



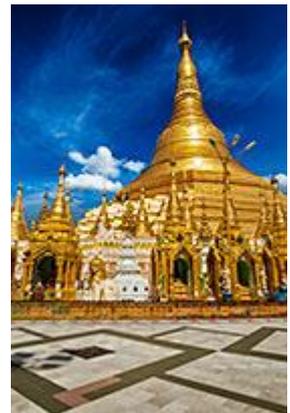
Welcome to the fourth issue of the IANZ Argus, in which we update you on the Free Trade meeting in Burma, introduce you to our new GM of Accreditation Services and find out more about one of the largest pathology services in the country.

1. IANZ at Free Trade meeting in Myanmar (Burma)

The benefits to business of global accreditation standards were a key topic at the latest Free Trade meeting between ASEAN, Australia and Zealand, held in Myanmar in September.

IANZ chief executive Dr Llew Richards attended the Yangon (Rangoon) conference at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

“The key outcome was that accreditation against internationally recognised standards was the best way to make regulations as effective and cost efficient as possible. If a new technical regulation is introduced that is not compliant with the global model, then it immediately becomes a trade barrier.



“Most regulators are concerned about public health and safety, and by using regulations based on accreditation, they are able to address these concerns, without compromising trade facilitation.”

Dr Richards, who spoke at a technical workshop about Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures (STRACAP), said some of ASEAN nations were not yet members of the global technical infrastructure.

“However, it is important for them to join and this should clearly be a priority area, especially if funding assistance is available.”

He told delegates Australia and New Zealand regulators used accreditation against international standards more than other nations. “This effectively gives us a competitive advantage, both in avoiding red tape and keeping compliance costs to a minimum.”

2. Phil Barnes appointed new GM of Accreditation Services

Phil Barnes is returning to IANZ as the general manager of accreditation services. He takes up his new position on 1 December.

As IANZ's GM Accreditation Services, Barnes will oversee all the accreditation programmes and the six programme managers.

For the past eight years, he has been a member of the executive leadership team at Waitemata District Health Board.

"We are delighted Phil is coming back to IANZ. He already knows the organisation - and many of our clients – extremely well and will be able to put his extensive experience in management and healthcare to very good use," says IANZ chief executive Dr Llew Richards.



Originally from Wolverhampton in the United Kingdom, Barnes migrated to New Zealand in 1999, partly because his mother and sister (a well-known NZ TV personality) were here.

He joined IANZ a short time later as manager of national accreditation programme for medical testing laboratories, radiology and pharmacy. As an IANZ advisor to ISO and Standards NZ, he introduced the international medical testing standard to New Zealand and completed the world's first assessment against the standard in Wellington in April 2003.

A keen runner who did the London Marathon earlier this year, Barnes also set up joint IANZ/NSU audit programmes for the National Breast Screening and the National Cervical Screening units.

In 2006, he joined Waitemata DHB as laboratory services manager for North Shore and Waitakere Hospitals and was appointed director of allied health, scientific and technical staffs in 2008. At the same time, he spent two years as acting group general manager of hospital operations, responsible for 700 staff and a \$65 million budget.

Trained in the United Kingdom as a medical laboratory scientist, Barnes is a Fellow of the UK Institute of Medical Laboratory Science. He worked as head of technical services for the Wolverhampton Hospitals Trust, while also lecturing in medical laboratory science and clinical biochemistry at Wolverhampton University.

"I didn't hesitate to take the opportunity to return to IANZ and am really looking forward to getting back into the business," says Barnes. "The job has great depth and scope and I know the organisation, its staff and clients very well."

3. Immigration changes next year may impact on radiologists

From early 2015, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) is making an important change to the medical examination process for NZ visa applicants who are in the country.

INZ is establishing an onshore panel physician network. This means applicants applying for a New Zealand visa from within New Zealand will need to have their immigration medical examination completed by a doctor or radiologist who is listed on the INZ onshore panel.



Doctors and radiologists are now being invited to register their interest in being part of the network via the INZ website.

Clinics will be selected with the aim of maintaining broad geographic coverage while managing consistency and compliance with INZ's medical screening requirements.

The NZ panel physician network will enable an easier transition to eMedical, INZ's new online medical assessment system. Electronic medical examinations will be sent directly from the clinic to INZ, reducing time delays associated with processing paper medical certificates.

