**International Accreditation and Mutual Recognition and "The Belt and Road" Accreditation Cooperation, Bringing Out the Best in Each Other**

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The International Seminar of "The Belt and Road" Accreditation Development here held today, constitutes a new move to reinforce international accreditation cooperation and serve "The Belt and Road". Next, I would like to talk about general development conditions of international accreditation and mutual recognition.

**I. Extensive development of accreditation and mutual recognition**

Multilateral mutual recognition agreement of IAF and ILAC are a main platform for IAF and ILAC to support supervision and promote trade. Over the past many years, mutual recognition agreements have been widely developed due to the constant efforts made by IAF and ILAC.

IAF multilateral mutual recognition agreement covers 4 main scopes, namely ISO/IEC17021-1 management system certification, ISO/IEC17065 product certification, IEC17024 personnel certification and ISO14065 greenhouse gas examination and verification. Wherein, IAF management system certification covers 6 sub-scope, namely ISO9001 quality management system certification, ISO14001 environment management system certification, ISO22000 food safety management system certification, ISO27001 information safety management system certification, ISO50001 energy management system certification and ISO13485 quality management system certification for medical devices. Specific certification systems involved in product certification and personnel certification include not only some international certification systems in certain fields, but also various certification systems in different countries and different aspects. Currently, mutual recognition of IAF product certification only contains one sub-scope, that is Global G.A.P. ILAC multilateral mutual recognition agreement covers 4 main scopes, ISO/IEC17025 testing laboratories, ISO/IEC17025 calibration laboratories, ISO15189 medical testing laboratories and ISO/IEC17020 inspection institutions.

IAF and ILAC, at present, are still further extending scope of the multilateral mutual recognition agreement of international accreditation. Besides, some regional accreditation cooperation organizations in Asia-Pacific, Europe and America have applied regional mutual recognition agreement with ISO 170034 reference material producer (RMP) and ISO/IEC 17043 proficiency testing provider (PTP) within the scope of a multilateral mutual recognition agreement of IAF and ILAC.

In 1998, 15 national accreditation institutions firstly signed on a multilateral mutual recognition agreement for IAF quality management system certification, which is the first multilateral mutual recognition agreement recognized in the international accreditation community. Now, there are 65 accreditation institutions being signed members of IAF multilateral mutual recognition agreement from 59 economies, and 92 accreditation institutions from 96 economies for ILAC multilateral mutual recognition agreement. Many accreditation institutions among signed members of IAF and ILAC multilateral mutual recognition agreement are from developing countries. IAF and ILAC member accreditation institutions have accredited over 6600 certification institutions, over 57000 laboratories and more than 8800 inspection institutions. Accreditation system and mutual recognition agreement have gained extensive development in the world.

**II. Remarkable reinforcement of accreditation and mutual recognition**

One of the significant strategic targets of IAF and ILAC is to keep reinforcing influence and functions of accreditation and mutual recognition. IAF and ILAC have strengthened close cooperation with international organizations for standardization, metering and conformity assessment system and also for trading, economic and industrial development for many years, having formed a broad international accreditation cooperation network. The international organizations that have established relationship and cooperate with IAF and ILAC include: International Standardization Organization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), Word Trade Organization and Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Organization for Economic and Cooperation Development (OECD), World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), etc.

In recent years, IAF and ILAC accreditation and mutual recognition system has been increasingly admitted and utilized, and its function of quality foundation to support government supervision and promote international trade has been continuously built up. In the aspect of the global conformity assessment system, many international organizations for the conformity assessment system in the fields of telecommunications, electrician, aviation, automobile, food, agricultural product, forestry, metering, doping, etc., based on accreditation and mutual recognition system, have provided support and guarantees for an effective and economical operation of corresponding conformity assessment systems. In the aspects of government supervision and trading rules, accreditation and mutual recognition have been admitted and utilized in relevant trading rules of European Union, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Gulf Cooperation Council, Association of Southeast Asian Nations and other regions. Also, law and regulation departments and government departments in the U.S. have gradually taken international mutual recognition as a basis to admit and utilize relevant conformity assessment results.

To reinforce communications and propaganda of functions of accreditation and mutual recognition, IAF and ILAC have jointly established a website for "public sector assurance" (http://www.publicsectorassurance.org) with ISO, IEC, IIOC, IQNet and other international organizations, to exhibit cases of government departments and supervision institutions in different countries admitting and utilizing recognized conformity assessment and show the active role of accreditation and mutual recognition in public sectors. Till now, the website has published over 240 admitting cases from 64 economies. Besides, IAF and ILAC are now moving forward to study and build a website for "business benefits" (www.business-benefits.org) to display successful cases of conformity assessment utilized and recognized in a global business field.

**III. Constant improvement of validity and consistency of accreditation**

**General requirements for accreditation institutions.** International standard ISO/IEC 17011 is now under revision, and the new version is anticipated to be issued this year. The international accreditation community, centered on the revision to 17011, is actively studying improvement and innovation points of accreditation review technology and accreditation management mode, including introduce the risk concept into accreditation management; methods to innovate and retain accreditation; increase review efficiency based on information, such as remote review; improve review sampling mode; enhance consistency of review time calculation; raise competence requirements for personnel of various professions at accreditation institutions, etc. Wherein, IAF and ILAC executive committee has decided to establish a joint working group to assess competence of reviewers, and formulate relevant IAF/ILAC application files after jointly studying the new version of ISO/IEC17011.

**Coordination of accreditation technology.** IAF is now positively promoting studies on certification and accreditation technology in the fields of management system certification, product certification, food safety certification, information safety certification, information technology and service certification, energy management system certification, greenhouse gas examination and verification, occupational health and safety management system certification, business continuity management system certification, quality management system certification for medical devices, forest certification, etc. And ILAC is positively promoting studies on fundamental technologies for laboratories, inspection institutions, proficiency testing provider, reference material producer accreditation scope statement, boundary division for inspection and testing, risk assessment related to measurement uncertainty and conformity of testing laboratories, and cooperating with relevant international organizations to promote studies on accreditation technology and standard formulation in the fields of anti-doping testing, forensic science, clinical testing, medical imaging laboratory, bio-bank, etc. Full participation of relevant parties has continuously promoted consistent implementation of various international standards about conformity assessment and systems and requirements related to conformity assessment.

**IV. Carry on "The Belt and Road" accreditation cooperation, serve "The Belt and Road ", and enrich multilateral cooperation for international accreditation**

IAF, ILAC and other regional accreditation cooperation organizations have built up multilateral mutual recognition agreement for international accreditation, promoted extensive admission and utilization of accreditation and mutual recognition, constantly developed and coordinated accreditation technologies, and formed a far-ranging international cooperation network, which has laid a solid international accreditation system foundation for the nations alongside "The Belt and Road" to carry out accreditation cooperation. Accreditation cooperation among the nation alongside "The Belt and Road ", interactive communication and joint development, and interaction and exchanges among the nations alongside "The Belt and Road " through accreditation cooperation can not only promote development of accreditation system of the nation alongside "The Belt and Road ", serve economic and trading development of such nations, but also enrich and promote multilateral cooperation mechanisms for international accreditation. All the three moves can bring out the best in each other. I hope the International Seminar of "The Belt and Road" Accreditation Development will become a new start to reinforce accreditation cooperation among the nations alongside "The Belt and Road ". As expected in the speech of CNAS Director, Wang Fengqing, I am also looking forward to great achievements in terms of deepening pragmatic cooperation and constant exploration and innovation, and also to continuous development of our accreditation business after this conference.

Thank you!