



Agenda Item 11.1: Report on the RLMO Round Table (Regional Legal Metrology Organization)

Round Table Chairperson

Dr. Charles Ehrlich

CIML First Vice President (NIST, USA)

Background

- The RLMO RT has been a place where RLMOs gather to share information, and to discuss new ideas or collaboration projects.
- This year's RLMO RT Meeting was held virtually (on 8 October).
- A new Open Forum was held at this year's RT meeting.



Participants at the RLMO RT meeting on 8 October 2020

- There were a total of 28 participants from 10 Member States.
- **Six representatives made presentations from:**
 - **AFRIMETS** (Intra-Africa Metrology System)
 - **APLMF** (Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum)
 - **COOMET** (Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions),
 - **GULFMET** (Gulf Association for Metrology)
 - **SIM** (The Inter-American Metrology System)
 - **WELMEC** (European Cooperation in Legal Metrology)



Agenda Item 11.1: Report by the RLMO Round Table Chairperson

Agenda

1. Welcome by the RLMO RT Chairperson (Dr. Charles Ehrlich)
2. Roll call
3. Overview of the RLMO discussion topics
4. Updates from the RLMOs
 - AFRIMETS (Mr. Jaco Marneweck)
 - APLMF (Mr. Stephen O'Brien)
 - COOMET (Dr. Peter Ulbig)
 - GULFMET (Eng. Omar Kanakrieh)
 - SIM (Mr. Pedro Pérez Vargas)
 - WELMEC (Dr. Pavel Klenovský)
5. Update from SAARC (Mr. Ashutosh Agarwal)
6. Update from the CEEMS AG Chairperson (Mr. Peter Mason)
7. Update from the OIML-CS Executive Secretary (Mr. Paul Dixon)
8. Open Forum on the RLMO discussion topics
9. Future collaborations
10. Conclusions
11. Any other business



Brief Highlights from RLMO Presentations

Full presentations available on new RLMO RT Web Page.

AFRIMETS: Funds in many countries channeled to other areas, such as humanitarian relief. National budget cuts for legal metrology.

APLMF: Important link with APEC. Transfer of Secretariat to Malaysia still under way. Face to face MEDEA training delayed, will move to virtual format in 2021. Updated APLMF Strategic Plan soon.

COOMET: No big changes in COOMET. Intensive discussion of COOMET Strategy (until 2025). Busy with translations to Russian language, need could diminish in a few years. Legal framework of COOMET under discussion.



Brief Highlights from RLMO Presentations

Full presentations available on new RLMO RT Web Page.

GULFMET: GCC/GSO are legal entities, but GULFMET is not independent and is not a legal entity. 7 Members and 5 Associate Members. GULFMET is about 10 years old. Attends EURAMET and APMP meetings.

SIM: SIM LMWG becoming more active (new Chairperson). Current focus is on impact of digitalization. Will be encouraging more SIM countries to join OIML, but assisting (small) countries that cannot.

WELMEC: Transition from WELMEC MoU to a legal entity (WELMEC e.V.) operating under German law. New strategy under development (new logo and website under development). Better cooperation with EURAMET. Strong use of OIML Recommendations (in “Corresponding Tables”). Will be involved in revision of MID? Focus on electricity meters, water meters and impact of digitalization.



RLMO discussion topics

- 1. Under the current circumstances (pandemic, travel, financial, etc.), have any of your RLMOs been able to conduct any business since last October (in-person and/or online)?**

- 2. How is your RLMO coping with the pandemic situation? What short-term and long-term changes do you foresee to your RLMO?**



RLMO discussion topics

3. How might the relationship between the OIML and the RLMOs be enhanced or augmented?

4. How might the scope of the RLMO Round Table be expanded to enhance collaboration and sharing of ideas beyond just reporting by the RLMO representatives at the annual RT meetings?

How might the RLMO Round Table be restructured to better serve your needs?



RLMO discussion topics

5. Should the individual RLMO reporting format at future RLMO Round Table meetings be standardized in order to focus discussion on certain topics?

