



AFRAC
AFRICAN ACCREDITATION COOPERATION

Newsletter

September 2017

Notes from the Editor



It is with pleasure that the AFRAC Marketing and Communications Working Group presents to you this edition of AFRAC News which contains interesting articles including the Africa Agenda 2063, the AFRAC Mid-term meeting and the Peer evaluators training held in Pretoria South Africa, World Accreditation Day Celebrations, admission of ENAO as an MRA signatory and that of NINAS as an associate member among others. AFRAC is growing and continues to contribute immensely towards shaping Quality Infrastructure in the region since accreditation, conformity assessment and standards development are the corner stones that promote intra and inter Africa trade.

We're delighted to note that AFRAC News is being read across the continent and that its placement within the AFRAC website avails to the readers access to accreditation and conformity assessment services available within the continent and internationally. Over time we are seeing articles freely flowing for publication, article that are thought provoking and that will help shape the destiny for AFRAC. AFRAC is on its critical success path towards international recognition since the peer evaluations planned by ILAC and IAF are currently underway. Keep it here for the next editions in order to be informed as and when this critical milestone is achieved.

I want to thank all the contributors who ensured that the articles were availed in time. I count on you to provide feedback to the AFRAC Secretariat on what more you would like to see, and or what you would like to see improved to make AFRAC News a preferred read. Feel free to get in touch with any of the below representatives who are members of the AFRAC Marketing and Communications Working Group (AFRAC MCWG) or the AFRAC Secretariat to submit your articles:

- Ms. Susanah Munyiri (Convenor - KENAS)
- Ms. Fikile Skosana (AFRAC Secretariat - SANAS)
- Mr. Moez Boughlami (TUNAC)
- Mr. Getnet Tsigemelak (ENAO)
- Ms. Cheshta Matadeen-Domun (MAURITAS)
- Ms. Jeanne Francoise Ranorovelo (SADCAS)
- Eng. Mohammed Hassan (EGAC)
- Ms. Elizabeth Muema (KENAS)
- Mr. Ibra Fail Gaye (LSAHE)

Operating in line with our mission "**To facilitate the use of accreditation as a tool to support trade and industrial development, improve competitiveness of African products and enhance the protection of the health and safety of the public and the environment.**" Ours is to ensure that the 'Confidence and Trust' that AFRAC inculcates is voiced and heard across the continent and beyond. Feel free to circulate it to those who may be of interest. Enjoy your read.

