

AFRAC Launches E-Learning Programme

Abuja, Nigeria – 30 September, 2016 – The African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), has at its 7th General Assembly today launched the AFRAC E-Learning Programme. The Programme brings together knowledge of Accreditation, Conformity Assessments and Mutual Recognition Arrangements in one user-friendly, easily and freely accessible platform available online via the AFRAC website: www.intra-frac.com . The E-Learning Programme is aimed at building capacity for accreditation in Africa

There are six modules which have been customized in a systematic way to facilitate knowledge transfer efficiently, effectively and in a convenient manner. Stakeholders, leaders, decision-makers, influencers and workers within the accreditation and conformity assessment fraternity, can enrol for one or all of the six courses which have been provided in a modular format. This self-study programme allows learners to acquire knowledge and complete each course at their own pace and from anywhere in the world. The modules provide ample information, reading material as well as video interviews. Upon successful completion of each course, learners will receive certification which is an essential pre-requisite for other courses and further AFRAC training. The modules are:

1. **Accreditation in International Trade:** Provides a general understanding of how accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies plays a role in supporting international trade in goods and services
2. **Introduction to the principles of ISO/IEC 17011 – General requirements for operation of accreditation bodies that accredit conformity assessment bodies:** Provides a general understanding of the principles of the requirements and application of accreditation to conformity assessment bodies
3. **Establishing and efficiently managing a new accreditation body:** Provides a generic understanding of the inputs required for establishing and efficiently managing a new AB.
4. **Training of National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs):** Provides training for NAFP's to promote and participate in the work of AFRAC, raise awareness about the importance of accreditation among national stakeholders that have an interest in quality and support the CAB's in their respective economies that want to apply for accreditation.
5. **Toolkit for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in the process of preparing for accreditation:** Provides a generic understanding of the route towards accreditation for CABs.
6. **Peer Evaluator Training:** Provides preliminary training for Peer Evaluators to obtain the necessary background knowledge as a pre-requisite for AFRAC's Classroom Peer-Evaluator Training Course.

In an increasingly competitive and challenging global market, it is imperative for Africa to fast-track the development of national and regional accreditation infrastructure on the continent. The development of internationally recognized accreditation structures is critical for ensuring full integration into the world trading system; enhanced global and regional market access thereby accelerating economic growth within the continent. These were the remarks made by the AFRAC Chair at the Launch. He re-affirmed AFRAC's commitment to implementing its own activities including capacity and capability enhancement on accreditation matters in order to develop desired synergies geared towards African economic development.

It is interesting to note that the E-Learning Modules have been launched in Abuja, the same city that saw a treaty signed in 1994 that committed to strengthening of integration at a continental level through harmonizing activities that promote trade. The just launched E-learning Modules are an enabler to achieving this desire. You therefore need not be left behind log on to www.intra-frac.com

~~~~~