

World Accreditation Day

9th June 2021

Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Pakistan National Accreditation Council
Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan
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Messages



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Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC)



**Xiao Jianhua, Chair, International Accreditation Forum (IAF) (Left).
Etty Feller, Chair, International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) (Right)**

THE developed and developing world is trying its best to meet the targets set out for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. In this regard the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) jointly took a global initiative to mark World Accreditation Day on June 9, 2021, with the theme of 'Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.

Accreditation creates competitive domestic markets, and facilitates trade for both the importers and the exporters through the removal of technical barriers. Conformity assessment ensures that food is fit and safe for consumption and helps achieve sustainable agriculture and food production. This, in turn, contributes to eradicating hunger and securing adequate nutrition and clean water for all people, allowing people to live healthy lives and to improve their social and economic wellbeing.

As the ILAC and IAF mutual recognition arrangements facilitate trade, they contribute to economic development. The ILAC and IAF mutual recognition arrangements aim at facilitating international trade, which is an essential component of a country's path to prosperity. Accredited conformity

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EVERY year, June 9 is marked as the World Accreditation Day (WAD) through a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), to promote the value of accreditation. This year WAD 2021 signifies the role of accreditation in supporting the implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The day is being celebrated with the objective to enhance coordination between stakeholders to identify issues, suggest and share actions required to reduce SDGs reporting gap, enable comprehensive review, regular monitoring and reporting on all SDGs.

Achievement of SDGs has become the objective and motive of Pakistan since year 2015 and we wish every aspect of life should exert efforts to meet the challenges. In February 2016, Pakistan became the first country in the world to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of its national development agenda through National Assembly Resolution. A strong Quality Infrastructure (QI) based on Metrology, Standardisation, Conformity Assessment and Quality is the backbone to achieving SDGs at international and national levels. The Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)

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IT gives me immense pleasure in stating that today, on June 9, Pakistan is celebrating the World Accreditation Day (WAD) with more than 100 economies around the world. This date was earmarked by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) back in 2009 as the World Accreditation Day to raise awareness among the key stakeholders on the use, role and benefit of accreditation. Since then, each year, Pakistan joins the world community in celebrating it.

Each year WAD is celebrated with a different theme, highlighting the importance and use of accreditation in our day-to-day life. In order to end poverty, the United Nations' (UN) ambitious strategy by 2030 has identified 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with associated 169 targets addressing global challenges, such as creating jobs and opportunities to eradicating poverty to affordable housing and energy efficiency and adopting various economy models and advances in healthcare systems.

In this regard, maintaining a close strategic partnership and technical cooperation among IAF, ILAC and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the theme for year

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WORLD Accreditation Day 2021 highlights the role of accreditation in supporting the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The International Accreditation Forum (ILAC) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (IAF) have maintained a close strategic partnership and technical cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as it recognises the important role that accreditation plays in the achievement of the sustainable development agenda and its impact on industrial development and economic growth.

The United Nations' ambitious strategy to end poverty by 2030 and make significant global social and environmental progress could create almost 380 million jobs and opportunities worth \$12 trillion (£9 trillion) in sectors ranging from affordable housing and energy efficiency to circular economy models and advances in healthcare.

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future.

They address global challenges including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, and justice. There are 17 SDGs with

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Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Benefits of Accreditation

- Plays a pivotal role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and supports Industrial Development and Economic Growth.
- Supports the SDGs and the three interrelated thematic priorities: creating shared prosperity, advancing economic competitiveness and safeguarding the environment.
- Delivers the technical and operational foundations that are critical to the functioning of developed and developing societies.
- Supports policy objectives in areas including cross-border trade, food safety, health and environmental protection, and industrial and infrastructural development.
- Provides a trusted platform for defining, developing, and verifying requirements for products and services, helping to ensure and demonstrate that products and services meet specific requirements.
- Provides policymakers, businesses, and other stakeholders with the technical knowledge and capacity to strengthen the implementation, measurement, and monitoring of the objectives and targets contained in the SDGs, and support to achieve them.
- Mitigate Negative Impacts Of Pandemic On Trade and Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Accredited by PNAC Accepted Everywhere in the World

PNAC SERVICES

Current Schemes

- Testing and Calibration Laboratories Accreditation (ISO/IEC 17025)
- Certification Bodies Accreditation (ISO/IEC 17021)
- Medical Laboratories Accreditation (ISO 15189)
- Inspection Bodies Accreditation (ISO/IEC 17020)
- Halal Certification Bodies Accreditation (PS 4992)
- Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditation (ISO/IEC 17043)
- Product Certification Bodies Accreditation (ISO/IEC 17065)
- Personnel Certification Bodies Accreditation (ISO/IEC 17024)
- Training Courses on Accreditation & Quality

Consumers that require the services of a laboratory, inspection body or certification body, should look first for accreditation mark of PNAC

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Shibli Faraz

assessment services in this regard cover a multitude of services, including product lifecycle assessments based on objective and internationally recognised criteria, inspection and certification of the design and operation of environmentally benign technologies and services, and the audit of health and safety management systems.

The Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) is the national apex body for providing accreditation of services to all types of conformity assessment bodies including testing, calibration and medical laboratories, systems, product, 'halal' and all types of certification bodies and inspection bodies.

It has achieved international recognition by signing Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with ILAC and the Multilateral Arrangement (MLA) with the IAF. By virtue of this MRA, its certificates and reports are accepted around the world.

I would highly recommend the regulators in Pakistan to use accreditation as a tool for regulatory monitoring of various types of services providers and utilise the services of PNAC in this regard. I wish PNAC all the best.

Nadeem Irshad Kayani

has developed its institutions i.e., NPSL, PSQCA, PNAC, PCSIR accordingly. MoST is in the process of developing the National Quality Policy to ensure the availability of quality of products/services in the country.

Accreditation is key pillar of quality infrastructure evaluating and ensuring the implementation of standards and conformity assessment services. The reports/results issued by these recognized Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) are critical to the functioning of developed and developing societies.

It supports policy objectives in areas including cross-border trade, food safety, health and environmental protection, and industrial and infrastructural development.

PNAC has attained full membership with IAF, ILAC, and APAC after a rigorous process of peer evaluation. PNAC has achieved its required international recognitions and is sustaining it which is a pride for Pakistan.

By virtue of these recognitions, Test Report/Certificates issued by accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies of PNAC are accepted worldwide.

I congratulate the PNAC for all the hard work that has gone into it despite its limited human resources.

I appreciate the efforts of PNAC by taking such steps and arranging WAD for stakeholders in Pakistan, to sensitise the stakeholders on accreditation and related issues as well as on how they can develop their policies for using the services of accredited CABs to support enforcement of their desired objectives.

I assure full support of the Ministry to the PNAC in its future endeavours.

Ismat Gul Khattak

2021 has been selected as: 'Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)', which highlights the important role that accreditation plays in the achieving the sustainable development agenda and its impact on industrial development and economic growth.

This theme was selected by ILAC and IAF, after

having a good number of success stories around the world, to ensure that policymakers continue to use the quality infrastructure services, including accreditation, to support their SGD agendas.

As a step towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals, Pakistan has taken an initiative to eradicate poverty through different programmes, including creating 10 million jobs, constructing five million affordable housing units, protecting environment by planting 10 billion trees, etc., and accreditation plays a very significant role in achieving these targets.

The positive impact of the Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) on health sector can save lives by using the results of accredited medical laboratories and getting treated in accredited hospitals, besides saving a huge amount which is otherwise spent on poor quality health sector, leading to incorrect diagnostics and resulting in fatalities.

The low-quality and unhygienic food items served through food establishments and manufactured in factories also have a significant impact on the health sector.

The material used for construction, if tested in accredited laboratories, can increase the confidence in its use. The lifts in the building should be under mandatory accredited inspection to ensure they are inspected by competent inspectors.

The olives recently planted, if managed properly, could be certified as organic olive oil, which can contribute to enhancing exports. Other non-food items, if manufactured according to national and international standards, can not just improve the quality of living standards in Pakistan, but also enhance exports.

If the regulators of initial few ministries dealing with issues, such as environmental protection, food safety, drug regulation, agriculture products, health-care authorities, quality control authorities, import and export and criminal judicial system, use accreditation for technical decisions, it can enhance confidence and transparency in decision-making, ease out trade, enhance exports and improve the quality of life of the citizens of this country.

The geographical location of PNAC is such that it has easy access to Africa, Middle East, and neighbouring countries. According to the New National Narrative Centered on Economic Security, Pakistan's focus has been shifted from geopolitics to geo-economics.

Pakistan is offering itself as an economic hub where PNAC's accreditation related activities can send a positive and soft image of Pakistan, which can contribute to the concept of melting pot for positive global interests.

The location of PNAC will also support it in getting around the developing or least developed countries. Being a member of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc), it has access to countries where there is no accreditation body and there is need for developing a system.

Similarly, many of the least developing countries in Africa falling under the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) either do not have any accreditation body or, if there is any, it is mostly not Mutual Recognition Arrangement / Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MRA/MLA) signatory, which means for trade they depend on foreign accreditation bodies which are MRA/MLA signatories.

The secretariat of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) in Pakistan can pave the way for PNAC for penetrating into these markets through our Foreign Office and Embassies and High Commissions in these countries.

There are more than 2,000 Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs), including testing, calibration and medical labs, inspection bodies and certification bodies working on system, halal, product are registered in Pakistan both in the public and private sector, whereas the footprint of PNAC is less than 20 per cent.

All developed and developing economies extensively use accreditation as a tool through their regulatory bodies. In Pakistan there is a need to locally recognise the services of PNAC which are recognised internationally, as the services of PNAC in Pakistan are underutilised, but I believe we can see light at the other end of the tunnel and its not very far.