Susanah Munyiri - AFRAC MCWG Convener

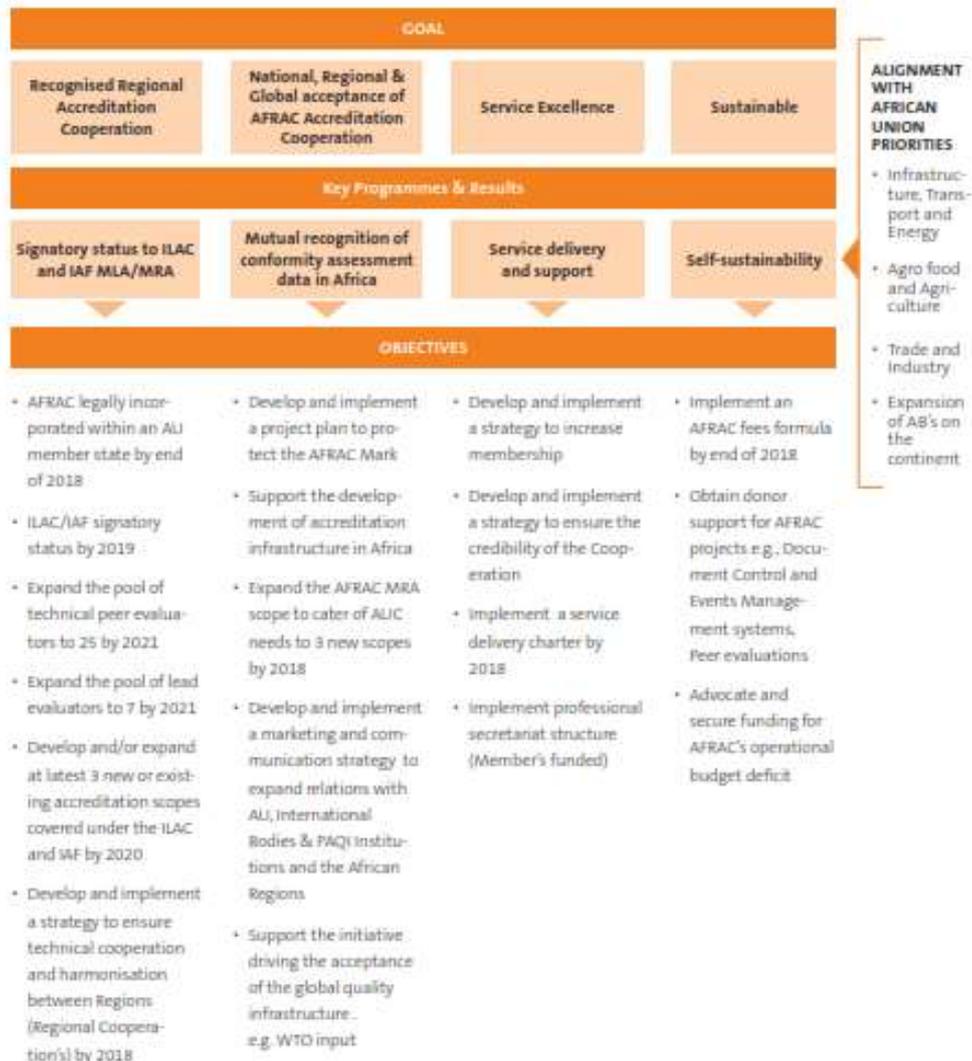


Notes from the Chair

During the AFRAC Mid-term meeting held in Pretoria, South Africa, the second AFRAC's five years (2017 - 2022) strategic plan was unveiled with a focus on positioning AFRAC as the voice of accreditation in the region. The AFRAC MRA and cooperation, lays the basis for supporting Africa's economic growth through effective participation in global trade by ensuring the acceptance of Africa's goods and services within Africa and in the global market. This can only be achieved through international recognition, a journey that AFRAC has embarked on and is due to complete by the year 2018.

Accreditation contributes to the development of a solid basis of fair trade through global acceptance of test and calibration certificates, certification and inspection reports and hence a key deliverable of our strategy as AFRAC is to be recognized as the accreditation cooperation of the African Free Trade Area.

As envisaged in Africa Agenda 2063, intra-African trade is expected to be at 50% by the year 2045, while Africa's share of global trade is meant to rise to 12%. Accreditation will definitely play a key role in realization of this stretch yet feasible objective.



The AFRAC Strategic Map; 2017 - 2022



As our strategy progresses to implementation, we also note that this year 2017 is the African Year of Quality Infrastructure. This aims to create and improve awareness of the Quality Infrastructure within Africa. Africa has over the last six years dedicated effort in the development and operationalization of the Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) to enable Africa speak as one voice where standards are required or being developed, where credible conformity assessment activities are undertaken or required and where measurements that facilitate exchange of goods and services are applied hence the establishment of ARSO, AFRAC, AFRIMETS and AFSEC. The PAQI vision is to be an efficient, effective, sustainable and internationally recognized Pan-African Quality Infrastructure contributing towards achievement of African socio-economic goals. The mission of PAQI is to strengthen the regional and global competitiveness of Africa's goods and services and contribute towards an improved quality of life for the African people through prudent use of standards, measurements, conformity assessment and accreditation.

We thank our support partners; PTB, South Africa Department of trade and industry who have enabled us

Araya Fesseha - AFRAC Chair

Africa Agenda 2063

Did you know that according to Africa Agenda 2063 published by the African Union Commission in 2015, our aspirations for the Africa we want are as follows:

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.
2. An integrated continent politically united and based on the ideas of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance.
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law.
4. A peaceful and secure Africa.
5. An Africa with strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics.
6. An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African People, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.
7. Africa as a strong united and influential global player and partner.

You may ask, what has this got to do with accreditation? For Aspiration number 1 to be achieved, we've got to have an economic transformation of the continent. For this to be realized, we need skilled citizens who have access to basic necessities of life such as water, sanitation, energy, transport and ICT, modern agriculture for increased productivity and value addition to ensure collective food security as we protect our environment and ecosystems, including wildlife and wild lands. Need we say more? Therein lies the opportunity for testing, including medical and veterinary testing, inspection, calibration, certification and hence the need for this to be credible. The same applies to Aspiration number 7. Accreditation is therefore an enabler to achieving this vision for Africa, a major and strategic economic force in the world, an active and equal participant in global affairs with mutually beneficial relations and partnerships with other regions and continents.





We therefore call on all Accreditation Bodies and National Accreditation Focal Points in Africa to rise to the occasion and see how each can play its role in working towards the realization of this agenda. Additionally we call upon AFRAC to engage appropriately at the African Union Commission to ensure that AFRAC's voice is heard on matters of conformity assessment and accreditation and that AFRAC becomes the voice of accreditation on the continent. The Agenda 2063 is gaining momentum, let us be part of the transformation!

This article has been adapted from the Agenda 2063, The Africa We Want, Final edition published in April 2015. Should you want to contribute to, or to follow the dialogue:

Twitter: @AfricanUnion, #Agenda2063
 Facebook: AfricanUnionCommission
 African Union Website: www.au.int

AFRAC Marketing and Communication Working Group

2017 Africa Mid-year Meetings

The African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) held its 2017 mid-year meetings at the Saint Georges Hotel in Pretoria, South Africa. The meetings were hosted by the South African national Accreditation System (SANAS) an AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Signatory and Arrangement Member. The following meetings were held: Executive Committee (EXCO), MRA Committee, MRA Council, Technical Committee (TC) and the Marketing and Communication Working Group. There was also a workshop that was carried out for AFRAC Evaluators and MRA Committee members on the newly released IAF/ILAC A1 & A2 as well as a familiarization with the changes of the upcoming ISO/IEC 17011 Standard.

During the meetings, it was noted that AFRAC has established a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and the Secretariat was evaluated from 6 to 8 February 2017 as the 1st step in the region's evaluation. The AFRAC Secretariat has addressed the findings raised, witnessing of AFRAC evaluations which were planned at Mid-year have been performed for two AB's and there is one that is remaining. This is planned for November 2017.

