

MINUTES

COMPTE RENDU

OIML Development Council Meeting
Moscow, 24 September 2001

Réunion du Conseil de Développement de l'OIML
Moscou, 24 septembre 2001



ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE
DE MÉTROLOGIE LÉGALE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF LEGAL METROLOGY



International Organization of Legal Metrology

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MEETING
of the
OIML DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
24 September 2001 - Moscow

The OIML Development Council met on 24 September 2001 at the Intourist Hotel, Moscow in conjunction with the 36th CIML Meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Ghâïet-El-Mouna Annabi, Development Council Chairperson. Also present at the presiding table were Gerard Faber, CIML President, Bernard Athané, Director of the BIML, Jean-François Magaña, Appointed Director of the BIML and Ian Dunmill, Assistant Director of the BIML.



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Participation

Member States of the OIML Development Council

Algeria	Mr. Boudissa Mr. Hocine	CIML Member
Australia	Mrs. Bennett	CIML Member
Austria	Mr. Leitner	CIML Member
Belarus	Mr. Zhagora Mrs. Astafyeva	
Belgium	Mr. Eggermont	CIML Member
Brazil	Mr. Moreira da Silva	
Cameroon	Mr. Ela Essi Mr. Liman Oumar	CIML Member
Canada	Mr. Johnston Mr. Vinet	CIML Member
China (People's Republic of)	Mr. Li Chuanqing Mr. Song Wei	CIML Member
Croatia	Mr. Benčić	
Cuba	Mr. Antunez Ramirez	CIML Member
Cyprus	Mr. Tsiartzázis	CIML Member
Czech Republic	Mr. Klenovský	CIML Member
Egypt	Mr. El Sayed	
France	Mr. Lagauterie	CIML Member
Germany	Mr. Kochsiek Mr. Velfe Mr. Wallerus	CIML Vice-President
Israel	Mr. Zarin Mr. Harel	CIML Member
Japan	Mr. Tanaka Mr. Kojima Mrs. Sakai Mr. Ooiwa	CIML Member
Korea (Democratic People's Republic of)	Mr. Ri Man Ho Mr. Choe Chang Jin	
Korea (Republic of)	Mr. Cho Chun-haeng Mr. Kim Hong Mr. Lee Yeon-jae Mr. Park Il-hwan Mr. Yeum Kou-sul	CIML Member
Macedonia	Mr. Grkov Mr. Josifovski	CIML Member

Netherlands	Mr. Faber Mr. Engler	CIML President
Norway	Mr. Kildal	CIML Member
Russian Federation	Mr. Issaev Mr. Mardin Mr. Vichenkov Mr. Belobzagin Mr. Nemchinov Mr. Ragulin Mrs. Kozlyakova Mr. Kozobkin Mr. Byevich	CIML Vice-President
Saudi Arabia	Mr. Al-Gossair	
Slovakia	Mr. Orlovský	CIML Member
South Africa	Mr. Beard	CIML Member
Switzerland	Mr. Vaucher	CIML Member
Tanzania	Mr. Tukai	CIML Member
Tunisia	Mrs. Annabi	Dev. Council Chairperson
United Kingdom	Mr. Birdseye	
USA	Mr. Ehrlich	CIML Member
Yugoslavia	Mr. Marković Mr. Milosević	CIML Member
Zambia	Mr. Sinyangwe Mr. Kapembwa	CIML Member

Observers from OIML Corresponding Members

Albania	Mr. Proгри Mr. Laci Mr. Dervishi Mr. Hoxha	
Latvia	Mr. Davis	
Lithuania	Mr. Staugaitis	
Malaysia	Mr. Md. Nor Md. Chik Mr. Chen Soo Fatt	
Moldova	Mr. Baban	
Chinese Taipei	Mr. Lin Hsing-Ming Mr. Lin Neng-Jong	
Ukraine	Mr. Sidorenko Mr. Markov	
Uruguay	Mr. Garcia y Santos	
Uzbekistan	Mr. Jebrovskiy	

Observers from Regional Legal Metrology Organizations

APLMF	Mr. Birch
COOMET	Mr. Zhagora
EMLMF	Mr. Lagauterie
IOLMF	Mr. Birch
SADCMEL	Mr. Beard
SEESMC	Mr. Grkov
SIM (WG LM)	Mr. Moreira da Silva
WELMEC	Mr. Klenovský

Other observers

BIML	
Mr. Athané	Director
Mr. Magaña	Appointed Director
Mr. Szilvássy	Assistant Director
Mr. Dunmill	Assistant Director
Mr. Pulham	Editor

OIML Development Council Meeting 24 September 2001 - Moscow

Opening

Mr. Faber welcomed delegates and expressed his thanks to the Russian Federation for their excellent organization of the meeting. Mrs. Annabi, Development Council Chairperson, also welcomed the participants and thanked them for their interest and support. She was encouraged by the large number of delegates present, and felt sure that the Development Council would continue to play an important role in the development of metrology in the world.

