The annual World Accreditation Day celebrations saw information sharing on the benefits of accreditation as an assurance mechanism for delivery of quality and safe service. The issues highlighted in the presentations given and during plenary discussions were:

- Accuracy and reliability of outcomes and test results
- The balance between quality and cost effectiveness,
- The safety of patients
- The accreditation of health facility certifiers in Kenya.

The key stakeholders who graced the occasion were from The Ministry of Health through the Directorate of Health Standards, Regulations and Quality Assurance, The Ministry of Agriculture through The State Department of Livestock and the Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise Development.

The presentations delivered involved the following topics:

- Point of Care Testing - The need for accreditation of these services
- Management of system certification in the Health Sector - (The plans Ministry of Health has in place to deliver quality improvement.)
- The role of accreditation in the Health Sector
- Accreditation of Hospital Certifiers - The development under the Kenya Quality Model for Health
- Medical laboratory accreditation, diagnostic imaging and medical reference laboratories

Participants during the 2015 World Accreditation Day, Crowne Plaza
The Key note addresses were delivered by representatives of three Ministries i.e. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise Development. They focused on the fact that the role of regulators is to ensure that all health and social care service providers deliver safe, effective, compassionate and high quality care. All Ministries intimated the constitutional right of all citizens to have access to quality healthcare as is enshrined in Article 43,(1a) Every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes the right to health care services, including reproductive health care; and hence accreditation plays a significant role to ensure that users of the services in the health sector receive consistent quality care, with quality patient outcomes.

It was also noted that the health of persons and that of animals and the viability of ecosystems are intricately linked increasing the risk of disease transmission and hence the importance of proper diagnosis. It was agreed that accreditation provides regulators with a reliable monitoring tool to support continuous improvement and that it provides objective proof that the service operates competently and safely and that outcomes can be relied upon. Detailed discussions ensued at plenary with the following resolutions:

- KENAS to invite the Parliamentary Health Committee, the Health and Biotechnology Committee, and of the Council of Governors’, among other stakeholders, to educate them on the importance of accreditation and its impact on trade and the economy.
- Consider making accreditation mandatory for the health sector in liaison with regulatory arms of Government.

The event would not have been a success without our support partners: GIZ, FHI 360, HUQAS, Nyumbani Diagnostic Laboratory and KEBS, and all participants who graced the occasion. We thank you all dearly for enabling us to reach out to many who were at the plenary and others who read the supplement in the local dailies.
KENAS has accredited the following conformity assessment bodies as at July 2015.

1. **BOMU hospital** is accredited to ISO 15189:2012 for hematology, clinical chemistry, microbiology and serology.
2. **Lancet Eastleigh** is accredited to ISO 15189:2012 for microbiology, chemistry, hematology and serology.
3. **Lancet Parklands** is accredited to ISO 15189:2012 for microbiology, chemistry, hematology and serology.
4. **Pro-lab** is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 for microbiology testing in Dairy Products, Flour, Meat, Juices & Water and Soil.
5. **Sony (South Nyanza) Sugar Testing Laboratory** is accredited to 17025:2005 for chemistry testing in sugar and soil.

Pathologist Lancet Parklands and Eastleigh laboratories receive their accreditation certificates

Pro-lab team receive their accreditation certificate from KENAS
ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 Transition Arrangements

ISO/IEC 17021-1 2015 was published on 8th June 2015 to replace ISO/IEC 17021;2011 which was subject to systematic review and revision. International Accreditation Forum (IAF) has also published an updated version of IAF MD5 - Determination of Audit Time of Quality and Environmental Management Systems. ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems, Part 1: will replace ISO 17021: 2011. This standard relates to the competence of certification bodies themselves and their auditors. It applies to the auditing and certification of all types of management systems in order to raise the bar on Management system certification. These will result in the need for Certification Bodies (CBs) to implement changes within their management systems and processes in order to maintain KENAS accreditation in the future.

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify the Certification Bodies that KENAS has a transition policy which will enable each certification body’s accreditation to be transferred to the new standard within an internationally agreed timeframe. Resolution 2014-12 was passed by the IAF General Assembly in Vancouver on 15 October 2014 endorsing a 2 year transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015. This means that all Management Systems Certification Bodies will need to have successfully transitioned to the new standard within 2 years from the publication date, i.e. 8th June 2017.


KENAS will inform the certification bodies on the details for the transition soon.

More can be found here: www.iso.org/iso/home/news_index/news_archive/news.htm?refid=Ref1972
Accreditation of Health Care Facility Certifiers

Hospital Certifiers are bodies mandated to carry out audit and certification of management system based on various approved standards e.g. Kenya Quality Model for Health (KQMH), Safe Care (NHIF), ISO 9001, ISO 27001 etc.

The Ministry of Health in Kenya has a mission to build a progressive responsive and sustainable health care system for accelerated attainment of the highest standard of health to all Kenyans. The Kenya health system faces various challenges that include declining trends of health indicators; health system failure; dissatisfied customers/clients and health providers resulting in high attrition rates; high healthcare bills; wide disparities in the quality of services delivered not only between public and private institutions of similar categories but also across counties.

As a long term target, the KQM (Kenya Quality Model for Health) has been identified as one of the ways to achieve quality excellence in the health sector through certification. ISO 9001 Standard describes the requirement for quality management systems and is the world’s most established quality framework. ISO/IEC 27001 is the internationally recognized best practice framework for Information Security Management System, a vital element in the provision of health and social care. It provides a systematic approach by organizations to manage sensitive information so that it remains secure. It includes people, processes and IT systems where risk management process is vital. Accredited certification is used to assess conformity, and hence competence against these standards.

KENAS’ Role in Accreditation of Health Care Facility Certifiers

KENAS, as the sole national accreditation body evaluates the results of assessments of Certifying Bodies (CB) against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021 to determine whether the CB will be accredited, and provides an assessment report that attests to the technical competencies of the CB.

This report enables the CB to create and implement action plans, continuing the cycle of continual quality improvement for the health facility / hospital.

KENAS is setting up an a program for accrediting Certifying bodies against ISO/IEC 17021 who would in turn certify the health facilities against relevant certification standards e.g. Kenya Quality Health Model (KQM), Safe Care (NHIF), ISO 9001, ISO 27001 etc.
Promoting Accreditation at the WTO Public Forum

ILAC and IAF are hosting a session at the WTO Public Forum on 1st October at 0900 at the WTO headquarters in Geneva.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has accepted a proposal from ILAC and IAF to host a working session at the WTO’s Annual Public Forum 2015 to promote the role that accreditation plays to support trade. The session will cite case studies and research papers that demonstrate how accredited certification, testing and inspection support cross-border trade.

This year’s Public Forum, which marks the 20th anniversary of the WTO, will review how trade works through the multilateral system to boost growth, lift people out of poverty, increase access to goods and medicines, and promote mutually-beneficial relationships between nations. Looking ahead, delegates will also look at those areas where trade can work better and where the WTO can do more.

Read more on the forum here: https://www.wto.org/.../public_forum15_e/public_forum15_e.html

KENAS PARTICIPATES IN ANNUAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME

KENAS participated in our annual tree planting activity in June 2015. The tree planting activity was held at Syokimau in partnership with the Syokimau Leaders Association and school children of Blessed Assurance Academy. The tree planting area was the local chiefs camp that doubles up as a polling station.