

## SADCAS Launches Website

In December 2009 the SADCAS website went live on the worldwide web much to the excitement of SADCAS management and staff who had worked very hard to ensure that the website would be useful to all stakeholders. The website can be accessed on:

<http://www.sadcas.org/>



With a modern and fresh design, the SADCAS website has the following sections:

- **What is SADCAS?** – Provides more information as to who SADCAS is, the faces behind SADCAS and the names and contacts for the National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) in the SADC member states.
- **What is Accreditation?** – Due to limited awareness in the region on accreditation, this section goes on to explain what accreditation is, who needs it and why and the process that a conformity assessment body (CAB) needs to undergo to be accredited and gives an update on worldwide trends in accreditation. The SADCAS fee structure is also included to provide visitors with an idea of the costs involved for a CAB to be accredited.
- **Accredited Organizations** – Visitors to this section will be able to view all organizations that have been accredited by SADCAS and whose accreditation is still valid. Up to now SADCAS has not yet issued accreditation certificates.

*Continued to p 2*

### Inside This Issue

SADCAS and SANAS Sign Twinning Partnership Arrangement	2	New NAFP Appointments	10
Joint Communiqué on SADCAS Readiness to Offer Accreditation Services	3	2010 NAFP Award	11
Board Members Attend Corporate Governance Seminar	4	NAFP-Zimbabwe Embarks on Accreditation Promotion	11
SADCAS Holds its 5 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting	5	Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Hosts SADCAS	12
SADCAS Trademark registered in Mauritius and Mozambique	6	Meeting with WHO in Zimbabwe	13
More Assessors Registered	6	SADCAS Meets with Botswana Minister of Trade & Industry	13
SADCAS Facilitates Training of BOBS Staff	8	National Food Technology Research Centre (NFTRC)	14
SADCAS Facilitates Training of SBS Staff	9	Marie Chilcott Retires	15

*Continued from p 1*

- **Publications** – Online visitors will have access to all forms required for accreditation as well as the policies and procedures in use by SADCAS. This section will be of use to users of accreditation services as well as assessors and staff of SADCAS. The ISO/IEC standards and guides relevant to users of SADCAS services have also been listed for information purposes so that users will know which standard or guide is relevant to them. Promotional material is also available such as SADCAS brochures, pamphlets, newsletters and annual reports.

The other windows are for latest news, events calendar, SADCAS contact details and links to other useful websites such as International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), International Accreditation Forum (IAF), SADC Secretariat and Labnet etc.

The SADCAS online resources are as diverse as the visitors who use them. The site will be of use to those in the accreditation industry requiring an update on developments in accreditation; users of accreditation services requiring more information as to the documentation or the process that they need to follow in order to be accredited; staff of SADCAS such as Assessors to get guidance through the policies and procedures. The site will also appeal to members of the public who may be customers of SADCAS clients wanting to know what accreditation is and what it means to them.



## SADCAS and SANAS Sign Twinning Partnership Arrangement

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) and the South African Accreditation System (SANAS) have entered into a twinning partnership. The Twinning Partnership Arrangement was signed at a ceremony held at SANAS Headquarters, Pretoria South Africa on Thursday 3 December 2009. The ceremony was attended by SADCAS/SANAS Boards of Directors' Chairmen and the respective organizations' Chief Executive Officers, SANAS Senior Managers and Program Managers as well as a representative of the South African Department of Trade and Industry.

The purpose of the Twinning Partnership Arrangement is to help kick start SADCAS' accreditation services with the ultimate goal of ensuring that SADCAS becomes signatory to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA). In his welcome and introductory remarks, Mr Prags Govender, the SANAS Board of Directors' Chairman highlighted the important role accreditation plays in regional integration and assured SADCAS of SANAS' commitment to ensuring SADCAS success for the benefit of the region. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Riundja Ali Kaakunga (Othy), the SADCAS Board of Directors' Chairman outlined the purpose of the Twinning Partnership Arrangement and highlighted the areas of cooperation between SADCAS and SANAS. He also emphasized the need for SADCAS and SANAS to abide by the undertakings in the Arrangement in order to make it a success and to safeguard both organizations' integrity and reputation.

With the signing of the Arrangement, SADCAS is now set to kick start its accreditation services.



