Personnel Certification and Accreditation in Japan

- From the perspective of a Japanese accreditation body -

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Introduction to JAB

- First established in 1993
- Private non-profit foundation
- Self-sustaining from accreditation fees
- Accredits conformity assessment bodies
  - Management systems CBs (QMS, EMS)
  - Personnel CBs including Auditor CBs
  - Auditor training providers (not CAB?)
  - Laboratories, Product CB, (Inspection body projected)
For provision of consistent services to internationally accepted standards

- JAB operates to ISO/IEC Guide 61
- One of the first signatories to IAF MLA for QMS in 1998
  - Conforming to the relevant IAF documents (Guidance, MLA Policies & Procedures…)
  - Expected to cover EMS MLA in 2004
- Other MLA membership status includes PAC, IATCA, ILAC and APLAC
- JAB actively participates in national and international standardization activity through JISC (National Member of ISO)
- Highly participative member of IAF and other international / regional accreditation community
- More specific cooperation with other ABs
  - Multilateral Cooperative Accreditation Arrangement among ANSI-RAB, JAB and JAS-ANZ
  - MoU with KAB
For bi-directional communication

- JAB presents promotional events
  - Annual symposium on QMS & EMS
  - Occasional seminars
- Comprehensive web site
  - Visit www.jab.or.jp
  - Citizens can lodge a complaint on the Internet
  - Information on the consequences of appeals and complaints received
Background of personnel certification and accreditation in Japan

- JAB launched QMS certification accreditation in 1993
  - Need for ISO 9001 QMS auditors having a level of competence
  - JAB originally operated an auditor certification system
  - Certification function transferred to a different legal entity (JSA) in 1996
  - Accreditation criteria C100 based on EN45013
Accreditation of personnel CBs started in 1996

- Currently two CBs operate auditor certification conforming to JAB C/CE100
  - JSA accredited in 1996 (for QMS auditor)
  - JEMAI accredited in 1997 (for EMS auditor)
- Both CBs use ISO 19011 for certification
## Number of certified auditors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>JSA (for QMS)</th>
<th>JEMAI (for EMS)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead auditor</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditor</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provisional auditor</td>
<td>9,700</td>
<td>8,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13,900</td>
<td>10,200</td>
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Accreditation expanded to cover CBs for engineers & technicians in 1997

- Demand for accreditation of a CB (JWES) certifying welders & welding engineers
- JWES accredited in 1999 as conforming to CP100
  - Certification criteria based on JIS and ISO standards
- Number of certified persons: 220,000 welders and 37,000 welding engineers
- JPWS accredited in 2002 as a CB for gas pressure welders & welding engineers
Why the CBs pursued accreditation

- To be recognized nationally and internationally as competent to operate certification programs in a transparent, objective and impartial manner
- To provide added value to those who wish to have their certificates accepted across the board
- To reform or democratize the organizational structure and operations
Local and global impact of ISO/IEC 17024

- Internationally accepted benchmark for CBs
- JAB actively participated in activities of CASCO/WG17, IAF Task Force and a national standardization committee
- JAB revised the accreditation requirements and guidance documents adopting JIS Q 17024 and the IAF Guidance
  - Existing three documents consolidated into one
Implementation of new accreditation criteria

- Will be 1st January 2005
- Existing CBs will be required to transition to the new criteria in two years
  - IATCA plans to have member CBs accredited to ISO/IEC 17024 by the end of 2005
- JAB will concurrently implement a new accreditation procedure based on ISO/IEC 17011
Other CBs interested in accreditation

- JSNDI
  - Non-destructive inspection personnel to ISO 9712
- JSME
  - Vibration analysis personnel to ISO 18436
- JAFP
  - Financial planners to ISO/DIS 22222
Potential CBs

- JPCA
  - Privacy consultants
  - Certified to the Association standard

- IPA
  - Information Technology Engineers
  - Exam for qualification, not certification
Arrangements between CBs across the border

- JRCA is a member of IATCA Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for QMS auditor certification
- JWES is a member of IIW operating harmonized qualification of International Welding Engineers
- JSNDI has MoU with Canada (CANMET) concerning harmonization of NDT personnel certification
Recognition & cooperation on the level of accreditation bodies

- Regional & international MLA
  - QMS certification (MLA established)
  - EMS & Product certification (IAF to establish MLA in 2004)
- IAF Guidance on cross-frontier accreditation
  - Use of local accreditation body
  - Exchange of documentation and information
  - Applicable to personnel certification also?
IAF to extend MLA to cover personnel certification?

- Survey conducted
  - NDT personnel, Auditor...
  - Limited resources and no immediate demand
- Not proceed with MLA at this stage, but...
Summary

- Workforce gets across the border
- Certification goes global
- Increased need for confidence in equivalence of certification programs
- Accreditation will serve to provide such confidence
- ABs will need to cooperate for harmonization of personnel certification accreditation