



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN**



MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Directors
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : The OIC-Director
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : DENR'S QUARTERLY MONITORING OF PROGRESS RE:
ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ISO/IEC 17025 ACCREDITATION
APPLICATION

DATE : 01 JUL 2024

This is with regard to the agreements between the DTI-PAB and the DENR during the 21st PAB Council Meeting last 08 April 2024.

As part of the DENR's ways forward during said meeting, the DENR would update the DTI-PAB by submitting updates on the progress related to the submitted timeline of activities in the ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation application.

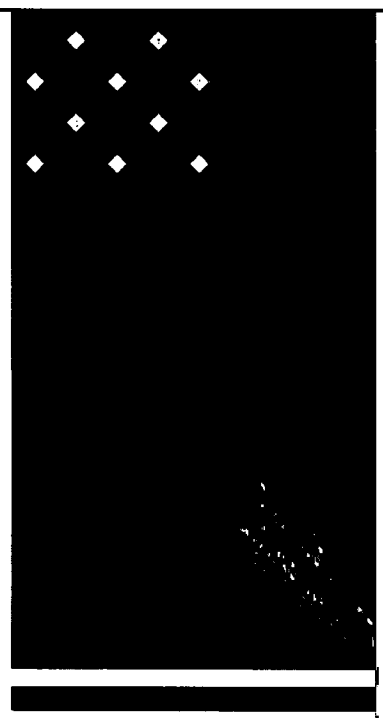
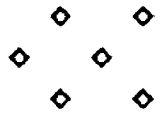
In this regard, may we kindly request updates on the progress related to the submitted timeline of activities in attaining ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for subsequent submission to DTI-PAB. We would appreciate receiving an advance copy of your updates by 5 July 2024 sent to these e-mail addresses psddivision@gmail.com and nehemiahsalvador@gmail.com.

For your consideration, please.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL

