



October 2016

Report on the work of the CIML (2013–2016)

Item 2.1: Report by the CIML President

The four years since the 14th Conference in Bucharest have seen the effective completion of the programme of internal management and financial reforms, which we were in the middle of at the last Conference, and a move back to a more outward-facing focus of attention. In the process the Organisation has gone from strength to strength, both in terms of membership and its resilience and effectiveness.

In terms of membership, we now have 61 Member States, following the accession of Colombia, Zambia and Thailand and the re-admission of the Republic of Cameroon. Another country has deposited an Instrument of Accession and the formalities of admission are being finalised. In addition we now currently have 65 Corresponding Members, so we continue to extend our global reach.

The only change in CIML office-holders during the period was that in 2013, following the retirement of Dr Grahame Harvey as CIML Member for Australia, Dr Yukinobu Miki was elected to serve as Second Vice-President for a six-year term.

At the 50th CIML Meeting in 2015, following a previous decision not to seek alternative candidates, the appointment of Mr Stephen Patoray as Director of the Bureau was renewed for a three-year term.

In 2013 new BIML Staff Regulations were adopted, effectively completing the internal modernisation of the way the Bureau operates.

The process of repairing and modernising the Bureau's offices in Paris, highlighted at the last Conference, took rather longer to complete than anticipated, as additional problems were found which involved extra expense. As a result, the disruption caused by the extensive building work continued into 2015. The effort has proved to be wholly justified, however, as we have succeeded in safeguarding the Organisation's principal asset, which was at risk through dilapidation, and as a bonus, we were able to introduce greatly improved working facilities, not least a new conference centre which has allowed us to make savings by no longer having to pay for external meeting facilities in Paris.

The benefits of the greater level of financial control can be seen not only in the way in which the refurbishment of the Rue Turgot building was accomplished but also in a very favourable report following a further management audit carried out in October 2012 by an External Auditor at the *Cour des Comptes*. This tighter financial control has also enabled us to deal with the additional challenges which can arise over a four-year period. In this case it was the difficulty we have faced in securing acceptable venues for our annual meetings, which have led to the two most recent CIML meetings being organised in France by the Bureau. The longer term implications of this will need to be considered when the budget is set for the next four-year period.

As the refurbishment of our Paris Headquarters was being completed, attention increasingly turned to updating the Organisation's Information Technology (IT), communication and security systems. All of these are essential for an international organisation seeking to follow best practice in making



information readily available to our Members and to others who have an interest in our work. Starting with a redesign of the OIML website, we have seen the progressive introduction of more interactive tools, culminating in the introduction of the “PG Workspace” facility in 2015. As a result we now have a set of sophisticated new tools which are able to support improved and much more efficient ways of working. One specific advantage of these tools is the greater opportunity they offer to CIML Members themselves (or their appointed representatives, termed “Assignees”) to monitor the progress of work they are involved in and to register electronic votes.

In terms of the outward-facing work carried out by the CIML and the Bureau, we have continued to be guided by the Strategy adopted in 2011, which focuses on the outcomes we seek to achieve, namely:

- standards and documents which can form the basis of advances in legal metrology;
- arrangements which underpin higher levels of confidence in the trade between Member States, such as OIML Certificates;
- influence in other organisations whose work affects the way legal metrology is conducted;
- support for members of the world-wide legal metrology community; and
- better understanding of the role of legal metrology in strengthening the economies of our Member States.

In adopting priorities for our activities, however, there are three areas which have emerged as particularly important:

- first, we have to speed up and make more efficient the process of producing and revising our Recommendations and other publications;
- second, it has become apparent that we need to make substantial changes to our OIML Certificate Systems if they are to be more widely used and cover more types of instrument; and
- third, we need a clear way forward on meeting the needs of our Members – including our Corresponding Members – with emerging metrology systems.

The core work of the OIML in producing Recommendations and Documents has of course continued, shown by the number of publications the Conference will be asked to sanction. But for some years there has been concern at what appeared to be a reduction in the quantity of technical work being carried out, most notably shown by the reduced number of meetings of Technical Committees, Subcommittees and Project Groups and the very long time it takes for many projects to be completed. This is obviously a major concern, as all of the OIML’s other activities (providing the framework of its Certificate Systems, liaising with other international organisations and providing support to members of the worldwide legal metrology community) are founded on the quality of our technical work.

Two complementary approaches have been adopted in an endeavour to speed up the way in which the technical work is carried out. The first is the increased use of new web-based technology, as already noted, so that views and ideas can be shared in an inclusive and transparent way, and clear decisions taken with less reliance on traditional meetings. The second is through improvements in our procedures for conducting technical work: the “Directives for OIML technical work”. At the 14th Conference we reported on the major revision of the Directives represented by OIML B 6-1 and B 6-2:2011. The plan was to refine the new procedures in the light of experience and a number of changes were introduced in a revision of B 6-1 in 2013. It became clear in 2015, however, that there were still some unresolved issues and more generally that it was not sufficient simply to introduce new technology – we had to make sure that our rules and procedures are updated to reflect the new ways of working. It was concluded at the 50th CIML Meeting, therefore, that a further limited review of B 6



was justified and a Project Group, consisting mainly of CIML Members, was established to carry out this review. It is hoped that a revised B 6 will be ready for approval by the 2017 CIML meeting.

