

	COOMET informational material	COOMET I/LM/5/2005
	The analysis of the cooperation projects within the frame of APLMF and preparation of proposals for cooperation of COOMET with this RMO in the field of Legal metrology	
<i>Approved at the 6th meeting of Technical Committee TC 2 “Legal Metrology” Moscow, Russia, 27-28 of April 2005</i> <i>Approved at the 15th COOMET Committee Meeting (Vilnius, Lithuania, September 8 –9, 2005)</i>		

Introduction

At the 5-th meeting of COOMET/TC2 “Legal metrology” (31 march- 1 April, 2004, Bratislava) in the frame of SC 2.1 ”Liaisons with OIML, Regional Organisations and National Metrological Institutions” works was suggested to start with theme on project analysis ongoing in WELMEC and APLMF for development of proposals on organization of cooperation of COOMET and RMO in the field of legal metrology.

Representatives of Russia as only country member of COOMET, which is APLMF member undertake development of theme on analysis of APLMF activities (theme 307/RU/04). As for theme on analysis of WELMEC activities, there was no suggestions at the 14 COOMET Committee meeting from COOMET members, whose countries are members of WELMEC.

At the heart of this report on theme 307/RU/04 laid down analysis of 10-th (year 2003) and 11-th (year 2004) APLMF meetings documents.

The analysis shown, that if to talk about COOMET and APLMF interaction, than relating to this RMO works common principles of interaction and cooperation, main of which are:

- Determination and agreement of common aims and tasks;
- Mutual participation in the functioning of leading and working bodies of these RMO;
- Joint execution of projects, which are in mutual interest.

These stages else lie ahead for COOMET and APLMF in their mutual relations. So, at this stage of cooperation the coordinator of project believes, that these RMO have no sufficient common points of contact (e.g., in APLMF – rice moisture measurements, in COOMET – software etc.) and consider possible and useful to formulate on the basis of this report only proposals for the development of TC 2 activities and development in it frames some new directions of cooperation in the field of legal metrology with the aim of harmonization of these RMO activities, first of all aims, tasks and directions of cooperation.

1. Brief information about APLMF

1.1 The Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF) is a grouping of legal metrology authorities in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies and other economies on the Pacific Rim, whose objective is the development of legal metrology and the promotion of free and open trade in the region through the harmonisation and removal of technical or administrative barriers to trade in the field of legal metrology.

In November 1994, the Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF) was established with 14 member economies from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region, and they were: Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and USA.

As Corresponding Member Economies in APLMF also participating Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Columbia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mexico and Peru.

As one of the regional organizations working in close liaison with the OIML, the APLMF promotes communication and interaction among the legal metrology organizations and seeks harmonization of legal metrology in the Asia-Pacific region.

1.2 The members intend to collaborate in APLMF to promote the coordination and integrity of legal metrology activities and services in order to achieve greater harmony of measurement and testing within the Asia-Pacific Region and build mutual confidence in measurement between Members.

Specific objectives are:

- To identify and promote the removal of technical or administrative barriers to trade in the field of legal metrology.
- To develop and maintain mutual confidence in measurement (metrological control) among legal metrology authorities in the Asia-Pacific region.
- To provide a forum for exchange of information among legal metrology authorities.
- To promote mutual recognition arrangements among Members and with other regional groups and individual economies.
- To cooperate with the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) and promote the use and acceptance of OIML International Recommendations and other publications and the OIML Certification System.
- To collaborate with other regional bodies in the field of legal metrology.
- To coordinate regional training courses in legal metrology and facilitate exchange of staff personnel among authorities.
- To facilitate the provision of cooperation and assistance in the development of the legal metrology infrastructure of members.

2. Organizational issues of APLMF cooperation

The highest control body of APLMF is a Forum meeting of this RMO. The Forum shall meet to review and discuss its aims and specific tasks. The Forum shall decide its rules of procedure. The Forum may decide to establish membership fees and approve fees for participation in Forum meetings, workshops and seminars. The Forum will also seek assistance from funding agencies for specific projects.

The Forum shall elect the President from among its Delegates for a period of two years. The President shall normally provide the necessary secretariat assistance to support the Forum.

The main tasks of the President:

- The President shall seek appropriate funding to assist Members to attend meetings, conferences and workshops when necessary.
- The President shall maintain links between APLMF and other Regional bodies involved in measurement standards, pattern approval, testing and conformance, and other regional metrological bodies.
- The President shall represent APLMF as appropriate, at Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) fora and inform Members of relevant APEC initiatives and recommendations.
- The President shall facilitate the publication of the APLMF Newsletter and other publications.
- The President shall ensure that the APLMF Directory of Legal Metrology is regularly updated, and all Members shall make every effort to assist in the compilation of this Directory and keeping the information up-to-date.

