

# SIM XII General Assembly *SIM XII Asamblea General*



Rio de Janeiro, September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
*Rio de Janeiro, Septiembre 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006*

## Draft minutes

### AGENDA

First Day: Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006

- ITEM 1. Accreditation Of Delegates
- ITEM 2. Verification Of Quorum (Installation Of General Assembly)
- ITEM 3. Approval of the Agenda.
- ITEM 4. Welcome from President of INMETRO, Prof. João Jornada
- ITEM 5. Report from SIM President, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues
- ITEM 6. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous General Assembly
- ITEM 7. Report from Technical Permanent Advisor, Claire Saundry / Stephen Carpenter
- ITEM 8. Report from Executive Secretary, Oscar Harasic
- ITEM 9. Report from Technical Committee and SIM Representative to the JCRB, Luis Mussio
- ITEM 10. Report from SIM Representative to NCSLI, Humberto Brandi
- ITEM 11. Report from Professional Development Committee, Ignacio Hernandez
- ITEM 12. Council Resolutions
- ITEM 13: Sub-Regional Meetings
- ITEM 14: Presentation of Sub-Regional Reports:
  - CAMET – Gustavo Montiel
  - ANDIMET – Juan Carlos Castillo
  - SURAMET – Ever Cabrera
  - CARIMET – Francis Hamilton
  - NORAMET – Jim McLaren

Second Day: Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006

- ITEM 15. Reinstallation of the General Assembly

ITEM 16. Quality System Task Force Activities Report, William Anderson

ITEM 17. Report of SIM-PTB Project on Chemical Metrology, Willie May

ITEM 18. Presentation of Other Organisations attending the General Assembly

- IMEKO
- NCSLI
- CIPM/BIPM
- PTB
- EUROMET
- APMP
- SADC MET/AFRIMET
- OIML
- COOMET
- NAVSEA

ITEM 19. Next General Assemblies (NORAMET-2007, CAMET-2008)

ITEM 20. Election of SIM President (2006-2008)

ITEM 21. Other Business

ITEM 22. Closing Session

## Meeting:

### 1. Accreditation of Delegates

The President Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues welcomed the SIM members present at the XII General Assembly.

### 2. Verification of Quorum (Installation of General Assembly)

As 24 out of 34 members were present, quorum was established (the list of participants is in Annex 1).

### 3. Approval of the Agenda

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues suggested moving Item 6 (Council Resolutions) to Item 12, since there would be discussions under Items 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 that would help the understanding and discussing of Council Resolutions. She also proposed including the report of the following organizations under Agenda Item 18: NCSLI, OIML, and SADC MET/AFRIMET.

After these amendments, the agenda was approved without further comments.

### 4. Welcome from President of Inmetro, Prof. João Jornada

Prof. João Jornada, President of INMETRO, thanked and welcomed all SIM members and associate organizations present at the XII General Assembly of SIM. He stressed that the Brazilian government understands metrology as an important tool for development, and reported the investments the Brazilian government has been making in metrology with new laboratories at INMETRO. He said it was a very important opportunity for INMETRO to host SIM activities since the organization

could be defined as one of the most important regional metrology organizations world wide. João Jornada also committed himself and INMETRO staff to support SIM and hoped the whole work for the following days could be a very successful period.

#### 5. Report from SIM President, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues informed that the report had been included in the workbook and will be published on SIM webpage.

She initiated her speech by welcoming all members present at the XII SIM Annual General Assembly, especially welcoming the representatives from other RMO's and from other International Metrology Organizations.

In her speech, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues made some remarks, emphasizing the following topics: the Evaluation of SIM Project 2002-2004 – “Metrology for the Americas”, conducted by Mr. Brian Thompson, as requested by OAS; the SIM Project 2005-2008 – “Implementation of metrology Infrastructures of the Americas to support Free Trade and Quality of Life”; SIM's Participation in International Metrology Events and about SIM Activities of 2004/2005.

Concerning the first topic – the Evaluation of SIM Project 2002-2004 – she stressed that only a few responses were provided by SIM members, which compromised a more detailed evaluation. She asked SIM members to be aware of the importance of providing these responses in case activities of this nature may come up in the future.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues also informed that SIM continues to participate in various international and regional metrology activities; of particular importance this year was the participation in the launching of AFRIMETS (The African Metrology System), in Pretoria, South Africa. The proposed structure of AFRIMETS was based on the SIM Structure, with some of the same aims and objectives since the composition of members' (AFRIMETS) capability is similar to that of SIM. She stressed that the coming into being of this RMO is a big plus for Metrology world wide and would allow interaction and collaboration.

She emphasized that they have been in discussion with some of our sister/brother organizations who wish to become associate members/observers of the SIM GA, hoping to complete these arrangements shortly.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues thanked Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards for hosting the last General Assembly. Shortly after the last GA, Dr Stephen Carpenter announced his retirement from NIST after a long and distinguished career, and after many years as the SIM Technical Advisor. We were indeed saddened to learn that he had retired but as fate would have it he has been contracted by NIST to continue as the SIM TA. Claire Saundry provided technical support services in the interim for which we are very grateful and we look forward to a continued fruitful working relationship with both Steve and Claire.

