



**November 2014**

**General report by the CIML President to the 49th CIML Meeting**

I am very much looking forward to this year's CIML meeting as there is a lot to report in terms of progress on the matters which preoccupied us at our 2013 meeting. We will also have an opportunity to consider how we should build on that progress in the years to come.

First, it is again my great pleasure to welcome a number of new Members:

- We now have 60 Member States, following the re-admission of the Republic of Cameroon and I extend a warm welcome to Mr. David Tsegui as its CIML Member.
- Over the course of the year, we have welcomed 11 other new CIML Members:
  - Mr. Petrit Rama (Albania),
  - Mr. Rabah Messili (Algeria),
  - Mr. Dimitar Stankov (Bulgaria),
  - Mr. Bozidar Ljubic (Croatia),
  - Mr. Ionnis Economides (Cyprus),
  - Eng. Ahmed Yousef Hussein Abo Taleb (Egypt),
  - Mr. Ferenc Monus (Hungary),
  - Mr. Adel Banaei (Iran),
  - Mr. Cherif Fekiri (Tunisa),
  - Prof. Dr. Necip Camuscu (Turkey), and
  - Mr. Benjamin Musonda (Zambia).
- We also welcome a further Corresponding Member, Azerbaijan, bringing our total of such members to 68.

I am also aware that at least one of our Corresponding Members has begun the process of acceding to the Treaty in order to become a Member State.

The BIML Director will be providing detailed information on the current financial position of the Organisation at our meeting in Auckland. Once again it is possible to report that the continued investment in the renovation of the Bureau's premises in Paris and in the more modern OIML website has been achieved without damaging the healthy financial position of our Organisation.

All members of staff have moved to the terms and conditions of the new Staff Regulations which we adopted last year. This is very good news as it would have placed a considerable administrative burden on a small organisation like ours if we had been obliged to operate two sets of terms and conditions at the same time.

The repair and modernisation of the Bureau's offices in Paris is now effectively complete. Perhaps inevitably, additional problems were found which have involved extra expense and prolonged the



disruption caused by such extensive building work. But problems like this simply demonstrate how important it was to undertake this work in order to maintain the Organisation's principal asset, which was our primary purpose. As a bonus, we have greatly improved working facilities and the new conference centre is proving very popular with all who use it. And as I pointed out last year, we also now have the opportunity to make savings, as we no longer have to pay for external meeting facilities in Paris.

The past year has also seen considerable progress in building our new, interactive website which was demonstrated in Ho Chi Minh City last year. Upon completion, we will have a sophisticated tool which will be able to support new and much more efficient ways of working. As it is important that we all use the new functionality of the website if we are to make the most of its potential for improving the way we conduct our technical work, there will be sessions in Auckland which will allow those attending to understand how the new site ought to be used. I would urge all CIML Members to take a close interest in this, as there are a number of things, not least the registering of electronic votes, which can only be done by a CIML Member or a specifically designated representative.

On the subject of our technical work, I expressed my concerns last year about the amount of observable progress we can show in some of our technical work. This is most clearly seen in the reduction in the number of meetings and committee drafts over the last few years. In what was a very constructive meeting, in March the Presidential Council began the process of reviewing the portfolio of projects to identify those in need of most attention. For example, one area which had already been identified as a priority was R 117 *Dynamic measuring systems for liquids other than water* where it was clear that the need to have Parts 2 and 3 available was becoming urgent. The efforts that were made by all members of the TC 8/SC 3 project groups, and in particular the co-conveners, made it possible to accelerate that work to the extent that both parts are submitted for approval at our meeting. I believe this has been made possible by three things:

- first, the new *Directives for OIML technical work* give us the ability to operate more flexibly, in particular through the appropriate use of proxies;
- second, there is the readiness of convenors and secretariats to work more closely with Bureau staff so that we can make better use of the resources available; and
- finally, and in my view most importantly, we can see in this case the advantages of CIML Members taking a close personal interest in the way work in important project groups is being approached.

Still on the subject of our technical work, in September I had the great pleasure of attending the TC 6 meeting in the Republic of Korea. The excellent progress being made on all three TC 6 projects will be reported during the CIML meeting. Personally, I was very encouraged to see the level of engagement in an area which has generated some controversy in the past. I hope we will continue to see progress being made in this very important area.

The achievements in both the areas of technical work I have mentioned will hopefully be reflected in many other projects that will be submitted to the CIML for approval. All of them underline, in my view, the message that I presented last year, namely how important it is to encourage all CIML Members and their staff to take an interest in, and participate as much as possible, in our technical activities. While the OIML also has key functions in providing the framework of its Certificate Systems, liaising with other international organisations and providing support to members of the worldwide legal metrology community, all of these are founded on the quality of our technical work.