Mr. Athané then expressed his great pleasure in participating in this meeting of the Development Council, which would in fact be the last one in his BIML career. He recalled that he had been involved in the Council's creation around 25 years ago together with the President of the CIML and several other CIML Members, since which time it had proved its usefulness. He added that the presence of Jean-François Magaña, BIML Appointed Director, demonstrated that the Bureau would continue to help the Development Council as far as possible. Ian Dunmill confirmed that he would continue to act as the Council's Secretariat on behalf of the BIML.

After some practical information had been given, Mr. Dunmill established the list of participants.

Roll call

The roll of delegates was called and it was established that 34 Member States and 9 Corresponding Members were present. In addition, representatives from 8 Regional Legal Metrology Organizations (RLMOs) as well as the BIML were present.

Approval of the agenda

The Council approved the agenda as follows:

Opening

Roll call

Approval of the agenda

- 1 Report and discussion on activities since the 2000 meeting of the Development Council (London, UK)
 - 1.1 WTO meeting on developing country participation in standard-setting activities
- 2 Reports from Working Groups
 - 2.1 WG 1 – *Training*
 - 2.2 WG 2 – *Information*
 - 2.3 WG 3 – *Equipment*
 - 2.4 Discussion of terms of reference for Working Groups
- 3 Reports by representatives of Regional Legal Metrology Organizations
 - 3.1 Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF)
 - 3.2 South-East European Cooperation in Quality, Standardization, Accreditation and Metrology
 - 3.3 Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions (COOMET)
 - 3.4 Euro-Mediterranean Legal Metrology Forum (EMLMF)
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1 Report and discussion on activities since the 2000 meeting of the Development Council (London, UK)

Mr. Dunmill drew participants' attention to the reports on Development Council activities which had been circulated several times during the year and again at this meeting. He highlighted the following activities:

Revision of OIML D 1 - Law on metrology

The current working draft revision was under consideration by the joint OIML/BIPM/ILAC working group before being distributed to TC 3. Mr. Magaña reported that the revision of D 1 was considered to be of high priority. He said that he, together with Mr. Ehrlich (TC 3 secretariat) and Mrs. Annabi, had participated in the last working group meeting in February 2001. A first working draft had been developed by the OIML, and the initial reactions of the other two organizations were expected by the end of October 2001. It was hoped to circulate the first Committee Draft before the end of the year. Mr. Klenovský asked whether a formal procedure existed to deal with any comments which may be received from the BIPM and/or ILAC; Mr. Magaña replied that no definitive procedure had been set up but that this would be decided by TC 3.

Technical committees and subcommittees

The list of TCs/SCs of interest to the Development Council had been established based on the BIML document on high priority and priority projects. Although there had not been much activity on any of the projects during this year, Mr. Dunmill undertook to ensure that the Development Council's interests were represented whenever any work was undertaken on these projects.

Development Council web site

The web site had been considerably revised during the year and a database of experts and available training courses had been included. It was intended that the web site would also be translated into Spanish in order to improve its accessibility to developing countries. Mr. Dunmill requested that Member States keep the BIML up to date with any changes to the details given. Links to the web sites of training organizations would be added during the coming year to help keep the information current. Mr. Magaña also highlighted the importance of keeping this database up to date in providing technical assistance in conjunction with other organizations.

Training courses

The subject of training courses would be covered more fully later in the meeting under the report from WG 1. It had also been decided that the validation of training courses was not the role of the OIML, and that there were already several accreditation schemes for courses and training personnel.

External liaisons and funding

Liaisons with the WTO are covered in 1.1 below. A meeting with the World Bank had also been organized for 13 September 2001, but this had had to be postponed and would be held in the New Year. Funding opportunities available in various regions of the world through the European Commission would also be explored, as well as those with other organizations such as UNIDO. Mr. Boudissa asked for more information concerning the efforts which had been made in the area of funding. Mr. Magaña replied that the World Bank was keen to discover more about metrology to see how it may be integrated into its programs. He hoped that this would lead to better relations with other funding organizations who follow the programs of the World Bank. He added that it was important to make these organizations aware of the list of OIML experts so that appropriate experts were used in any development projects. Mr. Hocine informed the meeting that he had met the World Bank in April 2001 and that they were very open to the subject of metrology. He also agreed that it was important to make UNIDO more aware of metrology issues.

1.1 WTO meeting on developing country participation in standard-setting activities

Mr. Dunmill reported that the WTO had initiated this group, which initially consisted of those international organizations which are involved in standard-setting, in order to examine the problems which developing countries had in gaining access to the standardization process and the development of international standards. He explained that it was intended that funding organizations would also be approached later. The BIML had attended the first meeting held on 23 January 2001, and would continue to follow any future activity of the group. Mr. Magaña added that during this meeting, the WTO had requested that those organizations present send them a report on the barriers and difficulties faced by developing countries within their organization. There were obviously problems concerning travel budgets and sometimes language, but Mr. Magaña requested that those present give their views on this subject. Mrs. Annabi added her support to this suggestion, saying that such views were essential to enable the Development Council to play its full role in pursuing the needs of developing countries and in obtaining the necessary assistance.

