

## *A Message From The President*

**J**une 9th marked International Accreditation Day. The theme of the day this year is “competence.” Accreditation provides an independent and authoritative attestation of the competence, impartiality and integrity of conformity assessment bodies (CABs). In today’s complex and highly competitive market, a level of confidence is required when purchasing products or services. Such reassurance is, according to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the foundation of accreditation.



Government regulators have come to appreciate the importance of credible accreditation programs that operate under international standards and subject themselves to periodic peer evaluation by regional organizations that underpin ILAC and its sister organization International Accreditation Forum.

As an organization, the IAS family has very well survived a bleak winter, worked very hard through an encouraging spring season and now stands ready to face the challenges of what promises to be an extremely busy summer season.

IAS Board, committee and council members and dedicated staff have made concerted efforts to open up and improve lines of communication with a wide variety of stakeholders so as to explore new opportunities. IAS has performed well financially through the first five months of 2009, generating a slight positive net margin. As the financial report shows, tremendous sacrifices by staff in terms of salary and work hour reductions coupled by good cost controls across many expense categories have contributed to the positive performance during this period. During this severe economic downturn, IAS has adhered to principle-based leadership by holding the line on fee increases and, whenever possible, working with its clients to reduce assessment costs.

The message of better and safer building practices across borders has been carried far and wide with IAS assessors spreading the accreditation mantra to many countries like Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Mexico, China, India, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Bahrain and the West Indies.

My special thanks to the ICC leadership and particularly to its CEO, Richard T. Weiland who has worked diligently with IAS Board Chairman Michael Bouse, the IAS Board and ICC staff to improve and develop new channels of communication with ICC members and building safety professionals throughout the world.

The positive response and active support provided by our valued clients has truly boosted staff morale and I take this opportunity to thank them all.

The many significant accomplishments of IAS this year would not have been possible without the support of our clients and partners. Together, we have succeeded in laying the foundation for a stronger, safer future.

To all our friends and well wishers, have a safe and enjoyable summer.



Chuck Ramani