6. Does your RLMO have any suggestions on how the OIML Bulletin might become more valuable to your RLMO, and to the OIML, in the future?



Answers to RLMO Discussion Topic Questions

1. Under the current circumstances (pandemic, travel, financial, etc.), have any of your RLMOs been able to conduct any business since last October (in-person and/or online)?
2. How is your RLMO coping with the pandemic situation? What short-term and long-term changes you foresee to your RLMO?

- Most/All activities were online, with mixed success.
- Connections sometimes difficult.
- Could not proceed with most meetings.
- Pandemic stopped a lot of work.
- Main work has been done.
- Biggest difficulty was doing peer reviews online.
- Holding virtual workshops and meetings.
- Need to migrate to metrological digitalization.
- Business as usual, only virtually.
- Anticipate eventual return to going back to normal.



RLMO discussion topics

3. How might the relationship between the OIML and the RLMOs be enhanced or augmented?
4. How might the scope of the RLMO Round Table be expanded to enhance collaboration and sharing of ideas beyond just reporting by the RLMO representatives at the annual RT meetings?
How might the RLMO Round Table be restructured to better serve your needs?

- OIML could serve in coordinating role for a variety of things.
- RLMO RT could be used to discuss issue of non-compliant measuring instruments.
- Digitalization could be 'harmonized' through OIML.
- E-learning and seminars could also be coordinated/centralized by OIML.
- Better not to formalize RLMO relationship with OIML.
- OIML could help in providing sharing of training materials on OIML Documents and Recommendations (R87, D1, OIML-CS).
- OIML might assist RLMOs in requesting financial resources.
- OIML can assist RLMOs with participation in OIML-CS.
- Don't need more formal relationship between RLMOs and OIML, too much 'regulation' could be a negative .



RLMO discussion topics

5. Should the individual RLMO reporting format at future RLMO Round Table meetings be standardized in order to focus discussion on certain topics?

6. Does your RLMO have any suggestions on how the OIML Bulletin might become more valuable to your RLMO, and to the OIML, in the future?

- Would support a standardized reporting format.
- Use OIML Bulletin as a training instrument.
- Need a mixture of topics, some agreed by all RLMO representatives, some obtained from other sources (e.g., OIML Presidential Council).
- Reports from RLMO meetings could go in Bulletin (and also on new RLMO RT web page). Also reports on changes in regional legislation and in individual economies.
- Bulletin articles would be useful on how metrological verification is performed in different countries, digitalization technologies being used, etc.
- Articles about new technological developments in legal metrology would be useful in the Bulletin.



Summary and Main Conclusions

- All RLMOs have gone to virtual meetings, with varying degrees of success;
- No strong sentiment for a more formal relationship between RLMOs and OIML, might even be counterproductive;
- Therefore will probably not develop an RLMO RT ToR, but will see how the RLMOs can serve in more of a liaison role;
- OIML can provide stronger benefit to the RLMOs through:
 - Providing/coordinating an e-learning platform
 - CEEMS activities (OTCs and OTEs)
 - Operating the OIML-CS
- Will try a more standardized format for RLMO RT reports, to address discussion topics as well as update reports;
- Hold 'intermediate' RLMO RT meeting(s)?



Next Steps for RLMO RT

- Consult with RLMO representatives and BIML on further developing the new RLMO RT web page(s) on OIML web site;
- Develop separate policy paper according to OIML B 12:2004 (Policy paper on liaisons between the OIML and other bodies) Clause 2.2: “OIML policy concerning coordination with RLMOs will be defined in a specific paper.”
- Develop a more standardized format for RLMO RT reports, to address discussion topics as well as to provide RLMO update reports;
- Discuss possible coordinated use of OIML e-learning platform by the RLMOs, and coordinate with CEEMS AG on this and other training activities;
- Hold ‘intermediate’ RLMO RT meeting(s) (at least one meeting, in spring 2021) to discuss and progress these things.



Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale

International Organization of Legal Metrology



Next Steps for RLMO RT

QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?