Mr. Birch (APLMF) commented that he felt that the problem was not so much the difficulties faced by developing countries in participating in existing committees, but that the standard-setting organizations needed to set standards which were relevant to the needs of developing countries. He explained that the needs of, for example, tropical countries were often not taken into consideration. In the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions many needs relating to different kinds of agriculture and types of industrial structures had not been taken into account, such as those of measurement of rice moisture and the properties of rubber. He therefore felt that developing countries needed to be studied to determine the kinds of standards they needed in order to make their participation in standard-setting more relevant to their needs. He also felt that it was more important to establish a functional legal metrology system in every developing country before establishing standard-setting systems there.

Mr. Magaña raised another point which had been mentioned by ISO. Almost all their work was now done by e-mail and the internet, which could speed up the standard-setting process as well as reducing costs for all participants. The problem at the moment was that good internet access was not yet readily available in all countries. Since this could also be applied to the OIML's work, the Organization needed to reflect on its merits. Mr. Hocine felt that it would be necessary to continue to use paper for at least the next three to five years, even though it was more expensive, although this time could also be used to assist some developing countries in using the internet. Mr. Magaña said that this subject would be discussed again during the CIML Meeting.

Mr. Beard commented that within the SADC MEL region, there were two Portuguese-speaking countries (Angola and Mozambique). He felt that it would be useful to look into whether many OIML Recommendations and Documents had been translated into Portuguese and whether electronic copies of these were available. Mr. Dunmill reported that within ISO DEVCO there was a call for those countries which had translated publications into their own languages to make this known, so that these versions of the publications could be made available to a wider audience. He felt that this approach could be useful within the OIML.

2 Reports from Working Groups

2.1 WG 1 - Training

Mr. Wallerus reported on the progress of this group which had concentrated on the revision of D 14 - *Training of legal metrology personnel*. It was intended to update the qualification requirements for pattern approval officers and verification officers, and then to see how these requirements could be fulfilled. He reported that a questionnaire had been circulated to members of the working group and that replies had been received from about half of its members. An analysis of the comments had been carried out, looking at those areas of work which needed to be added to the Document, for example more surveillance work and software examination. It was proposed to add a new chapter concerning the essential requirements for training institutions, teachers and examinations, which would be working on coordination with Australia, France and the UK. A revised draft would now be prepared, but additional comments were still welcome from the other members of the working group.

Mr. Nemchinov reminded delegates of the background to the development of OIML D 14. In 1977, OIML SP 31 *Training in metrology* had been created together with three SRs, on the initiative of the USSR and France and a long-term work program lasting until 2000 drawn up. As a result, a document giving a uniform scientific and methodological basis for training engineers and technicians was developed and approved by the CIML in 1985 as D 14 *Training of legal metrology personnel - Qualification - Training programs*. This Document was used and implemented in the USSR and later in Russia.

He then commented that the material presented by Dr. Wallerus consisted of two parts: the first part was a proposal on the revision of D 14 and the second part contained a proposal - in the form of tables - on how to split the content of the Document into several sections. This proposed different levels of knowledge and/or competency depending on the basic tasks of metrologists, i.e. different levels for the training of engineers and technicians, different levels for the verification of simple measuring instruments and for complex ones.

Mr. Nemchinov thought it inappropriate to develop different training procedures for engineers and for technicians. Russian practice and experience indicated that the same basic metrological knowledge was necessary for both categories of metrologists. The differences in objectives stretched beyond the scope of D 14 and these might be included in other documents or achieved by other means, such as additional professional education or by higher qualifications. Therefore he felt that the current D 14 training program for engineers was appropriate for both categories of metrologists, and added that this had been taken into consideration in Russian national standards for engineers' training and education. However, Mr. Nemchinov agreed with the recommendation concerning the employment of engineers for complicated tasks and technicians for simple ones, this practice having long been implemented in Russian legal metrology services.

Concerning the list of measuring instruments (fields and kinds of measurements) proposed by D 14, Mr. Nemchinov said that he deemed it fully up to date and did not see any need for its extension or correction.

2.2 WG 2 - Information

Mr. Vichenkov presented the work of WG 2. He reminded delegates of the reestablishment of three Working Groups by the Development Council in Tunis in 1999 and that although a working group *Information and documentation* had been created in 1994, its activity was included in the general activity of the Development Council.

The new WG 2 *Information* started working in 2000 with the participation of 11 Member States under the responsibility of VNIIMS (Russian Federation). The WG had drawn up documents on its fields of activity, work program for 2000–2001 and a questionnaire on the needs of developing countries on information and documentation. Results of the replies from 6 Member States and 4 Corresponding Members were reported to the Development Council meeting held in London in 2000.

He added that according to longstanding experience, the exchange of information and documentation relevant to legal metrology was one of the basic activities of the OIML which covered the complete spectrum of its activities. The basic center of information was the BIML, but TCs and SCs also had a considerable amount of information and documentation related to their field.

