

SADCWaterLab Newsletter



ISSUE 2

AUGUST 2011



Rollout of SADCWaterLab ToT National Workshops

Following the "Training of trainers" workshop on Quality Assurance in Analytical Chemistry held in Livingstone, Zambia in October 2010 aimed at enabling the participants to conduct national workshops in their respective countries, SADCWaterLab with the financial assistance from PTB, has started to rollout the national workshops in a number of participating countries. Three such national workshops have been conducted in Kenya, Seychelles and Tanzania, and a fourth one is planned in Uganda during October 2011. The national workshops are supported by PTB which provides funding assistance i.e for venue costs and other logistical arrangements.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL WORKSHOPS HELD IN SEYCHELLES AND KENYA.

1. NATIONAL WORKSHOP HELD IN SEYCHELLES DISCUSSING WAYS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF ANALYSES

Laboratory analysts from various laboratories in Seychelles took part in a workshop focusing on quality assurance in chemical analytical laboratories.

The two-day workshop from the 2nd tot the 3rd of August 2011 brought together some 40 analysts from the Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS), the Ministries of Health and Environment, the Seychelles Agricultural Agency and the business ventures such as Ago-Industries and the Indian Ocean Tuna (IOT).

During the workshop, inaugurated at the Seychelles Conference Hall by the Chairman of the SBS Board, Dr Rolf Payet, delegates discussed ways to improve the quality of analyses and to deliver a high level of service for the protection of human life and betterment of our economy.

The Chief Executive Officer of SBS, Mrs Amy Quatre, said that almost every week, the SBS receives enquiries for chemical and laboratory analysis – whether it be for verifying the quality of a product, checking it for harmful substances or certifying it for export.

She said this is the first workshop that SBS is organising where all testing laboratories in Seychelles have been invited and will be exposed to the concepts of quality assurance in chemical and analytical laboratories.

Mrs Quatre noted that the entry of Seychelles into the World Trade Organization (WTO) will further increase the demand for products and services to comply to specific requirements, and for testing laboratories to be accredited to the ISO-17025 standard.

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Delegates holding their certificates at the close of the workshop

She also welcomed the resource person from the Kenya Bureau of Standards, Mr David Koech, to the workshop and thanked the German Federal Institute of Metrology, PTB for their sponsorship and support.

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Dr Payet said laboratories in Seychelles and around the world are expected to test blood, urine, water, soil and fish in ever more detail. He said laboratories in Seychelles will continue to significantly invest in laboratory facilities to ensure that they meet the needs of the country and their customers. "With more information available, our customers have become much more demanding and this has fuelled increased speculations both with regard to the technical specification and value for money," Dr. Payet said.

He added that data quality is under increasing scrutiny with legal implications and the provision of rapid results is often also required. Increased training and professional development of analysts is required to meet these demands.

Dr Payet said trade, health and the environment are just some areas where interdependence is increasing.

Since the establishment of SBS, thousands of chemical analyses have been performed to the advancement of the economy and quality of life of the Seychellois people.

"These analyses are undertaken by a number of highly qualified professionals, who we will probably never be seen on TV nor make the news headlines. However these individuals are our first line of defense against harmful chemicals, additives in food, pollution in our environment and especially the foods we consume and export. Their work is delicate, specialised and with no room for error," Dr Payet said.

He gave the example of the recent case of salmonella poisoning in Europe, where an incorrect diagnosis led to economic damages to Spain, which eventually led to compensation being sought.

Dr Payet concluded that the importance of taking accurate measurements and analyses cannot be over-emphasised.

2. REPORT ON NATIONAL WORKSHOP HELD IN MOMBASA, KENYA FROM 1-5 NOVEMBER 2011



Delegates at the Kenya National Workshop

The national workshop on quality assurance in testing laboratories was held at Mombasa beach hotel in Mombasa, Kenya from 1st to the 5th of November 2010. The participants were drawn from private sector, semi-governmental organizations and government institutes. There was also one participant from the National fisheries institute in Uganda who attended the workshop as shown in the participants list in annex 1 below. The cost of the workshop was partly paid by the participants themselves and the rest was financed with the assistance of PTB in Germany. The workshop was officially opened by the managing director of Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), Mr Joseph K Koskey on 1st November 2010 and closed by the KEBS director of Metrology and Testing Mr Joel Kioko on 4th November 2011.

The main aim of this workshop was to build capacity in the area of quality assurance in testing laboratories which is an important component in ensuring that test results from laboratories in Kenya and the East African region are reliable.