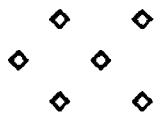
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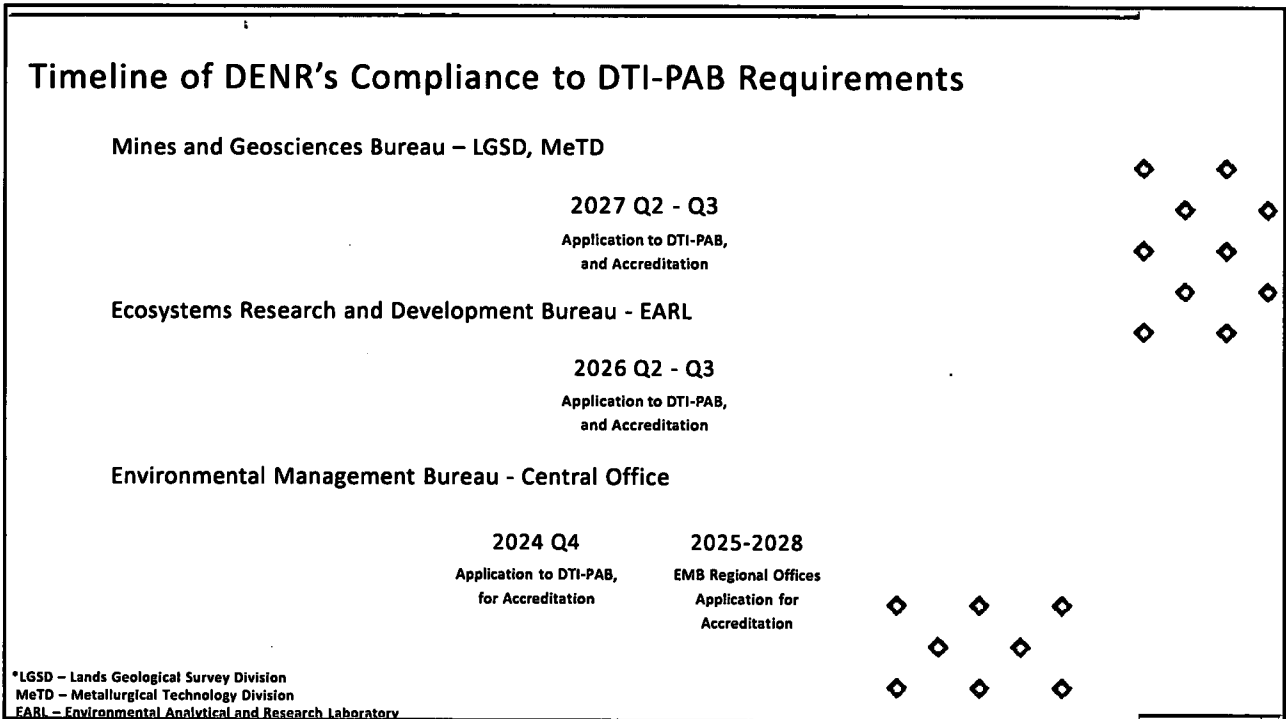
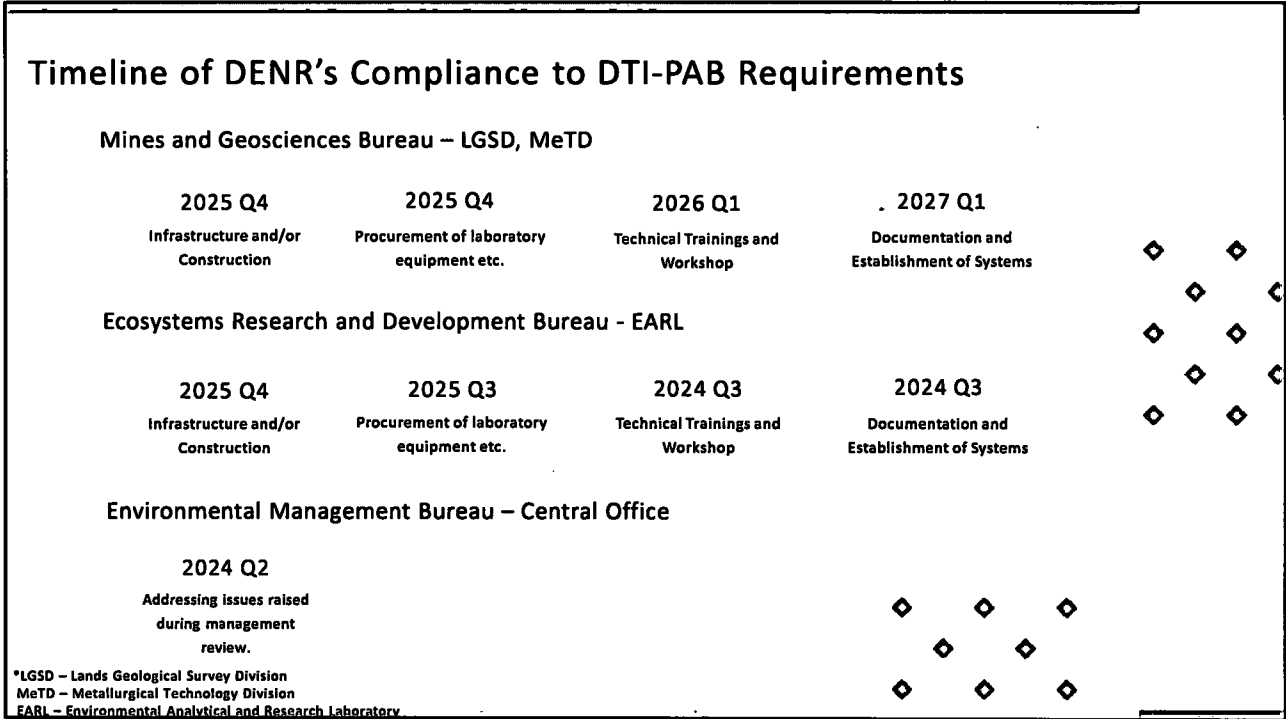
DENR COMPLIANCE WITH THE PAB ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS



Outline of the presentation

- Chronology of events
- Timeline of DENR's compliance to the DTI-PAB requirements





Minutes of the 21st Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) Council Meeting
 08 April 2024 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 5F Board Room, DTI International Building
 375 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City

Attendees:

DTI-CIG / PAB Council Chair	Usec. Rafaelita M. Aldaba
DOST	Asec. Diana Ignacio
DA	Usec. Mercedita Sombilla
	Dir. Karen Kristine Roscom
	Ms. Vera Ysabel de la Cruz
DND	Mr. David LCruz
DPWH	Mr. Avilson Ong
	Ms. Kristine Gonzales
DENR	Usec. Jonas Leones
	Ms. Jocelyn Villanueva
	Mr. Rommel Pantigo
	Ms. Estella Clarisse Glifonea
	Mr. Sammy Aytona
	Ms. Ma. Fatima Anneglo Molina
DOE	Usec. Felix Fuentesbella
	Mr. Isagani Soriano
MAPUA	Dr. Alvin Caparanga
PCCI	Mr. Ferdinand Ferrer