*From left to right: Marie Chilcott SADC Secretariat; Maureen P Mutasa—SADCAS CEO; Riundja Ali Kaakunga [Othy] - SADCAS Board Chairman; Prags Govender—SANAS Board Chairman; Christinah Leballo – Senior Manager [SANAS] and Ron Josias—SANAS Acting CEO*

## Joint Communiqué on SADCAS Readiness to Offer Accreditation Services

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is a multi-economy accreditation body incorporated in Botswana under the Botswana Companies Act Chapter 42:01. SADCAS was established by the SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) in terms of Articles 10(1) and 10(2) of the SADC Memorandum of Understanding on standardization, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology (SQAM MOU). The SADC SQAM MOU has since been superseded by the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade. SADCAS is recognized by the SADC Council of Ministers as a subsidiarity organization of SADC. The relationship between SADCAS and SADC is formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on general cooperation which also serves as the basis for the recognition of SADCAS, by SADC member states as a multi economy accreditation body.

We are pleased to inform you that the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is now ready to process accreditation applications.

Accreditation services are being provided in partnership with the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS). SANAS has been involved in the establishment of SADCAS. The SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement was signed on 3 December 2009. Through this Twinning Partnership Arrangement, accreditation services provided will be internationally recognized since SANAS is signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Arrangement (MLA).

We note that your organization is accredited by the Southern African National Accreditation System (SANAS). Now that SADCAS has been set up and is operational, we encourage your organization to consider changing over, at the appropriate time, your accreditation to SADCAS. The process will involve a joint assessment of your system by SADCAS and SANAS and if fully compliant you will be issued with an accreditation certificate that bears joint SADCAS and SANAS accreditation marks.

The reasons for you to consider changing over are summarized as follows:

1. SADCAS has been set up to meet accreditation needs of SADC member states particularly those that do not have own accreditation body. SADCAS your Accreditation Body is now ready to process accreditation applications.
2. SADCAS is recognized as a multi-economy accreditation body throughout the SADC region. SADCAS is a member of SADCA, an affiliate member of ILAC and an observer member of IAF.
3. Through the SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement your accredited facility will be able to maintain international recognition.
4. SANAS encourage all SANAS accredited organizations in SADC member states excluding South Africa to now utilize SADCAS accreditation services.

SADCAS is your Accreditation Body therefore we encourage you to utilize its services.



---

**Maureen P Mutasa (Mrs)**  
Chief Executive Officer SADCAS



---

**Ron Josias (Mr)**  
Acting Chief Executive Officer SADCAS

## Board Members Attend Corporate Governance Seminar

The SADCAS Board of Directors attended a one day corporate governance seminar held on 17 February 2010 at Elegant Lodge, Pretoria, South Africa. The seminar, whose objective was to update SADCAS Board members on developments in corporate governance, was facilitated by Mr Emmanuel Jinda the Managing Director of Proserve HR Consultants. The seminar which was attended by SADCAS Board of Directors, SADCAS management and some senior executives from SANAS was opened by Mr Riundja Ali Kaakunga (Othy), the chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors. The one day seminar which was highly customized and very interactive covered the following main topics:

- Overview, principles and practice of corporate governance;
- The role of the Chairman, Directors and Chief Executive Officer;
- Board nominations and criteria;
- Business communications, ethics, fraud, corruption and conflict of interest;
- Board and Committees self evaluations;
- Update on King III report; etc.



Participants pose for a group photo with course presenter Mr Emmanuel Jinda [seated second from right]

Participants also had practical exercises during which various case studies on corporate governance were considered. The summary of seminar evaluations and issues arising from the seminar were reviewed by the Board at its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 19 February 2010 at the same venue.



### SADCAS is now ready to Offer Accreditation Services

The Southern Development Accreditation Service accreditation Service (SADCAS) is now ready to process accreditation applications as well as offer training in accreditation related activities.

Accreditation services are being provided in partnership with the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) following the signing of the SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement on 3 December 2009. The goal of the Twinning Partnership Arrangement is to help kick start SADCAS' accreditation services with the ultimate goal of ensuring that SADCAS becomes signatory to the International Laboratory accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Arrangement (MLA). SANAS has been in existence for over 25 years and is signatory to the ILAC MRA and the IAF MLA. Therefore through the SADCAS/SANAS Twinning arrangement accreditation services provided will be internationally recognized.

Accreditation application forms as well as information on accreditation can be downloaded from the SADCAS website [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org)

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact SADCAS or your country's National Accreditation Focal Point whose contact details are also available on the SADCAS website [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org)

## SADCAS Holds its 5th Annual General Meeting

The 5<sup>th</sup> SADCAS Annual General Meeting was held on 24 March 2010 at the Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre, Ezulwini in Mbabane, Swaziland. The meeting was attended by 25 General Assembly members from 12 SADC member states, invited guests and observers from other countries outside the SADC region.