Basic elements of the draft work program were included in the enquiry and the replies showed that there was a real need for information (e.g. laws on metrology, documentation on metrological control and supervision, etc.), a need for the establishment of national centers of information, as well as for computerized databases.

In Russia, VNIIMS (and other metrology institutes) had many documents in this field, such as:

- National register of approved types of measuring instruments;
- Normative documents in the field of (legal) metrology;
- National measurement standards and verification equipment; etc.

which could be translated into other languages if there was a real interest in their use by other countries.

Mr. Vichenkov then mentioned some problems and tasks in relation to the activities of WG 2:

- There was a very wide-ranging need for information;
- General information materials of common interest needed to be developed (e.g. bibliography, classification of measuring instruments, lists of verification equipment, etc.);
- A general forum might be organized (together with the BIML) to discuss ways in which information could be transmitted in the field of legal metrology;
- In order to improve the activities of WG 2 and to realize the tasks included in its work program, a larger number of participating members was necessary.

He ended his report by proposing that the existing information on the OIML Certificate System could be widened by the development of a catalog of categories of measuring instruments for which OIML certificates had been issued and which were widely used and submitted to legal metrology control in developing countries. This could also indicate what measuring equipment was needed for their verification, as well as for traceability to national, regional or international standards.

Mrs. Annabi requested that the written results of this working group be provided to the BIML as soon as possible, so that they could be made available on the Development Council web site and thus be used as a basis for technical assistance. She also pointed out that details of OIML certificates were

regularly sent to CIML Members and a database was maintained on the OIML web site.

Mr. Magaña asked that studies which had been conducted nationally or within a region, such as the APLMF study on grain moisture levels, be circulated to other countries, so that others may benefit from the information. He also mentioned a subject which had been discussed during the EMLMF meeting in June 2001. Developing countries often needed information on pattern approvals conducted in other countries, but they could also provide useful feedback on instruments which do not conform to those certificates to the countries which issued them.

Mr. Vichenkov repeated the proposal mentioned at the end of his report. He emphasized that if the current web site information on the OIML Certificate System were to be expanded into the kind of catalog he had previously suggested, it could be very useful for developing countries, facilitating the acceptance of OIML certificates and helping in the elimination of technical barriers to trade. He undertook to circulate this proposal for further consideration.

Mr. Magaña replied that the list of equipment necessary in various fields of legal metrology was the subject of WG 3's work. Another idea would be a list of equipment available in each country. This was being considered in the work on the Mutual Recognition Arrangement. He reminded participants that duplication of work should be avoided.

Mr. Vaucher informed the meeting that METAS, the Swiss Institute of Metrology, was setting up a new information system which would deal with the most important aspects of legal metrology. This would include normative documents, legal requirements, catalogues of approved instruments, etc. It would be computer based and would be available in German, French and later in English. It was expected to be completed by the end of 2002. Since they were keen that the information included emanated from a wide variety of sources, he suggested that the forum proposed by Mr. Vichenkov could be used to provide information for this system.

Mrs. Annabi urged Mr. Vichenkov to liaise closely with Mr. Vaucher in order to advance the work of this group as quickly as possible.

2.3 WG 3 - Equipment

Mr. Ragulin gave information concerning the approach to equipping metrology laboratories used by the GOSSTANDART (Russia) as well as by companies in Russia and the CIS countries. He commented that this approach had been proven over a long period of time and was thus put forward for consideration by the Council.

The basis for verification laboratories was a Complex Verification Laboratory (CVL) developed by different metrology institutes of GOSSTANDART of Russia that were responsible for keeping national primary standards and for traceability from the standards level down to ordinary measuring instruments. Since the last Development Council meeting, the WG 3 secretariat had produced an 85-page report on CVLs (in Russian). The report contained a terminology, a codification, a list of classification of 12 measurement fields and their subdivisions, basic metrological characteristics of CVLs, etc. Mr. Ragulin said that this report could be widely used when translated into other language(s).

First of all it was necessary to receive information from developing countries on the priority needs of their legal metrology services based on the classifications in the report and on the categories of measuring instruments that were submitted to legal metrology control. Therefore a questionnaire had been drawn up for the countries that would need CVLs.

Mr. Ragulin concluded his presentation by proposing that developing countries planned to equip their metrology services with CVL, and to develop CVLs for the most widely used measuring instruments (such as mass, geometrical quantities, volume, etc.). The existing standard CVLs developed and

implemented in Russia could be modified, taking into account local national technical and economic needs and circumstances.

Mr. Boudissa asked when the questionnaire mentioned would be circulated, and whether there would be just one or several, to cover needs, equipment, etc. He also asked how the information would be used. Mr. Ragulin answered that the question related to many countries which had not yet established their CVL. Further, he said that the questionnaire (which was drawn up in Russian) contained information on the basic types of CVLs and would soon be translated and circulated to WG 3 and other interested countries. Participants would be asked to give their additional proposals as to the composition of these CVLs. Based on the replies received, a summary document would be drawn up containing (among others) standard requirements on CVLs including traceability requirements.

