

ዜና አክራዲቲቭን ACCREDITATION

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MESSAGE FROM ARAYA FESSEHA, DDG.

Further to the first edition of the ENAO Newsletter, there have been many exciting developments in accreditation activities within Ethiopia.

First and foremost ENAO has received its first applications for accreditation from five laboratories. Secondly, ENAO has signed Cooperation agreements with both Turkak (Turkish Accreditation Agency) and EGAC (Egyptian Accreditation Council) for the cooperation and exchange of technical information and expertise. These are significant steps in the development of ENAO as an accreditation body which can be recognized internationally in accordance with ILAC requirements in the coming years.

The German Development Cooperation (GIZ) has assisted ENAO's development since the beginning of 2011 and is now providing consultancy assistance to Ethiopian laboratories. This consultancy is making a real and significant impact on the readiness of laboratories to apply for accreditation. ENAO is not associated with the consultancy program and hence there is no conflict of interest for ENAO as an accreditation body.

This edition of the Accreditation News contains more information on these stories and more.

With best regards



Araya Fesseha

Deputy Director General: ENAO

ENAO SIGNS COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH TURKAK AND EGAC

ENAO signed technical cooperation agreements with both the Turkish Accreditation Agency (Turkak) and the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC). The agreements were negotiated and signed by the Deputy Director General, Ato Araya Fesseha in March/April 2012. The objective of these agreements is to allow each accreditation body to identify areas of mutual benefit where technical cooperation will assist one or more parties. The agreements will also assist ENAO in strengthening its capability base where joint assessments can be conducted and where local technical assessor expertise can be bridged by using EGAC or TURKAK assessors when required. Additionally, the agreements will assist in the sharing of technical information and in the established and sourcing of regional Proficiency Testing schemes and Certified Reference Materials (CRMs).

ENAO RECEIVES ITS FIRST ACCREDITATION APPLICATIONS

ENAO has received its first batch of applications from five laboratories covering a diverse range of testing fields. The applications are from the electrical; mechanical; microbiological; chemical and textiles areas. For confidentiality reasons ENAO cannot name the laboratories until assessments have been performed and only if accreditation has been granted. Assessments are scheduled to take place in May/June 2012. ENAO has sufficient expertise in its pool of registered assessors to cover the scopes of accreditation for which application has been made except for two fields for which technical assessors from EGAC or TURKAK will be commissioned.

This is a significant milestone in the development of accreditation in Ethiopia and it is ENAO's belief that this represents the start of a rapid rate of accreditation applications in the months and years to come. It also means that ENAO is on its way to meeting the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) target of 5 accredited CABs within the current year.

GERMAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (GIZ) OFFERS FREE CONSULTANCY TO ETHIOPIAN LABORATORIES.

Having assisted in the establishment of the Ethiopian National Accreditation Office (ENAO), GIZ, the German Development Cooperation, is now assisting laboratories in Ethiopia to prepare for accreditation. GIZ has contracted an International consultant on accreditation who is currently assisting 13 laboratories to upgrade their quality systems so that they comply with the requirements of either ISO/IEC 17025: *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories* or ISO 15189: *Medical laboratories – Particular requirements for quality and competence*. Five of these laboratories have now applied for accreditation with ENAO with the remaining eight following sometime in between July and October this year. These laboratories are from a diverse range of sectors including: textile; mechanical; chemical; microbiological; electrical; mining; medical and metrology.

The assistance involves the provision of in-house workshops; assistance with the design and development of the quality system; assessment of implementation of the system; and evaluation of the system's suitability to provide objective evidence of the performance of tests or calibrations in a competent manner.

The consultant, Mike Mc Nerney, has indicated that he is seeking laboratories that are committed to gaining accreditation and that are committed to assigning resources for the project implementation of a

system that proves competency within their testing/calibration facility. He is therefore inviting laboratories to apply to him for assistance so that he can arrange a preliminary discussion and a project plan with suitably committed laboratory managers. He can be contacted on Email: mike.mcnerney@giz.de

ENAO appreciates the support offered by GIZ in developing the accreditation market in Ethiopia.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE (SANAS) HOSTS ENAO

The Accreditation Director of ENAO, Ms Genet Gebremedhin was invited to South Africa by ENAO to attend a week-long experiential exercise in March 2012 where she was able to see first-hand the operational activities of SANAS. SANAS is the largest Accreditation Body in Africa with approximately 1300 accredited CABs at present. The exercise allowed ENAO to benchmark its operational systems with that of SANAS. Both accreditation bodies systems are designed based on ISO/IEC 17011, *General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies* but obviously both systems are designed to meet the respective local needs based on market size and scope of accreditation programs. The exercise also included on-site assessments of a medical laboratory and a pharmaceutical laboratory. Ms Genet indicated that she was very satisfied that ENAO's systems and assessors match-up to the standard that she witnessed in South Africa.

ENAO STARTS SECOND ASSESSOR TRAINING PROGRAMME

ENAO has started its second assessor-training program with the selection of 34 trainees for training in ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189 standards. An awareness-training course was held in April in ISO/IEC 17025 and a second course for ISO 15189 will be held in May. Trainees are exposed to the principles and requirements of the relevant standard and are then tested on their knowledge of the relevant standard. Those that are successful will go through to the next phase of training which will be the Assessor Training Course which will follow sometime in July/August. The final phase of training will be on-site assessments whereby the trainees will be evaluated while they perform actual assessments.

ENAO PRESENTS EIGHT MONTHS PERFORMANCE TO HPR

ENAO presented its eight-month performance review to the House of People's Representatives (HPR) in March 2012. The HPR expressed its encouragement with the performance of ENAO to date and with the support that GIZ is offering in development the accreditation market in Ethiopia.

ENAO WEBSITE GETS SEVERAL HUNDRED HITS PER MONTH

The ENAO Website (www.ena-eth.org) is being visited by several hundred new visitors every month. The majority of visitors are from Ethiopia but visitors from countries such as United States, South Korea, Brazil, China, Finland, Pakistan, Turkey and Argentina are being recorded on a regular basis. The website has attracted considerable attention from potential clients and other interested parties who are monitoring ENAO's progress in establishing itself as a reputable accreditation body in a global setting.