The General Assembly which is the governing body of SADCAS comprises of:

Subscribers to the Memorandum and Articles of Association;  
Members of the Board of Directors;  
Duly appointed members of the SADC Cooperation in Accreditation from each member state;  
Appointed representatives of NAFFPs in each SADC member state using the service of SADCAS; and  
Individual or organizations who apply for admission as members of SADCAS.

At the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly members:

- Adopted the first published SADCAS Annual report including audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2009;
- Ratified the budget for the year 2010/11;
- Appointed PriceWaterhouseCoopers as the auditors for the financial years 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 subject to renewal annually; and
- Appointed UPT Secretarial Services as company secretary for the 2010/11 financial year.

Ms Verily Molatedi who had been co-opted onto the SADCAS Board of Directors in June 2009 to provide financial expertise was elected onto the Board for a 3-year term.

Mr Stuart Carstens was re-elected to serve on the Board for another 3-year term.

Dr Oswald Simbarashe Chinyamakobvu retired from the Board having served one term as a SADCAS Board member.



SADCAS 5th AGM in session



## SADCAS Trademark Registered in Mauritius and Mozambique

The SADCAS trademark which forms the core of the SADCAS accreditation mark has now been registered in Mauritius and Mozambique.

The Registration of the SADCAS trademark in Mauritius was processed by De Comarmond and Koenig (International), Patents and Trademarks Attorney. The application for registration was submitted in July 2009 followed by the issuance of the "Notification of Acceptance" by the Controller of the Intellectual Property Office. In November the certificate of registration of the SADCAS was issued.

In Mozambique the application was submitted directly to the Instituto da Propriedade Industrial (IPI) in Maputo in June 2009 following which the trademark was published in the IPI Journal for a period of three months. The SADCAS trademark was subsequently registered in January 2010. SADCAS trademark has already been registered in Botswana. The registrations are valid for 10 years.

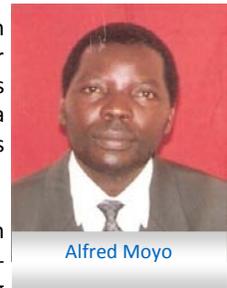
In Angola the registration process is well underway having been issued with an interim trademark registration certificates.

The registration of SADCAS trademark in Democratic Republic of Congo, Seychelles and Zambia is underway whilst registration of the trademark in Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe is expected to be completed by mid June 2010 and is being processed through the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO).



## More Assessors Registered

One of SADCAS goals is to have a pool of competent assessors who will undertake assessments on behalf of SADCAS. A further two assessors have been qualified and registered bringing the number of SADCAS registered assessors to four. Mr Alfred Moyo a metrologist at the Malawi Bureau of Standards and a holder of a degree in technical education and diploma in Engineering and has been registered as a SADCAS assessor under the calibration laboratories accreditation programme. His field of expertise is mass balances, mass pieces and volume.



Alfred Moyo



Dominic Mwakangale

Mr Dominic Mwakangale a holder of a Masters degree in Textile Engineering has been registered as a SADCAS assessor under the inspection bodies' accreditation programme. Mr Mwakangale's field of expertise is textiles and clothing. Before being qualified as SADCAS assessor Mr Mwakangale participated in three assessments under the mentorship of a SANAS Lead Assessor. Talking to SADCAS about his experiences, Mr Mwakangale said that technical assessments are an interesting yet challenging and painstaking activity which requires patience, impartiality and good listening skills. To him the mentorship programme was an opportunity to tap into the SANAS team's rich experience and high standards of professionalism.

Training of assessors is an ongoing activity. In January and February 2010, thirty (30) experts who had gone through the Technical Assessor training programmes in 2009 participated in the Lead Assessor course. All experts who successfully completed the Technical Assessor course and the Lead Assessor course will proceed to participate in the assessor mentorship programme following which, if qualified will be considered for registration as SADCAS assessors.



# ***Towards global recognition of SADC industry's competence***

## **Vision**

To be a leading, regionally accepted and internationally recognized regional accreditation body aimed at supporting and enhancing industry and government's efforts and to be at the cutting edge of accreditation service

## **Mission**

To provide an internationally recognized, cost-effective, regional accreditation service for SADC Member States aimed at supporting regional and international trade, enhance the protection of consumers and improve the competitiveness of SADC produced products and services, in both the voluntary and regulatory areas.