The plans underway are to have the decision making process of AFRAC evaluated at the next GA. The GA is planned to be held in Cairo starting from 23rd September 2017 This GA is expected to have various capacity building workshops on the FDIS ISO/IEC 17011, FDIS ISO/IEC 17025 as well as ISO/IEC 17021-2 & ISO/IEC 17021-3. You are therefore encouraged to register for the GA and attend to appreciate the developments in the conformity assessment arena.

It is also worth noting that the following developments:

1. New AFRAC Technical Publications available on the AFRAC website

1. TP002-01 AFRAC Internal Audits for Inspection Bodies and Laboratories; and
2. TP003-01 AFRAC Guidelines on the Methods of Stating Test and Calibration Results

2. Standards under development at ISO/CASCO that may be of interest of AFRAC members

1. ISO/IEC WD 17000: Conformity assessment- Vocabulary and general principles.
2. ISO/IEC CD 17021-10: Conformity assessment- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems-Part 10: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of occupational health and safety management systems.
3. ISO/IEC 17029 Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies performing validation and verification activities.

Fikile Skosana - AFRAC Secretariat

AFRAC Peer Evaluators Training

The AFRAC peer evaluators course was held from 1 to 2 May 2015 and attended by 18 peer evaluators and trainee evaluators from EGAC (1), ENAO (3), KENAS (2), MAURITAS (2), TUNAC (1), SANAS (5) and SADCAS (4) was very ably facilitated Mr. Mahmoud Eltayeb whom himself is a seasoned Lead Evaluator with AFRAC and ARAC respectively. The course which was held in conjunction with the 2017 AFRAC mid - term meetings was very intensive. The course was designed to update peer evaluators on the changes in revised ILAC A series documents ILAC A1 and ILAC A2 , undergoing revisions of ILAC A3 and ISO/IEC 17011. The workshop also went through ILAC A5 and A6, and the newly published AFRAC peer evaluators guide GD 002. The workshop was also an opportunity for exchange of experience and to prepare for the upcoming witnessing of AFRAC evaluations for international recognition of the region. A number of recommendations were made from the training workshop which was considered by the MRA Committee at its meeting held on 4 May 2017.

Participants were presented with certificates at the end of the training course. One of the participants Ms Helen Morokane, on behalf of the participants, thanked the Facilitator for his time in preparing for the training workshop and conducting it in such a way which stimulated active participation from all the evaluators.

African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) is a cooperation of accreditation bodies sub regional accreditation co-operations and stakeholders whose objective is to facilitate trade and contribute to the protection of health, safety and the environment within Africa. AFRAC has established a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and the Secretariat was evaluated from 6 to 8 February 2017 as the 1st step in the region's evaluation. The AFRAC Secretariat is in the process of addressing the findings raised in this 1st step some of which have already been cleared. Three witnessing opportunities have been identified and witnessing of the evaluations will be undertaken between July and November 2017.



Participants pose for a photo after the workshop

Many thanks to PTB Germany who sponsored the training by generously providing air travel, accommodation (full board) for all the peer evaluators/trainee evaluators, as well as the conference package.

Maureen Mutasa – SADCAS CEO

ENAO's Journey to Signing the AFRAC MRA

ENAO has been established since the beginning of 2011 by Regulation number 195/2010 and re-established again by a regulation number 279/2012 to in lining the mandates and responsibilities of ENAO with the international accreditation practice. ENAO has developed GTP one and GTP two each with five year strategic plan cascading from Ethiopian National Quality Infrastructure Strategic plan. During implementation of GTP one and GTP two accreditation lie solid milestones have been emplaced:-

Milestone 1: Developed and implemented QMS as per to ISO/IEC 17011, ILAC, IAF, AFRAC & National regulatory requirements. Currently the office has international standard working management system which is under continual improvement by taking corrections while collected from customer feedback, internal audit finding, management review decisions and inputs.

Milestone 2: hoard competent assessors. The movement established, the office had worked to have competent and sufficient assessors on different scheme and scopes. ENAO has currently hoard

- for testing ISO/IEC17025 five (5) Lead Assessor, 18 technical assessors and 4 trainers
- for Medical ISO15189 seven (7) Lead Assessor, 30 technical assessors and 5 trainers
- for inspection ISO/IEC17020 five (5) lead assessors, seventeen (17) Technical assessors and thirty (30) trainee technical assessors and used currently as experts.
- for Product certification ISO/IEC 17065 ten (10) technical assessors and two trainers, for system certification ISO/IEC 17021 seven (7) technical assessors and three trainers and for certification for person ISO/IEC 17024 twelve (12) assessors and three trainers

Milestone 3: Build Accreditation Market. As accreditation was a new concept to the country and voluntary by its nature unless otherwise the regulatory embarked as mandatory, it is undeniable fact for its measurable challenge to create accreditation demand. Initially, there was misconception to the scheme requirement which accreditation demands to be fulfilled by conformity assessment bodies thought as impossible to comply. However, in 2012 in collaboration with cooperative partners mechanism was devised to support Conformity assessment bodies to accredit their testing, inspection and certification services then a year after that was 2013 many applicants applied for accreditation. So far four accreditation documentary films having each a length of half an hour was aired to the public by Ethiopian broad casting corporation (EBC) at premier time, 73 awareness sessions each session with two days program conducted to 3,301 attendants on different accreditation topics, for the last five years every year 10 minutes radio spot transmitted continually for three months, every three months newsletter published in our working language (Amharic), thousands of leaflets distributed on different occasions, exhibition and festivals. Since 2011 ENAO celebrated world accreditation with more than 90 attendants with panel discussion.

