



Eurachem

A Focus for Analytical Chemistry in Europe

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Report from WG 5



Establishing PT/EQA Schemes in Developing Countries

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- Participants: 35, about 10 already involved in PT in developing countries



Question overview

- What is the driving force for increasing PT/EQA undertaken in developing countries?
- Do PT/EQA schemes provided in developed countries have a role to play in developing countries?
Are schemes available appropriate, available, affordable, sustainable?
- What difficulties do developing countries experience in establishing their own PT\EQA schemes?
 - what initiatives are available?
 - what assistance is available?
 - what future assistance needed?
 - how can sponsored schemes turn into sustainable schemes?
- Is the awareness of PT/EQA schemes in laboratories improving ?
- Is the accreditation of PT/EQA schemes in developing countries needed today ?
- Is sponsored scheme the best way to establish PT/EQA scheme in a developing country?



What is the driving force for increasing PT/EQA undertaken in developing countries?

- Accreditation of laboratories; PT participation is a requirement
- Trade – requirement from importing countries; needs for prove of competence
- Legislation/regulations requirements
- Health and Safety – Environmental protection
- Voluntary – laboratories want to improve their quality management systems to be more competitive
- Increased awareness in the scientific community



Do PT/EQA schemes provided in developed countries have a role to play in developing countries?

Are schemes appropriate, available, affordable, sustainable?

- Yes, they have a role to play
 - Demonstration of competence for accreditation and hence trade facilitation
- Appropriate and available – yes; but not always covering the scope required
- Affordable – generally NO
- It is not sustainable to rely totally on those schemes



What difficulties do developing countries experience in establishing their own PT\EQA schemes?

- (a) what initiatives are available**
- (b) what assistance is available**
- (c) what future assistance needed**
- (d) how can sponsored schemes turn into sustainable schemes?**

- Projects available, supported by PTB, UNIDO, USAID, WHO etc. as funding agencies
- The challenge is now to sustain the schemes, when the project ends
- Participation fee will not be sufficient – funding either from another development partner or respective government
- Awareness creation on importance of PT in trade facilitation/ health and environment protection is highly required



Is the awareness of PT/EQA schemes in laboratories improving ?

- Accreditation need is increasing and with that the need for participation in PT
- But the required level of awareness has not yet been reached
- Accreditation and QA/QC is not cost free! The costs have to be included in the price of the analyses
- It is very important to ensure sustainability of PT in the developing countries to sustain their economies



Is sponsored scheme the best way to establish PT/EQA scheme in a developing country?

- Yes and No
- It is not the only way, but initial support is required from a sponsor
- The government has to take over the role of supporting PT



Is the accreditation of PT/EQA schemes in developing countries needed today ?

- The PT scheme should fulfill the requirements of the standards to gain confidence from participants
- PT provider may consider accreditation at a later stage