Perceptions from previous workshops

- The issue of PT in developing countries was discussed in the previous three workshops in Rome (2008), Istanbul (2011) and Berlin (2014)
- In all workshops the same topics were discussed
  - Availability
  - Appropriateness
  - Affordability
  - Sustainability of local/regional initiatives
  - Awareness on the importance of PTs
- Has anything changed within the last ten years?
Online survey

- I want to share the main results with you

Participation in the online survey

- 77 answers have been received from 35 countries
- Either directly from developing countries or from people organizing PTs in developing countries
Why participate in PTs?

Main motivation to participate

- Accreditation requirements
- Commitment to quality
- Requirements from clients
- Training
- Regulatory requirements
- ISO 9001 certification
- Networking
- Laboratory competence
- Available funds

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Why not participate in PTs?

- Affordability (fees being too high)
- Availability
- PTs do not match the requirements
- Transport issues (e.g. customs)
- Lack of awareness
- Workload
- not mandatory
- culture
- PT policy
- Lack of management support

What are the changes over the last ten years?

- Obviously things seem to improve
Is this reflected in PT participation?

National/regional PTs

- Many labs want to have national/regional PTs
- Mainly because of expected improvements for affordability and availability and less customs problems
• What means 'availability'?
• Is a PT available, when it is expensive?
What information sources are used to find suitable PTs?

- Internet
- EPTIS
- Lab associations
- Governmental institutions
- Accreditation bodies
- Colleagues in other labs
- Customers of the lab

degree of popularity surprisingly low

Does the accreditation body require you to participate in accredited PTs?

- Why?
- This is not a requirement in ISO 17025
- Neither in the old nor in the new version
- No, but the scheme has to be compliant with ISO/IEC 17043
- No
Accreditation of PT provider

- Seems to be mainly ok, but with widespread differences

Main challenges in the next ten years

- Affordability
- Accreditation of PT provider
- Increase awareness in the labs
- Availability of PTs
- More national PTs
- Improve sample transport (customs)
- Staff training
- Equipment
- Harmonizing accreditation of PT provider
- Sustainability of national PTs
- Expand PT schemes
- Technical PT problems
- Lack of CRMs
- More countries to participate/co-operation
- Increase awareness in the authorities
- Staff turnover
- Traceability
- Weaker ILAC PT policy
- Lack of expert labs
- Support from government
- Costs of chemicals
- Establishing CMC tables for testing
- PTs to be central hubs for networks
- Suitability of PTs
- Motivate participants to do corrective actions
Required support for the future

- Financial support to make PTs affordable
- Training for PT provider
- Training equipment for labs
- Installation and financial support for national/regional PTs providers
- Training in QA
- Create PT provider network
- Equipment/infrastructure for PT provider
- Financial and technical support for the accreditation process
- Training of PT accreditation assessors
- CRM for PT providers
- Support from the government
- ISO 17025 training
- External auditors
- Technical support
- Training for authorities
- Create awareness in authorities
- IT support for PT provider
- Create awareness in the labs
- Need of customs authorities support and awareness
- Annual PT conferences and workshops
- Establish distributors in the least developed countries
- Training in CMC
- Training on root cause analysis
- Technical and financial support to improve QI

My personal opinion - I

- Are national/regional PTs the solution?
- Without sponsoring it is a bit cheaper, but not much
- External sponsoring should be only temporary
- Sponsoring should come from national governments to be sustainable
- Customs problems
- Very unpredictable
- A special tariff code for PT samples could be helpful
- Who is taking care of that?
- What means availability?
- Is a PT from Europe "available", if it is very expensive due to expensive transport?
- Have all information sources been used?
My personal opinion - II
What is necessary for the future?

- Costs for participation in proficiency tests are part of the analytical costs. When calculating the costs of analyses for the customer this has to be included and therefore covered by the customer.
- External financial support is useful only if it is part of a sustainable(!) solution.
- Financial support of EPTIS specifically for the improvement of coverage of developing countries and increase of the awareness about EPTIS from funds dedicated to development cooperation could make sense.
- The competence of AB in connection with participation in PT sometimes has room for improvement.
- Networking between labs always is helpful.

Conclusions

- Affordability still is the major topic.
- Training for laboratories and for accreditation bodies would be helpful.
- If possible trainers should be trained in the developing countries.
- It should be considered thoroughly in advance whether a national/regional PT scheme is really sustainable. Sometimes this could be the case. But the scheme needs to survive the end of sponsoring.
Thank you very much!

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