



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

between

International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF),

and

Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)



1. Involved Parties:

The parties involved in this MOU are:

- a) The International Halal Accreditation Forum represented by the IHAF General Secretary; named here in after as “First Party”.
- b) Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation; represented by the IAAC Chair named here in after as “Second Party”.

2. Background

IHAF: The International Halal Accreditation Forum is an independent, non-government network of accreditation entities based in Dubai, UAE, with the objective of harmonizing accreditation practices in the field of halal. In order to facilitate international trade; IHAF establishes a solid ground for the global industry of halal food and non-food products.

IAAC: The Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation established in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1996 with the aim of promoting cooperation among accreditation bodies and interested parties of the Americas, aiming at the development of conformity assessment structures to achieve the improvement of products, processes and services.

3. Objective

This MoU shall cover the cooperation between IHAF and IAAC on matters of peer evaluation, accreditation and conformity assessment policies and procedures.

Its intent is to establish strategic partnership between the two parties, and define activities to be carried out in line with each other’s objectives which contribute to facilitation of trade globally through:

- Setting up the common bases between both parties through close relationship and consultation activities that will benefit both parties’ interests.
- Cooperate in the field of accreditation to support both parties’ activities to facilitate national, bilateral, regional, interregional and global trade in the Halal field and to support the Halal industry in the region.

This MoU is not intended to be legally binding or otherwise enforceable commitment on behalf of either party.

4. Areas of Cooperation

Both parties explore the cooperation in the following areas:

4.1 Adoption of common positions:

- 4.1.1 Seek common positions on issues of mutual interest.
- 4.1.2 Support each other's positions at regional and international level.

4.2 Technical Support:

- 4.2.1 Support common efforts on matters of a technical nature related to IAAC activities, IHAF Halal accreditation programs, accreditation schemes and other pertinent topics.
- 4.2.2 Set up joint working groups when required.

4.3 Coordination:

- 4.3.1 Invite each other to participate in General Assembly meetings as observers and other events that are of mutual interest based on each other's internal rules and procedures.

4.4 Promotion and visibility:

- 4.4.1 Promote the activities of each other through their newsletters, websites and marketing/media activities, based on request.

4.5 Information exchange:

- 4.5.1 Exchange information, expertise and general publications, free of charge, to support each other's objectives and work programs.

4.6 Training and Capacity building:

- 4.6.1 Cooperate in organizing seminars, events and workshops for Inter-American countries that are in line of each other's objectives and beneficial to both parties, whenever required.
- 4.6.2 Jointly organize training activities to build a pool of experts and qualify experts from the region to support conducting IHAF and IAAC activities.
- 4.6.3 Foster participation in training activities jointly or by either party, when required.
- 4.6.4 Utilize each other's experts to achieve the objectives of this MoU.

4.7 Joint Peer Evaluations:

Provide joint peer evaluations to IAAC/IAF/ILAC and IHAF accreditation body members to include the evaluation of Halal accreditation requirements.



5. Implementation Methodology

The above areas of cooperation will be implemented through the following mechanisms:

- 5.1** The IHAF Secretariat and IAAC Executive Committee shall manage the MoU and any coordinating issues arising from it.
- 5.2** Both Parties will assign a representative for each party who will be responsible in coordination and follow up on the implementation of this MoU.
- 5.3** Joint working groups could be established when needed to discuss/advise on technical matters.

6. Financial Matters:

As a result of this MoU, no financial commitments are imposed on any of the participated parties.

7. Validity and Entry into Force

The MoU is valid for unlimited period and shall enter into force upon signing by all parties, unless any of the Parties expresses its wish to terminate in advance, having given notice in writing to the other Parties at least six months in advance.

8. Amendment of the MOU

If any of the parties has reasonable grounds for amending this MOU partially or completely, a written request shall be made to the other party. Any amendment, revision and modification shall be made if mutually agreed upon as a written change to the MOU of all parties; and such amendment shall be deemed an integral part of this MOU and the MoU shall be reissued in full as a new version.

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MoU shall be settled amicably by consultation between two parties.



IAAC

Eng. Mohamed Saleh Badri
General Secretary
International Halal Accreditation Forum

Mr. Randy Dougherty
Chair
Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation

Signed on April 9th, 2018, in Frankfurt, Germany, in two (2) original copies in the English language.