In conclusion she thanked INMETRO for hosting the Secretariat during this period and especially to Taynah Lopes de Souza for the work done in coordinating the year's activities, especially the General Assembly, what had not been an easy task since INMETRO was also hosting the IMEKO Conference.

#### 6. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous General Assembly

Anselm Gittens, from Saint Lucia asked whether SIM had discontinued the activities developed by WP Training. Ignacio Hernandez explained that the activity had not been discontinued and that more information on the matter would be discussed during his report. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues added that the contract made with WP Training had come to an end and was not renewed because of an insufficient number of positive evaluations from SIM members who took the training.

Errol Samuel, from Antigua and Barbuda, asked about the list of participants of last General Assembly, which was supposed to be included as annexed to the minutes but was not available.

Recalling the presentation made by APMP/DEC during the last GA, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues explained that she did not have a response from Angela Samuel about possible cooperative activities, and she informed she would then be in contact with the representative of APMP, Ichiro Fujima to get further information concerning the matter.

Efrain Paz, from Honduras, asked to update the information of COHCIT on SIM webpage and the list of SIM members.

Luis Mussio then informed all members that he has been requesting everybody to update the information of each NMI but he has not been receiving enough responses. Hector Nava Jaimes then emphasized that it is important that every SIM member cooperates and that each time some change occurs people should inform the secretary and the TC Chair.

On the minutes Item 6 (Ratification of Council Resolutions), Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues requested the correction of the verb ‘participate’ to ‘vote’ on the second paragraph since it is necessary to be a SIM member and a CIPM signatory to vote in QSTF and not participate, since the participation is open to all interested.

On Item 13 (Presentation of other organizations attending the General Assembly), where it is written ‘APMP/NEC’, should be written ‘APMP/DEC’.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues also asked to change the word ‘satisfactory’ for ‘satisfaction’ on the last sentence of Item 17.

After these comments and amendments the minutes from previous General Assembly were approved.

Resolution GA01/06: Approval of the minutes of the XI General Assembly held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

## 7. Report from Technical Permanent Advisor, Claire Saundry/Stephen Carpenter

Steve Carpenter made a presentation about the SIM Project 2005-2008 – “Implementation of metrology Infrastructures of the Americas to support Free Trade and Quality of Life”, which was included in the workbook and will also be publicized on SIM web page. He mainly presented the objectives, indicators, means of verification and assumptions of the project, as well as its budget and disbursement plan for each coordinating institution (NIST, CENAM and LATU). He showed the execution work plan for 2007, expecting that the budget of US\$

300,000.00 will be disbursed in two installments during the year. For 2008, Steve Carpenter explained that the same structure of work plan will be used.

After his presentation some points were raised by SIM members. Jim McLaren asked about when the disbursement of the first part of the budget would be made. Steve Carpenter replied that even though it was should be released in January it would probably occur only in March.

Anselm Gittens, from St. Lucia then asked for a clarification concerning why was it necessary to send support letters to the OAS every year if the project was formulated for a four-year period. Oscar Harasic explained that this is due to the reason that OAS' budget is approved each year and, therefore, they request that countries send support letter every year.

For the support letter to be sent next year there has been already prepared a draft model, which shall be circulated to all SIM members by the Executive Secretary. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues took this opportunity to emphasize the importance that SIM members send the support letter to the OAS so that the budget is not reduced.

Hratch Semerjian then made some remarks concerning the benefit each country obtains from the project. He suggested the inclusion of a list of participation in training activities as attachment to the support letter, what could help policy makers to evaluate the support letter. Even though this information is included in this PDC report, he proposed summarizing it and attaching it to the support letter to help.

#### 8. Report from Executive Secretary, Oscar Harasic

Oscar Harasic presented the main activities conducted by the Executive Secretary during the year of 2006. The report was included in the GA workbook and will be published on SIM web page.

The Executive Secretary initiated his report thanking and congratulating INMETRO and its President, Dr. Joao Jornada, for offering to host and to collaborate in the organization of the XII SIM General Assembly and related activities. He then informed SIM members that since the last General Assembly meeting held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in October 2005, the Executive Secretariat had collaborated with the Presidency, the Council, the Committees and the Technical Working Groups to fulfill the activities and goals established at this meeting, encompassing activities related to logistical support in three categories: administrative, technical, and dissemination of information to SIM members.

Additionally the SIM Executive Secretary informed the assembly that the Special Multilateral Fund of the Interamerican Committee for Integral Development (FEMCIDI) process under the framework of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) was under current revision. The Metrology project is part of FEMCIDI/CIDI/SEDI.

Oscar Harasic also informed that in preliminary conversations among the US Mission to the OAS and OAS staff members, it was communicated that an increase in funding for the Metrology project was under consideration, and that other avenues were being explored together that will result in a more active role of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the OAS in the management of the project funds and overall supervision.

