



55th CIML Meeting - Working Document

Addendum

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2020-10-16

Item 10: Report by the CEEMS Advisory Group Chairperson



October 2020

Annual Report by the CEEMS Advisory Group to the 55th CIML Meeting

Introduction

Like much of the rest of OIML's activities, the work of the CEEMS Advisory Group (CEEMS AG) has been severely impacted by the travel restrictions, lengthy periods of home-working and the reprioritisation which all governments have had to implement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Limited progress has been possible in more than a few of the items, set out in the Work Plan drawn up in accordance with Clause 6 of OIML Basic Publication B 19:2017 *Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group on matters concerning Countries and Economies with Emerging Metrology Systems (CEEMS)*, the latest version of which is attached at Annex 1.

One area where substantial progress was possible, mainly in the period before widespread travel restrictions and national "Lockdowns" were imposed, was the revision of OIML International Document D 1.

Other areas of activity which remain priorities for the Advisory Group and which will be progressed further when circumstances permit include:

- Further development of the CEEMS web pages on the OIML website;
- Extension of the suite of e-Learning modules to support a variety of training needs;
- Further proposals for OTC/OTE projects as envisaged by B 21, probably delivered online while COVID-19 travel restrictions continue;
- Proposals for a scholarship programme for future leaders in CEEMS;
- Input into Australia's proposal for a pre-market surveillance pilot at a regional level to study Conformity to Type problems; and
- Projects to revise OIML International Documents D 14 and D 19, together with D 20 if a convener can be found.

In addition, the Advisory Group devoted much of its online meeting on 6 October to discussing how capacity building and other CEEMS activities are best taken forward in a Post-COVID-19 World. The decision to draw up a Strategy on the application of online technology to capacity building and other CEEMS Activities is an important one and will form the core of much of our work in the coming year.

Changes in Advisory Group Members

I am sorry to report that Manfred Kochsiek has announced that he will be standing down as a Co-opted Expert member of the Advisory Group. He has been an important part of our work from the beginning, and his contribution will be greatly missed. I am pleased to announce, however, that Han Jianping, who will be known to many CIML Members, has joined as a Co-opted Member.

OIML Training Centres (OTC) and OIML Training Events (OTE)

The COVID-19 situation has meant that both events previously planned for this year had to be postponed, but an online training course on smart meters for GULFMET countries was delivered by NIM, P.R. China earlier this month and may offer an example for future such events.

E-learning modules

Some work on developing an OIML policy on e-Learning following the workshop in Bratislava was begun before the COVID-19 crisis intervened and discussions are currently ongoing with UNIDO. Major changes in the products made available by the OIML require new hardware and a development server, and these are still in the process of being installed.

Revision of OIML Document D 1:2012 *Considerations for a Law on Metrology*

Following the decision, after the circulation of the first Working Document, the revision should be more far-reaching than originally envisaged, and there was an extensive restructuring of the 2012 edition, now retitled *National Metrology Systems: Developing the institutional and legislative framework*.

Following an informal meeting of the Project Group in October 2019, a 1CD was circulated in December 2019 and a 2CD in early February this year. Active engagement from members of the Project Group meant that they were able to approve a 3CD at a meeting held in March, conducted largely online. I would like to thank all the members – Mr Anthony Donnellan, Dr Chuck Ehrlich, Mr Andy Henson, Dr Manfred Kochsiek, Dr Martin Milton, Mr Ralph Richter, Mr Philip Sorrell and Dr Peter Ulbig – for the great contributions they made to this project. The revised Document successfully passed the Preliminary Online Ballot and the Final Draft Document is now before the CIML for approval.

The Advisory Group's role in developing OIML Recommendations and Documents

Basic Publication B 19:2017 provides that one of the activities the Advisory Group may wish to undertake is “organizing the development of guidance and procedures that are based on OIML Recommendations and Documents, with the aim to assist with the implementation by CEEMS of OIML Recommendations and Procedures”. There are currently two Project Groups undertaking revisions of OIML International Documents under Advisory Group supervision. The project to revise OIML Document D 14:2004 *Training and qualification of legal metrology personnel* has been held up both by the need to identify and train a new convener and by the COVID-19 situation. However, there have now been some discussions with the convener and progress is expected soon. The project to revise OIML Document D 19:1988 *Pattern evaluation and pattern approval* has also been held up by the COVID-19 situation, but a 1CD is close to being finalised and should be circulated soon.

At the 6 October meeting it was agreed that work should begin on developing a proposal to revise OIML Document D 20:1988 *Initial and subsequent verification of measuring instruments and processes*, provided that a country could be identified to take on the convenorship.

Capacity building and other CEEMS activities in a Post-COVID-19 World

Much of the Advisory Group's virtual meeting held on 6 October was devoted to this topic. There was general agreement that travel restrictions, increased home-working, reductions in availability of legal metrology staff and reduced funding were likely to continue for the foreseeable future. It was appropriate, therefore, to start planning how legal metrology should function in a world where there would be fewer and less experienced staff. Digitalisation and the “internet of things” would make it easier to operate in a world where face-to-face contact was likely to be more difficult but that also brought with it new training needs. The central objective of CEEMS activities – to increase skill levels in the legal metrology community – was more important than ever and would require continued use of all the “traditional” tools used in CEEMS programmes. All those tools, however, would have to be delivered in a different way, typically using online technology.

The meeting heard several examples of new initiatives which offered exciting possibilities, in particular those

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put forward by the BIPM. It was noted that the COVID-19 crisis had accelerated the use of online technology across most areas of life and that technological barriers which would have been regarded as unsurmountable 12 months ago were now seen as much less of a problem in most parts of the world. There was a pressing need, however, to bring the various examples of good practice and new ideas together so that they could be shared and advice offered on prioritisation. This was essential if the limited resources available were to be used most efficiently. It was felt that the Advisory Group was in a good position to do this, and it was therefore agreed that an ad hoc Project Group would be set up to develop a strategy on the *Application of Online Technology to Capacity Building and other CEEMS Activities*. It is hoped that the results of this work will be available before the middle of next year.

Revision of OIML Basic Publication B:19 *Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group on matters concerning Countries and Economies with Emerging Metrology Systems*

The Advisory Group agreed at its 2019 meeting to revise the procedures for selecting the Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson and for providing the secretariat, but limited progress has been possible since then. The 6 October meeting, however, decided to establish an ad hoc project group to take this forward with a view to proposals being submitted at the 2021 annual meeting.

CIML Resolution 2018/15

At its 2018 meeting the CIML adopted Resolution 2018/15, which highlights the areas in which the OIML should be focusing its attention in the future. In previous years it has been the practice to provide the CIML with an analysis of the progress made on the various elements identified in the OIML Resolution governing our work. However, in view of the extra-ordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 situation, the limited progress that has been possible and the pressure on the CIML's agenda for its online meeting, we have decided not to prepare such an assessment this year.

Peter Mason
Chairperson

Peter Ulbig
Vice-Chairperson



Annex 1

CEEMS AG Work Plan