PAB Council Secretariat:

1. Dir. James E. Empeño
2. Asst. Dir. Ernani M. Dionisio

Promotion and Documentation Division (PDD)

3. Ms. Japhet T. Celis
4. Mr. Jenebert P. Opinion
5. Ms. Sheena De La Torre
6. Ms. Angel Marie G. Tanate

PAB Personnel:

Management System Accreditation Division (MSAD)

1. Ms. Ma. Juanita P. Carpio

Laboratory Accreditation Division (LAD)

1. Ms. Michelle P. Esteban

Agenda:

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of the 20th PAB Council Minutes of the Meeting

3. Introduction of New PAB Council Members
4. Discussion on matters arising from the previous meeting
Updates on the following:
 - a. Collaboration with Regulators
 - b. List of Definition and Application of Accreditation from Council Member Agencies
 - c. Management System Advisory Committee (MSAC) Membership
 - d. Trends on PAB's Targets and Accomplishments
5. Other matters
6. Schedule of the next PAB Council Meeting

Minutes:

1. Opening/welcome

Upon determination of a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m., with DTI-CIG Usec. Rafaelita Aldaba presiding.

2. Approval of the Agenda of the Meeting

Usec. Aldaba presented the agenda of the meeting. With no further objection, the agenda was adopted by the Council.

3. Approval of the 20th PAB Council Minutes of the Meeting

Usec. Aldaba asked the Secretariat if there were comments received in the previous minutes of the meeting. The Secretariat responded that the minutes presented were already updated.

The minutes of the 20th PAB Council meeting were deemed provisionally approved, pending additional comments from the council.

Usec. Aldaba requested the Council members to submit their final comments or any feedback to the secretariat in the next seven days, if any.

4. Introduction of New Council Members

Usec. Aldaba acknowledged the presence of the new members of the PAB Council, namely: Dr. Alvin Caparanga of MAPUA and Mr. Ferdinand Ferrer of PCCI. She thanked the new representatives for accepting the position and expressed hope to work closely together as they contribute substantially, especially in promoting PAB accreditation.

5. Discussion on matters arising from the previous meeting

Ms. Celis provided updates on the matters arising from the previous meeting.

5.1. Updates on the Collaboration with Regulators

5.1.1 DOH

Ms. Celis reported that the DOH-OHL (Office for Health Laboratories) is in the process of providing guidance and direction for the accreditation of National Reference Laboratories (NRLs). She also mentioned that DOH and PAB have an on-going collaboration in terms of providing standard-related training scheduled in July 2024.

5.1.2 DA

Dir. Roscom presented the updates on DTI-PAB and DA collaboration. She also presented the scoping study on Conformity Assessment Bodies (CAB) of DA and the recommendations in relation to the mapping inventory results.

Dir. Roscom stated that the next steps would be to validate the results of the scoping study with the DA regulatory agencies and to discuss the ways forward in terms of the major recommendations.

Usec. Aldaba thanked DA for the comprehensive presentation. She asked if there is a timeline for the validation and implementation of the next steps.

Dir. Roscom answered that for the Laboratory Strategic Development Plan, DA will provide the report as soon as the DA-OSEC approves the plan. For the inspection and certification bodies, DA will provide the timeline as soon as they validate with the DA regulatory agencies.

Ms. Carpio shared that PAB and DA-BAFS will have a meeting on April 12, 2024, and discuss the topics of Organic Agriculture under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) as well as the Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP), Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), and Good Animal Aquaculture Practices (GAqP).

Usec. Aldaba asked if PAB is ready in case the recommendation on the accreditation of inspection and certification services for PGS, GAHP, and GAqP will push through.

Ms. Carpio replied that the discussion during the meeting will determine what are the standards to be used for these schemes. PAB should know the schemes first, to determine the standards to be used and what capacity-building programs PAB can offer the assessors. PAB needs the demand not just from DA but from other stakeholders as well.

Usec. Aldaba thanked Ms. Caprio and emphasized that the points mentioned were crucial in coming up with the plan. She suggested that both agencies should discuss all the details and possibly take into consideration the factors that Ms. Carpio mentioned along with some other things that must be considered and maybe categorized them into Phase 1, 2, and 3.