## **SADCAS Objectives are to provide:**

- ↪ Accreditation services to Member States who do not have a national accreditation body, for their laboratories, certification and inspection bodies
- ↪ Accreditation services to Member States whose national accreditation body only service a limited scope of accreditation
- ↪ International recognition of conformity assessment results produced by organizations accredited by it
- ↪ Accreditation service that promotes, develops and maintains good regulatory practices
- ↪ An opportunity for SADC Member States to participate in multilateral arrangements for recognition of conformity assessment results
- ↪ A database of all organizations accredited by it
- ↪ Accreditation expertise, qualifying, registering and using experts from amongst SADC Member States
- ↪ A national focal point for accreditation for those SADC Member States using its service

## SADCAS Facilitates Training of BOBS Staff

**B**otswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) – Certification Services staff attended a 5-day training course on ISO/IEC 17021 Requirements and Internal Auditing. The course which was organized by SADCAS was held from 23 to 27 November 2009 at the BOBS Headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana. The course was very ably conducted by a SADCAS expert and attended by 17 BOBS' staff who all successfully completed the course.

BOBS Certification Services offers management system as well as product certification services and has up to date certified more than 30 organizations in accordance with ISO 9001. The objective of the training course organized by SADCAS was to strengthen BOBS Certification Services as it works towards international recognition of its management system certification services.



Participants pose for a group photo during the ISO/IEC 17021 training

## SADCAS Training Services

**S**ADCAS provides training for conformity assessment bodies' staff (calibration and testing laboratories, medical laboratories and management system certification bodies).

**Trainers** – SADCAS draws its trainers from a pool of qualified and experienced experts who have up to date involvement in accreditation matters, be it system implementation and/or assessments.

**Courses on offer** – Currently SADCAS offers the following training courses:

ISO/IEC 17021 Requirements and Internal Auditing  
 ISO/IEC 15189 Requirements and Internal Auditing  
 ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements and internal Auditing

**Course Structure** - Each of the above courses is 5 days' long. SADCAS courses are made relevant and practical as they include case studies and exercises that reflect the respective professional disciplines.

In order to objectively assess participants, an examination is written at the end of the course.

If interested please contact:

**SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS)**  
 Plot 50676, First Floor Block B, BIFM/Fairgrounds office Park  
 Private Bag 00320, Gaborone, Botswana  
 Tel: +267 3132909/ 3132910  
 Fax: +267 3132922  
 Email: [info@sadcas.org](mailto:info@sadcas.org)

## SADCAS Facilitates Training of SBS Staff

The Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) was established as a government regulatory agency with the enactment of the SBS Act 1987. The core activities of SBS are: Standardization, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Testing.

In December 1996, the SBS attained certification status to ISO 9002 quality management system which helped to put the organization on the forefront of quality in the Seychelles. This certification status was changed to ISO 9001 later when the standard was revised.

The SBS laboratories are the main testing laboratories in Seychelles which provide testing services to different sectors of the economy especially the export sector. The Competent Authority which issue export certificate has designated the SBS laboratories as the Official Testing laboratory for testing of fish and fish products exported to the European Union.

In order to demonstrate competence in testing and for international recognition SBS has to ensure that the testing services offered for testing of fish and fish products are accredited. A need to train the staff on the requirements of the standard ISO/IEC 17025 so as to implement the system was identified and SADCAS was engaged to provide training on laboratory systems, technical assessor and to attach two laboratory staff to an accredited laboratory.

The Laboratory Systems' Course was conducted at SBS from the 26 to 29 October 2009. Sixteen participants attended the training and fifteen successfully completed the training. The course helped the participants to understand the requirements of the standard ISO/IEC 17025 thus facilitate its implementation. The Laboratory Systems course is also a prerequisite to the Technical Assessor training. Therefore, ten of the participants who performed well in this training were selected for the Technical Assessor training.

### Technical Assessor Course

Technical Assessor training was conducted in Mahe, Seychelles at SBS from the 3 to 5 November 2009. All the ten participants who attended the training and all of them successfully completed the training.

Technical assessment is the tool used to establish competence of the laboratory. The power point presentations, group exercises and role plays helped the participants to learn the techniques to be used to carry out assessment in a laboratory to establish competence. As a result of the training, SBS now has trained assessors to carry out assessments. The successful participants have carried out trial assessments in laboratories.

