

INTERNATIONAL LIAISON MEETING ASCLD – SMANZFL/NIFS

Lyon, France - 21 October 2004

1. Approval of Agenda

- The meeting was attended by Susan Johns (ASCLD), Tony Raymond (SMANZFL/NIFS), Kimmo Himberg (ENFSI), and Alan Clark (ASCLD).
- Preparations for the meeting included electronic correspondence and a telephone conference call between the ASCLD and SMANZFL/NIFS international liaisons (Susan Johns, Tony Raymond). The previously distributed agenda was agreed upon.
- The purpose of the meeting was
 - To finalize the ASCLD-SMANZFL/NIFS letter of agreement;
 - To determine the status of previously agreed upon actions;
 - To provide updates on ASCLD and SMANZFL/NIFS activities; and
 - To share information with ENFSI.

2. Review of Summary of Bilateral Meeting (Wellington, New Zealand, March 29, 2004)

- Susan Johns provided an electronic copy (on CD) of her notes from the March 29, 2004, meeting between ASCLD and SMANZFL/NIF held in Wellington, New Zealand.
- Susan Johns also provided (on CD) the May 1, 2004, report provided to the ASCLD Board of Directors. The outcomes for that meeting were reviewed and confirmed:

Outcomes:

1. *Improvements to business management*

- *Information obtained on structure, goals and operations of SMANZFL/NIFS and ASCLD will be shared.*

2. *Improvements to services/products offered by the professional organization.*

3. *Improvements to information/products used by members of the professional organization.*

3. Old Business

- Status of the letter of agreement (LOA).
 - The letter of agreement and the changes that were made were reviewed.

- Most were clerical in nature.
 - NIFS was added to the letter.
 - Tony Raymond will make those changes and forward a final copy of the agreement for the approval of both boards.
 - A brief discussion clarified:
 - The letter has no legal standing.
 - If there is intellectual property (IP) that is produced for commercial distribution, there may need to be a separate understanding for that IP; e.g., products may involve cost recovery. That issue is addressed in the letter.
 - The definition of research as used in the letter was discussed. Research should be considered broadly; e.g., as used in the ISO standards for forensic laboratories. It may be in the future that this international group may want to endorse certain interpretations to ISO standards for forensic laboratories and provide that information for the accrediting bodies. Validations might also be topics for collaborations.
 - After discussion, the International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA) was proposed as the name of this collaboration.
 - If the name is generic, as additional groups are added, the name will not need to be changed.
 - In the future, ENFSI may be interested in joining the cooperative agreement.
 - Currently ENFSI is undergoing a major process of change to its structure and the wish to keep additional changes to a minimum.
 - Language is another issue.
- Review of June action items.
 - The goals and actions from the June 11, 2004, teleconference meeting (provided on CD), were reviewed.
 - Letter of agreement.
 - SMANZFL/NIFS participation in the ASCLD symposium.
 - Coordination of Interpol presentation.
 - Develop an agenda for a meeting with ENFSI at the Interpol meeting.
 - Facilitate the exchange of information via the web sites.
 - The first four goals have been fully accomplished.
 - Additional work needs to be done on the web site exchanges.
 - SMANZFL has a restricted web site but some of the information may be able to be shared. Tony will have Paul address this at the ASCLD meeting.
 - Recommend: our web organization's web masters set up a telephone meeting to work out access details. Possibly have a registration process controlled by SMANZFL for access to the site.

- After the ASCLD meeting, Susan and Tony will update the information on the web sites.

4. New Business

- Hong Kong meeting—proposal for Forensic Science Summit panel discussion.
 - Various discussions were held throughout the course of the Interpol meeting about a proposal for a ½ day session to be held at the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS) meeting in Hong Kong in 2005
 - IAFS President, Dr. S. C. Leung, has corresponded with Susan Johns, expressing an interest in receiving a proposal that would highlight the role a professional group like SMANZFL and ASCLD play in the forensic science community.
 - The proposal will include the role academic and other partners (e.g., Australia's NIFS and the United States' Forensic Resource Network) play in forensic networks
 - There is also some interest on the part of Dr. Leung in using the IAFS meeting as a vehicle for an international summit meeting.
 - Susan Johns will draft a proposal about such a panel discussion and provide it to representatives from SMANZFL/NIFS and ENFSI for their review and input. After that review, the proposal will be submitted to IAFS for consideration. The proposal will probably not be finalized until February 2005, at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.
 - Susan Johns will attempt to identify a South American laboratory directors group about their interest in participating in such a group.
 - Tony Raymond and Susan Johns will be meeting with a representative from Interpol about their potential involvement in the panel.
- Education and training updates - This agenda item is included in the US and Australian updates.
- New developments – United States. Susan Johns provided electronic updates on the following US activities:
 - 180 day study.
 - Tony Raymond asked if the ASCLD report could be published on the SMANZFL/NIFS web site.
 - Susan Johns will check the ASCLD web site to confirm that it is published there.
 - Paul Stewart will bring this up at the ASCLD Board meeting to see if the Board will give permission to publish on the SMANZFL web site.

- The Bureau of Justice Statistics study on the 50 largest US laboratories.
 - ASCLD collaborated with the University of Illinois at Chicago to complete this study, which is the successor to ASCLD's workload survey.
- FEPAC update.
 - The first US programs have been accredited. These are listed on the web site.
- FSAB update.
 - The first certification program has been given accreditation (i.e., the American Board of Criminalists).
- Criteria for training based on TWGED.
 - The ASCLD Training Committee is working on the feasibility of developing a program to evaluate forensic science training programs.
- American Bar Association recommendations on crime laboratories.
 - A copy of the recommendations were distributed but not discussed.
- The National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law has been established.
 - Susan Johns will provide additional information about this project being run by Carol Henderson out of Stetson University College of Law.
- New Developments – Australia.
 - Firearms program.
 - A description of the Australian national training curriculum was provided.
 - The program may be available to AFTE members.
 - Contact Tony Raymond for more information.
 - Mass casualty program (DVI).
 - An outline of the Australasian DVI Standards Manual was provided.
 - Additional information can be obtained by contacting Tony Raymond.
 - Document training program.
 - The modules for the document training program were provided.
 - Additional information can be obtained by contacting Tony Raymond.
- Need for global professional organization.
 - This was discussed with the Hong Kong meeting agenda item.
- International databasing.
 - This agenda item was not discussed.
- Validations.
 - This agenda item was not discussed.

- Policy issues.
 - This agenda item was not discussed.
 - Terrorism as a crime scene – establishing standards of best practice for CBRNE.
 - Some information was provided by Tony Raymond as part of the Australian update.
5. Summary
- Susan will provide a copy of these notes to SMANZFL and ENFSI, along with electronic copies of materials provided by Tony Raymond.
 - The next meeting will be held at the ASCLD meeting in San Diego.