

QICA



Quality Infrastructure Council for the Americas

QICA MEETING WITH REGULATORS

Buenos Aires - March 2018

As part of the promotion activities of QICA, it was decided to organize meetings with regulators at the venues where the meetings of the members of QICA are held.

On March 15, 2018, OAA, INTI and IRAM organized this first meeting in Buenos Aires. QICA was represented by Ileana Martínez (IAAC), Héctor Laiz (SIM), Osvaldo Petroni (COPANT) and Beatriz García (consultant for QICA). The event was attended by 40 people including four Argentine regulators, several representatives of conformity assessment bodies and other interested parties.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a deeper understanding of the value that standards, measurements and accreditation can provide to support the work of regulators and users.

In addition to the presentations given by the representatives of QICA two success cases on the use of the Quality Infrastructure were presented: INMETRO (Brazil) spoke about its successful implementation of the National Project and Infrastructure Inspection System (Public Works) and INTI (Argentina) described the study of impact on the efficiency and energy saving of lamps in Argentina.



WORKSHOP ON ISO/IEC 17034

San Salvador - December 2017

From 4 to 6 December 2017, San Salvador hosted the workshop on ISO/IEC 17034 covering the requirements for the competence of reference material producers. This recently published Standard generated a lot of interest in SIM and IAAC given the need to train and harmonize application criteria.

Teachers in that activity were Robert Knake (A2LA) and Kelly Black (Neptune & Company - USA).

32 representatives of National Metrological Organizations and Accreditation Bodies of the region took part in the training.

The workshop included participants with varied level of knowledge about the standard. The representatives of the National Metrological Organizations had experience in the production of reference materials, while some of the IAAC representatives were from Accreditation Bodies with mature accreditation programs and others were in the process of implementing them.



This diversity allowed the valuable interactive discussions that characterized all the activity of the three days of the workshop.

WORKSHOP ON ISO/IEC 17043 AND ISO 13528

Panama City - March 2017

The workshop was held in Panama City from 20 to 22 March 2017.

The Standards refer to the requirements for competence of the proficiency testing providers and to the statistical methods used in that activity.

32 members of Accreditation Bodies of IAAC and of National Metrological Organizations of SIM from 19 different countries of the Americas with different levels of experience, including experts in proficiency testing participated.

Responsible for the training was Daniel Tholen (USA).

A result of the workshop, in addition to providing information and basic training on the Standards, was the creation of a forum for discussion on issues not sufficiently clear in the Standards that results in different approaches as understood by participants. The analysis, discussions and clarifications have the value of helping to harmonize the application of the Standards in the region.



Participants of the QICA meeting with regulators of Argentina

WORKSHOP ON TRACEABILITY OF MEASUREMENT RESULTS

Santo Domingo, September 2015

This activity was a continuation of the first workshop on this topic that took place in Guatemala City the previous year.

The topics discussed were:

- Participation in the IAAC Committees
- Work of CIPM and SIM to improve the effectiveness of the Agreement
- Evaluation of the QMS of an NMI according to ISO/IEC 17025
- Areas of the Calibration Laboratories
- Study of ILAC Policy P10 and its application

25 people participated, representing 17 countries of the region.

The main results were:

- To better understand the concepts of metrological traceability.
- To better understand how the Quality Systems Working Group operates in terms of the evaluation of the NMI QMS
- Take into account the presentation of the fields of calibration laboratories and the CMC of the NMI of some countries.
- Better understanding of ILAC P10 and its application.

REVISION OF ISO/IEC 17025 STANDARD

Punta Cana, November 2015

During the SIM Assembly a workshop was held on the revision of ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

The workshop was conducted by Warren Merkel (ANSI/NIST) and Georgette Macdonald (SCC/NRC).

The event was attended by representatives of the three regional organizations, thus enriching the discussions, with the positions of the Standards developers and users of this particular Standard. The main recommendation was that the metrology institutes and accreditation bodies should be involved in the revision process of the Standard through their national mirror committees in their standardization bodies.

The new version of ISO/IEC 17025 was published in November 2017.

QICA is supported by:



WORKSHOP FACILITATING TRADE THROUGH THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF QUALITY

Guayaquil - April 2016

During COPANT Week 2016, QICA organized the Workshop Facilitating Trade through Quality Infrastructure, which aimed to share successful examples of implementing the provisions of the Agreement on Barriers to Trade of the World Trade Organization (WTO-TBT) relying on the pillars of quality infrastructure: Regulation, Standardization, Metrology, Accreditation and Conformity Assessment, to facilitate trade.

The workshop featured two keynote presentations that introduced the issues to be analyzed. The first presentation, by Ileana Martínez (NIST/ USA), President of IAAC, introduced the concepts and provisions contained in the TBT -WTO Agreement. She was followed by Kevin McKinley, Acting Secretary General of ISO, who presented the good practices governing international standardization processes.

The workshop continued with three different panels, where the speakers shared their experiences and best practices to promote trade and the protection of citizens in their countries and regions, through the use of the tools that facilitate the Quality Infrastructure, in particular through the use of standardization, regulation, certification, accreditation and metrology.



Interesting panel on the use of standards and regulations to facilitate trade: CEN, PASC, Canada and the US. From left to right: Javier Garcia (AENOR/CEN), Sylvie Lafontaine (SCC), Amaury Santos (IEC LARC), Bronwyn Evans (SA/PASC) and Joe Tretler (ANSI).



Exchange of experiences of the NSBs of Latin America and the Caribbean. From left to right: Héctor Laiz (SIM), Mauricio Céspedes (INTECO), Germán Nava (ICONTEC), Claudia Cerda (INN) and Maurice Lewin (BSJ).



Representatives of accreditation (IAAC) and metrology (SIM) also shared their good practices. From left to right: Mkabi Walcott (SLBS), Gabriela de la Guarda (CENAMEP), Héctor Laiz (INTI), Beatriz García (representing ECA), Ferney Chaparro (ONAC), Estuardo Riuz (SAE) and Rafael Nava (representing EMA).