

**REPORT BY THE CONVENOR MR JOHN BIRCH A.M.  
TO DELEGATES TO THE FOURTH  
ASIA-PACIFIC LEGAL METROLOGY FORUM MEETING**

I am happy to report at this fourth Forum meeting in Tsukuba that there has been significant development of the Forum since its last meeting in Vancouver in 1996. The number and range of activities aimed at promoting regional cooperation and harmonisation in metrology have increased both at the international as well as regional levels. The following lists some of the activities of the year.

The APLMF continued to play an important role in the provision of technical input to the SCSC, and to support the APEC agenda of removal of technical barriers to trade in the region at the APEC SCSC meetings in Canada. In particular, at the third APEC SCSC meeting in St. John's, in August, the APLMF in association with the other Specialist Regional Bodies presented relevant issues on standards and conformance in a Round Table discussion. The Convenor and Mr Alan Johnston from Canada represented the APLMF at the Round Table discussions.

The APLMF also provided information on the activities of the Forum to other regional bodies, such as the Specialist Regional Bodies, the ASEAN forum group (ACCSQ), and the Indian Ocean group, Charter of The Indian Ocean Rim Association For Regional Co-Operation (IOR-ARC), and others. The Convenor presented a paper on legal metrology issues at the Workshop on Legal Metrology for ASEAN countries in Surabaya, Indonesia in July.

The year has been particularly busy with the organisation of the three workshops/seminars in association with the fourth Forum in Japan. In the organisation of these meetings and workshops, the APLMF Secretariat has been greatly assisted by the National Research Laboratory of Metrology (NRLM) and I would like to acknowledge my appreciation and thanks to the Director General, Dr Hidetaka Imai and the ATPC (APLMF Tsukuba Preparatory Committee) for the smooth organisation for the Forum and workshops. The APLMF has also been fortunate in obtaining the services of a number of experts to make presentations at the workshops and we would like to thank them for their contribution.

The Training Workshop on Implementation of OIML R76 to be held in the next few days is the result of the Australia-China collaboration effort on Training aimed at harmonisation and measurement skills development leading to the eventual development of mutual recognition arrangements in the region.

The intercomparison testing of non-automatic weighing instruments is progressing well, with testing being completed by a number of economies. The working group on intercomparison on load cell testing took the opportunity to hold a meeting in London in association with the OIML Technical Committee, and testing will commence as soon as the procedures are finalised by members.

I am also happy to report that the APLMF web site (<http://www.aplmf.org>) which provides information to members on the activities of the Forum has been established and we would encourage members to make use of the information available.

John Birch A.M.  
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