

8th PT/EQA Workshop - Berlin 2014

Report from WG 5

PT/EQA in developing countries

- Convenors:
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'Developing country'

- Complex and sensitive concept
 - Different criteria used
- 144 countries listed (April 2014)
 - 33 registered for this workshop

Who participated?

Number of participants:	47
Participants from developing countries:	21
Testing/calibration laboratory:	20
PT/EQA provider:	24
National metrology institute:	8
Authority/regulatory body:	1
Accreditation body:	2
Other (consultants):	5



Summary from Istanbul 2011 (1)*

- Many developing countries have some PT/EQA activities. Well known problems include...
 - Not enough participants, logistics, finance
- PT/EQA activities increasing...
 - Laboratory accreditation, trade, quality awareness, legislative requirements
- PT/EQA schemes from developed countries often appropriate and available but not affordable
- National/international organisations have provided financial support to establish PT/EQA schemes → not a long-term solution

*Accred Qual Assur 2012, 17, 445



Summary from Istanbul 2011 (2)

- Creating awareness of the importance of PT/EQA for trade facilitation, as well as health and environment protection are major issues!
- Laboratories not always aware of the importance of PT/EQA!
 - Laboratory managers need to consider costs for PT/EQA → may lead to sustainable PT/EQA activities but sponsoring will still be needed for some time
- PT/EQA schemes in developing countries should fulfil requirements in international standards even though accreditation of schemes cannot be afforded at present



1a. Is the availability of and participation in PT/EQA schemes in developing countries improving?

- “Yes”: **26**
 - Driven by national accreditation bodies (8)
- “No change”: **1**
- “Deteriorating”: **0**



1b. Is the availability of and participation in PT/EQA schemes in developing countries improving? Give examples!

- Namibia: from 20 to 73 participants in a drinking water PTS
- Jordan: Many more accredited labs → PT participation but all PTS from abroad
 - National PTS did not succeed
- Uganda: A small PTS sustainable also after financial support from PTB ceased

2. The cost for participation in PT/EQA schemes run from developed countries is often a limiting factor for laboratories in developing countries. How can this affordability problem be solved?

- Ethiopia: More local involvement, make participation mandatory
- Customs problem: Introduce a unified customs tariff number for PT items similar to what has been done for RMs
- Transportation costs: Distribute from one local representative
- Shared resources: Don't reinvent the wheel
- Indonesia: Income from CRM sales sponsors some PT activities

3a. Is the understanding of the importance of PT/EQA by authorities, regulatory bodies and laboratory managers in developing countries improving?

- “Yes”: **27**
- “No change”: **1**
- “Deteriorating”: **0**

3b. What can/should be done to further improve the situation?

- Jordan: More information about importance (including in television)
- User meetings organized by PT providers (12)
- Make laboratory customers more aware of what accreditation means
- Awareness is there but it's not a priority and real commitment (authority/regulatory level) is lacking!

Thank you

4. Are there good examples ('success stories') of PT/EQA activities in developing countries that we can learn from?