Another question raised by the Executive Secretary was related to the possibility that the DST and the German Metrology Institute (PTB) establish a horizontal cooperation project in the energy sector (natural gas). In order to assess the opportunity for such a project, Mr. Johannes Emmerling, a consultant for the PTB, is currently working in OAS Department in Washington elaborating a pre-feasibility study. Together, they have agreed to specifically explore four countries: Mexico and Brazil as potential partners or donor countries providing technical assistance to Bolivia and Peru acting as recipient countries. The focus of the project is to improve the national quality infrastructure in the gas sector, directed to NMIs and other national laboratories dedicated to measurements of flow, pressure, temperature and calorific value.

The SIM Executive Secretary also emphasized that he was working in the direction of expanding the sources of possible financing for NMIs, and for increasing the collaboration with the National Council of Standard Laboratories International (NCSLI), and with other potential donors.

In the area of publications, he informed they had received collaboration from PTB for a new publication entitled: “The Answer to the Global Quality Challenge: A National Quality Infrastructure” to be published early next year.

Finally, Oscar Harasic reported that, there had been a convocation to elect the SIM President (2006-2008) in May 2006, as established by SIM Statutes. A letter of invitation and subsequent e-mails to nominate candidates were sent to all NMIs in the 34 Member States. The letter specified three prerequisites: letter of support of their Government and their institution, to present a plan of action for SIM, and a detailed CV of the candidate, specifying July 31st, 2006 as a deadline for the submission of candidates in accordance with SIM statutes.

In response to the invitation, the two candidates that were presented and fulfilled all the established prerequisites were: Mrs. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues, Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards and Prof. Humberto Siqueira Brandi, Director of the Scientific and Industrial Metrology of INMETRO-Brazil.

The Executive Secretary then expressed his best wishes to both candidates reiterating his desire to maintain an excellent working relationship with the SIM President and also in continuing to work with Members of the Council, Directors of NMI's, International Organizations, and donor agencies, since these represented crucial relationships to strengthen technical assistance among partners, and to promote horizontal cooperation for the benefit of the Interamerican Metrology System and the whole hemisphere in general.

At the end of the Executive Secretary's report, Francis Hamilton, from Trinidad and Tobago, requested more information concerning the training that is under preparation in the area of natural gas, since the country has great interest in participating in this kind of activity. Oscar Harasic informed that this project is still under a feasibility study and as soon as there is a delineation of its conduction the information will be disseminated among SIM members. He also said the theme of energy is one of main interests in OAS which shall dedicate its next general assembly, to be held in Panama, to this theme.

Gustavo Rangugni, from Argentina, recalled that last March there was a Natural Gas Seminar in Argentina, an area of interest in the country as well and also showed interest in participating in the project mentioned by Oscar Harasic.

Humberto Brandi, from Brazil then reaffirmed that INMETRO is willing to participate and cooperate in the project, and supported the inclusion of Argentina in the project.

Anselm Gittens, from Saint Lucia, also supported the inclusion of Trinidad and Tobago in the discussions concerning the subject.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then encouraged those countries interested in one of the areas related to the gas sector (measurements of flow, pressure, temperature and calorific value) to be covered in the project to get in touch with Oscar Harasic.

#### 9. Report from Technical Committee and SIM Representative to the JCRB, Luis Mussio

Luis Mussio presented both reports, which will be published on SIM web page. He initiated his presentation by informing the assembly that there have been no changes in SIM Working Groups Chairs but in the representatives of the sub-regions in some WG. He asked regional coordinators to send him updated information about the new representatives to WGs and TC. He also informed that there are quite a few intercomparisons under way, e.g. in the areas of temperature, electricity, mass, flow and chemistry.

Luis Mussio also briefly presented the technical seminars that have been held since the last General Assembly, as well as the proposals for seminars and workshops for the next year. One of them will be dedicated to the dissemination of the form of preparation of CMCs and the form of interpreting and making reports and presenting results of comparisons (key, supplementary, etc.), as well as harmonizing the activity of making comparison within SIM with the rest of the world.

Luis Mussio then informed that the CMCs of SIM Members continue to be added to the BIPM database. He pointed out the addition of CMCs of the first CMCs from Jamaica and Panama.

He also remarked that in the last JCRB meeting in item 11 of the agenda, each region presented its quality system. In this opportunity the SIM quality system review process was recognized for its merits and received many compliments. More information will be given by William Anderson, during his report under point 16 of this agenda. In the JCRB meeting the document “Criteria for the Selection of Peers for Reviews” was approved and will soon be distributed. It will also be applied to NMIs’ auditors, since the term ‘peers’ is of quite wide scope.

SIM participated in a technical meeting between regional metrology organizations and regional accreditation organizations, with the main theme being the unification of criteria between accreditation bodies and the participants of the MRA concerning how to evaluate quality systems of NMI. More information may be obtained from Annamaria Narizano, from Uruguay, who participated in the meeting representing SIM. The last technical meeting ?

Luis Mussio, also briefly made some comments about other activities not directly directed to the TC or JCRB, but important to mention, as the new SIM brochure with a new design projected by INDECOPI (Peru), which is ready to be printed. Besides, he mentioned the assistance provided during NCSLI meetings through the SIM booth.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues reminded that the document, mentioned by Luis Mussio, about the review of SIM QS is an ongoing process and everyone could make observations, since it is posted on SIM web page. Concerning the SIM brochure, she thanked Jose Dajes, from Peru, for conducting the revision and said that any help is welcome to this process. About the representation of SIM in the booth at NCSLI meeting, she said that the same people end up making this representation and it would be interesting if we could have other volunteers to this task.