Executive Committee of APLMF shall be responsible for implementing the delegated objectives of the Forum. The responsibilities of the Executive Committee are to:

- implement and manage the decisions of the Forum between the meetings of the Forum and provide financial oversight;
- facilitate cooperation of the Forum with other regional and international organisations for the development and promotion of legal metrology;
- ensure proper coordination among working groups of the Forum;
- draft proposals for consideration by the Forum;

- receive and discuss working group reports and prepare proposals for the Forum meeting based on these reports;

The APLMF may set up working groups to undertake specific tasks, which are limited in time and have clearly defined terms of reference.

The APLMF shall meet as often as required but at least once per year. The President in consultation with the Members shall decide the place and date of the meeting. The host economy for each Forum meeting shall nominate the Chair for the Forum meeting. Delegates shall be asked to inform the President of items they wish to have included on the agenda at least seven weeks in advance of the meeting.

A meeting may also be called at the initiative of the President or at least four Economies specifying the items to be discussed, within a minimum of six weeks notice. Eight Economies shall constitute a quorum.

Decisions of the Forum are not binding. All Members shall have the right to propose specific projects. Such projects may be undertaken by interested Members on terms to be decided among participants.

When an area of metrological activity is under consideration by the Forum, all Members shall normally make available to the Forum, information on current and planned work in that area, with the exception of any work carried out in confidence.

The attainment of the objectives of the Forum requires participation by Members to the extent commensurate with resources and expertise at their disposal. In particular, Members are encouraged to consult and utilize in delegations to Forum meetings and activities, representatives of manufacturers and others that are affected by legal metrology laws and regulations in their economy.

3. The main directions of APLMF activities.

The main directions of APLMF activities are represented by Working groups:

- ❖ WG on Training;
- ❖ WG on Goods Packed by Measures;
- ❖ WG on Utility Meters;
- ❖ WG on Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA);
- ❖ WG on Medical Measurements;
- ❖ WG on Rice Moisture Meters;
- ❖ WG on traceability in legal metrology.

3.1 WG on Training.

3.1.1 Scope and objectives of WG on training activities

The Working Group on Training was established at the inaugural APLMF meeting held in Sydney in November 1994. Training has been identified as an important program element, and regional metrology organizations support training as an important component in developing regional confidence in measurement and testing. An APLMF Training Policy has been developed to give direction to this important area.

The scope of Working Group on Training covers:

- The training needs of legal metrology personnel throughout the region by identifying the types of courses, facilities and resources already available, the development of training materials and resources and organization of training courses;
- Raising the awareness of senior administrators to gain their commitment and support for the development of an appropriate technical infrastructure and appropriate financial support;
- Raising the awareness of users and consumers about the benefits of metrological system within their economy.

The objective of WG on training is establishing a regionally consistent training program that will provide highly competent staff and a comparable legal metrology system throughout the region.

The main target outcomes of WG are:

- To establish a training program that is consistent with the processes and principles established in the APLMF Training Policy;
- A survey and analysis report of the training requirements and availability in member economies of the Asia-Pacific region;
- Development of regional training programs and staff exchange among member economies.

3.1.2 The main results of WG on training activities in 2003-2004.

1. A train the trainer course on Verification and In-service Inspection of Fuel Dispensers was held from 4 to 9 August 2003 at the Hotel Hanoi, Vietnam. The main objective of this course was to train highly competent national authority personnel and trade measurement inspectors so they have similar understanding and skills for the verification and in-service inspection of fuel dispensers that are aligned with OIML R 117 Measuring Systems for Liquids other than Water.
2. Carried out survey on consolidate training on NAWIs within each economy (reports progress by June 30, 2003 and by June 30, 2004), reports on further conduction workshops on rice moisture and develop training for Utility Meters .
3. Conducted Symposium on Traceability October 30/31, 2003.
4. Training on Developing Legislation for the Implementation of OIML Recommendation R87 was held in Malaysia on July 28, 29 and 30th.
5. Seminar on Sphygmomanometers was held in Chinese Taipei on August 30 to Sept 5.
6. Verification of Non-automatic weighing instruments was held in November 8 to 13 in Shanghai.

