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Dear Readers,

A new year will be starting soon – and I will begin a new stage of my life, as I am going to retire from actively heading our department. The physicist and economist Dr. Marion Stoldt will be responsible for PTB's Technical Cooperation Department in the future. But 2012 will not only be a very special year for us but also for PTB as a whole. After all, our research institute will be 125 years old. Prior to the official anniversary celebrations, you are invited to come to Braunschweig to attend a satellite event called "A Quantum of QI" on 26 March.

I would like to thank you for your many years of trusting cooperation and wish you all - in addition - many successful projects for the joint promotion of quality infrastructure.

I hope you enjoy the festive season and - for the last time - I close with best regards,

Your,

Dieter Schwohnke

Drinking Water for Bolivia and Peru

Contaminated drinking water or simply water shortage is the source of 80 per cent of all diseases in the developing countries – and often a death sentence, above all for children. Not without good reason, according to the seventh Millennium Development Goal, the number of people who have no access to clean drinking water and sanitary facilities is to be halved. Two of PTB's cooperation projects in Peru and Bolivia are contributing to this aim.

"Most of all, we want to strengthen the national metrology institutes and the local accreditation bodies in order to assure that control mechanisms for the quality of drinking water and consumption measurements are improved and become more trustworthy.", says [Carl Felix Wolff](#), who is coordinating the projects. Moreover, a powerful network made up of quality infrastructure institutions, water suppliers, analytical laboratories and supervisory authorities is to be set up to foster consumer protection.

The measures that are being carried out, such as consultancy and training, the endowment of laboratory equipment as well as the promotion of interlaboratory comparisons, are already bearing fruit. Among other things, in Peru a liquid flow laboratory has been established which helps to reliably calibrate water meters throughout the country. In Peru and Bolivia, metrology institutes are for the first time able to produce and offer own

reference materials. These are indispensable for the reliable analysis of the water quality. Furthermore, the number of accredited water laboratories has grown. "Nevertheless, there is still a lot to be done.", as Wolff points out. "We still have a long way to go until everyone in Peru and Bolivia is supplied with clean drinking water 24 hours a day."

Briefly

QI for Serbia's EU candidacy

A new PTB project is to make the approach of Serbia to the EU in the field of QI easier. The project cooperates closely with the program providing "Assistance to Competitiveness and Compatibility with the EU of Serbian SMEs" ([ACCESS](#)) of the *Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* ([GIZ](#)). The main focus of PTB's activities are metrology and accreditation.

[Stefanie Reichertz](#)

New Asia brochure

The work of PTB's Technical Cooperation Department in Asia has many facets presented in the new brochure "With Competence to Quality - PTB's Technical Cooperation in Asia". On sixteen pages it is shown how PTB's experts support a sustainable economic and environmental development in Asian countries. The key strategy in all projects is the establishment and extension of quality infrastructure.

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