

Dear Reader,

Another year has passed and in retrospect, there are certainly special moments – positive as well as negative, which we shall remember well beyond the year 2005.

I should like to positively emphasize the successful completion of the project "Establishment of a national quality system" in Argentina on which we will go into more detail later, as well as our successful participation in various EU invitations to tender.

On this occasion, I should like to warmly thank our project partners, the PTB specialist laboratories, amicable institutions and our external short-term experts, in the name of all staff members of the Department of "Technical Cooperation" for the good cooperation in the past year.

I wish you a successful year in 2006.

Your

Dieter Schwohnke

Argentina ratifies agreement

In future, also Argentine accreditations will be recognized worldwide. On the occasion of the *ILAC/IAF General Assembly of International Accreditation Bodies for Laboratories and Certification Bodies* in Auckland, New Zealand in September of last year, the Argentine accreditation body *Organismo Argentino de Acreditación (OAA)* also signed the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MLA/MRA). With the so-called Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) and the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA), all accreditation bodies mutually recognize their granted accreditations.

In future, a supplier will need only one certificate or report. Multiple assessments can be reduced or are no longer necessary at all. Barriers to trade are thus removed.



In Latin America, the OAA is the leading accreditation body internationally recognized in five areas. Included here are the testing and calibration laboratories, the product certifiers as well as the quality and environmental management systems. An essential basis for this recognition has been created through consulting services and training courses within the scope of a TC project of PTB, whereby this success was very much aimed at.

Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay improve their quality infrastructure

The Technical Cooperation of PTB is involved in implementing EU programmes to promote competition and export in the countries of Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay. In this connection, the concentration of technical assistance lies in the services of metrology, standardization and testing. Thus, national production establishes its own quality infrastructure which creates the necessary support for lasting access to international markets.

The European Union demands quality of its Latin American trade partners and promotes the respective

quality trends of these countries through projects.

Consortium lays the foundation for a metrology institute in Jordan

The PTB supports Jordan in the establishment of a metrology system within the scope of the EU-Twinning Project "Strengthening of the Jordan Institution for Standards and Metrology in Jordan for its compliance with the EU-Jordan Association Agreement", which is realized in a consortium, together with the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (BAM - Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing) and the Deutsches Institut für Normung (DIN - German Institute for Standardization). The emphasis is placed here on the development of a concept for the establishment of an effective legal metrology system as well as on the further development of calibration laboratories of the Royal Scientific Society to form a national metrology institute.

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