5.1.3 DENR

For the update from DENR, Usec. Leones mentioned that DENR has submitted the timeline of activities for MGB, ERDB, and EMB.

He highlighted that the schedule for all laboratory accreditation may adjust based on phase compliance in response to circumstances such as delays in proficiency testing and procurement delays, among others. DENR also compared the accreditation process of EMB and PAB and noted that the accreditation done by EMB is more stringent. Usec. Leones requested PAB to recognize the accreditation done by EMB and assured that DENR will submit updated reports.

Usec. Leones also mentioned that DENR is waiting for PAB's feedback regarding the submitted timeline of activities.

5.1.4 DPWH

Mr. Ong provided updates on the DPWH's timeline of activities related to their ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation application.

Usec. Aldaba thanked Mr. Ong and commented that hopefully, DPWH can obtain the budget needed for the conduct of all the training mentioned.

5.1.5 DND

Regarding the collaboration between PAB and DND, Sir Dave gave an update that DND previously conveyed to PAB that they would like to draft the MOA specifically for the defense sector. He added that the Senate and House of Representatives have already passed two different versions of the Self-Reliant Defense Posture Law, both of which include provisions for accreditation and certification as part of functional areas.

He highlighted that DND's Legal Services advised that both agencies should wait for the passage of the law before proceeding with the MOA.

Usec. Aldaba suggested that perhaps DND and PAB could initially pursue a pilot accreditation, which would serve as a role model for other laboratories. She suggested that both agencies may review the existing laboratories to determine which one could be accredited by PAB.

Asec. Ignacio added that even if the laboratory is small and has personnel capable of conducting simple testing, it can still be accredited by PAB.

Ms. Celis thanked Sir Dave and mentioned that PAB will coordinate with DND regarding the list of DND's laboratories and conduct a general orientation about accreditation standards and procedures of PAB for them.

5.1.6 DOE

Usec. Fuentebella requested assistance in examining the basis of powers in accreditation, recognition, and the like, their differences, and the consequential relationships and obligations involved.

Dir. Empeño shared that the confusion between these terms is one of the challenges faced by PAB. But this is also one of the reasons why PAB conducts dialogues with other agencies, to harmonize these terms and to discuss the legal basis.

Usec. Aldaba added that PAB is the national accreditation body of the country with accreditation function that ensures that international standards are being followed by different laboratories or certification bodies under the mandate or being regulated by DOE.

Usec. Fuentebella emphasized that DOE should engage with PAB to clarify the laws and understand the limitations.

Dir. James also emphasized that once PAB conducts accreditation, it does not take away the agency's regulatory functions. Each agency has mandates to enforce regulations.

Ms. Carpio suggested that DOE can also do a mapping or scoping study just like DA, to assess the conformity assessment activities done by the agency.

Usec. Fuentebella acknowledged the information and mentioned that he is looking forward to the collaboration and further discussions.

Usec. Aldaba acknowledged the important points and steps regarding the collaboration and coordination of the two agencies.

5.2. Updates on the List of Definition and Application of Accreditation from Council Member Agencies

For the next item, Ms. Celis showed the consolidated file of the submissions received from DOST, DND, DOE, and DOST. She explained that as PAB reviews the inputs, the secretariat can assess the area where PAB can collaborate with these agencies.

Usec. Aldaba asked if there were any observations concerning any alignment or differences.

Ms. Celis answered that others conduct accreditation, but it is labeled as recognition. Others also do licensing, but the term is accreditation. She stressed that collaboration with other agencies is important to clarify the use of the term "accreditation."

Ms. Carpio suggested that PAB needs to orient first the agency on what conformity assessments are. Concerning PAB accreditation, it should be related to conformity assessment activities. When PAB has the list of Bureaus, and PAB assessed that the function is not related to conformity assessment, then PAB cannot offer accreditation.

5.3. Updates on the Management System Advisory Committee (MSAC) Membership

Ms. Celis stated that MSAC still requires one (1) additional representative to complete the list of members. She mentioned that PAB is still waiting for the response for the endorsement of the potential representative from the SME sector.