Pedro Espina asked Luis Mussio to make some comments about the CIPM MRA logo. He then informed that during the last JCRB meeting the logo and the rules its usage were defined. These documents are included in the open part of BIPM web page, where any interested party can have access to. It is important to mention, he added, that the usage of the logo is voluntary.

#### 10. Report from SIM Representative to NCSLI, Humberto Brandi

Humberto Brandi, SIM Representative to the NCSLI, made a report, which was included in GA workbook and will also be published on SIM web page. He mainly reported the SIM representation at the at the last three NCSLI Board of Directors meetings, informing that a fourth one was scheduled to be held in Querétaro, México, October 2006. He also informed about the changes that occurred concerning the position of some members of the NCSLI Board of Directors.

Hratch Semerjian then made a small correction to the report, explaining that in fact the new representatives to NCSLI Board of Directors were not ‘nominated’ but ‘elected’ to their position.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then made some remarks concerning the discussion of the last NCSLI meeting, held in Nashville, concerning the issues of training and of what appears to be a decline of the number of metrologists and the increasing age of metrologists around the world.

Humberto Brandi then took the opportunity to mention that in Brazil it has been possible to engage a significant number of young metrologists, partly as a result of the fellowship program conducted in Brazil for post-doc students, researchers and so on, concentrating on metrologists and young metrologists. In Brazil, he said, metrology is being renewed, through the construction of new facilities and new laboratories (flow, materials, chemistry and telecommunication) in INMETRO, aligned to the industrial policy of Brazilian government. He also emphasized the development of a five-year strategic plan for metrology in Brazil which was important to raise awareness of its importance.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then remarked that considering the development of metrology in Brazil, there should be more discussion about such questions among INMETRO and NCSLI.

Hratch Semerjian then made some comments about the importance of the new trends in metrology, which is a dynamic area in which one can notice meaningful changes in its most important sub-areas with the coexistence of traditional and modern ones, like nanotechnology, for example. He finalized he did not have the feeling that metrology was an area which as going down, but that there was a shift going on with new areas of interest of significant metrology studies.

Robert Kaarls, CIPM representative, defended that idea that the new fields of metrology bring a lot of challenges and that a more active position from

consultative groups is an important strategy to bring more awareness and deal with the new trends.

#### 11. Report from Professional Development Committee, Ignacio Hernandez

Before Ignacio Hernandez, from CENAM, initiated his report, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues made some remarks concerning the excellent work done by the past PDC Chair, Yoshito Mitani. She explained that Yoshito Mitani had left the position of PDC Chair, having then been replaced by Ignacio Hernandez, also from CENAM. She then said a few words about the great job conducted by Yoshito Mitani and formally thanked him and CENAM for the cooperation during the last ten years.

Ignacio Hernandez then initiated his presentation informing the assembly that the report had been prepared by Yoshito Mitani, who before leaving PDC Chair position made a detailed report about the period in which he worked within SIM. A hard copy of the report was distributed to SIM members and the presentation will be published on SIM web page.

Ignacio Hernandez mainly presented the activities conducted by the PDC between October 2005 and August 2006. He also made some remarks about the “Online Training by Workplace Training”, during the period from January to December of 2005.

He finally presented the future activities for the next year, such as the training in the following areas: Mass & Related Quantity in Bolivia (ANDIMET) in November 2006; Legal Metrology in Dominican Republic (CARIMET) in February 2007 and Thermometry in Guatemala (CAMET) in March 2007.

Hernando Florez, from Panama, then remarked that it was necessary to update the name of PDC representatives in each sub-region, since new representatives have been nominated by the end of last year.

Manfred Kochsiek asked for more information about the legal metrology seminar to be held in February in Dominican Republic and also asked if OIML could support any of the activities to be conducted in this opportunity. Ignacio Hernandez informed that every year SIM has been promoting some activity in the field of legal metrology. In 2006, there was a very successful seminar in Brazil, dedicated to the issue of gas dispensers. He said in this workshop it was noticed the necessity of having further discussion about the electronic content of gas dispensers, and this is supposed to be discussed in the seminar predicted to Dominican Republic.

Steve Carpenter then said a few words about the agreement signed by SIM with OIML about ten years ago, this being the first agreement signed by SIM with an outside organization. In his view, SIM has not been enjoying the opportunity brought by this agreement and maybe it is time to intensify cooperative arrangements between both organizations. He proposed to disseminate OIML information in SIM workshops and seminars so NMIs can benefit from this information. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then proposed that the PDC Chair get in contact with the Chair of the Legal Metrology and of the Mass Working Groups.

#### 12. Ratification of Council Resolutions:

Luis Mussio presented the resolutions taken by SIM Council since the last General Assembly, in order to get them ratified by all SIM members. Concerning resolutions taken during the Council Meeting held in Port of Spain/Trinidad and Tobago, on

October 09<sup>th</sup> 2005, right after last General Assembly, all four resolutions were ratified with no amendment nor comments.