### Attachment at SABS

The objective of the attachment was to learn general management of an accredited testing laboratory including contract review, samples receipt and storage, preparation of test reports, equipment maintenance and calibrations, records management, internal audits, management review, roles and responsibilities of Technical and Quality manager and documentation of the laboratory management. Two SBS staff were attached to the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) accredited Food and Health laboratories and the Accreditation Unit from the 7 to 11 December 2009.

The attachment gave more exposure and ideas to manage and operate accredited laboratory. At the Microbiology and Chemistry laboratory, participants had a great opportunity to go through the procedure for sample receipt, sample storage, media preparation, sample analysis, reporting, maintenance of equipment, quality control, customer feedback and corrective actions. It was a chance to learn how to implement the system. The testing activities in both Microbiology and Chemistry laboratories were similar to that of SBS laboratories. As a result, it was easy to note the draw backs in our system and to fix it.

The knowledge we acquired during the attachment will help us in future especially to improve the techniques used for analysis, type of equipment, method used etc.

Continued from p 9

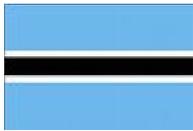
Attachment to the Accreditation Unit was interesting since participants had an opportunity to go through the different levels of documentation. The roles and responsibilities of Quality Manager and Technical Signatories, procedure for internal audit, root cause analysis, management review etc. were discussed at length with the Accreditation Manager. It was learned that monitoring of the system is very important for its continuity.

SBS take this opportunity to thank SADCAS for arranging the above training programmed which were all very successful.



## New NAFP Appointments

SADCAS is pleased to announce the NAFPs appointments:



Mr Goitseone Seitshiro has been appointed NAFP for Botswana. Mr Seitshiro a Principal Industrial Officer in the Botswana Ministry of Trade and Industry and a holder of a Bachelors degree in Economics and Demographics, replaces Mr Dennis Juta who had been NAFP since its establishment in 2003.



The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has appointed Mrs Apauline Feza Matata as the second NAFP officer for DRC. A chemist by qualification, Mrs Matata will support Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama in undertaking NAFP activities. The NAFP – DRC is located within the Congolese Control Office.



Following the promotion of Mr Davlin Chokazinga to the position of Director General of the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS), Mr Isaac Mandole Damaziel Chirwa has been appointed NAFP officer for Malawi. Mr Chirwa holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry and has more than 20 years' working experience.

NAFPs are responsible for the coordination, administration, promotion and marketing of accreditation and SADCAS within their respective countries. NAFPs play the key role of being the administration link between SADCAS and clients/potential clients in SADC member states. SADCAS welcomes all the newly appointed NAFPs and look forward to working well with them in pursuance of SADCAS accreditation goals.



**To be at the cutting edge of accreditation service delivery**

## 2010 NAFP Award

Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama the NAFP for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) received the 2010 NAFP Award. An excited Mr Kanama received the award at a ceremony held on 24 March 2010 in conjunction with the SADCAS Annual General Meeting at the Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre in Mbabane, Swaziland.

The Award is presented annually to NAFP officers who have served the NAFP office effectively. The Award is open to NAFPs who have served as an NAFP for at least 2 years, regularly and timeously submit quarterly reports on activities undertaken, have effectively progressed the implementation of their respective country's action plan on accreditation and contributed towards SADCAS goals. NAFP-DRC regularly and timeously submits quarterly reports. The NAFP has made very good progress in raising awareness on accreditation matters in DRC and has greatly facilitated the registration of SADCAS Trademark in DRC a process which is now well underway following the successful negotiations on registration fee with the Minister of Trade.



All smiles—NAFP-DRC Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama flanked by the SADCAS Board Chairman—Mr R A Kaakunga [Othy] and Vice Chairman Mrs M B Marobela during the ceremony

In receiving the Award Mr Kanama thanked SADCAS for the recognition and vowed to step up his efforts so as to receive the Award again in future.



## NAFP-Zimbabwe Embarks on Accreditation Promotion

In pursuance of the SADCAS goals, the NAFP-Zimbabwe has gone a step further in promoting accreditation and marketing SADCAS services in Zimbabwe. A number of promotional and marketing activities are lined up for the year 2010.

The NAFP which is operating under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce is manned by Mr Christopher Ngwenya and Mrs Mildred Machiri. The NAFP has produced promotional materials such as diaries, golf T-shirts, umbrellas, ball point pens, scrolling and static banners which will be used for exhibitions and other outreach programmes lined up for the year.