Milestone 4: Provide Accreditation service. Even though ENAO had designed to provide an accreditation service for 60 scopes in GTP1 and 150 scopes in GTP 2 on Testing as per to ISO/IEC 17025, Medical Laboratory as per to ISO15189, Inspection as per to ISO/IEC17020, System certification as per to ISO/IEC17021, Product certification as per to ISO/IEC17065 and Certification for person as per to ISO/IEC 17024, Conformity assessment bodies are not seeking accreditation to the level of ENAO's expectation because of less attention and commitment to quality within the institutions engaged to provide verification of the stipulated requirements of services and / or products, regulatory bodies have neither system nor thought to encourage accredited conformity assessment bodies, challenges of limited traceable calibration scopes of NMIE and these will continue as challenges to accreditation in the future. However, ENAO with Ministry of Science and Technology and House of Federation are working to compensate the lag behind by creating forum with regulatory.

Milestone 5: Continual improvement: It Is ENAO's working norm to collect and analyse feedback ultimately after onsite assessment, once a year the whole system audited against the requirements and the implementation of the developed documents, management review is also carried out once a year to assess all the possible improvements and actions taken to the previous management review decisions. So far many actions have been taken in reviewing the documents however, the timeline rule to be maintained by Conformity assessment bodies is still a challenge.

Milestone 6: Regional and International acceptance / recognition: to trace back the evolution of ENAO's recognition on 25/July/2011 admitted as affiliate membership of ILAC, 23/April/2013 admitted as associate member of ILAC, 26 /September/2013 granted full membership of AFRAC, 25/September /2014 apply for full membership of ILAC, 7 April/2015 ILAC AMC accept of full evaluation, 7 to 11/ September/2015 ILAC and AFRAC jointly evaluate the system of the office and competency of assessors, 30 December/2016 the evaluation team accept the clearance and actions taken by ENAO, 5 /May /2017 AFRAC MRA Council decide ENAO to be an AFRAC MRA signatory. The route to the current status of ENAO was not an easy journey, it is achieved because of the Government commitment and clear strategy, selfless management and staff hard work, remarkable contribution of assessors and stakeholders. However, there is yet challenge which ENAO hasn't crossed it, to mention:

- As accreditation is voluntary, it was very challenging to create accreditation market, still support of regulatory is needed. Regulatory shall accept and support the usefulness of accreditation because accreditation avoids the burden of rework by the regulatory and mitigates corruption in the regulatory process.
- During assessor's training there was a challenge to find CABs with system emplaced that helps to mentor and monitor assessors which is part of the process to capacitate and evaluate their competency.
- Because of limited scope of calibration service by NMIE the CABs were enforced to calibrate their measuring equipment outside the country that incurs high cost on their clients.
- No certified reference material (CRM) and proficiency testing (PT) suppliers as these are critical technical competency requirements comply by Conformity Assessment Bodies for accreditation.
- The National Quality Infrastructure Technical Committee and Forum will consider the seriousness of the problems and device pertinent mitigation mechanism.

Finally I convey my appreciation to Ministry of science and Technology for the all-round support provided, thanks to ILAC-AFRAC joint evaluation team, working group, AFRAC MRA committee, AFRAC MRA Council for sharing your precious time to ENAO, thanks and Congratulation to ENAO management and staff members for your selfless hard work and fruitful contribution that shortened the route path to the ILAC and AFRAC MRA which is a trade mark passport visa of service and products verified the stipulated requirements by conformity assessment bodies attested their competency by ENAO.

Eng. Araya Fesseha – ENAO

New Kid on the Block – Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS)

On the 9th of June, Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS) was unveiled to the teaming stakeholders of accreditation, construction and built environment in Nigeria and beyond. This took place alongside the celebration of World Accreditation Day. NiNAS has quite a lot to celebrate on this day. The first is that it has grown from concept to a fully established National Accreditation Body. AFRAC admitted the Nigeria National Accreditation Service as an Associate Member at its May 2017 meeting in Pretoria, South Africa. Secondly, during this process of transformation and growth it is on its way towards becoming a leading accreditation body in Western Africa.

The Nigeria National Accreditation Service was established through the National Quality Infrastructure Project, a project implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and funded by European Union and the Government of Nigeria, with the aim of supporting the enhancement of the national quality infrastructure. The project which started in 2013 has five components namely:

Component 1: Promulgation of a National Quality Policy and ensuing legislation for the NQI

Component 2: Establishment of a National Accreditation Body

Component 3: Development of a National Metrology Institute

Component 4: Improvement of Organized Private Sector (OPS) patronage of the NQI and their capacities to create and support conformity assessment bodies (CAB)

Component 5: Enhancement of the consumer protection role on quality issues as well as increased capacities of consumer associations to lift up the quality offer/culture of Nigerian enterprises.

NiNAS was established under the second component of the project. Towards achieving this, an international expert on accreditation was engaged by UNIDO to provide support and guidance to the establishment of NiNAS. He worked with the NQIP team to develop a road map (Figure 1) to guide the establishment of National Accreditation Body. The road map was broadly divided into three components with clear and distinct goals.

