MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

It is with great pride that I can report that the Ethiopian National Accreditation Office has progressed so quickly in its development to become a fully operational accreditation body!

Establishment of an accreditation body can sometimes take years of hard work but in Ethiopia we have managed to establish our operational management system in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011, *Conformity Assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*, in record time. We have also managed to train and register a pool of assessors from both medical and general laboratories and our website ([www.enao-eth.org](http://www.enao-eth.org)) contains all the necessary documents for conformity assessment bodies to apply for accreditation.

This achievement could not have been made without the support of the conformity assessment community which has shown significant interest and active support for the establishment of ENAO and for this I thank you. The interactions and discussions that have been held at various events such as the World Accreditation Day which was held in Addis Ababa on 9 June of this year and which served to confirm that although accreditation is relatively new to Ethiopia, the demand from industry, government and regulators is certainly apparent and awareness regarding the necessity and benefits of accreditation is growing daily. However, this awareness needs to be nurtured and, with this in mind, it is our intention to hold a series of Accreditation Awareness sessions in several regional cities in the coming months. More details on this are given later in this edition of the ENAO Newsletter and I encourage you to take advantage of these events not only to gain further understanding of ENAO’s
services but also to network with your peers in your relevant industrial sectors and, more specifically, in the conformity assessment community.

I trust you will enjoy this, the first, newsletter of ENAO and I encourage you to submit comments, recommendations and requests through our online feedback form on the website.

With best regards

Araya Fesseha

INTRODUCING THE ENAO TEAM

The ENAO management and accreditation staff would like to introduce themselves and the best way to do so is for you to see who they are and what functions they are responsible for:

Araya Fesseha  
Director General

Genet Gebremedhin  
Accreditation Director

Negussie Kibru  
Public Relations Officer

Assefa Leta  
Assessor

Kidist Hailu  
Assessor

G/kistos G/amlak  
Assessor
ENAO COMPLETES ITS FIRST ASSESSOR TRAINING PROGRAMME

In the space of just 9 months since its establishment in February 2011 ENAO has managed to complete an intensive training programme for laboratory assessors. Invitations were widely distributed to organizations throughout Ethiopia for suitably qualified candidates to apply for the assessor-training programme. A total of 350 applications were received out of which 40 candidates were selected for the first programme. The programme was split into medical laboratory assessor training in the requirements of ISO 15189, *Medical laboratories – Particular requirements for quality and competence* and general laboratory assessor training in the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*. The programme consisted of a series of training and evaluation activities, which culminated in three weeks of multiple on-site mock assessments of laboratories during which candidates were mentored, monitored and evaluated by five assessors.

The ENAO assessor training programme is intensive, demanding and stringent with only 60% of the candidates making it through to the final stages of evaluation and possible registration as ENAO assessors. ENAO will continue to hold training programmes for assessors in the future using trainers that have been trained specifically for developing and presenting ENAO assessor training programmes for laboratory assessors. Also, ENAO will expand its services in the near future to training assessors for certification and inspection bodies.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL

ENAO Council was appointed by Government in July this year and it has met on four separate occasions to discuss strategic issues, operational issues and its own terms of reference for supporting the mandate of ENAO. The Council consists of the following Members:
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Mahoumada Ahmed Gaas</td>
<td>State Minister of Science and Technology</td>
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<td>(Chairperson)</td>
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<td>Mr Gashaw Debebe</td>
<td>Trade Association</td>
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<td>Mr Belete Beyene</td>
<td>Ethiopia Industry Association</td>
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<td>Mr Yehulu Denekew</td>
<td>Ministry of Health, Drug &amp; Health Administration and Control</td>
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<td>Dr Tesfaye Teshome</td>
<td>Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency</td>
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<td>Dr Teshome Bekele</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health</td>
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<td>Mr Shimels Weldu</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-processing</td>
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<td>Mr Merkebu Zeleke</td>
<td>Ministry of Trade and Customer Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Tesfaye Yalew</td>
<td>Ministry of City Infrastructure and Construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Araya Fesseha</td>
<td>Ethiopian National Accreditation Office</td>
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**ACCREDITATION ROADSHOW**

ENAO will hold a series of one-day events throughout the country in the coming months. The events are intended to highlight the role and purpose of accreditation; accreditation requirements and benefits; and to answer questions and to discuss topics related to accreditation issues.

The roadshow will consist of a series of six one-day workshops in Addis Ababa, Adama, Bahredar, Mekelle, Hawasa, and Dire-dawa.

Watch out for announcements on the Announcement section of the ENAO website.
ENAO JOINS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COOPERATION (ILAC)

ENAO became an Affiliate Member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) in August 2011. The progression of membership starts at Affiliate progressing to Full Member only after a team of international peer evaluators carry out a thorough evaluation of ENAO’s operational system and how it accredits organizations in compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 and ILAC rules. Full membership implies international recognition of the accreditation body’s competence to supply accreditation services in accordance with internationally acceptable practices. There are a number of requirements which must be met before such an evaluation takes place and typically the time scale for achieving full membership is 4 years.

DIRECTOR GENERAL ATTENDS THE AFRICAN REGIONAL ACCREDITATION COOPERATION (AFRAC) MEETING

Ato Araya Fesseha attended the Second General Assembly of the African Regional Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) which was held in Mauritius in October this year. ENAO now joins the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS), the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS), the Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS), the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC), the Tunisian Accreditation Council (TUNAC) and the Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS) as members of AFRAC.

The opportunity was used to broadcast the establishment of ENAO and its progress in becoming a fully-fledged accreditation body. The other members showed significant interest in ENAO’s development and Ethiopia was welcomed as AFRAC’s most recent addition to the regional cooperation.