



## International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM)

As the Director of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (in French, Bureau International des Poids et Mesures or BIPM), I am delighted to lend my support to your "International Accreditation Day."

Accurate and traceable measurement is increasingly important in science, commerce, in the monitoring of our environment and in new areas of application such as laboratory medicine and forensic science.

The metrology community has been working with its accreditation colleagues for many years so as to enhance world - wide confidence and trust in measurement. BIPM's major contribution is through the network of National Metrology Institutes which maintain and disseminate national standards that provide traceability to the International System of Units (in French, the *Système international d'unités*, the SI). The NMIs establish and maintain national standards based on the long-term stability and universality provided by the SI, and provide calibrations to, amongst others, accredited laboratories. These laboratories then offer calibration services to others, so establishing national chains of traceable measurement results. This unique combination provides the soundest possible basis for ensuring reliable measurement and international consistency.

The effectiveness of this international measurement system is formalised in the Mutual Recognition Arrangement of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (the abbreviation of the French title is CIPM MRA) and the ILAC arrangement. From the BIPM's point of view, we are committed to working together to further strengthen our collaboration with ILAC/IAF so as to create a more powerful and influential support for international trust in accurate measurement.

**Andrew Wallard, Director**