

Reflections on the International Peer Assessment of Spring Singapore

Speaker/Author: Shih Mean Lee
Singapore Productivity and Innovation Board (SPRING Singapore)
1 Science Park Drive, Singapore 118221
Phone: (65) 62791960, Fax: (65) 62791993, Email: lee_shih_mean@spring.gov.sg

Abstract

The global CIPM MRA on mutual recognition of calibration and testing certificates was established in October 1999 with the initial agreement from 48 member states of the Meter Convention. The purpose of the MRA was to encourage mutual acceptance of each other's technical certificates so as to reduce duplicate calibration and cost with the wider prospective to promote world trade.

To meet the requirements of the CIPM MRA, national metrology institutes around the world need to established a recognized quality system and demonstrate technical competence through international technical peer assessment.

SPRING Singapore has recently completed its international peer assessment in all the metrological areas listed in the Appendix C : Calibration & Measurement Capabilities (CMC) in the CIPM MRA Key Comparison Data Base (KCDB). The Electrical & Magnetism, Time & Frequency, Length, Optical & Radiometry, Mass & Related Quantities, and Temperature & Humidity areas were evaluated in this exercise.

To accomplish this project, large amount of effort and many man-hours were spent in planning, organizing, preparing, and executing these assessments. This paper attempts to share some peer assessment experiences namely on; why was it necessary to go through the assessments, what was involved, how were the assessments carried out, and if we were to do it again, how else would we have chosen to do it. Reflections on the lessons learned through these experiences will be highlighted; thoughts on future improvement and suggestions for cost saving measures will also be discussed.