

# ዜና አክራሪ ጽ/ቤት ACCREDITATION NEWS

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## MESSAGE FROM ARAYA FESSEHA, DDG



ENAO has been exceptionally busy over the past year and many significant milestones have been reached in its journey to becoming a truly world-class and internationally recognized Accreditation Body.

The first of these milestones was achieved when six laboratories were accredited by ENAO in November 2012 in the fields of chemistry (x2), microbiology, textile, mechanical and electrical.

The second milestone was achieved when ENAO's membership status with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) was elevated from Affiliate to Associate Member status as of April 2013. This rapid progression up the membership category ranking is a clear indication of ENAO's commitment to obtain Full Membership as soon as is feasibly possible within the regulations as set

down by ILAC. In order to become a Full Member of ILAC, ENAO will need to be evaluated for compliance to ISO/IEC 17011, *General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*, by a team of assembled international experts in order to ensure international alignment of ENAO's operations with accepted practices.

ENAO is therefore well on the road to becoming internationally recognized and what is even more satisfying is the fact that ENAO has been able to achieve this stage of its progression in such a relatively short time from its initial inauguration in February 2011. This achievement is not only attributable to the efforts of its management and staff but it is even more attributable to the efforts and support it has received from all its stakeholders ranging from government to its assessors and clients and to the support that it receives from GIZ.

I would also like to mention the fact that ENAO has already become an active player in establishing consensus standards and practices in the international arena of accreditation since it has participated

in several ILAC meetings and has been nominated for membership of governing and standing committees of ILAC since its acceptance as an Associate Member.

All of these achievements are clear indications that ENAO takes its role as a supporting pillar of national and international trade extremely seriously and with this in mind I would like to announce the forthcoming World Accreditation Day which will be celebrated on 9 June 2013. The theme of this year's celebration is *Facilitating World Trade* which is indeed appropriate, not only to ENAO, but to the National Quality Infrastructure to which it belongs in Ethiopia.

I am indeed proud to be a member of a government office that has achieved so much in such a short space of time and I encourage you to continue your support for ENAO's quest to provide effective facilitation for international trade which can only improve the economic outlook for Ethiopia in the future.

With best regards



Araya Fesseha

Deputy Director General: ENAO

## WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY, 9 JUNE 2013

### Theme: Facilitation World Trade

Accredited conformity assessment is one tool that is helping businesses not only to comply efficiently and effectively with regulations and standards but also to gain competitive advantage from doing so and to expand into new markets, including those overseas.

Operating in the public interest across all market sectors, accreditation determines the technical competence, reliability and integrity of conformity assessment bodies, which are organizations that check conformity and compliance with standards and regulations through testing, verification, inspection, and calibration. It does this through a process of transparent and impartial evaluation against internationally recognized standards and other requirements.

Businesses that supply or receive accredited conformity assessment results can show credible evidence of conformance with international standards which can be used to distinguish them from their competitors. Indeed, an increasing number of organizations, in both the public and private sectors are specifying accredited testing, inspection or certification as a precondition to tendering for contracts.

In addition to increasing potential markets, accredited conformity assessment can save businesses time and money in other ways. For example, by providing a basis on which they can make efficient and informed choices about suppliers, allowing them more time to concentrate on business development.

Furthermore, as accreditation is recognized internationally, it can open doors abroad equally as well as those in the domestic market.

*Facilitating World Trade* is the topic of the World Accreditation Day which will be celebrated on 9 June 2013.

## ENAO ACCREDITS ECAE LABORATORIES

ENAO is proud to announce the successful accreditation of five testing laboratories from the Ethiopian Conformity Assessment Enterprise (ECAE). The laboratories and their scope of accreditation are listed in the Accreditation Directory for Testing Laboratories of the ENAO Website.

The accreditations are as a result of a 9-month intensive project which was implemented by ECAE in which a quality system was developed that covered all the ECAE laboratories and where the technical requirements of traceability, method validation, quality control systems, competence of personnel, and environmental controls were satisfied by system implementation, monitoring and control.

The laboratories applied for accreditation in June 2012 whereupon ENAO established an assessment team consisting of six (6) assessors, both locally registered ENAO assessors and foreign registered SANAS (South African National Accreditation System) assessors. The assessment process was completed and the accreditation award was made in November 2012.

This is indeed a proud occasion for ECAE since it was the first organization to achieve accreditation by ENAO and, in addition, it achieved accreditation of five laboratories at the same time which is no easy achievement!

It is also a proud occasion for ENAO since it was the culmination of approximately two-years of work from the establishment of ENAO as the National Accreditation body for Conformity Assessment bodies in Ethiopia.

## ENAO ACCREDITS EZANA MINING ANALYTICAL LABORATORY

ENAO is proud to announce the accreditation of Ezana Mining Analytical laboratory for chemical testing of precious metal ores. It received its award as an accredited testing laboratory in December 2012 and its Scope of Accreditation can be accessed and downloaded from the Accreditation Directory for Testing Laboratories in the ENAO website.

