

## **Croatia in the KCDB and Kazakhstan to sign the Metre Convention,**

*by Dr Pedro Espina*

As some of you might remember, in May 2007 we invited 6 NMIs from countries that did not yet had CMCs in the KCDB to a workshop in South Africa entitled “Enhancing the Participation in the CIPM MRA”. The idea was to gather together key staff in those laboratories with the experts from the JCRB to determine what was preventing the NMIs from full participation in the CIPM MRA. During the workshop, which was partially sponsored by PTB Technical Cooperation, the NMIs discussed the metrology infrastructure in their countries and the role that their NMIs play. They also highlighted their participation in RMO and CIPM MRA activities (including any comparison activities), proposed metrology areas for their first CMC submissions and enumerated the main roadblocks that they saw ahead. Representatives from the BIPM spoke about CMCs and their review process, the KCDB and the different types of comparisons, and the need for effective quality managements systems in accordance to ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO Guide 34 (where applicable). Then the Director of CENAMEP (Panama), Mr Hernando Flórez, related the experiences of his NMI as they worked to gain acceptance of their CMCs into the BIPM KCDB. Following the presentations, JCRB experts and NMI delegates worked to develop individual strategies for gaining acceptance of the CMCs from these NMIs into the BIPM KCDB within 18 months.

Well, today we are happy to inform you that the Laboratory for Process Measurement of the Croatian’s Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture (DZM-FSB-LPM) became the first NMI of this group to publish CMCs in the KCDB, a full 6-month ahead of schedule. Their 10 CMCs in pressure were published on 2008-05-16 as part of EURAMET.M.8.2007. Meanwhile, the remaining 5 NMIs continue to make progress in their 18-month plans, with some like NIS (Egypt) already having gained approval of their QS from EURAMET and having sent their CMCs to the appropriate EURAMET TCs for intra-RMO review.

Also worth noting are the developments in Kazakhstan where the Director of the KazInMetr, Mr Yerkin M. Lebaev, formally declared their intentions to change their

status from Associate of the CGPM to Member State of the BIPM. This announcement, which was made via a letter to the Director of the BIPM on 2008-05-22, has initiated the process for Kazakhstan to become the 52 signatory of the Metre Convention in 2009 (only the second country in COOMET to assent to the status of Member State of the BIPM) and clearly shows the interest of the KazInMetr to advance the state of metrology in their republic.