After the ratification of CR11/05, which acknowledged the interest of Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) to take part of SIM activities and suggested sending KEBS the requirements to become an Associate Member, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues explained that KEBS had taken the necessary steps to become an Associate Member and therefore, invited them to join the main table of the assembly. Mr. Joel Kioko then said a few words concerning the satisfaction of KEBS of becoming an associate member of SIM and the importance for the institute to be able to participate in SIM activities.

Regarding council resolutions of the year 2006, the following comments have been made. On CR 01/06 and CR 02/06, which were related to the resignation of Yoshito Mitani as Chairman of the PDC, and the appointment of Ignacio Hernandez as Chairman of the PDC. Luis Mussio pointed out the excellent job conducted by Yoshito Mitani. Ever Cabrera, from Paraguay, proposed to make a formal letter congratulating him for this ten years dedicated to SIM activities, especially his support to the less developed countries in the region. Luis Mussio then suggested that a copy of the minutes be sent by the secretary to Yoshito Mitani so he is aware of the support received during the General Assembly. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then recalled that his institution, CENAM, should also be congratulated for supporting Yoshito Mitani in the conduction of his activities within SIM.

CR 03/06 and CR 04/06 were also ratified, concerning the retirement of Steve Carpenter from NIST, and the subsequent acceptance of the appointment by NIST of Steve Carpenter as the new Permanent Technical Advisor to SIM. Anselm Gittens, from Saint Lucia then asked for more clarification about this situation. Steve Carpenter then explained that this position of Permanent Technical Advisor to SIM belongs to NIST, which decided to invite him back to share the position with Claire Saundry, while she is learning the activities involved in this position to eventually take all responsibility involved in the position.

About CR 05/06, which states that commercial presentations will not be accepted during GA meetings and that presentations from private companies should be done during SIM seminars and should be of technical content, Luis Mussio summarized the process through which the Council arrived at this resolution, which happened during the last Council Meeting held in Nashville/USA in August (more information can be obtained in the minutes of this meeting). Jose Dajes, from Peru supported this decision and so did Hratch Semerjian who added that this was a quite obvious statement. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues remarked that even though it looked obvious, it was important to make it clear so we avoid going through this situation in near future. Annamaria Narizano, from Uruguay, then brought up the question that sometimes, in certain seminars, the private company takes the responsibility of making a technical presentation but in reality makes a commercial one. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then suggested that Technical Committees Chairs evaluate each situation to reach consensus on the matter.

Regarding CR 05/06, which decided to defer the proposal of a new TC-PDC structure until the discussion about the Pilot Project OAS, Luis Mussio clarified that was due to the existence of too many pending issues, requiring the postponement of the discussion on a new TC-PDC structure.

Concerning CR 06/06 which acknowledges the interest of ASTM to take part of SIM activities as an observer member, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues stated that she had been in contact with ASTM people who could not be present at this Assembly but they were still interested in becoming an observer member of SIM.

About CR 07/06, which was related to address a letter to the OAS, with a formal response to the Evaluation Report of the SIM project 2002-2004, some comments were made. Jose Dajes, from Peru, made the observation that a resolution was being ratified in which SIM members did not have knowledge of the content of the response to be sent. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then asked the secretary to distribute a copy of the letter to each SIM member and in case there was any suggestion this could be discussed on the second day of the GA.

Resolution GA02/06: The General Assembly ratified all Council Resolutions of the years 2005/06 with no amendments.

Errol Samuel, from Antigua e Barbuda, then asked for a brief summary of the OAS Evaluation Report, what was provided by Steve Carpenter, reminding that the full report had been sent in advance to all SIM Members.

Hector Nava Jaimes, from Mexico, made some comments criticizing the structure followed by OAS to develop the evaluation of SIM Project for 2004. In his view, the problem arose at the first moment when the consultant chosen to take the evaluation ahead had no technical experience in the field of metrology.

### 13. Sub-Regional Meetings

The participants of the five sub-regions of SIM had their meetings, as part of the XII General Assembly. Before going to the meetings, Luis asked CAMET to study the possibility of holding the 2008 GA, to keep the continuity of alternating the organization of the event in each sub-region.

### 14. Presentation of Sub-regional Reports

After their meetings, each coordinator made a brief report to the General Assembly.

CAMET: Gustavo Montiel, from Nicaragua, made the presentation of CAMET activities conducted from September 2005 to September 2006. The report will be published on SIM web page. Among the activities presented in his report, he emphasized the development coordination meeting which occurred in the end of 2005, with the objective of formulating a strategic planning for the region in the area of metrology. He then presented the comparisons carried out by CAMET members as much as the strengthening of metrology infrastructure in each country of the sub-region. He finally presented the calendar of technical activities for intercomparisons and training for the period 2006-2007.

ANDIMET: Juan Carlos Castillo, from Bolivia, made the presentation of ANDIMET activities for the period of November 2005 to September 2006. The report was included in the workbook and will be published on SIM web page. In his report, Juan Carlos Castillo briefly made some comments on the seminars, conferences and training activities offered during the period. Lastly he presented the new flow laboratory opened in IBMETRO with the support of PTB. At the end of the report, Jose Dajes, from Peru, made some comments informing that in ANDIMET they have been trying to promote training activities that may also count on the participation of interested countries from other sub-regions of SIM, overcoming geographic barriers.

