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Algerac - the Algerian Accreditation Centre a milestone for Algerian Trade Capacity Building Initiative



Mr. Faycal Hocine, Director General of the Standardization and Quality Promotion Division in the Algerian Ministry of Industry with UNIDO Senior Industrial Development Officer, Lamine Dhaoui at UNIDO HQ. Mr. Hocine is national coordinator of the Algeria / UNIDO / France project: Strengthening Capacities in the Field of Quality Promotion, Certification and Accreditation,

On 23 August, 2005, Algerac, the Algerian Accreditation Centre, came into being. The Government decree establishing the centre is a major outcome of the Euro 1.5m UNIDO project funded by France to build Algerian trade capacities by strengthening the [conformity assessment infrastructure](#).

UNIDO worked with the Algerian Government on the review of the legal framework for conformity assessment and quality promotion which led to the establishment of Algerac.

National coordinator of the project, Mr. Faycal Hocine, was at UNIDO headquarters in Vienna, in the first week of September, 2005, to discuss the progress of the project with UNIDO Senior Industrial Development Officer, Lamine Dhaoui. UNIDOScope asked Mr. Hocine about the project.

"It will be Algerac's job to develop rules and procedures related to the accreditation of conformity assessment institutions and to

take decisions related to the accreditation of the conformity assessment infrastructure, in conformity with national and international standards. Algerac will monitor conformity to international standards and proceed with the removal, suspension or withdrawal of the accreditation if necessary. It will represent Algeria at international fora and conclude international agreements on behalf of the Government in relation to conformity assessment."

"With the help of UNIDO, the Algerac Committee will be established and operational before the end of the project in June 2006. Staff will be trained, and procedures in place to receive the first requests for

accreditation. The peer assessment for [the accreditation of Algerac](#) will be done after the establishment of the procedures and work has started. Initially Algerac's work will be sponsored by the French international accreditation body ([COFRAC](#))."

"The current programme, which began in September 2003, was preceded by a [UNDP-funded](#) programme to launch "Quality" in Algeria. The launching of the programme was very timely, as in 2003, Algeria started discussions with WTO for accession and with the EU for association with the EU Free Trade Agreement. It was then necessary to upgrade the Algerian quality infrastructure, including legislation, to bring it in conformity with international rules. In 2004 Algeria adopted a new law on standardization, marks, intellectual property rights and patents."

"The first important activity of the project was a campaign to raise awareness of the need for Algerian industry to meet international standards for the development of export capacity and economic growth. The campaign took the form of two big seminars in the north and south of Algeria, covering all 48 provinces. Between 600 - 800 managers of enterprises and high level staff from ministries participated in the seminars. Four Algerian Ministries: Industry; Trade and Commerce; Agriculture; and Health are participating in the project. An additional five seminars were organized with the chamber of commerce."

"The second important action of the programme was the training of internal auditors. Fifty auditors from selected enterprises that had requested assistance in setting up a quality system (with the aim of certification), participated in the training in October 2004. These auditors are now setting up quality systems within their enterprises. Due to strong demand from Algerian enterprises and in line with Algeria's national quality policy, in November, 2005, the project will train a further 50 internal auditors. The steering committee has also approved the training of 15 internal auditors for the national pharmaceutical laboratories."

"The initial UNDP-funded programme produced 30 certified external auditors. These auditors assisted with the evaluation process in another part of the project: the holding of Algeria's Quality Award 2003-2004. The auditors will also take part in the 2005-2006 event. A further 30 external auditors will be trained to apply for certification."

"Other activities already undertaken by the project to strengthen the quality and conformity assessment infrastructure include strengthening the capacities of the Algerian standardization body [IANOR](#), through staff training, provision of equipment and staff and upgrading the documentation centre. Similar assistance was provided to the National Laboratory for the Control of Pharmaceutical Products ([LNCPP](#)), the National Centre for the Control of Seeds and Plants (CNCC) and the National Centre for the Control of Packaging Quality ([CACQE](#))."

"Assistance has also been provided to five enterprises to introduce ISO 9000, five enterprises to introduce the [HACCP](#) approach to food safety, and five laboratories for accreditation in accordance with [ISO 17025](#)."

MORE INFO ► Lamine Dhaoui, Tel: +43 1 26026 / 5183 E-mail: M.Dhaoui@unido.org

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Send your comments to the editor: K.Timmins@unido.org