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During the year we have also seen further work on the MAA, building on the seminar held in Ho Chi Minh City and in subsequent discussions at the CIML. Making a success of the MAA is the single most important element in achieving the second objective in the 2011 *OIML Strategy*, that is “To **provide mutual recognition systems** which reduce trade barriers and costs in a global market.” The number of task groups that have been set up demonstrates that this is a challenge with many aspects and I am grateful for the readiness that many colleagues showed at the meeting in March to become involved in this work. I am particularly grateful to the First Vice-President, Dr. Roman Schwartz, for the lead he has given. He will be reporting on the progress made during our meeting.

Two other matters have engaged my personal attention during the year. The first is the proposal to establish an advisory group on matters related to what we often call, loosely, “developing countries”. As discussed last year, a better (but unfortunately longer) term is “countries and economies with emerging metrology systems”, and I have been very pleased with the number of colleagues who have stepped forward to take part in the work of this group. Its first meeting will take place before the CIML meeting and a survey has already been launched to identify what the priorities of the group should be.

Alongside the initiatives which may come from the Advisory Group, the Bureau has continued to look for opportunities to support capacity building in developing countries. One of the highlights of my year was to visit the AFRIMETS Legal Metrology School in Hammamet, Tunisia, where I was able to see for myself the excellent programme of speakers which the Bureau had assisted in putting together. Over 80 legal metrologists had been brought together and it was most encouraging to see the enthusiasm and liveliness which they brought to their studies.

Second, the OIML has taken up the opportunity to participate in an OECD study on the role of international organisations in regulatory cooperation. I believe that we have a chance to draw attention to many of the strengths we have in the ways of working we have adopted and to share these with colleagues in other organisations. There are some organisations that are only beginning the process of reform we have undergone in the past five years and there is much they can learn from our experience. That in turn will help maintain the profile of legal metrology in these important international forums.

As regards our bilateral relationships with other international organisations, we continue to work well with the BIPM, an organisation now heavily engaged in its own process of internal reform. It was also a great pleasure for me to attend the ILAC/IAF General Assembly this year, at which I signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding with both organisations. These relationships continue to be very important if we are to achieve a genuinely global metrology system.

As many of you will be aware, in May 2014 I stepped down as Chief Executive of the UK’s National Measurement Office, though I continue to serve as a senior official of the Office on a part-time basis and I remain, of course, the UK’s CIML Member. The advantage of this is that I expect to be able to devote more time to my OIML activities. My priorities in this are as I expressed them last year – to support colleagues in the legal metrology community across the world and to promote more widely the importance of metrology in economic development. During the year I have attended meetings in Abu Dhabi, the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Tunisia and Canada as well as several visits to the Bureau’s office in Paris. After the CIML meeting I will be attending the annual meeting of the APLMF. Working with colleagues across the world, most particularly in the Regional Legal Metrology Organisations, is essential if we are to make the greatest impact across all the areas identified in the *OIML Strategy* we adopted in 2011.

Looking forward, my personal priorities will be to encourage the streamlining of our technical work, through more intensive use of the procedures in the *Directives for OIML technical work* and the new

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features of the interactive website, and to pay particular attention to those activities which are of greatest importance to our Members whose metrology systems are still at an early stage of development. In all of this I know I can count on strong contributions from our two Vice-Presidents and my other colleagues on the Presidential Council, which was further strengthened earlier this year when we were joined by Valerie Villière. Both the Director and myself continue to benefit greatly from being able to turn to them to assist us on the wide variety of issues which arise during the year.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the BIML Director and his dedicated team of staff for their significant accomplishments. I have been very impressed by the way in which all the staff in the Bureau, under the leadership of the Director, have risen to the challenges of the program of change we have introduced, and continued to do so throughout the period of disruption which was created by the refurbishment of the building.

I look forward to another successful week in Auckland. The great strength of our organisation is that it is a membership organisation. As a member-led organisation, it is important that we make the most of our chances to meet together, not just in formal sessions but in the other events which are organised. But being a membership organisation means that we are also very dependent on the willingness of our members to participate fully in all the activities of the Organisation. We have made a lot of effort over the last few years to modernise and make more efficient our systems and procedures, but these are not ends in themselves. We will only see real benefits flow if we are now able to involve more of our members in tackling the challenges ahead.

**Peter Mason**

**CIML President**

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