**SURAMET:** Ever Cabrera made some brief remarks on 2005-2006 SURAMET activities, such as: activities with the participation of SURAMET instructors, answers to activities related to chemical metrology, the situation of the five NMIs of the sub-region, and finally the concrete activities predicted to the period oct/2005 to sept/2006. The report was included in the workbook and will be published on the SIM web page. At the end of SURAMET report Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues requested SIM members that all documents and training information be published on SIM web page, so interested parties may benefit from them.

**CARIMET:** Francis Hamilton, from Trinidad and Tobago, made a presentation that will be published on SIM web page. He initiated his report informing that there has been new draft metrology legislation in some NMIs of the sub-region: Barbados, Jamaica and Antigua & Barbuda. He also made some comments on the training activities and new facilities in the sub-region. Francis Hamilton finished his report informing about the Work Plan 2006/2007 for CARIMET.

**NORAMET:** Jim McLaren made some brief remarks concerning the coordination activities in the sub-region and informed that the representatives of the three countries that compose the sub-region – Hector Nava Jaimes, from Mexico, Hratch Semerjian, from USA, and Jim McLaren, from Canada, would them make some comments since each of them had information to be given, specially concerning the activities directed at the development of less developing countries of SIM. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues thanked them for the support the sub-region has been giving to developing countries and congratulated each representative in this effort.

### Second Day: Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006

#### 15. Reinstallation of the General Assembly

Quorum was verified, so the General Assembly was reinstalled.

#### 16. Quality System Task Force Activities Report, William Anderson

William Anderson made the presentation of the Quality System Task Force, initiating with a brief history about its creation, purpose and past activities. The report will be published on SIM web page.

William Anderson informed that to date the QSTF has approved the quality systems from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, United States, and Uruguay (NMIs and Designated Laboratories), having nearly 70 quality systems (specific to a technical service) approved. They have also promoted the updating of the SIM09 to incorporate more efficient processes.

In his report William Anderson also remarked that many quality systems of SIM members did not receive approval by QSTF and that no NMI has a perfect QSTF track record. One worrying issue concerns the 'deletion' of 545 SIM CMCs from the BIPM database in April 2005 from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, and Uruguay. Nevertheless about 300 of the 545 "deleted" CMCs will be reinstated because of decisions made this year.

#### 17. Report of SIM-PTB Project on Chemical Metrology, Willie May

Willie May made a presentation, which will be published on SIM web page. He initiated the presentation by giving a brief history of the SIM Chemical Metrology

Working Group and the Chemical Project initiated in a partnership with PTB. Some questions were pointed out in his report, as the creation of a web site to the CMWG ([http://www.cstl.nist.gov/sim\\_cmwg\\_activities.html](http://www.cstl.nist.gov/sim_cmwg_activities.html)), and the main activities conducted since the last report made at the last GA. He showed the 'Chemistry Proficiency Assessment Studies' conducted until the present time and also those planned to occur in 2007: synthetic natural gas, toxic metals in seafood subsequent, carbon dioxide in stack emissions, and cholesterol and toxic metals in meat homogenate. He also presented the main results of SIM members in the chemical area and also related to the submission of CMCs to the BIPM database, but he stressed that at the moment only four SIM members have done so. In the end of his presentation, Willie May showed the agenda for the SIM Chemical Metrology Working Group Meetings/Workshops to occur in September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of 2006, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

After Willie May's presentation, Humberto Brandi, from Brazil, congratulated him for the work he has been developing in the CMWG and pointed out that the SIM-PTB Project for Chemistry has been a huge success and it could be used as an example.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then remarked that both QSTF and CMWG have web pages and requested that a link be created in SIM web page to the two working groups.

#### 18. Presentation of other organizations attending the General Assembly IMEKO

Leo Van Biesen, President of the International Measurement Confederation (IMEKO), which will be published on SIM web page. He started with a brief history of the organization, presenting its aims, objectives, structure, technical committees, world congresses and publications. He finished his presentation by making some comments about the XVIII IMEKO Congress which was being held in Rio de Janeiro, starting on the very second day of the SIM General Assembly and took the opportunity to invite all SIM members to participate in the Congress with the theme "Metrology for Sustainable Development", especially at the Opening Ceremony later that day.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues congratulated Leo Van Biesen for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IMEKO and thanked him for the invitation to participate in the Opening Ceremony of the XVIII IMEKO Congress.

#### NCSLI

On behalf of Steven Stahley, Sally Bruce made the presentation, which will be published on SIM web page. She initially presented some statistics of the last NCSLI Conference, held in Nashville in August: 125 papers were presented, there were 168 exhibitor booths with 135 companies represented and 1061 attendees.

She then informed that NCSLI had launched a new journal: "Measure: the Journal of Measurement Science" and encouraged SIM members to contribute to the technical content of the journal.

Sally Bruce also made some comments on the "Boulder Colorado Training Facility" which could be utilized by SIM to hold certain training activities, for which contact should be made with the NCSLI business office to reserve space for the training.

Still in the training field, she showed the training available-current listings from the NCSLI web page.