3.2 WG on goods packed by measures

3.2.1 Scope and objectives of WG on goods packed by measures activities

The Working Group on Goods packed by Measure, was established at the inaugural APLMF meeting held in Sydney in November 1994. It is recognized that there has been a great expansion in the quantity of goods that are packaged and measured before sale. The basic trade measurement principle is that these goods should meet similar requirements to goods measured at the time of sale, such as no short measure, identification of the packer on the packet, standard sizes, permitted deficiencies, drained weight and deceptive packaging, all of which may constitute technical barriers to trade.

The scope of Working Group on Requirements for Prepacked Articles covers the legislative and administrative requirements for prepacked articles, including short measure, identification of the packer on the packet, standard sizes, permitted deficiencies, drained weight and deceptive packaging.

The objective of WG is to harmonize the requirements for prepacked articles in the Asia-Pacific economies with a view to removing technical barriers to trade.

Target outcomes of WG activities are

- A survey and analysis report of the requirements and legislations for goods packed by measure in the Asia-Pacific economies and other economic areas;
- Uniform and internationally harmonized legislation and administration requirements for goods packed by measure in the Asia-Pacific economies.

3.2.2 The main results of WG on goods packed by measures activities in 2003-2004

During the year the working group:

- continued to compile a list of contacts in each economy for goods packed by measure
- contacted WELMEC and SADCMEC on issues relating to standard sizes for pre-packages
- conducted a survey of members on their current legislation for goods packed by measure
- discussed with the chair of the APLMG WG on Training a strategy on how to develop legislative capability for the introduction of R87, and for training on its implication.

- Discuss with WELMEC and SADC MEL strategic issues relating to standard sizes and report to APLMF
- APLMF training on developing legislation for the implementation of OIML Recommendation R87, Quantity of product in pre-packages, was held on the 28-30 July 2004, Malaysia. Thirty delegates from 12 economies attended the training.
- Discuss the OIML issues relating to the development of model legislation for the implementation of R87.

3.3 WG on Utility Meters

3.3.1 Scope and objectives of WG on Utility Meters activities

The Working Group on Utility Meters was established at the second Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum meeting held in Beijing on 22 October 1995. Utility meters comprise a range of measuring instruments that are used for trade and these include water meters, gas meters, electricity meters, taximeters, telephone meters and parking meters. There is a need to ensure that the pattern approval requirements for these instruments are harmonized, as there is significant international trade in these meters. The Working Group aims to identify the usage of, and requirements for, utility meters in Asia-Pacific economies with the view of harmonization and uniformity of utility meters requirements in the region.

The scope of Working Group on Utility Meters covers utility meters including water meters, gas meters, electricity meters, taximeters, telephone meters and heat meters.

The objective of WG is to ensure that requirements for utility meters, namely water meters, gas meters, electricity meters, taximeters, telephone meters and parking meters, are harmonized within the Asia-Pacific region.

Target outcomes of WG:

- A survey and analysis on the extent of metrological control of utility meters in Asia-Pacific economies;
- Support the development and adoption of international, uniform and harmonized metrological control requirements for utility meters in the APEC economies;
- Adoption of international recommendations and standards for pattern approval, verification and reverification of utility meters.

3.3.2 The main results of WG on Utility Meters activities in 2003-2004

The 2002 Utility Meters Survey was posted on the APLMF internet site. The site provides summary tables and detailed survey responses. The summary tables indicates for each meter type (e.g. electricity, natural gas, water, etc.), what are the requirements and regulatory programs of the APLMF economies. The detailed section provides the complete survey responses from each country for people who would need further details.

There has been extensive OIML work related to utility meters and APLMF countries have played an active role on the work of these OIML technical committees.

Work has started regarding the planning and preparation of the Electricity Meters Workshop which is scheduled to be held in Vietnam in February or March 2005.

3.4 WG on Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA)

3.4.1 Scope and objectives of WG on MRA activities

The harmonization of legislative and technical metrological requirements leading to the removal of technical barriers to trade is a major focus of the Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum.

The scope of Working Group will identify the requirements for mutual recognition arrangements between legal metrology authorities in the region and other regional legal metrology bodies.

The objective of WG is to support free trade in measuring instruments and the removal of technical barriers to trade through mutual recognition arrangements on measurement and testing in legal metrology.

Target outcome of WG is to develop the elements of a mutual recognition agreement on acceptance of pattern approval test reports and certificates and other legal measurements.