The goal of the first part of the road map was to establish the skeleton of the National Accreditation Body (NAB). To achieve this goal, stakeholders were identified and consulted on the establishment of NAB, and gradually metamorphosed into an Accreditation Steering Committee, ASC. This committee created awareness on the coming of NiNAS and its functions among key stakeholders while also providing opportunity for the initiative to benefit from the broad knowledge base of these stakeholders. The ASC worked assiduously to deliver on the goal by registration of NiNAS as a legal entity, official website, development of organizational structure & governance structure, staff job description, terms of reference for proposed committees and gender policy.

The business plan for NiNAS was also developed including a marketing strategy and financial projections. The development of the quality management system commenced with the writing of the quality manual and procedures. The requisite human resource was employed as full term employees or on part time basis depending on the position and the associated job description or terms of reference. With these achievements, a skeletal AB was formed.

The goal of the second part of the road map was to establish the National Accreditation Body (NAB). Towards conforming to ISO/IEC 17011, recruited staffs were trained to build appropriate capacity for the full implementation of relevant standards of ISO/IEC, and the mandatory documents and guidance documents of AFRAC, ILAC and IAF. Critical to this process is the identification, training and certification of assessors by an accredited training provider. Potential assessors were identified from laboratories that are implementing ISO/IEC 17025. An intensive four phased training for ISO/IEC 17025 candidate assessors was developed. These identified assessors have participated and successfully completed Phase 1 to Phase 3 of the training program, which are designed to build their capacity in ISO/IEC 17025 assessment and assessor skills. The final stage of the training involves the trainee assessors witnessing active assessment as observers and later carrying out laboratory assessment under the watch of experience assessor. At the end of phase 4 of the training, successful candidates are NiNAS Assessors, Lead or Technical Assessors. This aspect of the trainings is expected to be completed before the 3rd quarter of the 2017.

It is projected that by the 4th quarter of 2017, NiNAS will be offering ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation services to testing and calibration laboratories. To successfully offer accreditation services to laboratories, they need to have access to Proficiency testing (PT) scheme(s) and measurement traceability. NiNAS will be leveraging on accredited PT schemes offered within or outside Nigeria that meet the requirement for Proficiency Testing Provider or acceptable Inter-Laboratory Comparison Scheme for tests that do not have an accredited PT scheme. Because PT services available in Nigeria may be limited in number or scope, NiNAS will also be leveraging on listed PT schemes on AFRAC APLAC and ILAC websites as well as other sources such as EPTIS.

It is also pertinent to acknowledge that in Nigeria there is a huge gap in metrology services, and this has implications for accreditation. NiNAS also anticipates the operationalization of the National Metrology Institute currently under development as component 3 of the NQIP. This will to a large extent make metrology services affordable and accessible, and boost uptake of accreditation services in Nigeria.

NiNAS accreditation services shall build confidence in Nigeria made products and services for local and international trade. By ensuring quality and integrity of these products and services through accreditation of conformity assessment bodies, NiNAS shall support Nigeria and her people in diversification of economy to non- oil options. Accreditation was hitherto unaffordable and difficult to access through foreign accreditation bodies. With NiNAS coming on board, accreditation is now within the reach of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) such as testing and calibration laboratories, inspection and certification bodies. The significance of full operationalization of NiNAS goes beyond Nigeria borders. The region of West Africa has no national accreditation body that has achieved this level of development. The entire region is therefore looking up to NiNAS to rise up to the occasion of providing regional leadership on accreditation in Western Africa.

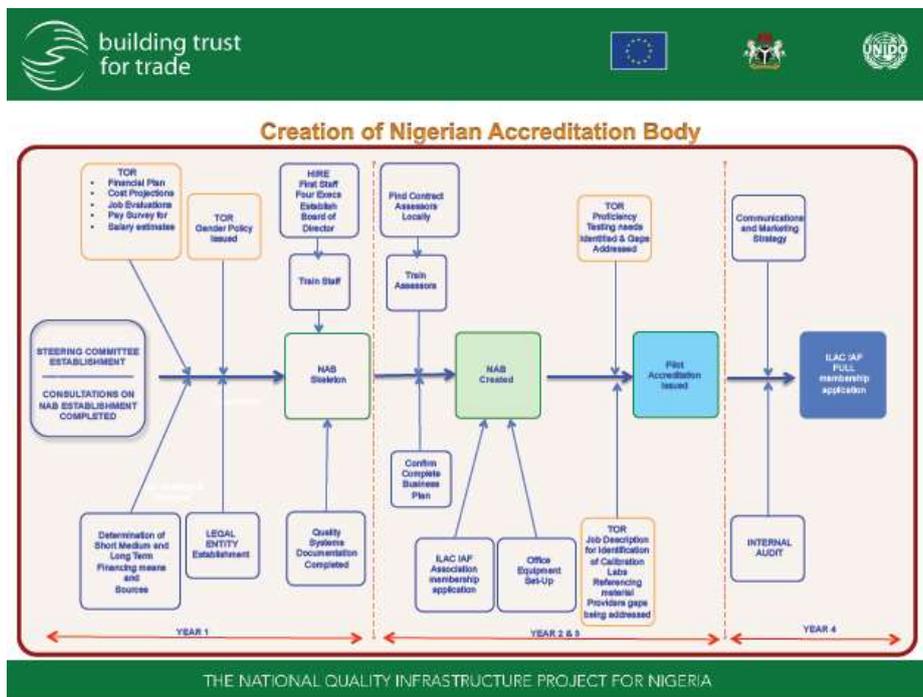


Figure 1; Road map to creation of NiNAS

Ms. Lawrena Okoro - NiNAS

2017 WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY COMMEMORATIONS

NiNAS Celebrates WAD for the First Time

Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS) joined the global accreditation community on 9 June, in Abuja, to celebrate the tenth World Accreditation Day (WAD). NiNAS created under the aegis of the EU-funded UNIDO National Quality Infrastructure Project, hosted stakeholders from the construction industry, as well as laboratory professionals, media personnel and representatives from the public and private sector.



