

BRAHIM HOULA

INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION & QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEADER

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

International accreditation leader and industrial engineer with 25 years of experience in accreditation, conformity assessment and quality infrastructure. Proven record in leading multi-economy accreditation operations, international recognition arrangements, peer evaluation, capacity building and institutional digitalisation. Works across technical, governance and policy environments to strengthen confidence in conformity assessment, facilitate trade and protect consumers.

2026 - PRESENT

Chair

Global Accreditation Cooperation
Incorporated (Global ACI)

2013 - PRESENT

Director of Accreditation Services

GCC Accreditation Center (GAC)

2025 - PRESENT

Chair, MRA Council

Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation
(APAC)

LEADERSHIP FOCUS

Accreditation governance / Mutual recognition / Peer evaluation / Technical operations / Capacity building / Digital transformation / Quality infrastructure policy / Trade and regulatory confidence

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2013 - PRESENT

Director of Accreditation Services

GCC Accreditation Center (GAC)

- Leads GAC's technical accreditation departments and oversees the development and consistent implementation of accreditation processes.
- Directs staff and assessor resources across laboratory, inspection, certification and related conformity assessment programmes.
- Represents GAC with governments, regulators, industry, regional bodies and international accreditation organisations.
- Shapes accreditation strategy, new service development, resource planning, budgeting and expenditure control.
- Leads the digitalisation of accreditation services and advises GAC senior management on institutional strategy and organisational improvement.
- Conducts and oversees assessments against ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17020, ISO/IEC 17065, ISO/IEC 17024 and ISO/IEC 17021-1, among other standards.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - CONTINUED

2010 - 2013

Senior Specialist, Conformity Assessment

GCC Standardization Organization (GSO)

- Technically managed the project that established the GCC Accreditation Center as a multi-economy accreditation body.
- Led technical discussions with government officials and stakeholders supporting the regional agreement and operating model.
- Developed accreditation documentation for testing and calibration laboratories and product certification bodies.
- Coordinated national contact points and a multicultural technical team, and trained assessors, country representatives and future GAC staff.
- Prepared budget estimates and fee benchmarks, reported progress to the Board of Ministers and advised GSO leadership on accreditation and notification.

2001 - 2010

Head of Testing Laboratories Accreditation

Tunisian Accreditation Council (TUNAC)

- Managed the testing laboratories accreditation department and the full cycle of initial, surveillance and reaccreditation assessments.
- Developed technical accreditation requirements and trained staff, assessors and stakeholders.
- Managed cooperation projects with PTB, GIZ, the European Union and UNIDO supporting Tunisia's quality infrastructure.
- Coordinated with government departments and national quality infrastructure committees and represented TUNAC nationally and internationally.
- Conducted testing and calibration laboratory assessments and developed new accreditation activities through operational handover.

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Global ACI Chair; contributing to the unified global governance of accreditation cooperation.

APAC Chair, MRA Council; former Capacity Building Committee Chair, Executive Committee member and lead peer evaluator.

IAF Former MLA Committee Chair; Communications and Marketing Committee Chair; Executive Committee member; Joint ILAC/IAF Mutual Recognition Committee member.

ARAC Former MLA Group Chair, Executive Committee member and lead peer evaluator.

INetQI Communications Working Group Convener.

IHAF Former Mutual Recognition Committee Chair.

ISO/CASCO & STANDARDS CONTRIBUTIONS

- Member of the Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group (STAR).
- Contributor to ISO/CASCO/WG 49 on the revision of ISO/IEC 17000, Conformity assessment - Vocabulary and general principles.
- Contributor to ISO/CASCO/WG 56 on the conformity assessment code of good practice.
- ISO/CASCO trainer; delivered five workshops between 2021 and 2024.
- Co-convener of ISO/CASCO/WG 61 on ISO/IEC 17012, nominated by IAF.

PEER EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING

Peer evaluation

Lead peer evaluator across APAC, ARAC, AFRAC and IHAF. Peer-evaluation exposure includes accreditation bodies in Australia, Chinese Taipei, Viet Nam, Egypt, the United States, Pakistan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Technical assessment

Lead-assessor competence spanning testing, calibration, inspection, product certification, management systems certification and halal conformity assessment.

Training and institutional development

Designs and delivers capacity-building programmes for accreditation bodies, assessors, regulators and conformity assessment stakeholders, with emphasis on practical implementation, peer-evaluation readiness and sustainable institutional capability.

EDUCATION

2022 - PRESENT

PhD Candidate

Al-Madinah International University

Research: the relationship between total quality management and the performance of accredited inspection bodies, with empirical evidence from Oman's petrochemical industry.

2001 - 2004

Diplôme d'Études Approfondies (DEA), Industrial Engineering

École Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Tunis

Industrial systems and processes; research on short- and long-term prediction of solar water-heater performance.

1996 - 2001

Industrial Engineer

École Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Tunis

LANGUAGES

Arabic	English	French	Italian
Native	Fluent	Fluent	Working knowledge

SELECTED INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Contributed to the international recognition of two accreditation bodies: TUNAC and GAC.
- Played a central technical role in establishing the GCC Accreditation Center as a regional, multi-economy accreditation body.
- Contributed to international mutual-recognition mechanisms for halal accreditation.
- Reengineered capacity-building activities at APAC level and led international technical teams.
- Led major digitalisation initiatives supporting accreditation governance and service delivery.