3.4.2 The main results of WG on MRA activities in 2003-2004

Concerning the four items of the 2002-2003 Work Program for the Working Group on Mutual Recognition Arrangements, the following progress can be reported:

- 1) Motivated in part by the discussions at the APLMF WG on MRAs meeting last year in Vietnam concerning expanding the scope of the MAA program to involve as many economies as possible, the Secretariat added language to the Scope of the first Draft Document MAA as follows: "Issuing Authorities and/or national responsible bodies of OIML Corresponding Members may voluntarily take part in a "declaration of mutual confidence" as Associates by indicating in writing their willingness to accept and utilize test reports. Associates do not participate in the committees on participation review." This should add eight or nine more economies from the APLMF membership to be eligible to participate in the MAA.
- 2) The Chairman of the APLMF WG on MRAs, along with other members of the APLMF, has supported and been fully involved in the work of OIML TC3/SC5 (Conformity Assessment) in further developing the MAA;
- 3) Three members of the APLMF (Australia, Japan, US) took part in a meeting of OIML TC3 (Metrological Control) held June 4-6, 2003, in Paris, to discuss the draft of OIML D1 ("Elements for a Law on Metrology") D1 ("Elements for a Law on Metrology").

3.5 WG on medical measurements

3.5.1 Scope and objectives of WG on medical measurements activities

The Survey of Technical Infrastructure Needs of Legal Metrology in Developing Economies conducted by Dr Knut Birkeland in February-March 1996 has identified a number of priority needs to be implemented in the region. Among the many project proposals is one from Chinese Taipei on *Pattern Approval and Verification of Non-invasive electronic Sphygmomanometers*.

At the third Forum meeting in Vancouver, Forum members endorsed the setting up of a Working Group on Medical Measurements (proposed by Chinese Taipei) and to initiate work on sphygmomanometers.

The *scope* of Working Group covers the harmonization, pattern approval and verification of electronic sphygmomanometers.

The *objective* of WG is to ensure the accuracy and reliability of medical measuring instruments in human medication and to promote harmonization and pattern approval in the region.

The *target outcomes* of WG is the development of pattern approval and verification of medical measuring instruments, and as one of the priority projects, the development and pattern approval of sphygmomanometers in the region, to ensure confidence in the accuracy of medical measurements.

3.5.2 The main results of WG on medical measurements activities in 2003-2004

1. In 2003, the working group conducted a survey on non-invasive automated sphygmomanometers. A total of twelve responses were received, namely from Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Russia, Singapore, U.S.A, and Chinese Taipei. The conclusion of the survey including:

- Most member economies plan to harmonize their legislation or regulation with OIML R 16-2.
- Training courses or seminars are required and most of member economies are willing to send trainees to attend.
- Eight member economies recommended that this Working Group should work on Clinical

Thermometer/Ear Thermometers.

2. In 2004, Working Group conducted a survey on clinical electrical thermometers. In this survey was:

- Conducted a comparison of the international regulations and standards for clinical electrical thermometers
- Conducted a survey, based on the result of comparison, of APLMF member economies on their current regulations or standards for clinical electrical thermometers
- Analyze and present the survey results in the following APLMF meeting.

3. Conducted Seminar on Automated Sphygmomanometers, 30 August-3 September, 2004. This seminar was supported by APEC. On the seminar attended 22 trainees. Lecturers were from AAMI, PTB, OIML (TC 18).

3.6 WG on rice moisture measurements

3.6.1 Scope and objectives of WG on rice moisture measurements activities

The Survey of Technical Infrastructure Needs of Legal Metrology in Developing Economies conducted by Dr Knut Birkeland in February-March 1996 has identified a number of priority needs to be implemented in the region. Among the many project proposals is one proposed by Thailand on a research and development project to develop A working measurement standard for the verification of field humidity meters for grain and rice.

At the third Forum meeting in Vancouver, Forum members endorsed the setting up of a Working Group on Rice Moisture Meters.

The *scope* of Working Group covers studying the requirements for type approval and verification for rice moisture meters.

The *objective* of WG is to ensure the accuracy of measurement of rice moisture.

The target outcomes of WG:

- A survey on the types, usage and field development of rice moisture meters;
- Type approval and verification of rice moisture meters to ensure accuracy in field determinations.

3.6.2 The main results of WG on rice moisture measurements activities in 2003-2004

1. Conducted training on calibration of rice moisture meters at Thailand, in August 2003.
2. Developed traceability system for the users of the moisture meters in Asian countries
3. Contribution to the activities of OIML TC (participating in the work of TC17/SC1) on revision of OIML recommendation R59 “Moisture Meters for Cereal Grain and Oilseeds” and TC17/SC8 “Protein Measuring Instruments for Cereal Grain”
4. Conducting Training on traceability of rice moisture meters (Vietnam, Aug 30 – Sep 10, 2004 and Thailand, Nov 11 – 29, 2004).

