The CROSQ Standard newsletter aims to:

- Raise awareness about the necessity for Standards, Metrology and Accreditation; and
- Inform the Standards Bureaux in the region and the CARICOM Member States about the activities of CROSQ.

Published four times a year, the newsletter is distributed to every Member State of CARICOM. All are encouraged to send articles, photos and updates on their activities, relating to international trade, metrology, accreditation, and the development of standards.

Feedback, comments and submissions are welcome and should be sent to newsletter@crosq.org.

The newsletter is compiled, formatted and pre-edited by the Information Systems Officer, with contributions from the CROSQ team and other partner organizations.

WELCOME

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO OF CROSQ

ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS AS AWARENESS-RAISING TOOLS IN THE WORLD OF QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

In this era of globalization and trade liberalization, there is a strong need for awareness of the concept, and importance, of Standards and Quality. Most countries in the Caribbean are signatories to the Agreements of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which deals with the rules of trade between nations at the global level. Among these are three Agreements, one for each of the three broad areas of trade that the WTO covers - goods, services and intellectual property (IP), each dealing with specific sectors or issues. For products, the sectors / issues include Agriculture, Health regulations for farm products (Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures - SPS), Textiles and clothing, Product standards (Technical Barriers to Trade - TBT), Investment measures, Anti-dumping measures, Customs valuation methods, Preshipment inspection, Rules of origin, Import licensing, Subsidies and counter-measures and Safeguards.

National Standards Bodies (NSBs) are required to deal primarily with Product standards and TBT issues. This does not preclude interaction with cross-cutting matters in other sectors. For instance, Intellectual Property Rights often pose special challenges to standards developers, and with few exceptions, standards related to food-safety fall under the purview of the NSBs.

NSBs in the Caribbean are currently in the process of building capacity in order to respond to the specific needs of their respective countries. Much of this capacity is related to the Quality infrastructure (QI), which includes all fields of metrology, standardization and testing, of quality management and conformity assessment, including certification and accreditation. In the past, the abbreviation MSTQ (Metrology, Standardization, Testing and Quality Assurance) was used for this combination of single elements. QI is aimed at ensuring:

- the development and implementation of technical regulations for products and the move from compulsory to voluntary standards;
- application of good practice code to the standardization process; and
- elimination of measures that pose trade barriers - not only customs / taxes and quantitative restrictions, but all the measures with equivalent (protectionist) effects.

In order to be effective, NSBs need the full support of their clients and stakeholders, which range from Industry and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to the Consumer. Awareness-raising of the role and responsibilities of NSBs among these widely-different groups of stakeholders is a daunting task, one that needs innovative approaches. One such approach is the use of annual ‘Celebration Days’ in specific areas / sectors. The next three months (April to June), provide several opportunities:

- 26 April – World Intellectual Property Rights Day with the theme “Promoting Green Innovation”
- 17 May - World Telecommunication and Information Society Day with the theme “Protecting Children in Cyberspace”
- 20 May - World Metrology Day with the theme “Measurements in Commerce – Metrology pinning economic development”
- 9 June – International Accreditation Day with the theme “Competence”

CROSQ encourages all Member States in the region to organize commemorative events at the national level and to share the experiences with CROSQ and with the respective International Body.

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Quote of the Issue: “Quality is everyone’s responsibility” - W. Edwards Deming
The CROSQ Technical Management Committee (TMC) held its 13th meeting from 12-14 January 2009 in Barbados. Representatives from the following Member States were present: Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago. Last-minute developments in Antigua & Barbuda and St Vincent & the Grenadines resulted in these Member States not travelling to Barbados as previously planned. The representation was insufficient for a quorum; however, the meeting proceeded with the attending Members under the chairmanship of Mr Stephen Farquharson of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica.

A presentation made by Trinidad & Tobago underscored the need for alternatives to face to face meetings in view of the lack of quorum for the 13th TMC. The Trinidad & Tobago Representative made a compelling case for online meetings, based on which the CROSQ Secretariat has embarked on procuring the tool “Gotomeeting”.

All Member states will now be able to participate in TMC meetings from their offices using this tool, which allows for communication via typing and collaborative review of documents on a given system. It is hoped that this venture will reduce time and expenditure by decreasing the number of face-to-face annual meetings (currently 3-4 per annum) required. A trial run in March 2009 was successfully undertaken and the first official online meeting is carded for 1 April 2009.

Discussions at the TMC in January focused on issues of relevance to the regional standards development process and activities:

- The Labelling of Retail Packages of Cigarettes standard is now re-titled “Labelling of Retail Packages of Tobacco Products” and includes cigarettes and tobacco products. Member States adopting or implementing the revised standard when it is completed (scheduled for April 2009) will be conforming to the requirements of the World Health Organisation (WHO) - Framework Convention on Tobacco (FCTC) to which they are Signatories or Ratifiers.
- Standards being developed under the CROSQ/IDB Small Products approved for mandatory adoption in Member States by the Council for Economic Trade and Development (COTED).

In attendance were representatives from Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago, as well as the CROSQ Secretariat.

The Committee successfully completed the editing of eleven regional standards - Tomatoes, Pumpkins, Hot Peppers, Cabbages, Grapefruits, Mangoes, Oranges, Rum, Brewery Products (Amended), Gold Jewellery and Carbonated Beverages. These standards will now go through the final steps in the approval and publication phase before becoming available for purchase.

