

INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF THE OIML

The following information was provided by the OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology) at the TBT Committee meeting of 15-16 June 2011.

The OIML works for international harmonisation in the field of legal metrology. The following recent developments are of interest to the TBT Committee:

I. NEW DIRECTOR

1. At its 45th meeting in September 2010, the CIML appointed Stephen Patoray (USA) as the new Director of the Bureau Internationale de Métrologie Légale, the headquarters of the OIML. He took up this post on 1 January 2011.

II. AFRIMETS METROLOGY SCHOOL

2. The OIML worked in partnership with the BIPM (International Bureau of Weights and Measures) and UNIDO, through funding from NORAD, to organise the first AFRIMETS metrology school, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 7-16 February 2011. This major initiative attracted 84 metrologists from: 34 African countries: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and 7 non-African countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Canada, Haiti, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the USA.

3. Over an intensive 10 days, the participants attended plenary sessions covering the organization of quality infrastructure, scientific metrology, legal metrology and accreditation at national, regional and international levels.

4. World-class lecturers also delivered specific technical training on mass, dimensional, temperature and electrical metrology. This training included practical laboratory sessions to gain hands-on experience.

5. There were also visits to various industries, which were used as the basis for a course project which participants completed in groups during the school in order to present their conclusions in the final sessions.

6. The highly successful school was enjoyed enormously by participants and organisers alike, and it is hoped that it will be a key component in encouraging and accelerating the development of metrology throughout the African continent. For further information, please see the website <http://www.afrimets.org>, or contact Ian Dunmill (<mailto:ian.dunmill@oiml.org>).

III. WORLD METROLOGY DAY 2011

7. The OIML and the BIPM jointly organise an annual celebration of the signing of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875, designated World Metrology Day. For 2011, it was decided that the theme of World Metrology Day should be Chemistry, under the slogan "Chemical measurements for our life, our future". This was to align with 2011's designation as the International Year of Chemistry.

8. Events took place in at least 27 countries worldwide, aimed at raising the awareness of political decision makers, industry and the general public of the importance and relevance of metrology to their lives and their economies.

9. Details of the events, the official press release, official posters in English and French, and translations of the posters into 15 other languages can be found on the website <http://www.worldmetrologyday.org>.

IV. OIML MEMBERSHIP

10. The OIML is pleased to welcome Zimbabwe as its most recent Corresponding Member. Following the AFRIMETS Metrology School mentioned above and meetings of other regional metrology bodies, the OIML expects to be able to count a number of other African countries as Corresponding Members in the near future. We are also in discussion with some African countries which wish to become Member States of the Organisation.

11. This encouraging membership situation can only enhance the development of metrology in Africa, and the relevance of OIML Recommendations to countries at all levels of metrological development as these new Members participate in the OIML's technical work.
