



**SIM Council Meeting**  
**Hotel Real Intercontinental, San Pedro Sula, Honduras**

**September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**ATTENDENCE LIST**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Humberto Brandi	President, Inmetro
Claire Saundry	Permanent Technical Advisor, NIST
Oscar Harasic	Executive Secretariat, OAS
Ignacio Hernandez	PDC Chair, CENAM
Alan Steele	TC Chair
	JCRB Representative, NRC
Katalin Deczky	on behalf of NORAMET Coordinator, NRC
Ever Cabrera	SURAMET Coordinator, INTN
Sarah Knox	on behalf of CARIMET Coordinator, TTBS
Juan Carlos Castillo	ANDIMET Coordinator, Ibmetro
Gustavo Montiel	CAMET Coordinator, Lanamet

**Non voting members**

Ed Nemeroff	NCSLI Representative
Taynah Souza	Secretariat

**Observers**

Alan Johnston	OIML
Saul Garcia	Cenamep
Hector Nava Jaimes	CENAM
Efrain Paz	CEHM/Cohcit

**DRAFT Agenda:**

- 1. Introduction and Welcome/Introducción y Bienvenida**
- 2. Verification of Quorum/Verificación de Quórum**
- 3. Approval of Agenda/Aprobación de Agenda**
- 4. Approval of the Minutes from previous Council Meeting /Aprobación de la Acta de la Reunión Anterior del Consejo**
- 5. Matters arising from the Minutes/Asuntos derivados de la Acta**
- 6. Report on 2008 Budget/Informe sobre el Presupuesto de 2008**

7. **Revision of SIM Statutes/**Revision de los Estatutos del SIM
8. **SIM Representation at OIML/** Representación del SIM ante OIML
9. **SIM as Associate Member of AFRIMETS/** SIM como miembro asociado del AFRIMETS
10. **Preparation for GA 2009/**Preparación para la AG/2009
11. **PTB Project /** Proyecto PTB
12. **Other Business/Otros** Asuntos

## **Minutes:**

### **1. Introduction and Welcome**

SIM President, Humberto Brandi, welcomed the participants and thanked Efrain Paz, CEHM/Honduras, for the organization of the meetings and of the SIM Week. He especially welcomed Ed Nemeroff, the new NCSLI Representative to SIM and Alan Johnston, President of CIML.

### **2. Verification of Quorum**

Quorum was verified, 10 out of 12 members of Council being present.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

It was proposed the inclusion of an extra item for discussion in the agenda, on the PTB Project (Item 11). With this modification, the agenda was approved.

### **4. Approval of the Minutes from previous Council Meeting**

The minutes of the last Council Meeting, held in Orlando/USA on August 03<sup>rd</sup> were approved with no amendments.

### **5. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

### **6. Report on 2008 Budget**

Claire Saundry informed the Council that the Presentation she had made about the 2008 budget at last Council Meeting remained valid and there is no new information at this time.

She also informed that the first disbursement report had been completed and submitted about two weeks ago, in which questions were answered to satisfaction of OAS. The next disbursement is supposed to be available shortly and, in this context, she pointed out that the report for next cycle will begin immediately. Claire Saundry then expressed that it will be nice to have PDC/TC Reports submitted by December 01<sup>st</sup> to ensure that we can receive the final disbursement in time for final elements and spending before end of March.

### **7. Revision of SIM Statutes**

Claire Saundry remarked that there had been no new information concerning the Revision of SIM Statutes. The only change since last Council meeting was that the QSTF is now under the TC rather than the PDC. Hernando Florez did a translation into Spanish, verified by a US Official translator to be correct as a working version. The last version of the document was sent around two weeks ago for GA members and a summarized presentation will be made by Claire Saundry for consideration and voting at the General Assembly.

## **8. SIM Representation at OIML**

Alan Johnston, President of CIML made a presentation on behalf of OIML. He informed that the next OIML General Assembly will take place at the end of October in Sydney, Australia. At this event, OIML intends to further discuss its relation with regional legal metrology organizations. One agenda item is related to the draft MoU between OIML and the Regional Legal Metrology Organizations (RLMOs)

Mr. Johnston reported that the MoU is acknowledged to be premature, and was intended as a vehicle to initiate discussion on how the regions could work better with OIML. The objective is to ensure that regional organizations can work more effectively with OIML. Some Regions develop procedures which, while based loosely on OIML procedures, differ in some significant manners; this can cause problems when OIML is asked for an interpretation, but they are not necessarily aware of the differentiation. Johnston wishes to promote ways to work together, especially in times of dwindling resources and, to a certain extent, dormant situation among regional organizations, particularly SIM

There may be concerns among member states about, for example, the role of the Regional organizations. SIM has been invited (along with WELMEC, APLMF, etc) to participate at this event.