3.7 WG on traceability in legal metrology.

This WG was established at 11 meeting of APLMF. There was suggested working plan and 2004/2005 working plan.

Working plan:

1. To clarify demands from legal metrology to scientific metrology. What kinds of ‘Traceability’ are sought for Legal Metrology?
2. To make surveys technological problems in each metrological fields.
3. To distribute information among member economies concerning actual models of how to achieve Traceability for certain case of measurements.

2004/2005 Working plan:

1. To make a survey among the APLMF member economies concerning actual ‘traceability’ situation in each legal metrology fields.
2. To make a report of the survey results, and deliver to the member economies.

4. Resume and proposals by analysis results

4.1 Features of APLMF activities organization

In APLMF – as a specialized RMO in the field of legal metrology the structures bodies are Working groups on directions or tasks of cooperation, at that these directions and tasks have more concrete character, then in COOMET and reflect interest of member economies and specificity of their interests.

Each WG in APLMF works on basis of approved document (like Regulations), reflecting scope of activities, tasks and target outcomes as well as on basis of it's Working plan.

The main feature of APLMF cooperation is the high attention which paid in this RMO to studying state and needs of member economies in legal metrology. To this task devoted individual projects and appropriate reports. Study results and analysis taken into account in working plans of WGs, execution state of which annually considered at WGs meeting as well as at Forum meetings in WGs reports (See Annex to report).

4.2. Proposals on development of COOMET TC2 activities

4.2.1 It's proposed, that each SC/TC 2 COOMET was more independent working body of TC 2, namely that it has their own composition of specialists, their own working plan, at necessity hold meetings and periodically reported on TC 2 meeting. At once with the annual report would present Working plan for the next year.

At the same time it is necessary, that as a component part of SC were:

- Works on analysis of member economies needs on task or direction of SC;
- Analysis of need in study and training of specialists on SC tasks with aim of independent holding of courses and measures on training such specialists or for passing request to TC4.

4.2.2 It's proposed to consider on TC 2 meeting the issue about expansion of it's scope of activities for the number of actual problems, define form and structure of works organization on these problems, including establishing appropriate WG.

Among such problems, based on experience of APLMF cooperation, should be noted:

- Issues with MID implementation;
- problems of traceability in legal metrology;
- goods packed by measures;
- medical measurements and others.

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Agenda of 11th APLMF Meeting

1. Welcome address.
2. Opening address.
3. Opening address from Dr. Akira Ooiwa (APLMF President).
4. Roll call
5. Confirmation of the report of the 10th APLMF and WGs meetings
6. Report of the APLMF president by Dr. Akira Ooiwa
7. Report of the APLMF secretariat
 - 6.1 Activities of the secretariat
 - 6.2 Membership and organizations
 - 6.3 Structure of APLMF Membership Fees
 - 6.4 Payments of APLMF Membership Fees
8. Presentation and discussion on topic nominated by the host economy – ‘International and Regional Labelling Requirements: Local Control at what Local Cost?’
9. Activities of the working groups
 - 9.1 2005 action plan for each WG
 - 9.1.1 WG on Training Report 2004
WG on Training Working Plan 2005
 - 9.1.2 WG on Goods Packed by Measures Report 2004
 - 9.1.3 WG on Utility Meters Report 2004
WG on Utility Meters Working Plan 2005
 - 9.1.4 WG on MRA Report 2004
WG on MRA Working Plan 2005
 - 9.1.5 WG on Medical Measurements Report 2004
WG on Medical Measurements Working Plan 2005
 - 9.1.6 WG on Rice Moisture Measurements Report 2004
WG on Rice Moisture Measurements Working Plan 2005
 - 9.1.7 WG on Traceability in Legal metrology Working Plan 2005
 - 9.2 Update of the WGs structure and policy
10. Strategy of the APLMF
 - 10.1 APLMF Strategy 2004/2005
 - 10.2 Others
11. Report of APEC SCSC and other specialist regional bodies (SRBs); APLAC, APMP, PAC, and PASC.
12. Report of the Bureau International de Métrologie Légale (BIML)
13. Report of other Regional Legal Metrology Organizations (RLMOs); ASEAN, COOMET, EMLMF, NCWM, SADC MEL, SIM, SWLMF, and WELMEC.
14. Full member session (full member only)
 - 14.1 Finance
 - 14.2 WG, Membership, and MOU
 - 14.3 Next presidency in 2006-2007
15. Reports of member economies
16. Needs of member economies
17. Other business
18. Future meetings - 12th APLMF and WGs meetings
19. Closing address by Mr. Henry Oppermann
20. Closing address by Dr. Akira Ooiwa