Before finishing her report, Sally Bruce informed that the next NCSLI Board of Directors Meeting would be held in Santiago de Queretaro, Mexico, on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2006, and the next NCSLI Conferences: 2007 in Minnesota/USA and 2008 in Florida/USA.

#### CIPM/BIPM

Robert Kaarls, representative of CIPM made the presentation of CIPM in conjunction with BIPM's, on behalf of Andrew Wallard, which will be published on the SIM web page.

Under CIPM scenery, he initiated presenting the process for the 23<sup>rd</sup> CGPM to be held in 2007. One important topic of his presentation was the information on the essential features of the proposed workplan 2009-2012 for chemical and physical metrology. He also informed that more staff positions are to be filled on a short term or contract basis, leading to more flexibility. Some updating regarding CIPM activities was provided: new open web site with policy documents (services for associates, CIPM MRA interpretation document, designated institutes, CRMs acceptance, subcontracting), recommendations on use of isotopic water for triple point of water, ad-hoc group on materials metrology set up; main business was a review of the BIPM ten year plans and the outline approach for the 2009-2012 work program; Janusz Luszcz (INMS, Canada) resigned; the vacancy was filled by the election of Dr James McLaren (INMS, Canada).

Update on events at the BIPM: joint declarations by BIPM/CIPM, ILAC and OIML; cooperation BIPM and OIML; new SI brochure; VIM and GUM; Member States, Associates and outreach to Correspondents; CIPM 2007 update Report on "Evolving Needs for Metrology in Trade, Industry and Society and the Role of the BIPM" to the 23<sup>rd</sup> CGPM ("Kaarls" Report); BIPM work program; CIPM MRA and JCRB; possible redefinition of base units (kilogram, the ampere, the mole, the kelvin and the candela), expected for 2011.

#### PTB

Dieter Schwohnke made the presentation about the Technical Cooperation Department of PTB. The presentation will be published on SIM web page. He presented the working groups of the department, as much as its tasks, duties and goals. He also presented the counterpart of PTB technical cooperation activities worldwide.

#### EUROMET

Wolfgang Schmid, EUROMET Secretary, made the presentation of the European Collaboration in Measurement Standards, which will be published on SIM web page. After presenting a brief description of the organization and its structure, he showed the main areas of cooperation, which are the provision of traceability, intercomparisons, cooperation in research and development and consultation. Wolfgang Schmid also made some remarks about the 2006 EUROMET General Assembly, which was held in Vienna/Austria in May/June. He also commented on the progress with the CIPM MRA in the region and finalized his presentation with information about the MERA-Project, directed at planning the European research area in metrology.

## APMP/NEC

Ichiro Fujima, Executive Secretary of APMP, made a brief presentation about the APMP organizational structure and its main activities. He showed the current status of CMCs registration in the region and current TC Chairs. He also made some comments about the relationship with APLAC, with which a formal MoU is about to be signed, also having some issues under discussion for accreditation of NMIs. Ichiro Fujima then presented the past events that occurred in APMP as well as upcoming events. The presentation will be published on SIM web page.

## SADCMET/AFRIMETS

Mukayi Musarurwa made the presentation, which will be published on SIM web page. He initiated his presentation by giving a brief description of the historic context in which SADCMET was established, having its foundation directly connected to the SADC Trade Protocol signed in 1996. He then presented the structure of SADCMET, as well as its main tasks and activities, and made some comments on the development of a 'Measurement Practice Improvement Guide', directed at discussing measurement in small and medium enterprises.

Mukayi Musarurwa also made some remarks on the registration of CMCs and the main challenges faced in the region, for example the development model proposed by SADCMET to NMIs, aiming at promoting modern structures to NMIs. He also presented the conceptual approach to the Inter-Africa Metrology System recently launched with the objective of promoting and supporting an integrated measurement infrastructure in Africa.

## OIML

Manfred Kochsiek, vice president of OIML, made the presentation, which will be published on SIM web page. He initiated with a brief history of the organization, emphasizing its structure, general tasks, goals and member states. He then made some remarks about the OIML certificate system, based on OIML Publication B3 (2003) (former P1), informing this is a voluntary process with two aims: facilitating and harmonizing type evaluation of measuring instruments; and harmonizing laboratory testing practices.

Manfred Kochsiek then made some comments on the Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA) of the organization, informing that it is being rebuilt to provide international recognition of test results (OIML Test Reports), having as its basis the OIML Publication B 10-1 of 2004.

Concerning future projects of OIML, two points were highlighted: the conformity to type and the OIML conformity marking for prepackages. Manfred Kochsiek finalized his presentation by making some remarks about the cooperative activities developed between OIML and the BIPM and with ILAC.

## COOMET

Manfred Kochsiek made the presentation of COOMET (Euro-Asian cooperation of national metrological institutions), which will be published on SIM web page. He initiated his presentation by giving a brief description of COOMET and informing that even though it is a RMO constituted of Eastern European and Asian countries, it is open to associate membership of countries from other regions.

He then presented the realization of the COOMET working program, with the distribution of projects in the various fields of cooperation. He also showed the list

of COOMET member countries who have signed the CIPM MRA and concluded with some remarks about the strategic considerations of the organization which are under discussion.