Mrs. Annabi reminded the meeting that this working group, as well as the others, existed to serve the needs of developing countries. She asked that the results of the work of this group be sent to the BIML as soon as possible, who would then circulate them as necessary.

2.4 Discussion of terms of reference for Working Groups

Mr. Kochsiek said that he felt that the overall strategies for WG 2 and WG 3 were not clear and asked that the needs of developing countries in the areas of information and equipment be considered.

Mr. Klenovský suggested that a directory of legal metrology services might be useful, similar to that which was used within WELMEC.

Mr. Hocine suggested that the work of the three groups should not be divided such that they each worked in isolation, with barriers between them. He suggested that the *Information* group could make use of a number of items worked on by the other groups and that these should be disclosed to developing countries, who, he said could make use of much of the information on training and equipment, even if they were not in a position to undertake the training or buy equipment.

Mr. Dunmill thanked Mr. Hocine for his comments and said that if the working groups were to produce what the members of the Development Council needed, it was necessary for those present to make their needs known and to suggest ways in which the terms of reference for the groups could be improved.

Mr. Harel asked whether the philosophy of what is covered by D 1 came under the remit of any of these working groups, since they were having problems in revising their legal metrology laws. Mr. Magaña replied that there were many possible solutions to this question, which were under discussion in the joint working group and within TC 3, but that the idea of the revision of D 1 was that it should be a framework, guiding countries who wished to establish laws concerning legal metrology, but that the details of what should be covered would be left up to each individual country.

Mr. Dunmill proposed that the work programs for the three groups should be examined to ascertain whether they still met the needs of members of the Development Council.

Mr. Magaña indicated that the terms of reference for WG 2 and WG 3 were rather long and that perhaps they should be prioritized, since all points could not be dealt with at once. As an example, he quoted the first two of WG 2's terms of reference:

“To identify the specific needs and requirements of OIML developing countries in the field of information and documentation on legal metrology and related areas (e.g. testing, certification, quality management, conformity assessment etc.);

To assist developing countries in formulating these needs and requirements”.

He proposed that these two should be dealt with before proceeding to the others.

For WG 3, Mr. Magaña quoted the first of the terms of reference:

“To study the needs of developing countries in the field of planning and equipping metrology laboratories, comparison and verification of national measurement standards, training of national personnel.”

He felt that this should initially be restricted to legal metrology laboratories, since otherwise the cooperation of the Metre Convention would be needed. He felt that the issue of training should be dealt with later, and then by WG 1.

He also felt that the second point was important:

“To offer advice and information for national metrology services about potential suppliers of metrological equipment”.

This subject was of great interest, but since there was not currently sufficient information, that it should be considered after the first.

Mrs. Annabi agreed, saying that she felt that giving these priorities to the work of the groups would enable them to work more quickly to satisfy the needs of developing countries. She asked them to respect these priorities whilst working in close cooperation with the Chairperson of the Development Council and the BIML so as to produce documents which were useable and which would be of use to developing countries as quickly as possible.

Mr. Vaucher said that he thought that the “identification of needs” needed to be done by each country according to their current situation, rather than by a working group. However, he said that his institution was able to help in this work, especially by giving information on assistance programs. Mrs. Annabi thanked him for his proposal and Mr. Magaña added that problems concerning the verification of certain basic instruments were common to many developing countries.

Mr. Boudissa agreed with Mr. Vaucher, saying that each developing country should define the equipment or type of laboratory it needed, although he felt that an overall strategy also important. Another critical subject which had not yet been discussed was the deadlines within which the work of these groups would be completed, since this was the third year running that the work of the groups had been discussed in this way. Mrs. Annabi agreed that this was indeed desirable, and requested that each working group should meet before the next Development Council; a report of each of the meetings should be sent to the BIML.

Mr. Birch said that in addition to developing an appropriate legal metrology capability, a legal metrology system needed to be developed. In this, developing countries had certain advantages in that they did not have to follow the same path as that used by developed countries. In particular, they faced the same challenges (such as technological change, expanding scope of metrology, changing role of the state, globalization, etc.) as developed countries. They had the opportunity of establishing a modern system since there were not the same divided and established responsibilities within their countries, as long as they were given the right policy advice by, for example, the Development Council. One aspect of this was legislation, but this needed to be considered in conjunction with administration and coordination, which were all integral parts of a modern legal metrology system. The Development Council should consider advice on the systems which were needed as being as important as that of the capabilities which were needed. Mr. Magaña replied that the revision of D 1, which should be circulated before the end of 2001, contained a number of recommendations of the kind of considerations to be taken into account depending upon the type of structure required in a given country. This subject could be considered in addition to that of the three current working groups and that of TC 3.

3 Reports by representatives of Regional Legal Metrology Organizations

Mrs. Annabi asked representatives of the Regional Legal Metrology Organizations to give reports of their activities which concerned developing countries.