Execution of the seminar

The workshop was designed to be fully residential in order to enable participants to get in-depth knowledge on quality assurance tools required by testing laboratory. The workshop covered different topics and was conducted using different training techniques which included;

- PowerPoint presentations
- Illustration with the use of flipcharts
- Group works
- Role plays
- Exercises

At the end of the workshop, the participants were given evaluation forms for assessment. The feedback showed that 70% of the participants felt that the seminar completely satisfied their expectations. The seminar also provided a platform for the establishment of networks among the scientists as the email addresses and phone numbers were exchanged. Networking was highly encouraged during the workshop to ensure that attendees continue interacting on issues related to quality assurance in testing.

From the evaluation results it was noted that the seminar was able to meet its objectives of ensuring laboratory personnel understand the importance of quality assurance techniques in testing. Since there are still many laboratories in Kenya which require this kind of training, it is recommended that the national workshop be held every year with support from PTB since some laboratories can not afford to pay fully for the workshop.

Notification of the SADCWaterLab proficiency testing round for chemical and microbiology analysis of potable water in Africa

The 2011 notification for the SADCWaterLab Proficiency Testing rounds for chemical and microbiology analysis of portable water in Africa was circulated on 1st May 2011 calling for interested laboratories to register for the PT schemes. To date more than 104 laboratories (54 for Chemistry and 40 for Microbiology) from 18 countries in Africa have registered to participate in the 8th chemistry PT round and 4th microbiology PT round respectively. There is no membership fee but participating laboratories pay a participation fee of U\$150 for chemistry and U\$100 for microbiology for each PT round which is used by the PT providers to distribute the samples and administer the scheme.

SCOPE:

The chemistry PT round involved the distribution of six samples which were prepared as follows:

Sample 1, 2 and 3: Sulphate, Chloride, Fluoride, Nitrate, Phosphate

Sample 4,5 and 6 :Calsium,Magnesium,Sodium,Potassium,Iron,Manganese,Aluminium,Lead

Zinc, Chromium, Nickel, Arsenic, Cadmium and Cobalt

ANIONS	CATIONS
Sulphate as SO ₄ in mg/l	Calcium as Ca in mg/l
Chloride as Cl in mg/l	Magnesium as Mg in mg/l
Nitrate as NO ₃ in mg/l	Sodium as Na in mg/l
Fluoride as F in mg/l	Potassium as K in mg/l
Phosphate as PO ₄ in mg/l	Iron as Fe in mg/l
	Manganese as Mn in mg/l
	Aluminum as Al in mg/l
	Lead as Pb in mg/l
	Copper as Cu in mg/l
	Zinc as Zn in mg/l
	Chromium as Cr in mg/l
	Nickel as Ni in mg/l
	Arsenic as As in mg/l
	Cadmium as Cd in mg/l
	Cobalt as Co in mg/l
Total Dissolved solids at 180°C	

Each laboratory is expected to perform the duplicate analyses of each sample for all determinants.

The microbiology PT round involved the distribution of samples which were prepared for the following parameters:

1. Total plate count (50ml sample)
2. Total coliforms / E.coli (100ml sample)



DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES:

The samples were distributed to the local coordinators in each participating country provided that registration forms were submitted and payments had been received.

PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS

NamWater is the Chemistry PT provider with Ms Merylinda Conradie as the coordinator of running the scheme. Her contact details are as follows:

Name: Ms Merylinda Conradie
Tel: (Int code +264-61) 71 -2257
Mobile: +261 81 2421200
Fax: (Int code +264-61) 71 2097 or (Int code +264-61) 71 3805
E-mail: conradiem@namwater.com.na

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is the Microbiology PT provider with Ms Jacqueline Kwesiga as the coordinator of running the scheme. Her contact details are as follows:

Name: Ms. Jacqueline Kwesiga:
Tel: +256-414-222367/9
Mobile: +256-772869015
E-mail: jkyokunda@yahoo.com
jacqueline.kwesiga@unbs.go.ug

RETURN DATE FOR THE RESULTS:

The participating laboratories have to submit their results onto a supplied result form before or on the return date to the PT scheme providers. Unfortunately, results received after the specified periods are not included in the final report.

EXERCISE REPORT:

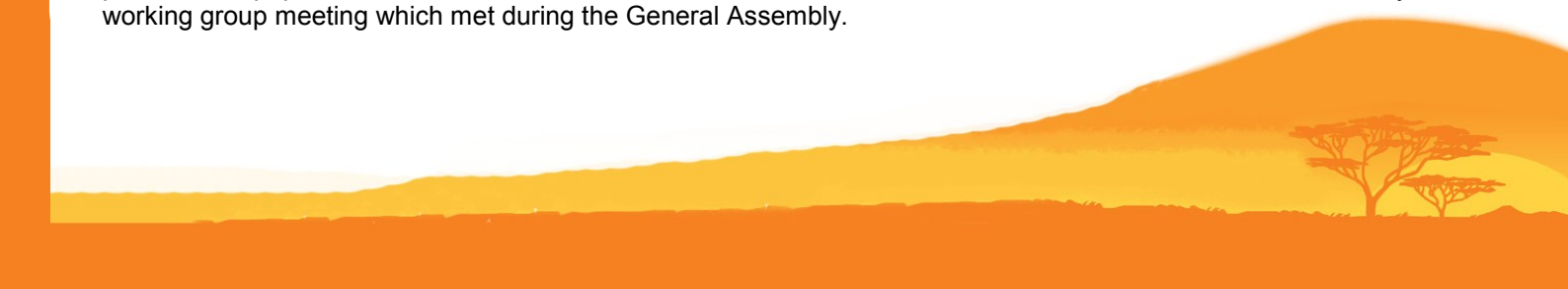
An electronic evaluation report is then supplied to all participants in time before the Annual evaluation workshop which for this year is scheduled to take place in Mauritius from 14-18 November 2011.