The management and staff of Ezana Analytical Laboratory embarked on their accreditation project 12 months ago when their top management committed themselves to obtain accreditation of the laboratory against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*. Since then, the project has been an intensive program of training courses; workshops; project management meetings and implementation assignments.

## ACCREDITATION APPLICATIONS

ENAO is in the process of assessing a seventh organization's laboratories and the results of the assessment and the accreditation decision should be known end of May.

In addition, as a result of the direct efforts of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), ENAO is expecting approximately 15 applications for accreditation from both medical and general test laboratories in this month of May. GIZ has been assisting approximately 30 laboratories throughout Ethiopia to implement projects within their organizations to establish and implement quality systems that meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*; and ISO 15189, *Medical Laboratories – Particular requirements for quality and competence*. The success of the GIZ team is based on the fact that they are technically focused on building robust systems that can prove competency of the tests for which each laboratory intends to apply for accreditation. As a result, the GIZ consultants concentrate on assisting the laboratories to achieve measurement traceability; to establish a controlled environment; to validate or verify their

methods; to prove competency of personnel and to implement effective quality control systems.

“Traditionally, consultants initially tend to focus on documentation as being the core framework within which the laboratory personnel can orientate themselves in order to build a system” says Mike Mc Nerney (GIZ). “The problem with this approach is that it creates a mindset that the documentation is the key objective of the project and by the time the personnel get to establishing the core technical processes their efforts tend to be depleted in building what should be the fundamental proving and controlling system for effective technical competence. Our approach has been firstly to get full commitment from the organizations management; provide assistance in establishing effective and robust technical controls and proving systems; and then to implement the supporting management controls and documentation. So far, we have succeeded with a high success rate!”

## ASSESSOR TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATES

A third training program for ISO/IEC 17025 assessors has commenced with the training of 20 candidates. In addition, a new training program has started for Inspection Assessors on ISO/IEC 17020, *Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspections* and the Technical Assessor course was completed in April this year. This will be followed in the next few months by on-site mentorship and evaluation for those candidates who made it through the Awareness and Technical Assessor course screening process.

## ENAO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL ATTENDS IAF/ILAC MEETING IN BRAZIL

The 2012 ILAC/IAF annual meeting was hosted by the Brazilian Accreditation Body (CGRE) in Rio de Janeiro in October 2012. ENAO was among the following African regional and national accreditation bodies that attended: SADCAS, EGAC, KENAS, SANAS and TUNAS. In all a total of 370 delegates attended the meetings which represented a significant opportunity for the ENAO DDG to network and benchmark ENAO's accreditation practices and strategies with its peers internationally. It also provided critical insight into new developments and hot topics particularly in relation to the role that accreditation plays in regulations and trade and in meeting WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) requirements.

## ISO STANDARD UPDATES

STANDARD	UPDATE YEAR
ISO 15189: <i>Medical Laboratories – Particular requirements for quality and competence</i>	2012
ISO/IEC 17020: <i>Conformity assessment -- Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection</i>	2012
ISO/IEC 17021: <i>Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems</i>	2011
ISO/IEC TS 17021: <i>Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 2: Competence requirements</i>	2012

<i>for auditing and certification of environmental management systems</i>	
<i>ISO/IEC 17024: Conformity assessment -- General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons</i>	2012

## ENAO HOLDS ASSESSOR CALIBRATION WORKSHOP

ENAO held an “Assessor Calibration Workshop” in Debre Zeit on 13 April 2013 to which all registered ENAO assessors were invited. The workshop focussed on lessons learned during the initial assessments performed during the first assessments performed by ENAO. The objective of the workshop was to re-align specific practices and to re-emphasize specific aspects that needed to be addressed as a result of the lessons learnt. The workshop was a great success and it allowed those present to interact with each other on their own experiences in assessing and to network with their peers.

It is the intention of ENAO to hold an annual Assessor Calibration Workshop as part of its human resource development program.

## VALIDATION AND MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY COURSES

ENAO presented three courses to its assessors, and invited laboratory managers, on the topics of *Validation/Verification of Methods* and in *Measurement Uncertainty in Testing Laboratories*. The courses were presented by MJ Mc Nerney of GIZ and the objective of each of the courses was to train assessors in typical approaches to Validation and Verification of Test Methods and in establishing Measurement Uncertainty of Test Results. The courses used visual aids, scenarios and worked statistical examples to cover all the activities that might be used in the various approaches of establishing method performance and uncertainty. The framework of the courses started with fundamental principles working up to relatively advanced Hypothesis testing of real-life situations.

ENAO has brought these courses into its Assessor Training program since it believes this to be a fundamental attribute that assessors must be equipped with in order to effectively assess the approach that laboratories have taken in addressing these requirements in establishing quality systems within their laboratories.

## STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS VISIT ENAO OFFICES

The House of Peoples Representatives’ Science & Technology Standing Committee visited the ENAO offices in April 2013. During the meeting the DDG of ENAO, Ato Araya Fesseha presented the 9-month performance of the office to the committee’s members.

The Chair of the Committee, Ato Getachew Melesa, expressed his appreciation and congratulated ENAO on its performance and achievements over the past 9 months.