants to the AFRIMETS launch were invited but unfortunately the few listed below could attend. Apologies were however received from EAC; UEMOA and SON.

No	ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVE (S)	EMAIL CONTACT
1	NEPAD Secretariat	Mr Karim Khalil	khalilk@nepad.org
2	NML	Dr Mukayi Musarurwa	docmus@neolite-industries.co.za
3	NML	Dr Franz Hengstberger	fhengstb@csir.co.za
4	NML	Dr Wynand Louw	wlouw@csir.co.za
5	NML	Mr Michael Streak	mstreak@csir.co.za
6	PTB	Dr Martin Kaiser	martinkaiser@t-online.de
7	SABS (Legal Metrology)	Mr Stuart Carstens	carstesh@sabs.co.za
8	NEPAD Secretariat	Ms Davina Hall-green	DavinaH@nepad.org
9	NML	Ms Motshabi Manoto	mmanoto@csir.co.za

The meeting produced a second draft of the MOU which was circulated to all who took part in the launch of the AFRIMETS by the interim secretariat.

A draft programme was proposed, an AFRIMETS logo was unanimously agreed upon and it was decided that the inaugural General Assembly be held in the period April-June 2007 but due to the JCRB being held in South Africa and the National Metrology Institute being the host, the General Assembly was postponed to 4,5,6 July 2007.

The distribution of invitations has already started in the past week and all should have received them by end of April.

The AFRIMETS Interim Secretariat apologizes for the delay in sending out invitation letters and hope that members will be able to attend the General Assembly where it is anticipated that the MOU will be signed and the first EXCOM elected.

Dr Wynand Louw of NML South Africa has assumed the role of interim secretariat for AFRIMETS and will provide further information.