Johnston assured the Council that there is no intent to sign any sort of document in Sydney; he feels that it is at least two years away from being a signable document; not least of which is the role and responsibility of the RLMOs to be allowed to sign on behalf of their members; he is being careful both today and again in Sydney that this is a discussion piece.

The next objective is to determine how this can work for everyone – the OIML, the Regions, the National Bodies, etc.; cooperation is definitely required.

Johnston is sensitive to the fact that the member bodies of SIM do not, in fact, represent the national legal metrology organizations in their home nations.

Humberto Brandi then remarked that from his point of view, SIM members have many needs in the field of legal metrology. He briefly mentioned the recent project that was approved – especially dedicated to legal metrology activities – by a Brazilian agency to SIM. Humberto Brandi acknowledges difficulties that some countries have to deal with legal metrology issues, since it is not always the NMI responsible for conducting legal metrology activities. Despite this difficulty, to Humberto Brandi this is a very welcome discussion, and he emphasized the need of improving the cooperation between legal metrology and scientific and industrial metrology arenas.

Claire Saundry then asked, within the framework of the scientific metrology, which has the BIPM as a parallel organization to the OIML, and an existing joint committee with the regions (the JCRB), but there is no “regional” agreement – instead, there is a mutual recognition arrangement that involves individual NMIs; how might an MoU with the OIML work, if SIM is somehow implicated as a regional organization, rather than the individual treaty signatories.

Johnston points out that the confusion may be due to the fact that there was a missing piece, namely the note that this is a “discussion only” document, with particular reference to who might be signing, and what that implies; noting that an MoU is not a legal document, nor was it ever intended to be that, he pointed out that the goal is to increase cooperation using a different vehicle, since recent successes have been unimpressive.

As a Canadian, Johnston pointed out that Canada’s legal metrology institute is a member in APLMF, but not in SIM; this is a specific example of the type of issue that might need to be addressed at the outset.

With regards to this specific issue, Humberto Brandi noted that SIM has a role to represent legal metrology in the region, but the statutes may not fully reflect this, and we must be aware that the member organizations may not be the most appropriate bodies to take on this role.

Claire Saundry noted that there is a recent reinvigoration of the legal metrology working group, under the chairmanship of Marcos Senna.

There is an existing MoU between OIML and SIM, signed about 10 years ago, while Nava was the SIM president; Hector Nava gave his observations on this point, noting that the intention was to be open minded and work together. There was general discussion on the relative roles of legal and scientific metrology, with observation that in developing countries legal metrology often takes on a more important role since it directly supports trade and commerce, and scientific metrology can be taken from a more developed partner

Steele summarized his understanding that there seems to be no specific objective in the engagement of the regional legal metrology organizations, beyond initiating a dialog, and that in particular there is no agenda that touches directly on the scientific metrology role of similar organizations – such as SIM.

Humberto Brandi suggests that it would be useful and possible to work within SIM to propose some sort of internal collaboration to improve the relationship with legal metrology

Claire Saundry notes that the vehicle for this work could be the Legal Metrology Working Group, who could be asked to bring it to SIM Council.

Ignacio Hernandez then mentioned the upcoming SIM/PTB Course on Flow and Water Meters in Legal Metrology, which could be used as a dual-purpose event; Johnston notes that this exactly makes his case that duplication of effort is happening, and that there are opportunities to capitalize and expand the impact; Ignacio talks about OIML 49 and ISO 4064, and wonders if the presentations are, or could be, made available on the internet; Johnston points out that China has just taken over the role of secretariat, and so not everything from APLMF is available on the web, but the intention would certainly be that this would happen in the fullness of time to benefit others who might be interested in developing a similar training event or course; right now, he does not think that it is available online, since the course was only offered last week; Johnston offers to make everything available, and suggests that moving forward more modern technologies, such as video capture or web-casting, could make this more impactful.

