

## **Arrangement**

### **Between**

**Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New Zealand**

### **And**

**The New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office**

### **Regarding Accreditation Cooperation**

In recognition of the intention to facilitate trade under the Agreement between New Zealand and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu on Economic Cooperation (ANZTEC), the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New Zealand (TECO) and the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office (NZCIO) hereinafter referred to as "the Participants", have reached the following understandings regarding accreditation cooperation:

#### **Recognising:**

The mutual interest and benefit in strengthening technical cooperation within a framework of friendship and in pursuance of the desire to cooperate in defined areas.

The mutual benefit that can be derived from staff interaction, information exchange, cooperative assessments, training and other forms of collaboration as may be identified from time to time.

The advantages in developing strong links and a close and long-term relationship for technical cooperation.

**Consistent with the prevailing laws and regulations in their respective jurisdiction, the Participants have reached the following understandings:**

## **PARAGRAPH 1: Implementing Bodies**

The bodies implementing this Arrangement will be International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) and the Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF) (the "Implementing Bodies").

## **PARAGRAPH 2: Definitions**

TAF is the sole accreditation body that has represented Taiwan to sign the Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), and the Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLAs) of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC). TAF provides the following services to:

1. provide full-range accreditation services in accordance with relevant international standards and governmental regulations, by employing peer assessment professionals, to laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies, reference material producers, proficiency testing providers and all other conformity assessment bodies;
2. establish a sound conformity assessment infrastructure environment in Taiwan and build up bilateral and/or multilateral collaborative relationships with international organisations and other accreditation bodies so as to facilitate trade, and
3. underpin accredited conformity assessment services, through accreditation, to meet market needs and to accommodate governmental designated regulatory requirements so as to protect the interests of the Taiwan community and its welfare .

IANZ is the sole accreditation body authorised by the New Zealand authorities to:

1. provide accreditation, assessment, training and advisory services in the areas of technical competence, quality management and conformity assessment;
2. provide accreditation services to testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies, reference material providers and proficiency testing scheme providers and all other conformity assessment bodies (except certification bodies) while engaging peer technical assessors from the national and international scientific community;
3. protect the interests of the New Zealand community through the recognition through accreditation of reliable laboratory testing, calibration and inspection services that underpin quality of life and export markets; and

4. provide accreditation, assessment, training and advisory services internationally to organisations that wish to manage their technical competence through assisting other jurisdictions in the development of their technical infrastructures, accreditation activities and organisational capability.

### **PARAGRAPH 3: Guiding Principles**

The Participants jointly decide that the following guiding principles are at the heart of this Arrangement to enhance friendship and cooperation, and will at all times form the relationship between the Implementing Bodies. These are:

1. the clear recognition of the experience of each of the respective Implementing Bodies;
2. the acknowledgement of the mutual desire to share knowledge and experience for the common good;
3. the mutual desire to provide mutual support to the Participants' respective technical infrastructures;
4. the further enhancement of robust bilateral trade between New Zealand and Taiwan; and
5. the strengthening of the role accreditation plays in supporting regulatory policy, particularly in relation to appropriate risk management strategies.

### **PARAGRAPH 4: Policies and Strategies**

The Participants jointly decide that the following policies and strategies will apply as between the Implementing Bodies:

1. to work together to achieve enhanced confidence in the outputs of accredited facilities in both Taiwan and New Zealand, by both users of accreditation and regulators;
2. to work jointly to influence the effectiveness of the ILAC and APLAC MRAs;
3. to work together to address matters that have the potential to affect confidence in the MRAs;
4. to work together to resolve issues of mutual technical concern in an expeditious manner; and
5. to jointly develop a better understanding of the New Zealand accreditation system by Taiwan regulators and of the Taiwan accreditation system by New Zealand regulators.

## **PARAGRAPH 5: Formal Liaison Mechanism**

The Participants jointly decide that a mechanism for liaison will be maintained to allow easy and clear communications between the Implementing Bodies, and to enhance and assure the effectiveness of this Arrangement.

## **PARAGRAPH 6: Potential Areas for Cooperation**

The Participants jointly decide on the following areas for future cooperation.

### 1. Technical Cooperation

- i. The exchange of accreditation/technical documents and other relevant information;
- ii. The conduct of joint research on capability and methodology associated with assessments;
- iii. The development of joint accreditation programmes in areas of mutual interest;
- iv. The exchange of personnel (including structured placements) in relevant areas to foster the Transfer of knowledge; and
- v. The provision of information on new developments in accreditation fields in both jurisdictions.

### 2. Proficiency Testing (PT)

- i. Share experience and information on the use of PT in accreditation.

### 3. Training

- i. Collaborate in researching training needs and developing training courses that support accreditation, as appropriate.

### 4. Mutual Recognition of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Compliance Monitoring

- i. Undertake evaluations, against Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) criteria, of each body's GLP Compliance Monitoring programmes, in order to sign a Mutual Recognition Arrangement to enable regulators in each other's economies to accept data that meet OECD GLP requirements

## 5. Other Possible Areas

- i. Conduct joint assessments as deemed relevant; and
- ii. Explore ways to address areas of mutual technical concern as decided.

### **PARAGRAPH 7: Deeds of Understanding**

The terms of specific areas of cooperation will be decided in writing through a "Deed of Understanding" by both Implementing Bodies, prior to the initiation of any particular programme or activity. Any specific programme will be subject to mutual consent, availability of funds, availability of resources, and approval of both Implementing Bodies.

In such cases, each Implementing Bodies will nominate a specific point of contact within their organisation to facilitate effective and efficient communication between the Implementing Bodies.

Progress on any Deeds of Understanding will be reviewed at the time of the biennial review of this Arrangement.

### **PARAGRAPH 8: Confidentiality**

Unless otherwise jointly decided, the Implementing Bodies will keep confidential all information and documents exchanged under the terms of this Arrangement. All people involved in the cooperation will sign a declaration of confidentiality to this effect.

### **PARAGRAPH 9: Terms of the Duration and Termination of the Arrangement**

This Arrangement will commence on the date both Participants sign this document.

This Arrangement will continue in effect unless, and until terminated, by either Participant by giving 90 days' written notice to the other. In this case, any joint business affairs will be completed as decided in the relevant Deed(s) of Understanding.

This Arrangement will be formally reviewed every two years after its signing, and may be amended and supplemented at any time, by the mutual written consent of the Participants.

Any difference that may arise from the interpretation or application of the provisions of the Arrangement will be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the Participants.

Signed in duplicate in the Chinese and English languages at Taipei, Taiwan, on 5 December 2014, both texts having equal validity.

For the Taipei Economic and Cultural  
Office in New Zealand

For the New Zealand Commerce and  
Industry Office



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Chien Kuo David Wu  
Representative



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Director