The NAFP will this year participate at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) being held from 20 – 24 April 2010, Mine-Entra being held in June 2010 and the Harare Agricultural Show being held in August 2010. Various stakeholder meetings are also lined up some of which will be organized jointly with stakeholder groups such as the National Laboratory Association of Zimbabwe (NLAZ). The NAFP is also working closely with the National Metrology Institute and other interested parties in driving its objectives of ensuring that information on accreditation reaches the intended target. The office is also developing training programmes for personnel in conformity assessment bodies to familiarize with their respective accreditation standards thus facilitate implementation of the standards in their own organizations.



Mr Christopher Ngwenya and Mrs Mildred Machiri [NAFPs-Zimbabwe] showing off some of the promotional material

*Continued from p 11*

Zimbabwe realizes the benefits and importance of accreditation in enhancing the competitiveness of Zimbabwe products and services, facilitating the free movement of goods across economic frontiers, ensuring credibility of health services and in enhancing the protection of consumers and the environment we live in.



## Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership Hosts SADCAS

The SADCAS Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, Technical Manager – Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo and the NAFP-Botswana – Mr Goitseone Seitshiro visited the Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership (BHP) for HIV Research and Education on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The visit was an opportunity for SADCAS to create awareness on accreditation, promote its services and also for the NAFP to appreciate the activities of his new role.

The meeting started with the Laboratory Manager, Mr. Sikhulile Moyo giving an overview of BHP. Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership is a collaborative research and training initiative between the government of Botswana and the Harvard AIDS Initiative. The BHP houses the HIV Reference Laboratory which is dedicated to processing and testing of clinical specimens, monitoring changes in the regional HIV epidemic and is therefore a potential client of SADCAS.

The SADCAS CEO then gave a very informative and eloquent presentation on SADCAS and importance of accreditation in relation to BHP's mandate. This was then followed by lively interactions as the laboratory personnel wanted to know about the benefits of accreditation and the distinction between services provided by SADCAS as opposed to other organizations such as the Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) AFRO Laboratory Accreditation Programme. The meeting was then concluded by a guided tour of the facilities of the Institute. The BHP Laboratory consists of highly sophisticated test/research equipment. The meeting was very successful as it created a good platform for promoting accreditation services.



Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute partnership staff members during the meeting with SADCAS



## Meeting with WHO in Zimbabwe

Following the recommendation arising from a courtesy call on Dr Nyarko the World Health Organization (WHO) representative for Botswana on 5 February 2010, a courtesy call was made on Dr Walker the WHO regional coordinator based at the WHO Regional Offices in Harare. The SADCAS delegation consisted of Mrs Maureen P Mutasa the SADCAS CEO and, Mr Ngwenya and Mrs Machiri – NAFPs for Zimbabwe. The SADCAS CEO Mrs Mutasa gave a background to the meeting informing Dr Walker of the meeting she had had with Dr Nyarko the WHO Representative in Botswana. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce SADCAS and to inform WHO about progress with the set up of SADCAS and for SADCAS to learn more about WHO AFRO Laboratory Accreditation Program as well as to explore ways of cooperating. Dr Walker informed SADCAS about WHO’s role in accreditation and referred the SADCAS delegation to Dr Cham and Dr Abosi who are directly involved with the WHO AFRO Laboratory Accreditation Program. At the subsequent meeting, Dr Cham informed the SADCAS delegation about the WHO AFRO Laboratory program, why it was set up, what it involves and who finances it. The delegation was also informed about the status of the program which was only launched in July 2009 and is a stepwise and point accreditation system consisting of 5 steps. The aim of the program is to assist medical laboratories to meet international accreditation standards. The system recognizes the challenges medical laboratories in Africa in meeting international standards for accreditation. Being a stepwise system it motivates laboratories to meet these international standards. Thus laboratories which have gone through the WHO system can apply for accreditation to ISO 15189. The WHO is therefore building up medical laboratories to the international standard ISO 15189 after which a laboratory can apply for accreditation by an accreditation body such as SADCAS. The WHO is now in the process of training and certifying assessors and has so far trained two groups of assessors who will undertake the skipwise assessments on behalf of WHO.

The WHO program is financed by donors and medical laboratories do not pay a fee to go through the 5-stage accreditation. The WHO/SADCAS accreditation efforts are complimentary hence the need to work closely together in the areas of awareness raising among stakeholders especially medical laboratories. Training was also identified as an area where the two programs could work closely together. Both parties agreed to keep each other updated on developments with their respective programs.