#### **9. SIM as Associate Member of AFRIMETS**

During the last NCSLI there was a presentation from AFRIMETS, and it was shown their associate members, so Claire Saundry thought it would be nice to ask them that SIM becomes an associate member as well.

Alan Steele asked whether there is any fee for that and Claire Saundry is supposed to check this information. After that Humberto Brandi is supposed to send them a letter asking to be an associate member of AFRIMETS.

**Council Resolution 07/08:** Humberto Brandi is supposed to send a letter to AFRIMETS asking them to have SIM as their associate member.

#### **10. Preparation for GA 2009**

Humberto Brandi pointed out that next year is going to be celebrated SIM 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and he thinks we should commemorate. Hector Nava-Jaimes agreed as he considers SIM to be one of the most well-succeeded OAS Projects.

For this event one suggestion was to invite all of those involved in SIM creation.

Juan Carlos Castillo informed the Council that Andimet proposes that the next SIM GA be held in Lima /Peru.

Ed Nemeroff offered to help and stated he has a lot of experience in celebration events, as he was the President of NCSLI at the time of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### **11. PTB Project**

Oscar Harasic firstly made a brief description about the activities carried out in a quite successful project under the scope of the triangular cooperation, counting on two donor countries – Cenam and Inmetro – and two benefitted countries – Peru and Bolivia, receiving the financial support of PTB. Oscar Harasic is supposed to send the electronic flyer to Taynah Souza, to publicize it on SIM webpage.

Ignacio Hernandez then explained another initiative that is being conducted with PTB partnership – the “Regional Cooperation for Environmental Protection and Food Safety in Latin America and Caribbean”.

After an email sent by Ulf Hillner to Willie May, the Council decided to discuss the issue a little bit further. Claire Saundry stated she felt as if SIM has not been consulted about the proposal and that even though it may be a good Project she feels it has not been a good approach.

Humberto Brandi agreed with Claire Saundry, that the Project should be discussed into more depth, He Just clarified that when the information came to him he thought it was a Project that had already been through a long discussion.

Oscar Harasic informed the Council that this Project started four years ago as a proposal of the German Government, that does not wish to establish cooperation under the bilateral level, but in the regional level.

There is also a concern with the lack of coordination of requested financial support. Alan Steele then suggested holding a friendly conversation with PTB to deal with the subject. Humberto Brandi then suggested inviting Ulf Hillner to the SIM Council to be held right after the GA to discuss the Project. He also proposed that all next project proposals be discussed at the Council Meeting.

Ed Nemeroff informed the Council that NCSLI has a special procedure to analyze and approve new project proposals, and he will share with the Council to help SIM to establish a procedure for the future.

## **12. Other Business**

Ed Nemeroff made a few remarks about the cooperation between NCSLI and SIM and would like to discuss after the GA the initiatives in which he and NCSLI could be helpful.

Humberto Brandi explained to the Council the misunderstanding involving the candidacies to the election of the next SIM President. He made it clear that both Canada and Brazil have similar views for SIM and that there has never been the intention of having a competition between the candidate of the two countries, what happened at first because of a communication problem. After the misunderstanding became clearer, Alan Steele decided to withdraw his candidacy.

Hector Nava-Jaimes then remarked that he supports a stronger position for Canada within SIM and that Alan Steele be a candidate for the election of the SIM President for the period 2011-2013. Alan Steele thanked the support and reported that Canada will continue supporting SIM and that it has been a pleasure for him to work in the TC with Hernando Florez.

Humberto Brandi then informed the Council that Taynah Souza will no longer remain as SIM Secretary. She will be the representative of Brazil at the next GA this information will be given to SIM members to start looking for other NMIs that may be interested in assuming the Secretary.

Humberto Brandi then thanked Efrain Paz for hosting the SIM meetings and for their full cooperation.

Having no other issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**SIM Council Meeting  
Hotel Real Intercontinental  
San Pedro Sula – Honduras  
September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**ATTENDENCE LIST**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Humberto Brandi	President, Inmetro
Claire Saundry	Permanent Technical Advisor, NIST
Oscar Harasic	Executive Secretariat, OAS
Ignacio Hernandez	PDC Chair, CENAM
Alan Steele	TC Chair
	JCRB Representative, NRC
William Anderson	QSTF Chair, NIST
Katalin Deczky	on behalf of NORAMET Coordinator, NRC
Ruben Verdugo	SURAMET Coordinator, INN
Sarah Knox	on behalf of CARIMET Coordinator, TTBS
Jose Dajes	ANDIMET Coordinator, Indecopi
Saúl Garcia	On behalf of CAMET Coordinator, Cenamep