5.4. Trends on PAB's Targets and Accomplishments

It was agreed during the previous meeting that PAB will present the year-over-year comparison of its targets and accomplishments and draft a catch-up plan in terms of increasing the number of accredited bodies compared to its ASEAN neighboring economies. Dir. Empeño presented the List of Accredited CABs per Economy (ASEAN Members) and the following catch-up plan of PAB:

- Increase PAB visibility within DTI and to other regulators and stakeholders.
 - ✓ Promote PAB's accreditation services within DTI
 - ✓ Promote PAB's accreditation to regulators including LGUs to influence their policies
 - ✓ Partner or collaborate with scheme owners about their developed schemes, e.g. DENR-CAVCS
 - ✓ Promote the accreditation services of PAB and its benefits in various events, e.g. SME week, WAD, Standards Week, Industry Event, Professional association Events, Regulatory Bodies events e.g. "Environment Month" and other similar activities
 - ✓ Partner/Collaborate with the contracted assessors/Technical Experts, e.g. Academe/School on events/activities where accreditation can be promoted
 - ✓ Partner/collaborate with the accredited CABs on their events with their clients e.g. Anniversary, Annual stakeholders gathering
 - ✓ Promote PAB's accreditation during witnessing activities of PAB-MSAD to the CB's clients
- Be responsive to needs for new accreditation schemes.

- ✓ Launch new schemes that are responsive to the needs of PAB's stakeholders e.g. scheme owner, CABs
 - ✓ Expand the scope of the accreditation services
 - ✓ Robust advertisement and marketing of the accreditation program of PAB
 - ✓ Consumer awareness about conformity assessment activities and how accreditation is linked with these activities
 - ✓ Offer regular public training to potential applicants
- Digitalization of PAB's accreditation application system.

After the presentation, Usec. Aldaba emphasized the crucial role of the government agencies that are also members of the Council in further increasing the figures presented. She also highlighted the importance of the assistance from the academe and industry to encourage more CABs to make use of the services provided by PAB.

Dir. Ferrer shared that the private sector is looking for quality and credible certification bodies. He added that PCCI can promote PAB through collaboration with organizations like the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (PHILEXPORT), to recognize PAB as the accrediting body of the country.

6. Other Matters

- Updates on the APAC Peer Evaluation

Assist. Dir. Dionisio gave an update on the APAC Peer Evaluation conducted last January 29 to February 02, 2024. He mentioned that this evaluation is conducted every four years to evaluate if PAB is following the requirements based on the ISO/IEC 17011 standard.

- Draft DAO (Revised Schedule of Fees and Charges for the Corresponding Services Rendered by PAB)

Ms. Celis informed the Council that the draft DAO is subject for review of the Council Members. The deadline for submission of comments is May 08, 2024.

Dir. Empeño added that the draft DAO will undergo a public consultation aside from the review of the committee under the DTI.

- Adoption of the standard ISO/IEC 42001:2023 (Artificial Intelligence Management System)

Usec. Aldaba shared that last year, the standard ISO/IEC 42001 was issued and asked how this issuance would affect the work of PAB.

She suggested that in the next meeting, PAB could provide more substance and detailed information on the impact of this development on the work of PAB.

Ms. Carpio shared that in relation to this standard, PAB can accredit the certification bodies that certify management system for Artificial Intelligence (ISO 42001:2023). Additionally, the accreditation standard that will be used by the certification bodies is still under a draft international standard. This means that it will still undergo a series of meetings before it is published. She stressed that the demand should come from the organizations, but PAB should be ready for this new development.

Usec. Aldaba emphasized the importance of preparing the necessary steps, especially in collaborating with BPS on when this would be adopted. She also shared that DTI is drafting an AI Executive Order and developing an AI research center. She added that the support of PAB, BPS, as well as the members of the Council is needed for the adoption of this standard and promote AI for good.

7. Schedule of the next PAB Council Meeting

The Council agreed that the next council meeting is scheduled on 18 September 2024.

8. Adjournment

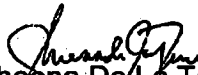
The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