## SADCAS Meets with Botswana Minister of Trade and Industry

A SADCAS delegation consisting of Mrs Masego Marobela - SADCAS Board Vice Chairman, Dr Oswald Chinyamakobvu - SADCAS Board Member and Mrs Maureen P Mutasa -SADCAS CEO met with Honourable Gaolathe – Botswana Minister of Trade and Industry and Honourable Makgato-Malesu – Botswana Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry on 24 November 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce SADCAS to the Ministers and to update them on progress with SADCAS set up following their appointments in October 2009. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of SADCAS and commended SADCAS on the progress made since its launch on 23 April 2009. The meeting was also a good opportunity to advise the Ministers of the challenges SADCAS was facing and to solicit for the Ministry’s facilitation where possible .



*Continued from p 11*

## Visit to the National Food Technology Research Centre

As part of its marketing and promotional activities the SADCAS CEO Mrs Maureen P Mutasa accompanied by Mr Goitseone Seitshiro the NAFF-Botswana visited the National Food Technology Research Centre (NFTRC) in Kanye, Botswana on 5 March 2010. On welcoming the SADCAS delegation, Dr Charity Kerapeletswe Kruger gave a brief background on the NFTRC's mandate followed by an overview of the NFTRC by the Director of Research and Development.

The NFTRC offers the following services:

- Food testing/analysis
- Product development
- Contract research
- Training

It operates a number of food testing and research laboratories in support of its services. Although NFTRC as an organization is working towards ISO 9001 certification it realizes the need and importance of having its laboratories accredited for technical competence and is therefore working towards accreditation of its laboratories.

The SADCAS CEO gave an overview of SADCAS highlighting the recently signed Twinning Partnership Arrangement between SADCAS/SANAS designed to kick-start SADCAS accreditation activities.

In reaction to the SADCAS presentation, the NFTRC appreciated the information shared and reaffirmed the need for the NFTRC laboratories to be accredited. NFTRC were particularly pleased with the fact that SADCAS had been incorporated and based in Botswana thus making accreditation services readily available to them.

The meeting was concluded with a tour of the laboratories where extensive food testing and analyses are undertaken by research scientists and technicians. The visit to NFTRC was very well organized and interesting. Thanks to the team of professionals who organized the visit programme!

### Vision

SADCAS vision is to be a leading, regionally accepted and internationally recognized regional accreditation body aimed at supporting and enhancing industry and government's efforts and to be at the cutting edge of accreditation.

### Mission

SADCAS mission is to provide internationally recognized cost effective, regional accreditation services for SADC member states aimed at supporting regional and international trade, enhance the protection of consumers and improve the competitiveness of SADC products and services in both the voluntary and regulatory areas.

### Values

- Impartiality
- Non-discriminatory
- Transparency
- Integrity

## Marie Chilcott Retires

Ms Marie Chilcott has retired from the SANAS after 25 years of service. In her many responsibilities at SANAS, Marie served as the Secretariat for the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) since its establishment in 1996. In her capacity as the SADCAS Secretariat, Marie provided secretarial services to the SADCAS Board of Directors until mid 2009 when the function was handed over to SADCAS following the recruitment of SADCAS CEO and staff. Even after the handover of SADCAS Board Secretarial services, Marie continued to support SADCAS.

Speaking of her many years of service in the accreditation field, Marie started her career at the then National Calibration Services (NCS) in 1985 as a technical administration assistant and rose through the ranks to project leader being responsible for the day-to-day administration of the NCS programme. Following the establishment of SANAS in 1996, Marie was tasked together with Mr John Peart to establish the training section of SANAS amongst other responsibilities. When asked about her proudest moment in her accreditation career, Marie said that this was in 1992 when she was presented the South African Airways Award for exceptional contributions to metrology in South Africa.



Marie receiving Award from South African Airways

The highlight in Marie’s career was in 1996 when she was asked to assist in the establishment of a regional accreditation infrastructure serving as the Secretary of SADCA.

Realizing the key supporting role Marie had played in the establishment of SADCAS, Marie was presented with a gift at a SADCAS Board of Directors’ dinner held on 19 February 2010 in Pretoria South Africa. In a speech given by the Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors, Mr Riundja Ali Kaakunga (Othy) and throughout the dinner which was attended by David Chilcott, Marie’s husband, SADCAS Board members, Ron Josias, Acting CEO SANAS, and John and Monica Peart colleagues reminisced about the trials and tribulations in the journey culminating in the establishment of SADCAS.