CEO NiNAS, Celestine Okanya welcoming all the guests.



Group Photograph of Dignitaries and some of the participants

The theme of this year was Accreditation: Delivering confidence in construction and the built environment. The celebration is the first time NiNAS marked the event. The Minister of Power Works and Housing, Babatunde Raji Fashola, gave the keynote address, represented by his Special Adviser on Policy and Legal Matters, Lanre Akinsola. He said, "We all live and work in one form of building or another. Construction is a sector where standards cannot be comprised. Standards mean that law and order exist. Law and order is the pedestal upon which standard is placed. It is the adherence to professional rules of conduct that leads to emergence of standard in the [construction] industry." The Minister urged for building standards to be "met and kept, to ensure that the integrity of the construction sector is not compromised, to ensure that the quality of our construction materials meet international standards, and to ensure that our professionals are not only competent on paper."



UNIDO Representative to ECOWAS & Regional Director, Nigeria Regional Office Hub, Jean Bakole welcoming the Representative of the Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Special Adviser to the Hon. Minister on Policy and legal matters, Lanre Akinsola, with the Chairman and Members of Board of Trustee NiNAS, and Mr. Jean Joseph Kouassi Aka of West Africa Quality System Program

UNIDO Representative and Director, Regional Office, Nigeria Hub, Jean Bakole, emphasized that "NiNAS will work to the standards set by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electro-technical Commission, to deliver impartial, objective and technically competent accreditation services to the Nigerian economy." Mr. Bakole highlighted the importance of accreditation in the construction and building environment to the Nigerian economy by fostering competitiveness, marketability, and job creation, as well as health, and safety.

National Quality Infrastructure Project Manager, Raymond Tavares, encouraged Nigeria to embrace NiNAS and the principles of World Accreditation Day, "as an important pillar of the national quality infrastructure." He said, "World Accreditation Day is ... a reminder that a weak national quality infrastructure can be a major reason for human injury, and structural and material failure in construction. A good accreditation system provides part of the solution to these problems."

The 2017 theme for World Accreditation Day is a timely one, as Nigeria has recently recorded five collapsed buildings, four of which occurred in May, this year, in Lagos. NiNAS CEO, Celestine O. Okanya said that the theme, "reminds us of the danger posed by constructions that were not designed, approved, built and/or inspected by accredited conformity assessment bodies." He added that "accreditation can provide support in every stage of construction" from personnel to construction industries' management systems, to laboratories that provide services to building material producers and regulators.

In his goodwill message, the President of the Architects Registration Council (ARCON), Umaru Aliyu, represented by Mansur Kurfi, said that "there is a lot of work to be done in the construction industry" concerning the accreditation and certifying process of equipment and materials, citing a lack of accredited testing laboratories as a challenge. Mr. Kurfi expressed delight at the emergence of NiNAS. "ARCON is ready to partner with NiNAS," he said. Mr. Kurfi also echoed the Minister of Power, Works and Housing, by stating that there has to be conclusive prosecution of persons responsible for poor construction practices in Nigeria.

NQIP International Expert on Accreditation, Stephen Cross, gave a brief lecture on the impact of accreditation, sharing success stories from other UNIDO national accreditation projects around the world, such as the Southern Africa Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS), and the developing ECOWAS Regional Accreditation System.

The President of the Council for Registration of Engineers in Nigeria (COREN), Kashim Abdul Ali, represented by Dr. Mayas Adoyi, presented a paper on the role of regulators in creating demand for Accredited Conformity Assessment Services in the building industry. He also highlighted the role of accreditation of Engineering programmes in educational institutions, including staffing, laboratories and curricula. This was followed by a highly engaging interactive session that raised the question: "What should be the national response strategy in the context of opportunities offered by accreditation?"

The event closed with a vote of thanks from the UNIDO NQIP Chief Technical Advisor, Dr. Shaukat Malik, who implored the construction industry to adopt accreditation within its systems. The advocacy for accreditation in Nigeria can best be summed in the words of NiNAS CEO, "Integration of accreditation system in our construction industry shall reduce the number of building collapse to barest minimum."

Ms. Lawrena Okoro – NiNAS

WAD in Kenya



Guests during the WAD 2017, Ole-Sereni, Nairobi, Kenya

This year's World Accreditation Day celebrations held on 9th June, 2017 were at the Ole Sereni Hotel, Nairobi County. The event was graced by over 135 guests. The main aim of the day's discussions was to create awareness and offer round table discussions on matters of construction would be tackled with accreditation being the center of the discussions. Several stakeholders from the construction industry were invited to make presentations that stirred up meaningful conversations on the aspect of quality assurance in the construction industry in Kenya.