## NAVSEA

LaRon Scott made the presentation about the International Metrology Capability Advancement Partnership (IMCAP) program, which will be published on SIM web page. He advised that it is not possible to have direct collaboration between SIM and NAVSEA, so it is up to each individual country to negotiate with them.

### 19. Next General Assemblies (NORAMET-2007, CAMET-2008)

Jim McLaren confirmed Canada's interest in hosting the XIII General Assembly in 2007 in Ottawa/Canada and made a presentation which will be published on SIM web page. The proposed dates are of September 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, which will not conflict with other important international meetings. Also, the weather is more pleasant at this time of the year in Canada than in late October or November.

In his presentation Jim McLaren showed some interesting features about Ottawa and gave an overview of the costs involved in the attending of the event. He finalized his presentation by inviting SIM members to come to Ottawa in 2007.

Resolution GA03/06: The 2007 GA Meeting will be hosted by Canada. The proposed dates are September 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

Concerning the 2008 General Assembly, Efrain Paz, from Honduras, informed that the country was willing to host the 2008 SIM General Assembly Meeting. Walter Zavala, from Costa Rica, supported the offer of Honduras and informed that in case Honduras is for some reason unable to host the 2008 SIM General Assembly, Costa Rica is able to host it.

Resolution GA04/06: The 2008 GA Meeting will be hosted by Honduras. The dates will be defined at the 2007 GA Meeting.

### 20. Election of SIM President (2006-2008)

The committee responsible for the election was coordinated by the Executive Secretary, Oscar Harasic, counting on the presence of Hector Nava Jaimes, from Mexico and Jim McLaren, from Canada.

Oscar Harasic explained the traditional procedures involved in the election process for the SIM Presidency. Afterwards, the ballots were distributed for each of the 24 delegates that were present at the General Assembly, who signed the election list. After that the ballots were collected and put into a closed box. The committee then proceeded to counting the votes outside the room.

After the votes were counted, Oscar Harasic made the report about the results of the election. He informed that out of these 24 votes, there had been 13 votes in favor of the candidacy of Brazil, represented by Humberto Brandi and 11 votes in favor of the candidacy of Antigua and Barbuda, represented by Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues.

With this result, Oscar Harasic announced that the new President of SIM for the next two years would be Humberto Brandi, from Brazil.

Everybody supported a motion congratulating the new SIM President. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then said a few words thanking for the support of all SIM members

during her term as President. She said it was a very fruitful period for her and said she hopes she can continue contributing to SIM progress. She then welcomed Humberto Brandi to the Presidency of SIM.

Humberto Brandi said some words expressing his thanks for the confidence expressed in him, saying that he would dedicate himself to the continuous improvement of SIM. He stressed the importance of working in cooperation among SIM members and thanked Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues for her dedication to SIM for the past two years. He finished by saying that he will do his best in helping to build a stronger system and invited all SIM members to join him in this journey.

Hector Nava Jaimes, from Mexico congratulated Humberto Brandi and remarked on the challenges imposed in the position of being President of SIM, demanding dedication and commitment from the new representative. He also congratulated Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues for the past two years in which she dedicated herself to SIM.

## 21. Other Business

Steve Carpenter talked a little bit more about the funds available at US mission to OAS. He said there are some possible areas to invest using the available funds: time and frequency, ozone, and a third theme to be chosen by SIM. Concerning this third theme, he will finish discussions with the Council and will prepare a project to the US mission requesting the funding and as soon as he gets a response he will inform all SIM members.

Anselm Gittens, from Saint Lucia, informed that Alison Plummer, the Director of SLBS, which is the NMI and also standardization body in Saint Lucia, will resign by the end of the year and there will be a new Director. SIM will be informed of the name of the new director as soon as it is announced. He also informed that Saint Lucia will remain dedicated to the development of metrology.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then made some comments regarding the difficulty in purchasing airline tickets for all SIM delegates that request financial support to participate in SIM events. She suggested that from now on the participant to each event requesting financial support for the air travel will purchase a ticket at the lowest reasonable price in advance, with subsequent reimbursement from SIM.

## 22. Closing Session

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues expressed her thanks to INMETRO for the organization of the events and to the delegates who participated and cooperated in their successful execution. She also thanked the hotel arrangements, the translators and Taynah Souza, from the Secretariat, for the devoted service over the past two years.

Humberto Brandi also expressed how pleased he was to have the opportunity to participate in such a solid organization as SIM. He thanked Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues and deeply congratulated her for her work, hoping he could count on her continuing participation in SIM activities. He said it would be difficult for him to express how pleased he was for having been able to host the meeting in Rio and receiving all SIM members. He then wished everybody a safe trip home, hoping to meet them soon.

## General Assembly Resolutions

Resolution GA01/06: Approval of the minutes of the XI General Assembly held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2005.

Resolution GA02/06: The General Assembly ratified all Council Resolutions of the years 2005/06 with no amendments.

Resolution GA03/06: The 2007 GA Meeting will be hosted by Canada. The proposed dates are September 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

Resolution GA04/06: The 2008 GA Meeting will be hosted by Honduras. The dates will be defined at the 2007 GA Meeting.