



In our last IANZ Argus for 2015, we report on the recent ILAC conference in Milan, the Metrology Conference in Queenstown and take a look at our restructured health programme. We'd also like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season. We look forward to working with you in 2016.

1. Global politics discussed at ILAC conference

The changing geo-political landscape was a hot topic at the annual ILAC meeting in Milan in October.

IANZ chief executive Dr Llew Richards was one of 300 delegates at the conference, which included representatives from virtually every country New Zealand trades with.

“As well as the United States, Europe, Japan and Australia, there were opportunities to meet with delegates from Russia, Ukraine, Iran, Iraq, China and Taiwan,” says Dr Richards.



“The networking during the conference was invaluable, particularly gaining insights into what is going on in Europe currently. There are legitimate concerns about the political strife underway now, especially with governments being elected which are

less trade-friendly than we've seen in the past. There is a trend towards protectionism which can result in a negative impact on trade."

On the plus side, Dr Richards discussed with delegates the move towards a global Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for radiology accreditation.

"This received enthusiastic support from a number of countries and the next step is refine the protocols. IANZ will be putting a proposal to the International Standards Organisation for us to develop the new criteria document for radiology accreditation."

Canada already uses the criteria developed by IANZ while other countries have slightly different systems in place. "A lot of countries are very keen to implement a MRA in this area."

Global trade agreements also came up during the meeting. "The Trans Pacific Partnership has now been signed and accreditation is a significant feature of that," says Dr Richards.

"Regulators around the 12 nations in the TPP are being encouraged to use ILAC accreditation processes to give assurance of the competence of their laboratories and inspection bodies."

Another key topic at ILAC was the increasing amount of counterfeit products going into Europe and the rest of the world.

"ILAC has been developing a best practice guide for accreditation bodies outlining how they should proceed on this issue, including the implementation of risk management procedures to deal with counterfeit test reports and certificates."

ILAC and the ISO have also formed a task force which is working directly with Interpol on fraud and counterfeiting.

2. Metrology Conference a measurable hit in Queenstown

The Metrology Society of Australasia's annual conference, held in Queenstown in October, was a huge success – and came with a few surprises too.



About 150 delegates from New Zealand, NZ, Australia, the United States, Europe and the Philippines attended the conference, which showcased how good measurement underpins great business.

IANZ was a silver sponsor of the event and also part of the organising committee.

The conference brought together business, scientific and technical practitioners and updated them on the latest advances in the industry and new measurement tools.

The line-up of case studies, presentations and workshops showcased research, innovation and success in the world of calibration and measurement.

Those attending included representatives from businesses which use physical measurements, calibration and testing laboratories, national measurement institutes, and accrediting, compliance and government organisations.

Feedback from the conference was exceptionally positive, with comments including “best conference dinner ever, and I’ve been to a few conferences”, “you’ve set the bar”, “a great experience” and “I’ve learnt so much from the technical workshops, way more than I ever expected”.

Another delegate said: “It was great to highlight how metrology, while at times unknown as a science, has a large impact on our economy and daily lives.”

During the four day conference, the delegates went on a visit to Gibbston Valley winery, founded by world-renowned winemaker Alan Brady who also spoke at the conference with Kirsten Creasy from Hill Laboratories. They talked about the development of winemaking in the Otago region and how regulations in the industry have given New Zealand wineries the scope to produce internationally-recognised top quality wines.

Asked his view of the conference, Alan said: “I had no idea what metrology was when I was asked to speak so, when I did some research, I realised how much measurement impacts the wine industry.”

3. Restructured health programme delivering great results

The revamp of IANZ’s health accreditation process has been well-received by clients and is delivering great results.

In June, the medical laboratory and radiology testing were brought under one umbrella to create the Health Care and Medical Diagnostics programme.

“While it was a big job for us, the restructure has made the accreditation process much smoother for clients,” says programme manager Sharon Thomas.



Extra staff members have been recruited for the programme, including Mark Ashcroft who is a radiology accreditation assessor, and Brian Hollis, a medical laboratory assessor.

“We now have five in the team and will be recruiting two more to ensure we can service the growth in the sector,” says Thomas.

“We’ve spent a lot of time and effort reviewing the delivery of the accreditation process to ensure our service is constructive and tailored to fit the medical environment.”

This approach was implemented in radiology about 18 months ago and Thomas says the feedback has been extremely positive, with many clients acknowledging the benefits.

“Now we’re rolling out the same concept into the medical laboratory environment and are working very closely with the industry groups to make sure the service we deliver is appropriate for their needs.”

Thomas says the aim is to make the accreditation process more relevant to current practices and technology. “It’s a collaborative process working with the clients and making sure the on-site assessment time is spent in the most constructive manner.”