FIRST MEETING OF INTERAMERICAN ACCREDITATION BODIES
COMMUNICATION

So as to assess the possibility to establish a regional network of accreditation bodies, the First Meeting of Interamerican Accreditation Bodies took place in Lima , Peru .There were participants from Argentina, Bolivia , Brasil , Canada , Equador , USA, Mexico , Panama , Peru , Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, (CARICOM Group), Uruguay and Venezuela .Representatives of OAS , COPANT and EU also attended the meeting .

The accreditation bodies of Brasil, Peru and Venezuela were responsible for the organization of this meeting and it was technically supported by Cartagenas'Agreement Board , in the main office of which deliberations were taken .

This iniciative is developed in the framework of the "Americas' Summit Declaration of Principles" on having an hemisphere zone of free trade and commerce which must be based on high quality products ; where such a requirement should not create obstacles to commercial exchange .

The main purpose of the Forum was to set up the basis for the creation of a new regional organisation aimed at the harmonisation of the procedures of accreditation bodies operating on those countries or member economies, if they so wish, in accordance with ISO/IEC guidelines .

Another important goal of this new proposed entity is to seek the cooperation of other international or regional bodies with similar objectives.

For that purpose, a draft developing themes already mentioned was drawn up to be examined by participant delegations in the expectation of beeing analised, in a short-term, also by the entities or countries of AR interested in this matter .

A second meeting of interamerican accreditation bodies was also proposed, to be held in the near future, in order to go over the project of the Memorandum of Agreement .

Lima, august 24, 1995.

COMMUNIQUE OF THE FIRST MEETING OF

PANAMERICAN ACCREDITATION INSTITUTIONS

("PANAMERICANA DE ORGANISMOS DE ACREDITACION")

In order to evaluate the possibility of forming a Regional Network for ("Organismos de Acreditacion") Accreditation Institutions, the first meeting of the ("Panamericana de Organismos de Acreditacion") Panamerican Accreditation Institutions was held in Lima, Peru August 23-24, 1995.

The meeting was attended by representatives from: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, United States of America, Mexico, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago (CARICOM group), Uruguay and Venezuela. Representatives from OAS, COPANT and the European Union were also present.

The organization of this meeting was the responsibility of accreditation institutions from Brazil, Peru and Venezuela and technical support was provided by the "Junta del Acuerdo de Cartagena", (Commission of the Cartagena Agreement).

The initiative was developed within the framework of the Declaration of Principles of the Summit of the Americas, whose aim is the creation of a Hemispheric Free Trade Area and which must be configured for products of a high level of quality, in such a manner that the requirements do not constitute obstacles to trade.

The main objective of this forum was to create a Regional Organization, which would harmonize the proceedings of the member accreditation organizations. Another objective was to support the development of accreditation systems in groups of interested countries along ISO/IEC guides.

Another important objective of the proposed organization was to obtain the co-operation of other Regional or International Organizations with similar aims.

A draft memorandum of agreement was drafted developing the aforementioned aims. This draft is to be checked by the participating parties and it is hoped that the accreditation bodies of American countries that are interested in this subject will analyze and comment on this draft soon.

A second Panamerican Accreditation Institutions Meeting is proposed to be held in the near future, where a new version of the agreement will be the subject of discussion.

Anexo A

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