If you have any questions about the new system, email INZ-healthproject@mbie.govt.nz. Further information on the onshore panel can also be found at <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/healthinfo/>

4. Meet the clients – Pathology Associates Ltd

During the past three decades, Hamilton pathologist Dr Ian Beer has been on both sides of IANZ accreditation.

As one of the nine owners of Pathology Associates Ltd, known as Pathlab, his practice has been the subject of many annual IANZ accreditations. Since 1990, he has also acted as one of IANZ's technical experts for peer reviews and, for the past seven years, has been the chair of IANZ's Medical Testing Professional Advisory Committee (MTPAC), having joined the committee in 2000.



Established in Bay of Plenty more than 50 years ago, Pathlab now delivers medical testing in the Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Whakatane and Lakes regions, helping more than 4,500 patients a day. As well as medical testing, they offer workplace health and safety monitoring, travel immigration and insurance tests, patient-requested procedures and take part in clinical trials and research studies.

“Our laboratories and equipment are world-class with systems and processes fully developed and benchmarked to maintain this. Our annual IANZ inspection and peer review every four years helps us to maintain consistently high quality,” says Dr Beer.

“Our philosophy is to use automation to improve services and provide a reliable platform across our entire organisation. That means wherever and whatever we measure, it will be the same test with the same reference range and methodology, allowing our doctors to move seamlessly between the three DHBs – Lakes, Waikato and Bay of Plenty.”

Dr Beer says IANZ accreditation has been an integral part of maintaining that quality programme. “They are good at picking up areas which have the potential to be problematic. We have always found it very useful to have an IANZ inspection each year.”

The drive to automate has accelerated since 2006, when the Government increased the use of tendering in the health sector.

“That has pushed costs down so providers like Pathlab have streamlined our systems, resulting in a number of benefits, including savings in time and money. It has also reduced the likelihood of human error throughout the different stages of the analytical process.”

Further changes are coming this year when updates to ISO 15189 (requirements for quality and competence particular to medical laboratories) become the new official standard.

Dr Beer, who started in pathology in Tauranga in 1985, has had experience with accreditation since that time. “I’ve encouraged labs to embrace IANZ accreditation since the beginning. It helps to raise standards everywhere and develop uniformity of practise across New Zealand.”

Dr Beer was previously Clinical Director of Laboratory Services at Tauranga Hospital and chair of the Association of Community Laboratories between 1999 and 2004. He is also an Expert Medical Advisor to the Health and Disability Commission.

For more information, visit www.pathlab.co.nz

5. IANZ library offers wide range of articles

The IANZ Library offers a range of interesting articles to clients. Information Services Co-ordinator Rosemary Apperley produces a list of titles each quarter and the latest are listed below. These are also listed on our website. If you would like a copy of any of the items listed, please email RApperley@ianz.govt.nz Don’t forget to include your postal address.



Please note this library is for information and interest only and does not necessarily mean endorsement by IANZ.

1. Meeting the challenges of staff turnover (Laboratory Management, July/Aug 2014)
2. Meeting deadlines during the accreditation process (Laboratory Management, May/June 2014)
3. Managing the system : Revision introduces focus on organisational operating conditions (Quality Progress, Aug 2014)
4. Clues about culture: Research findings offer insight into building and sustaining a culture of quality (Quality Progress, Aug 2014)
5. What's meant by 'Capability : Careful sampling, data analyses required to estimate process capability (Quality Progress, Aug 2014)
6. 11 common continuous improvement mistakes you are probably making. This article can be found at the following link:

<http://www.qualitydigest.com/inside/quality-insider-column/11-common-continuous-improvement-mistakes-you-are-probably-making.html>

7. Quantile estimation: When more than the mean and the standard deviation are needed (ASTM Standardisation News, July, Aug 2014)
8. A new look: 15 things you must know about the upcoming ISO 9001 revision (Quality Progress, Sept 2014)
9. Brought into focus: ISO 9001:2015 specifically addresses risk. Is your organization ready? (Quality Progress, Sept 2014)
10. Measure for measure: Measuring proficiency – Evaluating laboratory measurement performance (Quality Progress, Sept 2014)
11. Standards: Missing in action. New standard begs question: 'Where have all the documents gone?' (Quality Progress, Sept 2014)
12. Take care of your 'ugly baby': 10 symptoms of a dysfunctional quality management system and how to correct them (Quality Progress, Oct 2014)