

## **Report on OIML Issues by B Athane, BIML Director**

Mr Athane expressed his satisfaction for having been able to attend the sixth APLMF meetings, three of them (Beijing, Vancouver, Seoul)) having been connected with OIML meetings.

He stated that it is the policy of the BIML to attend meetings of regional legal metrology organisations as far as possible although their increasing number (see item 15 on the agenda) makes this participation more and more time and money-consuming.

In fact it is the clear OIML policy to encourage regional cooperation and to participate in it, since certain actions (eg. training, intercomparisons) may be carried out far more easily at regional level than at international level.

Participation of OIML in regional cooperation aims at:

- making sure that regional bodies are well aware of OIML activities of interest for them;
- making sure that regional activity does not conflict with corresponding international activity;
- making sure that the necessary mutual information exists among the various regional bodies (without preventing regional bodies from developing their own bi- or multi-lateral links);
- identifying work projects of interest for one or several regional bodies and deciding whether or not they should be dealt with at international level;
- making sure that human resources are adequately shared between regional and international activities.

The APLMF had identified several work projects which should be dealt with at international level as soon as possible. The OIML has tried to react favourably to this request and as already reported during the Working Groups meetings of Monday 7 September, OIML work is:

- progressing in fields such as mutual recognition agreements, certification, water meters, packaged goods; and
- starting in fields such as electricity meters, heat meters, use of statistical methods.

The next OIML meeting (Tunis, 6–8 October 1999) will be characterised by two facts:

- for the first time, regional organisations having legal metrology interest have been officially invited;

- for the first time, OIML Corresponding Members have been invited to attend as observers.

Several items to be discussed by the CIML are of direct interest for the APLMF.

Among the new or future activities of the OIML, two are relevant to matters evolved during the 6<sup>th</sup> APLMF meeting:

- Software in legal metrology: A technical seminar organised by the French Legal Metrology Administration and the BIML is organised in Paris on 30 September – 1 October 1999. More than 250 participants have registered. The lectures will be published in the OIML Bulletin and are expected to serve as a basis for a new OIML work project to start as soon as possible.
- On the occasion of the recent IMEKO World Congress (Osaka, June 1999), Prof. Hoffmann from Germany and the BIML Director discussed the possibility of creating “virtual measuring instruments” with interactive softwares covering their evaluation/verification, these being made available to everybody through the internet.