The second priority which has emerged is the future of the OIML's Certificate Systems. This had its origins in a Seminar held alongside the 48th CIML Meeting in 2013. Although the issue was originally considered to be how to render the MAA more successful, as work has progressed it has become increasingly clear that it would be better to rethink our approach to both the Basic and the MAA Systems. Having considered the conclusions of the various task groups set up in 2013, in 2015 the CIML agreed that the right way forward was to introduce a single OIML Certificate System with two Schemes. The key to introducing a new System is to have agreement on a new Draft Basic Publication (replacing B 3 and B 10), which is being submitted to the CIML for approval at this year's meeting. Possibly the most significant element of the new approach, which is based on models found to be successful in other international organisations, is the proposal to place much of the responsibility for running the OIML Certificate System in the hands of a new Management Committee, supported by a dedicated Executive Secretary within the Bureau. A major concern of the Project Group developing the new Basic Publication is how to strike the right balance between proper oversight by the CIML and the practical authority which the Management Committee needs to operate effectively. As a result of these efforts, we can be confident that if the new Basic Publication is approved at our meeting in Strasbourg the new System will be able to start operating provisionally next year and come into full operation in 2018.

The third priority is a subject that the 14th Conference spent some time debating, namely the challenge of providing developing countries the support they are looking for within the constraints of the Convention and the resources available.

There have been various attempts over the years to find the right formula for addressing the needs of this community but I think we have now started to make real progress. A key development was the initiative taken in 2013 by the then CIML Member for China, Mr. Pu Changcheng, to propose an Advisory Group which would be able to harness resources both within the Bureau and within the Chinese Administration. One of the first changes we saw was a switch from thinking in terms of "developing countries" to "countries and economies with emerging metrology systems", abbreviated to CEEMS. Breaking the link with ideas based on GDP per head has allowed us to broaden our focus. A second element was an approach based on gathering ideas from the CEEMS countries themselves through systematic surveys. Even more important was bringing together the community in two major seminars, held in Chengdu and then Arcachon last year. Using the experience of winners of the *OIML Award for Excellent Achievements in Legal Metrology in Developing Countries* and supported by some limited funding from the Special Fund set up by the 14th Conference, we were able to bring together a wide range of viewpoints and draw up a comprehensive package of measures set out in a CIML Resolution which contained concrete proposals that both the OIML and others could undertake.

One of the specific proposals mentioned in the 2015 CEEMS Resolution was the development of Pilot Training Centres. Two very successful centres were initiated in China earlier this year. One of the most important features of the approach adopted in 2015 was the focus on co-operation with others, not least bilateral co-operation with individual Member States. We will also be looking for other ideas to take this forward. In the longer term there may also be a need to consider how the oversight of our work on CEEMS matters should be organised in the future.

Co-operation with other organisations is not of course confined to CEEMS issues. One of the major topics of debate in 2012 was the relationship with the BIPM, and I am pleased to report that co-operation between the two organisations is now closer and stronger than ever. Some of the more ambitious ideas we considered four years ago have been shelved while the BIPM has embarked on its own significant programme of internal reform. However, it is now becoming the norm for the two



organisations to work together on initiatives such as World Metrology Day and to identify various projects or events where one organisation is able to represent the interests of the other.

The other area of co-operation which is particularly important is with the Regional Legal Metrology Organisations. Finding the right balance between the activities which need to be addressed at the global level and those which are better tackled through regional co-operation is a challenge which is faced by all the metrology, standardisation and accreditation bodies. The formation of the CEEMS Advisory Group has probably made it easier to think clearly about how best to integrate the regional dimension, and I am pleased to report that the RLMOs have continued to support the annual Round Table, now under the Chairmanship of CIML Second Vice-President Dr Miki to coincide with the CIML meeting.

We have, in addition, continued to develop our relationships with colleagues outside the legal metrology community. Relationships with ISO, IEC, ILAC and IAF in particular are strong and this is important because in many parts of the world there is increasing recognition of how metrology, along with standardisation, accreditation and conformity assessment, work together to provide an economy's "quality infrastructure" which is vital in promoting confidence in both regulation and commercial transactions. The role of international organisations in promoting international regulatory co-operation has also come under scrutiny recently, with a major OECD report on the subject due to be published in November. The OIML has played an active role in the OECD report and has provided one of the case studies on which the report has been based.

In summary, we now have an Organisation which is well-equipped for the future and whose contribution to economic development and trade is increasingly recognised outside the legal metrology community. Our model, which depends heavily on the resources provided by the authorities in our Member States, has shown itself to be flexible and adaptable and there are good reasons for looking forward to the next four years with confidence.

Peter Mason

CIML President
