



## **Cooperation on International Traceability in Analytical Chemistry**

### **(CITAC): an overview 2007**

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CITAC was created in 1993 as a voluntary international organization with the mission to improve traceability of the results of chemical measurement everywhere in the world, and to ensure that analytical measurements made in different countries and/or at different times are comparable [1].

The CITAC working group consists today of 35 members from 25 countries. Half of the members are officers of the National Metrology Institutes (NMIs), while other members are from the Consultative Committee for Amount of Substance: Metrology in Chemistry (CCQM), the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), the USA Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the editorial board of the "Accreditation and Quality Assurance. Journal for Quality, Comparability and Reliability in Chemical Measurement" (ACQUAL), universities and other institutions and organizations.

Thus, CITAC plays a bridging role between metrologists and accreditation bodies, industry, governments and universities, and provides guidance to the analytical chemistry community.

The CITAC guides developed with EURACHEM [2] and some other international organizations are well known and widely used in analytical laboratories throughout the world. They are:

- ✓ Traceability in Chemical Measurement. A guide to achieving comparable results in chemical measurement (2003);
- ✓ Guide to Quality in Analytical Chemistry: An Aid to Accreditation, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. (2002)
- ✓ Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. (2000);
- ✓ Quality Assurance for Research and Development and Non-routine Analysis (1998)

CITAC took part also in the development of the recently published EURACHEM/CITAC Guide “Use of uncertainty in the assessment of compliance” and the EURACHEM/EUROLAB/CITAC/NORDTEST/AMC Guide “Estimation of measurement uncertainty arising from sampling”. All the listed guides are available free of charge at the websites [1, 2].

The guides under development with the CITAC participation are: “Assessing performance in qualitative analysis”; “The fitness for purpose of analytical methods: a laboratory guide to method validation and related topics” (revision); and “Selection and use of proficiency testing schemes for a limited number of participants”.

Every year CITAC participates in the organization of international meetings in the fields of metrology in chemistry and quality in analytical chemistry. For example,

three last international meetings organized by CITAC with the local committees and other societies were: The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Metrology – Trends and Applications in Calibration and Testing Laboratories, November 2006, Tel Aviv, Israel (a special issue of ACQUAL (2007) 12, No.8, is dedicated to this event); the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advances in Metrology in India, December 2006, New Delhi, India; and the IV International Congress on Chemical Measurement Traceability and Quality Assurance (IV METROCHEM), July 2007, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

CITAC Terms of Reference (TOR) developed three years ago [3] were revised recently and adopted at the 22<sup>nd</sup> CITAC Members Meeting, 17 July 2007, Sao Paulo, Brazil, in conjunction with the IV METROCHEM. In particular, electronic voting was introduced for the CITAC elections for the first time. Liaison to other international organizations in the field of metrology in chemistry is formulated as a very important aspect of the CITAC activity. The Guidance for CITAC Liaison Persons is developed and adopted at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Members Meeting simultaneously with the TOR. The TOR includes also a proposal for the new CITAC awarding by the Procedure for the Annual CITAC Nomination of the Most Interesting/Important Papers on Metrology in Chemistry (adopted *ibidem*; see details in [4]). Another point in the TOR is the election of the Editor of the CITAC News and the CITAC Website Administrator from the members for a period of three years. Both the CITAC News and the website [1] are very attractive and effective for the dissemination of knowledge and for the contacts with the wide analytical chemistry and metrological communities. According to the TOR, in order to ensure breadth of expertise, the CITAC membership will be reviewed at each CITAC Members Meeting and any new nominations will be considered.

New executive officers were elected at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Members Meeting for 2007-2010:

Dr. Ilya Kuselman, Israel – Chair; Dr. Wynand Louw, South Africa – Vice Chair and the Award Coordinator; Dr. Philippe Charlet, France – Honorary Secretary and the CITAC News Editor; Prof. Wolfhard Wegscheider, Austria – Treasurer and the Website Administrator.

A discussion of the CITAC Strategy for 2007-2010, the first nomination of the papers in the field of metrology in chemistry, and a revision of the CITAC logo were started recently by the newly elected board.

More details about CITAC including CITAC News issued in 1996-2007, adopted CITAC TOR 2007 etc., are available at [1].

## **References**

1. [www.citac.cc](http://www.citac.cc)
2. [www.eurachem.org](http://www.eurachem.org)
3. Kuselman I (2004) ACQUAL 9:172
4. Kuselman I (2007) ACQUAL 12:112