

QCI is bringing a revolution in Water Quality Infrastructure

Quality Council of India

It is Jal Jeevan Mission's vision to ensure that the provision of safe & adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all rural households in India is ascertained. To guarantee the availability of the prescribed quality of drinking water, Hon'ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shukhawat announced that a target had been set by the Centre to establish a Water Testing Laboratory in all blocks of the country by 2023. It was then decided later that these laboratories must gain the necessary International accreditation/ National recognition, to fulfil their duties.

Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous body under the Department of Promotion of Industrial and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is an apex national body and provides

accreditation and other related services through its constituent Boards viz., NABL, NABCB, NABH, NABET, and NBQP.

National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) grants accreditation to testing laboratories as per international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 'General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories'. Furthermore, with the aim to sensitise the Government Drinking Water Testing Laboratories at Block/ Sub-Divisional level performing basic water quality testing, NABL launched a scheme of 'Recognition for Government Drinking Water Testing Laboratory at Block Level/ Sub-Divisional Level'. At present, out of a total of 2084, 1247 laboratories have been accredited/ recognised by NABL.

Training and Capacity Building (TCB), an independent cell under the ambit of QCI has been regularly conducting trainings for the laboratories, TIC Sector, and Industries, assuming the task of organising training initiatives for the officials of Middle Management Level (L-2) and Community Level functionaries (L-3), upon QCI becoming a Key Resource Centre (KRC) for NIJM through TCB cell.

The year of 2022-23 witnessed the exigency and fervour with which the country geared up to realise the Mission, wherein a majority of the laboratories had either initiated, or had just begun to opt for the application of achieving NABL Accreditation/ Recognition. To provide aid in this endeavour, the laboratories looked eagerly on to Quality Council of India and were looking forward to having training initiatives conducted for them.

During this year, NIJM had sanctioned to us 12 residential trainings, with its primary focus being the topic 'Laboratory System & Internal Audit Program as per ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (For NABL accreditation)'. The trainings were conducted nationwide within a short span of 2 months, owing to the commitment towards the demands received. Upon the conclusion of the same, we approached NIJM again for the approval of conducting a greater number of trainings, who had then kindly allocated to us an addition of 4 more trainings, which, we are



pleased to say, were conducted within a month. Through the mode of residential trainings, more than 850 participants, hailing from various states were trained.

In addition to the trainings sponsored by NIJM, we have conducted trainings for the staffs of PHED Laboratories in various States. These included a 5-day comprehensive hands-on training on IS 10500 standard in a water testing laboratory and a 2-week comprehensive residential hands-on training on Water Testing & NABL Accreditation of Laboratory, organised within the facilities of a NABL accredited laboratory. The purpose of these trainings was to provide aid in enhancing the confidence of laboratory chemist, so that the quality of the test results is assured. We also administered a training on Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply system, pumping stations and pipeline networks for Gujarat.

Some of the key unique features of our training include:

Our program was well received as most of the participants were highly satisfied with our training, which is evident from the 100% feedback on various parameters given by more than 90% of the participants.

The aim of QCI, as a KRC is to diligently put forth its contribution towards the realisation of the goal of the Mission, and to do so, more of such trainings may be conducted pan India, to empower the officials within the laboratories to obtain NABL Accreditation/ Recognition. Further, it is felt that, in order to help in actualising the vision of the Mission i.e., providing adequate safe drinking water to the 1.4 billion citizens of

India, it is imperative to work in conjunction with the various PHED/ DWSD/ DWSS departments present within the country, which is precisely what TCB-QCI intends to do, through the provision of technical guidance and handholding support required for building the competence of the water testing laboratories. Ultimately, such steps are highly beneficial in providing safe water, which is the most vital resource on earth. ■

