

Thailand World Accreditation Day 2022 (#WAD2022) Celebration Event “Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment”

Waraporn Piyasirananda (BLQS-DMSc)

Communication and promotion task force joint working group of single platform

The World Accreditation Day (WAD) was first introduced in 2008 for highlighting the value of accreditation in trade and the economy. The day is jointly launched by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) to host an annual global celebration on every June 9th. The objective is to promote the value, benefits and significance of accreditation on global issues which support economic sustainability. Every year, ILAC and IAF decide the exclusive WAD theme in order to draw attention from all over the world.

This year 2022, ILAC and IAF decided to set up the theme for WAD 2022 which is "Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment" (referred to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmvYvV0X6uk>). ILAC and IAF encouraged everyone to celebrate the day online using the hashtag #WAD2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with social distancing policies. The theme is focused on how accreditation supports the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals number (6) Clean Water and Sanitation; (7) Affordable and Clean Energy; (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth; (10) Reduced Inequality; (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities; (12) Responsible Consumption and Production; (13) Climate Action; (14) Life Below Water; and (15) Life on Land. The SDGs are the collection of 17 interlinked global goals which shared a blueprint for all UN Member States in 2015, and is intended to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030.

To achieve the goal of the UN SDGs, the Thai government promoted the Bio-Circular-Green Economic Model or BCG as the key principle of Thailand's social and economic development for inclusive and sustainable growth. The BCG model is based on Thailand's strengths in biological diversity and cultural richness and focuses on promoting four industries – (1) agriculture and food; (2) medical and wellness; (3) bioenergy, biomaterial and biochemical; and (4) tourism and creative economy.

This #WAD2022 celebration event on Thursday June 9th 2022 at 09:00 – 12:00 (GMT+07 time) in Thailand was jointly hosted by four accreditation bodies (ABs) by the virtual Zoom webinar and connecting to stream on the Facebook page URL <https://www.facebook.com/blqsdmsc/videos/742344303613479/> amongst approximately 670 participants from all relevant stakeholders. To raise the awareness on the importance of accreditation related activities in supporting the theme of #WAD2022 and the Thailand BCG model, the inaugural ceremony was opened by speeches delivered from four ABs by [1]

Dr.Patravee Soisangwan, Director of the Bureau of Laboratory Quality Standards (BLQS-DMSc), on behalf of Mr.Supakit Sirilak, MD, Director-General of Department of Medical Sciences – Ministry of Public Health; [2] Mr.Pisan Pongsapitch, Secretary-General of National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS) – Office of Standard Accreditation (OSA) – Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives; [3] Mr.Banjong Sukreetha, Secretary-General of Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) – National Standardization Council (NSC) – Ministry of Industry; and [4] Dr.Pathom Sawanpanyalert, MD, Director-General of Department of Science Service – Bureau of Laboratory Accreditation (BLA-DSS) – Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation. Then the panel has followed by the introductory remarks of the “Accreditation: sustainability in economic growth and the environment” from head of each ABs on their associated tasks and emphasising the need of conformity assessment on the SDGs. After this, to promote the unified accreditation reform in Thailand (Single Platform) (referred to https://ilac.org/latest_ilac_news/blqs-dm-sc-single-platform-towards-a-unified-accreditation-reform-in-thailand/) for reducing costs and increasing confidence under the Policy and Strategy of Thailand National Standard (2023-2027), the representatives from four task force joint working groups of single platform – which are [1] the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and accreditation process; [2] the assessor management; [3] the communication and promotion; and [4] the capacity building – have communicated useful and simplified information and presented the progress of each working groups operations. Finally, the hall was separated into four breakout rooms in four sessions of each ABs on their associated tasks for establishing confidence to support the sustainability and related claims of economic growth and the environment. The four sub-topics are as follows:

- ISO 20387 Biobanking: the biobank roles and the fight against health hazards and their connection to ISO15189 and ISO/IEC 17025.

- ISO/IEC 17029: General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies and CASCO standards.

- Recognition of the environmental testing laboratory capability according to ISO/IEC 17025 to be legally registered without re-assessment.

- Sustainability management in agricultural standards and certification.

Each of the sessions was closed by the Q&A, comments and suggestions from participants. Lastly, achievements of the happy #WAD2022 celebration event encouraged the stakeholders to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