3.1 Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF)

Mr. Birch (APLMF) gave a brief resume of those developments within the APLMF which were of interest to the Development Council, since this was to be his last report as its president. Firstly, he felt that this RLMO had succeeded because it worked within the framework of a regional governmental structure, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Secondly, when the APLMF was established in 1994, it had decided to begin with particular projects to deliver benefits to its members, rather than establishing complex programs. He reminded the meeting that the Asia-Pacific region was a very diverse area, constituting about 65 % of the global GNP and containing all the world's largest economies, as well as some of its poorest and smallest countries. The projects aimed to assist in developing national capabilities and to harmonize regional requirements. It was decided that information was of major importance, and the first directory of legal metrology in the region had been published within three months of the APLMF's establishment. Training courses had also been developed for the most commonly used measuring instruments. Workshops had been organized on "high-value" measurements. In 1996 they had organized a three-day workshop *Modernization of legislative and administrative structures*. And he commented that it was only after about five years of operation that a Memorandum of Understanding and a fee structure had become necessary.

During the last year, a training course on the verification and re-verification of petroleum and LPG meters had been developed by the National Standards Commission (Australia) in association with the China State Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision. The first stage of the rice moisture measurement project, a study tour, was due to take place the following week in Japan, which was to be funded by APEC, as was part of the second stage of the project, the establishment of a metrological control system for rice moisture meters in Thailand.

Mr. Birch also reported on sub-regional developments in the region. The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) consultative committee on standards and quality had so far only really dealt with standardization. Therefore, a committee on legal metrology had now been established. The South West Pacific Islands sub-region consisted of some twelve very small nations, only one of which had a population of more than 1 million and one of which had a population of only 10 000. All had some kind of legal metrology system, although they were too small to participate in APLMF activities; a meeting would be held later this year.

3.2 South-East European Cooperation in Quality, Standardization, Accreditation and Metrology

Mr. Grkov informed the meeting that due to the political situation in Macedonia, the planned third conference had been cancelled. The Macedonian Bureau of Standardization and Metrology had prepared documentation and questionnaires for working groups concerning: 1) the development of a database; 2) knowledge transfer; 3) organization of inter-laboratory comparisons; and 4) drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding. The Macedonian government and the European Union had also been asked for financial support.

3.3 Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions (COOMET)

Mr. Zhagora reported that the eleventh COOMET meeting had been held in April 2001. Currently, the main objectives of COOMET were:

- To achieve equivalence of measurement standards and to harmonize the requirements for measuring instruments and their metrological control;
- To recognize the equivalence of national metrological certificates;
- To exchange information concerning the current status of national metrological services;
- To collaborate in metrological projects; and
- To promote the exchange of metrological services.

He highlighted the current areas of work within COOMET and said that 51 projects were currently in progress and a further 19 were at approval stage. A separate legal metrology group had been established which had six projects. It was also proposed that this group should work on developing Recommendations concerning software, implementation of the GUM, requirements for type approval certificates, analysis of members' legislation, and regional mutual recognition agreements. A directory had been published and a web site was also now available.

Mr. Zhagora concluded his presentation by making some suggestions:

- RLMOs needed to participate in the development of Recommendations and agreements so as to increase the number of countries having an input;
- RLMOs should assist in the implementation of OIML Recommendations and agreements; and
- Recent publications of other international organizations needed to be taken into account when developing Recommendations and agreements.

3.4 Euro-Mediterranean Legal Metrology Forum (EMLMF)

Mr. Lagauterie began by mentioning the seminar *Metrology in the service of economic and social development* which had taken place in Paris in December 2000, jointly supported by the French government, the WTO and the OIML, the proceedings of which should shortly be available. This showed the importance of, and coherence between, all branches of metrology.

He went on to explain that the third meeting of the EMLMF had taken place in June in Poitiers, France, and reminded delegates that the EMLMF was open to members of the European Union, and countries/economies on the Mediterranean, as well as other countries accepted by its committee plus international and also regional organizations concerned with metrology. Mr. Lagauterie listed the Forum's objectives, nearly all of which dealt with cooperation with developing countries:

- To organize the exchange of information and develop mutual confidence between legal metrology authorities;
- To identify and promote the removal of technical barriers to trade;
- To coordinate regional legal metrology training;
- To facilitate cooperation and assistance in the development of the legal metrology infrastructure of members;
- To promote the harmonization of test methods;
- To promote the use and acceptance of OIML publications as well as the OIML Certificate System; and
- To promote the use of mutual recognition arrangements at international level, in cooperation with other regional bodies.

At the last meeting, the Forum had focused on three topics:

- Training - a questionnaire had been finalized;
- Recognition of type approvals - it had been intended to set up a register of type approvals, but it was in fact decided to establish a list of legal metrology bodies, including the appropriate contact persons. A questionnaire was finalized on this subject, which would soon be circulated. It was also considered important to study the conformity to type of instruments presented for initial verification; and
- Draft memorandum of understanding - a draft was finalized, which had just been circulated to all potential members of the Forum.