**Non voting members**

Ed Nemeroff	NCSLI Representative
Taynah Souza	Secretariat

**Observers**

Ulf Hillner	PTB
Alexis Valqui	PTB

**DRAFT Agenda:**

- 1. Introduction and Welcome /** Introducción y Bienvenida
- 2. Verification of Quorum /** Verificación del Quórum
- 3. Approval of Agenda /** Aprobación de la Agenda
- 4. PTB Project /** Proyecto PTB
- 5. Matters arising from the General Assembly /** Asuntos derivados de la Asamblea General
- 6. General Assembly 2009 /** Asamblea General 2009
- 7. Future Activities /** Actividades Futuras

**Other Business/Otros Asuntos**

**Minutes:**

- 1. Introduction and Welcome**

SIM President, Humberto Brandi, welcomed the participants.

## **2. Verification of Quorum**

Quorum was verified, 11 out of 12 members of Council being present.

## **3. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with no amendment.

## **4. PTB Project**

Ulf Hillner made a brief presentation about the Project entitled “Regional Cooperation for Environmental Protection and Food Safety in Latin America and Caribbean”. He explained that this Project is basically a continuation of the old Project of Chemical Metrology, keeping the same name. Ulf Hillner explained that the Project that had been proposed in 2002 finished in March/2008, and after its evaluation it was considered well-succeeded, what opened the path for submitting a second phase for the Project.

Humberto Brandi then pointed out that the Council did not have the information that this was a second phase of the old Chemical Project. Oscar Harasic and Alexis Valqui then made some comments on the negotiation between OAS and the German Government that made the Project available in 2002.

Claire Saundry then pointed out she had the feeling that this second phase had not been discussed within the Chemical Metrology Working Group (CMWG).

Ulf Hillner explained that the Projects’ evaluation had been conducted in the last GA in Ottawa and it was presented to the CMWG, involving the group in the discussion.

In order to avoid other misunderstanding in the future, Ruben Verdugo suggested the creation of a kind of procedure to conduct the implementation and managing of projects within SIM. This goes in the same direction of the discussion that was held on the Council Meeting prior to the GA.

Alexis Valqui and Ulf Hillner then left the room so the Council could discuss the issue a little bit further.

Claire Saundry made a phone call to Willie May who expressed his willingness to cooperate, but as he believes that some parts of this second phase of the Project may go beyond the scope of the CMWG, he suggested that the Project fall under the scope of PDC. Ignacio Hernandez agreed with the suggestion and remarked he will be always in contact with Claire Saundry and Willie May.

Alexis Valqui and Ulf Hillner returned to the room and were informed that Ignacio Hernandez would be the contact point for the project.

Alexis Valqui then made another proposal to the Council – of organizing a workshop about the relation between NMIs and the industrial sector, taking the Mexican Mesura Program as a model. The idea is to organize an event for exchanging experience so that NMIs get advantage from that.

Humberto Brandi supported the initiative. Claire Saundry also supported but, following the trends the Council will now take, she asked for a one page explaining the objectives, and the main framework of this proposal so the Council can analyze it.

The Council then thanked Alexis Valqui and Ulf Hillner for their participation and partnership.

## **5. Matters arising from the General Assembly**

Alan Steele raised the issue of ‘SIM Metrology School’, stating how He got worried about the fact that the support from the SIM community to the event seems to have occurred without people fully taking into account the allocation of funds. He suggested contacting the SIM WH Chairs and check what kind of activities may have its budget reduced and after that make a consultation with SIM members through email.

Ruben Verdugo then suggested making different scenarios analysis (with no extra funds and with extra funds). Humberto Brandi supported this suggestion.

Ignacio Hernandez reminded that the idea is not to replicate 'BIPM Summer School' and the representative of NCSLI offered some help to get support from private companies. He added that the next NCSLI board of directors is going to be held soon and they may help with some financial support.

Taynah Souza then offered to make contact with ABC to check how available it may be to get financial support from this Agency. As soon as she gets it she will inform the Council to proceed with the elaboration of possible scenarios to organizing the event.

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.

### **COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS**

**Council Resolution 07/08:** Humberto Brandi is supposed to send a letter to AFRIMETS asking them to have SIM as their associate member.