Marie thanking SADCAS after receiving gift from SADCAS Chairman—Mr R A Kaakunga [Othy]

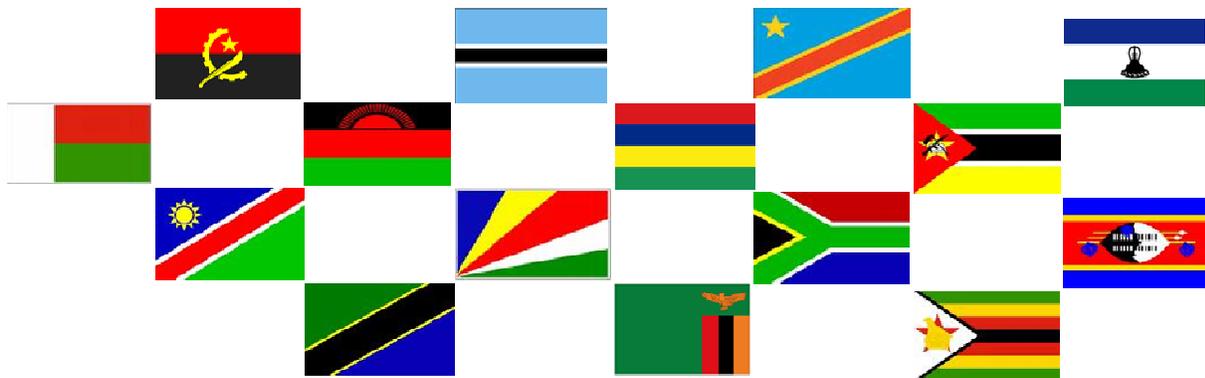
Marie showing off a photo with SADCAS Board members to husband David

SADCAS thanks Marie for her sterling work and wishes her well in her retirement.



## Status of Key Accreditation Standards/Guides under Development

STANDARD	STATUS
ISO/IEC 17020:1998 : General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection	Project is at Working Draft stage. A meeting will be held in may 2010 when it is hoped that the draft will progress to Committee Draft stage.
ISO/IEC DIS 17021-2 : Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems and requirements for third-party certification auditing of management systems – Part 2	This project is at Draft International Standard (DIS). A meeting will be held in April 2010 when it is hoped that the draft will progress to Final Draft International Standard (FDIS).
ISO/IEC 17024 : Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons	Project is at Working Draft stage. A meeting will be held in June 2010 when it is hoped that the draft will progress to Committee Draft stage.
ISO/IEC 17043:2010 : Conformity assessment – Requirements for certification bodies certifying products, processes and services.	This international standard was published on 2010-01-29.
ISO/IEC CD 17065 : Conformity assessment – Requirements for certification bodies certifying products, processes and services.	The project is now at the Committee Draft stage. A meeting will be held in April 2010 when it is hoped that the draft will progress to Draft International Standard stage.



## Diary of Upcoming Events

DATES	MEETING	VENUE
12–16 April 2010	AFRAC Meeting	Cairo, Egypt
19 – 23 April 2010	Train-the-trainer Course under SADC/EU SQAM project	Pretoria, South Africa
19 – 20 April 2010	ILAC LC Meeting	Denmark
21 – 22 April 2010	ILAC AIC Meeting	Denmark
22 – 23 April 2010	SADCAS Board Meetings	Pretoria, South Africa
23 – 24 April 2010	ILAC PTCG Meeting	Denmark
29 – 30 April 2010	ILAC ARC Meeting	Frankfurt, Germany
20 – 21 May 2010	EA General Assembly	Zurich, Switzerland
12 – 19 June	PAC Annual Meeting	Wellington New Zealand
22 June 2010	IAF Executive Meeting	Mexico
23 June 2010	ILAC/IAF Joint Executive Meeting	Mexico
24 June 2010	ILAC Executive Meeting	Mexico
25 June 2010	ILAC/IAF JMC Meeting	Mexico
25 June 2010	ILAC AMC Meeting	Mexico
25 June 2010	IAF MLA MC	Mexico

**PUBLISHED BY:**

**SADCAS**  
 Plot 50676, First Floor Block B,  
 BIFM/Fairgrounds Office Park  
 Private Bag 00320,  
 Gaborone  
 Botswana  
 Tel: +267 3132909/ 3132910  
 Cell No: +267 71 250042  
 Fax: +267 3132922  
 Email: [info@sadcas.org](mailto:info@sadcas.org)  
 Website: [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org)

**Editors:**  
 Maureen P Mutasa  
 Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo

**Layout & Design**  
 Linda Dirorimwe