Ambassador Kiplagat, Director, Industrial Information & Research, who graced the occasion on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives (MoITC), spoke well of KENAS saying that accreditation by KENAS is very important because it leads to a more competitive Kenyan economy through the regional and international acceptance of conformity assessment results and

certificates and the elimination of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) hence making trade facilitation a reality. He urged most conformity assessment bodies in the construction industry to consider accreditation as a tool to enhance safety in the building and construction industry.

There were a number of discussions that highlighted how accreditation is able to bring sanity in the construction sector by focusing on; the quality and performance of building materials and the impact on construction; the importance of energy efficiency standards in buildings and infrastructure with an aim of reducing energy consumption; the competence of persons utilized in the sector among others. The theme elicited interesting discussions from many players from Construction, Transport, Academia, Standards and Accreditation. It was evident that we had just started discussions around thorny issues that derail our economy and that as an accreditation body we have a significant role to play in delivering confidence in construction and the Build Environment. Below is a snippet of part of the discussions that ensued for the day:



Chief Physicist of Material Testing Laboratory, Mr. Wahome. "When material testing to ascertain the quality of the building material is done appropriately, the full utility of a structure is realized; the design requirements are met and the structure has optimum life. Hence our emphasis on accreditation to ensure credibility of the tests carried out to inform meaningful decisions. "



Eng. Dr. Siphila Mumanya of University of Nairobi: "When looking at globalization and construction, an architect should be able to appreciate climate change and its effects, hence green buildings have become the talk of the world. An architect should also ensure that the human centered designs are also taken into effect e.g. the Wangari Maathai Centre which is in the planning phase."



Mr. Phidelis Sakwa of Bamburi Cement was speaking on the quality of building materials and the conformity to their specifications. He stated that the experience of the contractors, methodology, and equipment used need to be checked regularly and properly since this is costing our economy heavily in structures that collapse killing people; structures that have to be demolished because they are not structurally sound; structures that don't last the life cycle.



Ms. Elizabeth Muema – KENAS

Ethiopia Celebrates WAD

Ethiopian National Accreditation Office (ENAO) celebrated World Accreditation day for the 7th time on the 9th June 2017. The theme being Accreditation: Delivering Confidence in Construction and the Built Environment. The celebrations were held at Elili Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Panel discussions were held during the event that was attended by over 90 invited guests. The Ministry of Construction and Construction Management Institute gave presentations aligned to the theme focusing on how accreditation can support professionals in the construction industry, ranging from construction, manufacturers, designers, architect, civil engineers, to regulatory standards. There were also discussions on how accredited conformity assessment are market based tools that can be used in the construction sector to ensure quality of construction products and materials used on site, enhance the safety of building materials, techniques and practices, to the use of digital technology in smart buildings. One of the guest presenters from Construction Management Institute Engineer Adugna Maemr addressed in his presentation the need for accreditation for quality assurance of construction Projects. It was noted that Quality Management in Construction maintaining the quality of construction works at the required standard will result in:

- Customers' satisfaction
- Sustenance of the current construction market

- Long term competitiveness and
- Business survival for the companies

The above is desired for businesses to be competitive, productive, Customer-focused and profitable. Accreditation ensures reliable and sustainable testing laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies and organization certifying persons and products.



Front row, left to right: Mr.Araya Fesseha, Director General of Ethiopian National Accreditation Office, His excellence Professor Afework Kassu , State Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr.Wondessen Fesseha, National Quality Infrastructure Project Coordinator , Mr.Teshome Sahlemariam, Deputy Director General of Science and Technology Information Center and Mr.Getnet Tsigemelak ,Deputy Director General of Ethiopian National Accreditation Office.

The Quality Management concept in Construction is fairly new, only few construction companies are practicing total quality management system and the same applies to mechanical testing laboratories. This is because of lack of leadership and commitment of top management of construction companies, lack of standardization of construction materials, limited capacity of testing facilities for advanced construction materials (especially imported construction materials). Implementation of quality management is greatly perceived as a means to fulfill contractual obligations instead of satisfying the needs of clients and customer satisfaction. Eng. Adugna stated that these difficulties these difficulties can be resolved as follows:

- End the practice of awarding business on the basis of price tag alone.
- Improve constantly and continually the system of production and service. Quality must be built in at the design stage.
- Adopt and institute leadership. The job of management is not supervision, but leadership.
- Drive out fear. People do their best work when they feel secure. Encourage contributions from everyone to improve the system.
- Institute a vigorous program of education and self-improvement for everyone. Allow people to improve themselves and broaden their knowledge with continuing education.
- Take action to accomplish the transformation. The best made plans for improving the system are worthless unless they are put into action.



June 9, 2017 World accreditation day celebration at Elili Hotel, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

What is expected from the Government, Industry, University and Professional Association?

Government: The government has to be Committed and enforce laws and regulations in the construction sectors and Integrate efforts to the full implementation of Construction quality management to its full scale. The national quality infrastructure (Standard body, metrology Institute, Conformity assessment body and Accreditation body) need to build their capacity to service the construction sector. The government also needs to fill the gaps of conformity assessment by promoting research and development work in quality infrastructures.

Industry: The industry sector should comply with the relevant laws and regulations. They need to contribute towards policy formulation of the country since they take the lion's share for the implementation of quality management system and should be accountable for every activity they are doing.

Universities: Universities play an important role in the construction industry through conducting applied research and hence need to inculcate quality management in the learning process through revision of the curriculum and requirement for internship.