AFRIMETS holds its 5th General Assembly

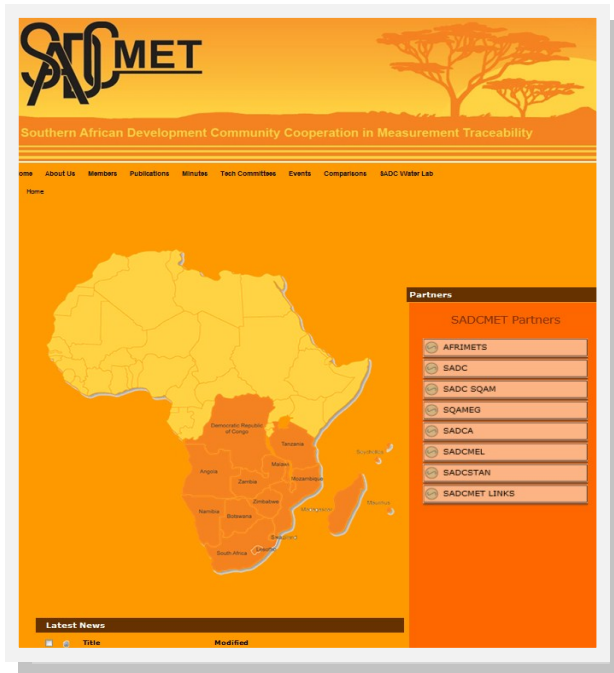
The Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS) held its 5th General Assembly (GA) hosted by the Kenya Bureau of Standards and Kenya Weights and Measures in Nairobi, Kenya from 18-22 July 2011. The General Assembly was preceded by the AFRIMETS Executive Committee (EXCOM) meeting, various technical working group meetings and the National Awareness Seminar. The General Assembly was attended by more than 80 delegates from all the six sub-Regional Metrology Organizations (SRMOs) in Africa representing Scientific/Industrial Metrology and Legal Metrology, and observers from PTB, BIPM, OIML, UNIDO, the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat.

As the EXCOM's term of office came to end, the GA elected Mr. Mourad Ben-Hassine from Tunisia as the new Chairperson of AFRIMETS and also elected two new vice-Chairs, Mr. Joel Kioko from Kenya and Mr. Paul Date from Ghana, representing Scientific/Industrial Metrology and Legal Metrology respectively. The GA resolved to include the immediate past chair Dr Wynand Louw from South Africa as an Ex-Officio member of EXCOM.

The SADC MET Regional Coordinator Mr. Donald Masuku who was also elected as an AFRIMETS EXCOM member presented a paper on the activities of the SADC WaterLab and the SADC Water PT scheme to the Chemistry technical working group meeting which met during the General Assembly.



New SADC MET website



The SADC MET website has been re-designed with a new “look and feel” and now has a “Share point” facility where members will be able to upload and share information on the website by using a password. SharePoint is a browser-based collaboration and document management platform from Microsoft. It allows groups to set up a centralised, password protected space for document sharing. With this facility all SADC MET members will now be able to store documents on the website, download and edit documents and then upload them for continued sharing. This will be very handy for storing, editing and sharing of all our PT evaluation reports and results etc. The SADC MET Secretariat will in due course provide username and passwords to all members to allow them to upload information on the website.

The website now has a link and provides all the information on the SADC WaterLab Association, its membership, e-mail contact list, a link for the announcements of PT schemes, a database of all the Train of Trainers etc. For more information go to www.sadcmnet.org

Registration of the SADC Water PT scheme on the EPTIS database

With effect from 1st February 2011 the SADC WaterLab Association has been accepted as a partner organization and a new member of the European Information System on Proficiency Testing Schemes (EPTIS). The SADC MET website provides the external link to EPTIS.

EPTIS is a proficiency testing (PT) search engine which helps people to find a suitable PT scheme for their laboratories. EPTIS is a joint publication of 38 partner organizations comprising of metrology institutes, testing institutes and accreditation bodies from the Americas, Australia, Europe and now Africa that co-operate according to a joint protocol. Some 300 PT providers list about 1300 schemes on the database. The SADC WaterLab PT schemes have now been listed on the database which will help to promote the scheme to other interested parties in Africa.