9. Agreements/To Dos


Agenda	Discussions / To-Dos	Responsible Agency	Timeline
7. Approval of agenda	Adopted.		
8. Approval of 20 th PAB Council minutes of the meeting	Provisionally approved. Secretariat to accept additional comments in the next seven days.	All	15-Apr-24
9. Discussion on matters arising from previous meeting			
a. Updates on the Collaboration with Regulators			
- Implementation of MOA between DTI-PAB and DOH	Continue collaboration with DOH in terms of providing standard-related trainings. E.g. July 2024, DOH-RO1. DOH has no representative for this meeting.	DTI-PAB	
- Meeting between DTI-PAB and DA	Validate results of the Outcomes of the Scoping Study on Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) of DA. Establish the ways forward based on the study. Major recommendations from the study: 1. Develop strategic plans on DA inspection bodies, and DA certification bodies within the next 5 years 2. Approve and implement the DA Laboratory Strategic Development Plan with DA-Food Development Center as Lead Coordinating Laboratory 3. Consider DTI-PAB accreditation of inspection and certification services for Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP), Good Animal Aquaculture Practices (GAqP), and Organic Agriculture under Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)	DA	Item 1: Timeline to be provided to DTI-PAB once approved by the DA-OSEC Item 2: Timeline to be provided after the validation of DA regulatory agencies/Offices Item 3: Timeline to be provided after meeting between DTI-PAB and DA (Discussions to be held on 12 April 2024)

<p>- MOA between DTI-PAB and DENR</p>	<p>Submitted their Timeline of Activities related to their ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation application for MGB, ERDB, and EMB.</p> <p>Quarterly monitoring of their bureaus' progress related to their submitted timeline.</p> <p>DENR requested for comments from PAB regarding the timeline of their activities.</p>	<p>DENR</p> <p>PAB</p>	
<p>- Meeting between DTI-PAB and DND</p>	<p>Still waiting for Passage of the DND Bill (regarding the Defense Technology Research and Industry Development Agency) to proceed to the DND-DTI-PAB MOA, as advised by DND Legal Services.</p> <p>DTI-Usec. Aldaba and DOST-Asec. Ignacio suggested to concentrate on individual laboratories of DND in terms of getting accreditation from DTI-PAB. E.g. pilot accreditation of any of DND laboratories to set an example for other labs. PAB and DND to continue the coordination for this initiative.</p> <p>PAB to conduct general awareness on accreditation standards.</p>	<p>DTI-PAB and DND</p>	<p>TBA</p>
<p>- DPWH's application for accreditation</p>	<p>Submitted their Timeline of Activities related to their ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation application.</p> <p>Application for accreditation will be done after the activities indicated in their submission. E.g. PTP programs, training, and securing of budget.</p>	<p>DPWH</p>	<p>Refer to their submission of their one-year timeline of activities.</p>
<p>- Meeting between DTI-PAB and DOE</p>	<p>Council to assist the DOE on the difference between certification, recognition, and accreditation, and whether there is a legal basis for such practices, as well as potential liabilities associated with accreditation outcomes.</p> <p>DOE to conduct a scoping study on Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) to review their accreditation mandates and see how it will complement or fall under PAB Accreditation schemes.</p> <p>DOE and PAB to schedule a meeting to discuss the results of the scoping study to identify areas of collaboration for further development.</p> <p>DOE requested information about the publication of standard for solar panels in the Philippines. DTI-PAB to request for updates from BPS.</p>	<p>DTI-PAB</p> <p>DOE</p> <p>DTI-PAB and DOE</p> <p>DTI-PAB</p>	<p>Before the next PAB Council Meeting in September 2024</p>
<p>d. Updates on the List of Definition and Application of Accreditation from Council Member Agencies</p>	<p>PAB received inputs from DA, DND, DOE, and DOST.</p> <p>Council secretariat to review where PAB can collaborate with these agencies.</p>	<p>DTI-PAB</p>	


e. Updates on LADAC and MSAC Membership	Awaiting response on the endorsement of a potential representative from the SME Sector. PAB Council Secretariat to follow-up.	DTI-PAB	
10. Updates on PAB's Operations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans and programs in 2024 to increase the number of accredited bodies compared to other ASEAN economies. 	PCCI to promote PAB as the Philippines' reliable accreditation body for certifying bodies in the private sector, in collaboration with organizations like the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (PHILEXPORT).	PCCI	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Matters 	PAB Council Members to comment on the Draft DAO-Revised Schedule of Fees and Charges for the corresponding services rendered by the Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB)	All	May 08, 2024
	Usec. Aldaba mentioned about DTI establishing an AI research center. PAB to provide more detailed information on how the AI standard will affect the work of PAB.	DTI-PAB	Next Council Meeting.
11. Next PAB Council Meeting	September 18, 2024		

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Reviewed by: 
Japhet J. Celis
OIC, PAB-PDD


Jenebert P. Opinion
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Angel Marie G. Tanate
AA VI, PAB-PDD

 Digitally signed by
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Approved by: James E. Empeño
Director, PAB

ANNEX I

Photos