The subject of finance had also been discussed and the European Union was to be approached concerning assistance in the operation of the Forum as well as training activities.

3.5 Indian Ocean Legal Metrology Forum (IOLMF)

Mr. Birch reported that this Forum had been founded in March 1998 following the establishment of a regional inter-governmental organization, the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation. It was also hoped to transfer into the region resources which had been developed in the Asia-Pacific region. A directory of legal metrology had been published, and a workshop held in November 1998 to consider priorities. The results of this workshop were still with the inter-governmental organization, whose response was awaited. One of the perceived advantages was that the region overlapped with SADCMEML, and some discussions had been held on possible joint activities. It was hoped that some of the IOMLF would be able to attend a SADCMEML workshop in November 2001 on the modernization of legislative and administrative structures.

3.6 Southern African Development Community Legal Metrology Cooperation (SADCMEML)

Mr. Beard reported that meetings of the Cooperation had been held in Tanzania (November 2000) and Lesotho (April 2001). There were currently four technical committees, concerning prepackages (and the sale of goods generally), instruments, rules of procedure (currently dormant), training (currently looking at training programs). From the beginning, SADCMEML had aimed to remove technical barriers to trade and to promote trade, both within the region and with the rest of the world.

Prepackaging had been chosen as the first priority and a document which would become a regional standard on labeling requirements had been produced, based on R 79 *Labeling requirements for prepackaged products* but including local issues such as certain exemptions concerning the “informal” sale of goods to promote the development of small and medium businesses. Comments had also been provided on the revision of R 87 *Net content of prepackages*.

Concerning instruments, Mr. Beard said that although the general principle was to use OIML Recommendations, some work was being done to cover areas in which no Recommendations currently existed. Zambia was currently producing documents covering mechanical counter scales and beam scales.

The PTB had sponsored a training course on the interpretation of the revised R 49 on water meters. As already mentioned by the IOLMF representative, there was also to be a workshop in November 2001 on the modernization of legal metrology legislation. A document detailing the regional training needs and the courses available to meet such needs had been drawn up, with the intention of putting local train-the-trainer courses into place to cover the needs. A development project proposal was

currently under consideration with UNIDO. Delegations would visit the governments of some countries in order to increase their awareness of the importance of legal metrology and to obtain commitment that people would be employed in a legal metrology service if funding could be provided to buy equipment. Priorities were considered to be electronic instruments for the statistical control of prepackages, followed by verification and test equipment for common instruments (nonautomatic weighing instruments, fuel dispensers, larger meters, automatic weighing instruments, electricity and water meters).

A regional legal metrology directory had been prepared, which should shortly be available on the SADC web site (www.sadc-sqam.org).

Mr. Beard also reported that following a vote within SADC MEL, Mr. K. Kapembwa had been nominated as the region's delegate to the Development Council regional consultative group.

3.7 Inter-American Metrology System (SIM) - Legal Metrology Working Group

Mr. da Silva reported that a meeting had been held in Sao Paulo in December 2000 at which the terms of reference and priorities had been planned for the two sub-groups. It had been decided to hold a workshop on prepackaging and to prepare draft procedures for initial verification. The next meeting may take place in December 2001, and would discuss these two projects, as well as the representative for the Development Council regional consultative group. Two items of interest to the Development Council which would also be considered at the next meeting were communications, which were a particular problem for some of the small Caribbean islands, and the development of metrological capacity in these small countries. This of course had funding implications as well as problems relating to technical assistance. Mr. da Silva also asked whether consideration could be given to the development of OIML publications containing more basic technical requirements, perhaps with the addition of some suggestions for verification requirements and methods.

3.8 European Cooperation in Legal Metrology (WELMEC)

Mr. Bennett reported that there was not much in the current WELMEC program of specific interest to developing countries, since most of the work concerned the implementation of the Measuring Instrument Directive. The work program had not changed substantially since the details given at last year's meeting. He also indicated that WELMEC had designated Mr. Klenovský as its delegate to the Development Council regional consultative group.

Mr. Magaña pointed out that WELMEC documentation was available on their web site (www.welmec.org) and may be of interest to developing countries.

4 Proposal for the 2001–2002 work program

Mr. Dunmill indicated the following items as priorities for the coming year:

- Liaison with other organizations (World Bank, European Commission, UNIDO, etc.) in order to identify sources of funding for the programs which had already been identified;
- Developments in the WTO's group on developing countries' access to standardization would be followed closely;

- Activities of those technical committees and subcommittees which had been identified as being of interest to the Development Council would be participated in as far as possible;
- The Development Council web site would continue to be developed. In particular, the training pages would be redesigned in order to keep them more up to date. Mr. Dunmill asked that members keep the BIML informed of updates. The web would will also be translated into Spanish; and
- Comments made during this meeting would be used to review the terms of reference and work programs of the three Working Groups, so as to ensure that they were appropriate and that they met the needs of developing countries. The participation lists for these groups would also be re-established.

