

A Roadmap to Establishing A National EQA Program

Wayne Dimech on behalf of NRL, Australia

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NRL

- Not-for-profit organisation that exists to support laboratories that perform testing for the diagnosis and management of human infectious disease
- WHO Collaborating Centre
- Mission

To promote the quality of tests and testing for infectious diseases globally.

NRL Laboratory Strengthening

- Funded by governments and NGOs
- Primarily in Asian region
- In collaboration and with support of MoH
- Step-wise approach
- Use mentorship and continual monitoring
- Aim for sustainability



Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

Scale 1:88,000,000
 0 500 1000 Kilometers
 0 500 1000 Nautical Miles
 Miller Cylindrical Projection

Delivery of NRL EQAS Training



EQAS Training

- Engage and gain support from MoH
- Develop agreement
 - Define expectations
- Facility assessment
 - Audit against checklist
 - Perform gap analysis
 - Gauge capacity
 - Conduct primary EQA theory training

EQAS Training

Over subsequent visits perform training in

- Sample repository
- Reference testing
- Sample homogeneity and stability
- EQAS design
- Standard operating procedures
- Logistics including IATA/UN3373
- Data collection and analysis including software
- Report writing
- Troubleshooting

Guiding Principles for Sustainability

- Highest level MoH support
- Work within countries' resources
- Facilitate long-term agreement
- Build relationships
- Work in a step-wise manner
- Establish quality systems
- Ultimately, train-the trainer

Challenges

- Short term contracts
- Access to samples in low endemic regions
- Changes in personnel
- Inappropriate individuals offered for training
- Inadequate resourcing
- Cost
- Unrealistic expectations
- Logistics
- Sample storage facilities

NRL Philosophy on EQA Participation

- Top tier laboratories should
 - enrol in international programmes
 - be the national EQA provider
 - use locally sourced samples
 - provide training, troubleshooting and guidance
 - report issues to regulator
- Lower level laboratories should
 - Participate in local EQA
 - Engage with top tier laboratory

Model for Consideration

- NRL has partnered with Oneworld Accuracy (1WA) since 2005
- Uses 1WA informatics OASYS for logistics, participant management, result collection and analysis and reporting
- 1WA acts as secretariat
- Collaborators have multiple options

EQA Roles

Secretariat



Provide Informatics



Procure Samples



Ship Samples to Members



Support Members

Member (EQA Provider)



Provide Leadership



Make Samples



Ship Samples to Participants



Support Participants

Conclusions

- Quality comes at a cost
- EQAS implementation is complex
- Long term approach is required
- Build relationships and mentorship
- MoH involvement and support is preferred
- Ultimately, successful EQA providers can train other regions