On this day, National Clinical Chemistry Reference Laboratory of Ethiopian Public Health Institute was granted accreditation according to ISO 15189 in the scope of Clinical Chemistry and Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau Public Health Research and Emergency Management Core Process Laboratory extended its scope of accreditation in the scope of GeneXpert MTB/RIF. His excellency Prof. Afework Kassu, State Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology together with Ethiopian National Accreditation Office Director General Mr.Araya Fesseha handover the certificate to the facilities.



National Clinical Chemistry Reference Laboratory of Ethiopian Public Health Institute

**Getnet Tsigemelak,
ENAO**

South Africa Celebrates WAD

The annual World Accreditation Day (WAD), was celebrated on Friday June 9 at Premier Hotel in Midrand, Johannesburg. WAD is a global initiative, jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation.

The 2017 theme was, Accreditation Delivering confidence in construction and the built environment. The purpose is for global accreditation bodies like SANAS to continue focusing on supporting the professionals in this industry, including contractors, manufacturers, designers, architects, civil standards and accredited conformity assessment are market-based tools that can be used in the construction sector to cover construction products and materials, building techniques and practices, onsite Health & Safety, environmental impact, to even the use of digital technology in smart buildings.

The attendees included representatives from the Departments of Trade and Industry, SANAS board members, representatives from the dti's COTTI, Construction industry, stakeholders within the construction and built environment sector as well as other related industries.

We were honored to have speakers such as Mr Prags Govender (SANAS Chairman), Mr Ndwakhulu Mukhufhi, CEO of National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA), Mr Rudolf Opperman from National Regulator for Compulsory Specification (NRCS), Mr Gerry Joubert from Department of Public Works, and Mr Ishmail Cassiem from Development Board (CIDB). The delivered presentations covered various topics outlining the various regulations and requirements relevant to the construction and build environment.

The construction sector is complex and highly competitive, and provides challenges for companies seeking to improve margins, and reduce costs whilst improving build quality and ensuring a safe environment on site. Accreditation supports the construction sector to control risk, help drive efficiency, demonstrate regulatory compliance, and provide supply chain confidence.

SANAS currently has approximately sixty civil engineering laboratories across the country, accredited to ISO/IEC 17025. These laboratories supports the planning, design, construction of roads, bridges, buildings and water treatment plants. They focus on materials testing parameters to ensure safety and quality? Some of the most common parameters which are regularly tested are as follows:

- Concrete strength
- Soils
- Aggregates
- Asphalt
- Bitumen

South Africa boast of some of the best, sophisticated roads and buildings in the world. We are proud of our accredited Civil Engineering laboratories (Construction Materials Testing Laboratories) who are part of this exciting projects countrywide and globally for that matter.

In recent times we have heard of unfortunate reports regarding the collapse of buildings and sinking of roads (as shown hereunder in pictures 1 and 2). The outcome of these tests (as listed shown above) are used to make important decisions which impact on people's lives. Several samples are collected on the roads, or land where buildings are to be constructed. The results of such materials tests informs the type of soil for which construction is to take place (i.e. collapsible or stable). It informs the type of structure, design of the concrete slab, amount of steel required and strength of the foundation suitable for a particular building.

There's also an economic benefit derived from the work carried out by these accredited laboratories. Effective infrastructure is considered to be a key precondition for national economic growth. Roads serve as an enabler of growth by linking internal and external communities with the global economy. For instance as a result of their work the nation benefits from proper roads which promotes development either in rural or urban areas through improved mobility and access.

This results in reduced travel time and travel costs while transporting valuable goods and products across the country and beyond our borders.

Picture 1 - Collapsing Bridge.



Picture 2 – Collapsing Building



Joint Communication by IAF and ISO



One year to ISO 9001 and 14001 transition deadline

15 September 2017 marks one year before all organisations certified to the 2008 version of the quality management system standard ISO 9001 and the 2004 version of the environmental management system standard ISO 14001 need to have been re-certified to the 2015 versions of these two standards.

These two leading standards in quality and environmental management have been delivering benefits to organisations for 30 years now, with currently over 1.3 million certificates in almost 200 countries.

Both new versions of ISO 9001 and 14001 make very logical progressions from previous versions, delivering standards which address the key issues for both today and the future.

The new ISO 9001 promotes enhanced leadership involvement in the management system, introduces risk-based thinking and aligns the quality management system policy and objectives with the strategy of the organisation.

The changes in ISO 14001 focus on key issues such as protecting the environment improving environmental performance, lifecycle thinking and organisations' environmental leadership.

Realising the benefits of the new versions will deliver improved performance. Certification to the new standards then makes a strong and positive statement to customers – both existing and potential, suppliers and other key stakeholders of the commitment to quality and environmental management.

Access to markets, domestic and international, assistance in meeting regulatory requirements and a range of other positive outcomes will in turn be realised by continued certification to these standards.

Note that failure to achieve certification to the 2015 standard by the deadline means that your certification is no longer valid and this may affect your ability to supply to all markets.

If you are still to get your certificate to the new standards, the first step is to contact your certification body to make the appropriate arrangements and start realising the benefits of the world's two leading management system standards.

Further information on transition be found on [ISO 9001 here](#) and [ISO 14001 here](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Q. Yan'.

IAF Chair

www.iaf.nu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B. ...'.

ISO/CASCO Chair

www.iso.org

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