



IAPMO R&T Lab Executive Vice President Ken Wijaya demonstrates a testing protocol to ESMA Director General, His Excellency Abdulla Abdelqader Al Maeeni, and ESMA Director of National Accreditation, Dr. Rehab Faraj Al Ameri, during an April tour of the laboratory. — PHOTO BY JEFF ORTIZ

UAE Standards Body Visits IAPMO, Explores Future Collaboration



<https://www.esma.gov.ae/en-us/Pages/default.aspx>

Story by Mike Flenniken

Leadership from the Emirates Authority for Standardization & Metrology (ESMA), the United Arab Emirates' standards/testing/certification body visited IAPMO's World Headquarters recently to explore ways to collaborate on water-related conservation and learn more about IAPMO's research work on plumbing.

His Excellency Abdulla Abdelqader Al Maeeni, Director General of ESMA, and Dr. Rehab Faraj Al Ameri, ESMA's Director of National Accreditation, also toured IAPMO's laboratories during their April 4 visit.

IAPMO was represented by CEO GP Russ Chaney; Ohannes Dembekjian, Executive Vice

President of Continuous Compliance; Jin Luo, Executive Vice President of Lab Recognition/Asia Pacific Operations; Ken Wijaya, Executive Vice President of IAPMO R&T Lab; and Dain Hansen, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, who arranged the visit.

The visit began with Hansen leading a presentation outlining IAPMO's global operations, baseline codes, and work on water-efficiency standards, as well as an overview of the International Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Foundation, IAPMO's nonprofit organization. A tour of the R&T and Institute of Building Technology (IBT) laboratories followed the presentation.

"We came to see what is implemented here, the standards, the codes that you are implementing, what schemes you have," Al

Maeeni said, "so we can see if we can implement similar to them in the UAE and get the benefit of the experience available here and cooperate in terms of product certification and UAE for the materials covered by IAPMO."

Al Ameri said IAPMO's experience in such a specialized market could prove beneficial to the UAE.

"We have a strong arm in mandating and regulating the market in the UAE, being the Emirate Authority for Standardization & Metrology," she said, "and most of our projects that we are trying to support in the UAE are in line with the national agenda and strategy. One of the important projects is for water and electricity efficiency, so such a visit will add a lot."

She said with the UAE being an open market, learning about IAPMO's codes, standards, and certification practices could be beneficial for both the UAE and IAPMO.

"It's a win-win situation," she said. "It's also to help IAPMO get access to the market and how IAPMO can overcome any constraints to give it more chance and opportunity for access to the UAE market."

Al Maeeni described the visit and facilities as "excellent."

"We got to know what is available here, the experience and capabilities you have, and we got information about new, different types of tests and codes available, and compared with what we have and what we are aiming to have in the UAE," he said.

Al Maeeni added that there is a big opportunity for IAPMO to expand its presence in the region.

"They are already there, existing in the market, but I think the opportunity's available for more, and the chance of expansion is there," he said. "I think we can collaborate in setting up standards by participating in our technical committees, plus providing certification based on our regulations and standards."

Chaney said he looked forward to collaborating with ESMA in the future.



"IAPMO was delighted to welcome HE Director General Abdulla Abdelqader Al Maeeni and Dr Rehab Faraj Al Ameri to IAPMO's World Headquarters," he said. "We were pleased to share knowledge on codes and standards development, as well as laboratory accreditation and product certification. We agreed to share information on technology innovation so that codes and standards can be easily administered within the Gulf Region, as well as in North America. There remain challenges in the area of product testing and certification worldwide, so it is encouraging to maintain relationships with our colleagues at the ESMA." 📷

Top: From left, Executive Vice Presidents of IAPMO R&T Jin Luo and Ohannes Dembekjian, Wijaya, Al Maeeni, IAPMO CEO GP Russ Chaney, Al Ameri, IAPMO Senior Vice President of Government Relations Dain Hansen.

Above: Wijaya explains to Al Maeeni the use of soy products to simulate waste during testing.

PHOTOS BY JEFF ORTIZ