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## Contact Us

The ILAC Secretariat  
PO Box 7507  
Silverwater  
NSW 2128, Australia

T: +61 2 9736 8374  
F: +61 2 9736 8373  
Email: [ilac@nata.com.au](mailto:ilac@nata.com.au)

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## PCA invite to...the Porczynski Art Gallery in Warsaw

Dr. Eugeniusz W. Roguski, Director of Polish Centre for Accreditation (PCA), provides explanation for the idea of organizing annual meetings of the PCA experts with the representatives of more than a thousand testing laboratories and a hundred calibration laboratories accredited by PCA:

*"We just assumed that direct contact with our personnel would enable our clients to communicate with PCA on the phone or through e-mail."*

Ms Lucyna Olborska, PCA Deputy Director, adds:

*"Moreover, this form of exchanging information – and, as a matter of fact, two-way learning process between PCA and its clients – let us enhance PCA operation and aids the accredited testing and calibration laboratories to carry out their tasks more efficiently. It is an effective way of harmonizing the approach of the accredited bodies to any revised accreditation criteria, which has been confirmed by our three-year experience."*

In accordance with the long-term strategic plan for years 2010-2013, the first meetings with the representatives of the accredited testing and calibration laboratories took place in 2010. Their agendas (as well as the agendas in the following years) were prepared on the basis of the results of the on-line questionnaire, filled in by the PCA clients. In order to satisfy the needs of the invited guests, who proposed 700 topics, the most common subjects were grouped into 20-min presentations. It was necessary to consider different levels of knowledge and experience in accreditation possessed by the participants and to discuss both, complex and relatively simple issues. After the presentation participants could obtain additional information from our experts at the help desks.

The interest in this form of communication exceeded our expectations. While the meeting with the representatives of the accredited calibration laboratories could be organized within one day, those with the accredited testing laboratories had to be divided into two groups. There was around 350-400 participants at each of the meetings. All participants were asked to provide their opinion concerning the technical content and the logistic part of the meetings on a survey sheet.

The form of the meetings was improved over the following years. As a result, in 2011 the following foreign experts were invited to deliver presentations:

- Mr Mark Sykes from FERA (the Food and Environment Research Agency, UK), who described the role, significance and objectives of proficiency testing (PT) in accreditation;
- Mr Arnold Leithner from BEV (the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying, Austria), also for many years a representative of EURAMET, who described EURAMET's role in metrology in Europe and worldwide;
- Mr Gabriel Boisson from COFRAC (the national accreditation body of France), who outlined, among other things, the organization and operation of the French accreditation body.

A new form of the event was developed this year in view of the surveys' suggestions to select specialist subjects of lectures and to group laboratories according to one technical field or several related areas of their activity. Representatives of mechanical, electrical and physical property testing laboratories were invited from all over Poland to the meeting held on 14 June 2012. Nearly all the invited guests (218) took part, expressing their satisfaction with the changes in the agenda both in personal talks and the survey. Representatives of the accredited testing laboratories performing measurement of emission in work and general environments are expected to arrive in October this year.

What is common for the meetings is their place – a beautiful nineteenth-century building of the former Polish National Bank designed by a famous Italian architect, Antonio Corazzi. It houses the Museum of John Paul II Collection with its more than 400 paintings and sculptures created by eminent European artists, which were once owned by the Porczyński family. Why did PCA choose the Porczyński Gallery for the venue? Dr. E. W. Roguski, PCA Director, says:

*"As our guests are 'artists' in their technical fields and come from different parts of Poland, we wanted to provide them with both valuable technical information and unforgettable aesthetic experience on their stay in Warsaw."*



Annual Meeting of PCA experts

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