



**Notes of a meeting of the
Developing Country Working Group
2004.03.26, Geneva**

1 Membership

Current members:

Dr Seiler (Germany) - Chairman

Mrs Annabi (Tunisia), as current chairperson of the existing Development Council.

Messrs Magaña and Dunmill (BIML)

Mr Tanaka had appointed Mr Ooiwa as the Japanese representative. To date there has been no news from the USA, nor from SIM (BIML to chase this up).

Dr Seiler suggested adding members from Brazil and either Thailand or Tanzania.

An official invitation will be sent to each of the Members once the composition of the Group is clear.

2 Clarification of working procedures

It was decided that for the moment the operation of the Group should be kept informal.

3 Subject matters

3.1 Simplified verification instructions

Dr Seiler pointed out that, for example, R 76 is too complicated for mechanical balances and that there is a need for simplified verification instructions in developing countries. He suggested that an approach be made to those who have already produced something to deal with this problem (APLMF, SADCMELE) to obtain their documents. Expert advice should then be sought on these existing papers. They should be compatible with OIML Recommendations, and two stages should be envisaged - Stage 1 to be basic (which parts of R 76 are relevant to mechanical instruments?), Stage 2 to be more advanced.

A similar approach could then be undertaken for petrol pumps and prepackages.

Mr Magaña undertook to approach SADCMELE and APLMF.

The BIML will produce a letter asking for nominations for experts to undertake such projects. This will be sent to Dr Seiler for comment before distribution.

Dr Gupta's paper on the verification of commercial weights was also discussed, and it was agreed that an appropriate payment would be made by the BIML. Dr Gupta was also to be asked for a photograph to accompany the paper, and was to be considered for an OIML letter of appreciation.

The BIML will also try to translate the paper into French. Other languages could be considered, but the translator has comments, another expert paper could be produced in their name, or mention should be given to Dr Gupta, with any modifications clearly marked. For a straightforward translation, authorship would still be given to Dr Gupta.

3.2 Translation of OIML publications

This subject had been discussed in the Presidential Council, and a policy paper had been approved. In principle, translations can be made, but the OIML will not take responsibility for their accuracy. They will also not be done systematically, and there will be no control over which "version" of each language is used (e.g. South American or European Spanish).

The BIML will make enquiry (at same time as one already planned on the harmonisation of regulations) on existing translations of Recommendations, or of national regulations which are strict copies of Recommendations. A question will also be added to ask whether these publications are available free of charge or are charged for. Information on such translations will be made available on the OIML web site. The point was made that EN 45501 (copy of R 76) must exist in all EU languages and that any future translations made following the adoption of the MID would be of interest.

3.3 Collecting and providing teaching material

Some information was available from the APLMF. The existence and availability of such information would be made available on the OIML web site. An enquiry could be made by the BIML on this matter, as well as an examination of old information in the BIML Documentation Centre.

3.4 Collecting and providing equipment

Dr Seiler indicated that the PTB has already done this, but that there were considerable problems of re-calibration, packing, transport, etc. It was decided that a BIML enquiry on equipment available could be made, and available equipment could be advertised on the OIML web site. It was felt that this was of secondary priority, and that it could be considered later with 3.5 below.

3.5 Setting up an internet platform for information exchange

To be considered later with 3.4 above.

3.6 Laboratory requirements for verification authorities

In order to identify experts who could undertake the studies necessary to produce these requirements, Mr Magaña agreed to complete the list of studies to be undertaken, which would be sent to Dr Seiler for comment before being sent to the CIML, together with the terms of reference for such studies.

3.7 Initiating twinning programmes

It was decided that this issue would be considered after the Berlin Forum, since it was felt that there may be some useful information produced during that meeting. Staff exchange programmes and secretariat mentoring could also be considered, thus the scope of twinning should not be limited, and any kind of twinning activity encouraged.

4 BIML contact and contributions

The next *OIML Information Letter* would be about the JCDCMAS, the Berlin Forum, and other activities for developing countries.