Xiao Jianhua, Etty Feller

169 associated targets which seek to guide all global, regional and national development endeavours. Accreditation and, with it, other quality infrastructure (QI) institutions, including metrology, standardisation, conformity assessment and market surveillance, is a critical cornerstone in supporting the SDGs and the three interrelated thematic priorities: creating shared prosperity, advancing economic competitiveness and safeguarding the environment.

The technical and operational foundations that are critical to the functioning of developed and developing societies are delivered through accreditation. It supports policy objectives in areas including cross-border trade, food safety, health and environmental protection, and industrial and infrastructural development.

Accreditation provides a trusted platform for defining, developing and verifying requirements for products and services, helping to ensure and demonstrate that products and services meet specified requirements.

It provides policymakers, businesses and other stakeholders with the technical knowledge and capacity to strengthen the implementation, measurement and monitoring of many of the objectives and targets contained in the SDGs, and support to achieve them.

Affirming the partnership among ILAC, IAF and UNIDO, the recent publication 'Quality and Standards and Their Role in Responding to Covid-19', which examines the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on trade, highlights the important role that accreditation can play in mitigating negative impacts and supporting the SDGs.

While there have been a number of successes around the world, the theme of this year's World Accreditation Day 2021 has been chosen to ensure that policymakers continue to use accreditation and QI services to support their SGD Agenda.

The Day provides the opportunity for ILAC and IAF members to share examples of how accreditation may be applied to meet objectives such as increasing trade, addressing health and safety concerns, and improving the general overall quality of output in an economy.

The theme can also act as a trigger for evolution, and to ensure that accreditation continues to be relevant in the face of ever more rapid technological innovations, the impact of the fourth Industrial Revolution and the threats posed by climate change, pollution and the diminution of resources.

Resources such as business-benefits.org and publicsectorassurance.org will support events, press and television coverage, and workshops and seminars taking place in conjunction with the celebration of the World Accreditation Day in over 100 economies to raise awareness of the value that accreditation plays in supporting the implementation of the SDGs. ■

The role and economics of accreditation

By Ismat Gul Khattak
Director-General
Pakistan National Accreditation Council
Ministry of Science & Technology

TRADE is no more restricted to tariff barriers alone. The emerging global trends include new regulatory requirements from importing countries requiring services of accredited conformity assessment bodies (CABs) to facilitate trade. Most economies around the world rely on an integrated system of standards, agreements, regulations and conformity assessment.

PNAC has achieved its international recognition and has signed MRA and MLA with its apex bodies. Despite the international recognitions of PNAC, its services are hardly used, because the benefits or role of quality infrastructure is not as widely known and understood in Pakistan as it should be.

However, there are many instances around the world where Pakistan can learn from their experiences. It is prime time for policy-makers and regulators in Pakistan to start using accreditation as a tool for enhancing exports, controlling influx of sub-standard products, market surveillance and to increase transparency.

In this regard, the Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) was established in 1998 by the Government of Pakistan, and operationalized in 2001 and Enacted in 2017, with the mandate to provide accreditation services to conformity assessment bodies, in order to facilitate trade, protect environment, health and safety of the country and its citizens. But its services are underutilized in the country.

The PNAC is the accreditation body with the mandate to accredit all types of CABs, such as laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies etc.

Pakistan can learn lessons from a number of countries and groups of countries which have benefitted from the use of conformity assessment systems and take similar initiatives by selecting a few priority areas, such as trade, health, safety and environment, for a few standards / schemes, and start implementing it. Initially one or more priority areas can be identified, for which decision at the top level is required, which can be followed by instructions to ministries to implement the use of conformity assessment by their respective regulators.

All stakeholders can be taken on board and informed about the transition period which is usually one to two years depending upon the type of the scheme. Awareness and training sessions are conducted for all key stakeholders. Within a few years, the fruits can be reaped in the form of increased exports by getting orders from high-end markets, despite initial expected resistance of adopting new ways of doing things.

Providing a safe working environment should not be seen as a regulatory burden, but as a way to reducing costs, lowering employee absence, facing fewer accidents, and increasing productivity through a healthier and better motivated workforce. Accreditation can play a significant role in achieving all of this. ■

(Sources: business-benefits.org and publicsectorassurance.org)



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Alert

Beware of Fake Accreditation and Certification

If you want to be sure that you are using HALAL Products strive for HALAL Accreditation and only use the services of accredited Halal Certification Bodies

HALAL ACCREDITATION

The key to Access International Market



BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

- Facilitates WTO agreements of TBT & SPS.
- Facilitates regulators in maintaining security, health, safety, environment and reduce regulations.
- Build confidence of Consumers and Exporters in products or services certified/tested by accredited CABs.
- Promote Quality Culture that provides opportunities for the enhancement of businesses and exports.
- Ensure the Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) consistently follow the applicable standards.
- Play pivotal role in the prosperity of the country through credible trade.
- Increase business volumes & raising HALAL market culture.



Alert

PNAC is Sole Accreditation Body
"Beware of fake accreditation"

ACCREDITATION OF MEDICAL LAB & HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

One Test Can Save Life
One Test Can Crush a Life

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