The SADC MET Regional Coordinator Mr. Donald Masuku has been nominated as the EPTIS coordinator for the African region with the responsibility to coordinate and register PT schemes conducted in Africa on the EPTIS database. To date two PT schemes have been registered; the SADC WaterLab PT schemes and the East African Community (EAC) PT schemes on salt, edible oils and wheat flour. Should anyone wish to register a PT scheme carried out in the African region, please don't hesitate to contact the EPTIS Coordinator, Mr. Donald Masuku on dmasuku@nmisa.org

For more information on EPTIS and the PT schemes registered on the database log onto the EPTIS website on www.eptis.bam.de

Participation at the NCSLI

The National Conference of Standards Laboratories International (NCSLI) is an annual testing and measurement conference organized in conjunction with the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) of the United States of America to promote cooperative efforts for solving common quality management problems faced by measurement and testing laboratories.

The SADC MET Regional Coordinator Mr. Donald Masuku attended the NCSLI 50th Anniversary and conference held in Washington DC, USA from 21-25 August 2011 and represented SADWaterLab Association. Mr. Masuku participated in a number of quality management sessions at the conference including a panel discussion on metrological traceability in water testing and shared his experience and challenges of coordinating and conducting a PT scheme within the activities of the SADWaterLab Association following his paper on the SADC Water PT scheme that he presented at the previous NCSLI conference held in 2010 in Rhode Island, USA. He highlighted the benefits of participating in a PT scheme and demonstrated how the SADC Water PT scheme has helped to build capacity in the area of quality assurance in water testing laboratories in Africa which is an important component in ensuring that test results from these laboratories can be trusted and are reliable.

Good contacts were made with other similar PT schemes and water testing laboratories in the USA.

Announcement of the Annual Evaluation Workshop



SADCWATER PT EVALUATION WORKSHOP 2011

PORT LOUIS-MAURITIUS

14 – 17 NOVEMBER 2011

The 2011 SADWaterLab Annual Evaluation Workshop will be organized by the Mauritius Standards Bureau to be held at Le Labourdonnais Hotel in Port Louis, Mauritius from 14-18 November 2011.

The PT evaluation workshop will be for both chemistry and microbiology analysis of water. There will be two separate streams which will run concurrently to evaluate all aspects that could be derived from the results and also provide training on selected topics as per the programme ([see the full programme on page 8](#))

There will be limited funding from PTB which will fund two participants from each participating country (one for chemistry and the other for microbiology), however delegates from all the participating laboratories who would like to attend the workshop covering their own cost are welcome. Delegates who will be funded are advised to confirm their attendance and those who will fund themselves should send their names to the SADC MET Secretariat for the attention of Ms Margaret Ngobeni on e-mail address mngobeni@nmisa.org

The conference package which includes accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis at the Le Labourdonnais Hotel is about U\$160 per room per night. Airport transfers will be provided for all delegates. Those who will require an invitation letter for visa purposes should contact Mr. Baichoo Chundunsig at Mauritius Standards Bureau on e-mail address CBaichoo@msb.intnet.mu

Programme for the Annual Evaluation Workshop

TIME	MONDAY 01 November	MONDAY 01 November	TUESDAY 02 November	TUESDAY 02 November	TUESDAY 02 November	WEDNESDAY 03 November	WEDNESDAY 03 November	WEDNESDAY 03 November	THURSDAY 04 November
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival of Delegates and Registration			MEETING ROOM 1	MEETING ROOM 2	MEETING ROOM 1	MEETING ROOM 2		
09:00 – 10:00	Official Opening Ceremony Delegates & invitees		Chemistry Group Evaluation Workshop	Chemistry Group Evaluation Workshop	Microbiology Group Evaluation Workshop	Chemistry Group Training:	Microbiology Group Training:		General Assembly
10:00 – 10:30	Tea/Coffee Break	Tea/Coffee Break	Tea/Coffee Break	Tea/Coffee Break	Tea/Coffee Break	Tea/Coffee Break	Tea Break	Tea Break	Tea Break
10:30 – 13:00	MEETING ROOM 1 Chemistry WG 1: Feedback	MEETING ROOM 2 Microbiology WG Feedback	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	General Assembly and Closing Ceremony
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	12:00 – 13:00 Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Lab Visit: MSB
15:00 – 15:30	Tea/Coffee Break	Tea/Coffee Break	Tea/Coffee Break	Tea/Coffee Break	Tea/Coffee Break	Tea Break	Tea Break	Tea Break	
15:30 – 17:00	Chemistry WG 2: Feedback	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Evaluation Workshop	Training:	Training:	Training:	
17:00 – 19:00						PMC meeting			
19:00 – 22:00						Evening Function			