An African delegate^(*) commented that the subject of funding had been discussed many times without any solutions being identified. He felt that cost-sharing was an important area to look at when considering funding, since donors tended to be more interested if they see that a country is prepared to give some financial commitment itself.

Mrs. Annabi reminded those regional legal metrology organizations that had not yet done so of the need to designate a delegate to the Development Council regional consultative group.

5 Information on current projects

5.1 UNIDO - OIML - PTB

Mr. Kochsiek gave some information on this cooperation, which aimed to strengthen legal metrology services in developing countries. Although a letter of intent had been signed in 1999, a lack of financial resources had meant that some information had been collected and a study tour undertaken, but real advances in the work were not possible. This year, finance had been obtained under a project called *Promotion of metrology and testing in West African countries* and it was hoped that work could start soon. There was also a European Union project *Programme for the establishment of a system for accreditation, standardization and quality promotion* in countries of the West African Economic and Financial Union, which would be implemented by UNIDO, and these two activities had to be harmonized. Contact had last year been made with seven countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda) and a meeting between UNIDO, PTB and the OIML would be held as soon as possible.

There were also discussions about another project in certain West African countries although a planned initial meeting and presentation to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in September had been cancelled. The PTB had recently received a delegation from some of the countries concerned, so it was hoped that quick progress could be made.

^(*) It was not possible to identify the speaker from the tape recording of the meeting; this is presumed to be Mr. Tukai (Tanzania), Mr. Sinyangwe (Zambia) or Mr. Kapembwa (Zambia).

6 Information on special activities of Members

6.1 Germany - PTB

Mr. Kochsiek reported that the PTB was currently running more than thirty projects in twenty-four countries and four regional organizations. Most of the countries concerned were developing countries or economies in transition, and the funding came either from a special German government budget, from the European Commission, or from the World Bank.

Bilateral projects for the support of legal metrology had enabled legal metrology systems to be implemented in Mongolia, Thailand and Turkey. Additional specific advice had been provided, including short-term experts, a training workshop on checking the contents of prepacked products in Mongolia, a study tour by Thai officials, and training of Turkish inspectors.

An assessment of the legal metrology system in Malta had been carried out by two experts and advice on its restructuring was ongoing.

A seminar on checking the content of prepackages which was to be held in Tunisia had also been supported by training the trainers in Germany and by the provision of equipment.

Further activities supported regional development, such as that which had been established with SADCMEEL. Apart from consultancy work, support had included the sponsoring of three inspectors to participate in a training workshop, a seminar on cold water meters, mass comparisons, etc. Mozambique had also received some equipment for its mass and volume laboratories.

In cooperation with the APLMF, the second seminar on legal metrology for ASEAN and APLMF members was held in October 2000. Participants identified needs and possibilities for cooperation in the region and decided to establish a subcommittee on legal metrology under the ASEAN Committee on Standards and Quality. Thailand had undertaken to act as a coordinator. Next year, the PTB would also start a new project *Support for metrology, standardization, testing and quality* in South-East Asian countries, which would further their regional cooperation in the Association of South East Asian Nations and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

The PTB was also having discussions concerning new projects with the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (UK) and other institutions, mostly in Europe, and perhaps next year there would be some progress to be reported on.

6.2 Cuba

Mr. Antunez Ramirez announced that on 6–7 May 2002 Cuba would host the 12th COOMET meeting. After this, from 8–10 May, they would host *Metrology 2002* in Havana, sponsored by the National Bureau of Standards (NC) of the Republic of Cuba, MACNOR S.A. and other organizations. This meeting followed on from the very successful series of similar symposia held in 1990, 1993, 1996 and 2000. Further details of the meeting could be found on the “Events” page of the OIML web site (www.oiml.org).

6.3 Germany - DAM

Mr. Wallerus announced that the training course on the verification of weighing instruments which had been planned for October 2001 had been postponed to July 2002. A workshop on the implemen-

tation of European Directives into national law was also planned for 2002. This would be of interest for countries wanting to join the EU. The current training program could be found on the DAM website (www.dam-germany.de).

6.4 Switzerland

Mr. Vaucher reported that METAS was to give a course the following week on practical metrology for future verifiers of weights and measures. The course would deal with general aspects of legal metrology, measuring instruments for mass, flow and exhaust gases as well as prepackages. The main emphasis would be on practical exercises and participants from developing countries would be accepted without payment, although no travel or subsistence payments would be available. This was a modular course, so those parts of interest could be attended.

6.5 Belarus

Mr. Zhagora gave information about a successful three-month training program which had been provided by the Belarusian Metrology Institute for two metrologists (from Lithuania and Georgia) in the recently established radiometry and dosimetry laboratory in the field of verification and calibration of measuring instruments. This training program was financed by the IAEA.

7 Other matters

There was no other business to discuss.

8 Next meeting

It was proposed that the next meeting would be held in conjunction with the 37th CIML meeting to be held in Saint Jean de Luz, France in September/October 2002.

9 Conclusion and closure of the meeting

In closing the meeting, Mrs. Annabi thanked delegates for their interest and participation in the Development Council. ■