In order to facilitate the process, the Editorial Committee is currently editing an additional seven standards via round-robin - Sweet Peppers, Pineapple, Coconut Oil, Cassava Bread, Safety Matches, Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods and Good Management Practices for SMEs.

The Seventh Editorial Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held during June 2009 in Jamaica where it is expected to edit and complete at least an additional 8 standards developed under the SME project. The First Online Meeting of the Committee will be held during the period April-May.
The Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Services (CLAS) project, developed to facilitate the creation, implementation and functioning of a regional cooperation in accreditation, was launched in Guyana at the Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Georgetown on 2 March 2009. Representatives of several CARICOM Member States, including Antigua & Barbuda, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago, as well as the local Ministry of Health attended the inauguration of this project, which is executed by the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and funded by the European Union under the Ninth European Development Fund (EDF).

Addressing the audience, Dr. Vyjayanthi Lopez, Chief Executive Officer of CROSQ, indicated that the objective of CLAS is to promote quality and standards compliant with international criteria and forging necessary competitiveness. The aim is to improve regional capacity for the functioning of the Laboratory Accreditation service in a cost effective manner that leverages existing expertise and harmonises processes and procedures, while being internationally recognized.

Project Coordinator, Ms. Giselle Guevara, indicated that the first step is to work with regional governments to accomplish the goals of the project, which seeks to issue accreditation, build public confidence and minimize product failures and dangerous outbreaks. "The introduction here will strengthen public health systems and address matters of trade and economic viability relating to the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Europe," she stated.

Ms. Guevara added that of the approximately 29,000 internationally accredited laboratories on register in 2007, less than two percent are in the Caribbean.

The gathering was also addressed by Guyana’s Health Minister, Dr. Leslie Ramsammy. During his address, he remarked that standardization is critical in laboratory tests as it is imperative that every operator dispenses a service of the highest quality. He further stated that the Caribbean has always demanded quality health standards and its early removal of polio and small pox stands out as clear evidence.

Ramsammy pointed out that the birth of CLAS is an indication that the region has taken a "bold, progressive step to be among the world's best in health field" and emphasized that CLAS will harmonise technical services in the region to produce high quality and standards geared to improving delivery and tackling public health challenges. "The practice of having too many untrained laboratory personnel in the region has to change because the task is not an ordinary one… requiring the expertise of trained professionals," he added.

The successful development of CLAS and cooperation among the CARICOM countries will lead to mutual benefit and ensure continued national and regional development, enabling countries to become more competitive globally and re-enforcing confidence in the reliability of testing performed in the Caribbean.

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**REGIONAL ICT STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Fourth Meeting of the CARICOM Regional Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Steering Committee was held in St. Georges, Grenada on 3-4 March 2009. The Committee successfully completed all items on the agenda, including the review of the work of the sub-committees tasked with identifying priority areas and activities for input into the Action Plan to be presented to the ICT Ministerial. Utilising this input, a draft was developed which will be finalized in April 2009, prior to the scheduled ICT Ministerial meeting in May.

**REGIONAL INFORMATION NETWORK**

Planning is underway for the first meeting of the CROSQ Regional Information Network. This group is being formed in order to strengthen linkages amongst the Information Professionals of the various National Standards Bodies and the CROSQ Secretariat. The first plenary meeting is slated for September 2009 and will include representatives in the areas of Information Technology, Information Management, Marketing and Communications, and Enquiry Points for the World Trade Organisation (WTO)Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) notifications.
More than 30 officers representing several sector leads of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Harmonization Council, national disaster offices and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) Coordinating Unit among others, attended a Results Based Management (RBM) workshop hosted recently by CDERA at the Savannah Hotel in Barbados.

This is the second batch of persons who are involved in programme development of disaster risk reduction initiatives across the Caribbean to be trained in RBM. Institutions that participated in this training included the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), The University of the West Indies (UWI), the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the United Nations Development Fund, and the Secretariat of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

RBM promotes increased participatory planning as well as accountability through monitoring and reporting by all major stakeholders. The training workshops are aimed at encouraging institutions to adopt the RBM approach in the design and execution of all programmes, projects and activities undertaken to advance Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) in the region. This workshop took a practical approach to orienting participants to RBM principles and techniques within the context of developing CDM based projects or work programmes at the sectoral, institutional or national level.

The RBM Training is one of several activities under Phase 1 of the CDM Harmonised Implementation Programme (CDM-HIP). CDM-HIP (Phase 1) is a five-year programme aimed at enhancing institutional support and community resilience to mitigate, respond to and recover from the adverse effects of disasters and climate variability and change. It is being funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the United Kingdom Department of International Development (DFID) with contributions from the European Union, Government of Turkey, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Secretariat of the OECS, CDERA and its Participating States.

The workshop’s facilitator was Mr. Evan Green, a consultant with le Groupe-conseil baastel Iteé, a Canadian agency.

International World Water Day is held annually on March 22 as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

This year, the theme of "Transboundary waters: shared waters, shared opportunities" highlights the challenges raised by the world’s 263 trans-boundary lake and river basins which include the territory of 145 countries and cover nearly half of the Earth’s land surface. Great reservoirs of freshwater also move silently below our borders in underground aquifers.

World Water Day 2009 builds on the idea that nurturing the opportunities for cooperation in transboundary water management can help build mutual respect, understanding and trust among countries and promote peace, security and sustainable economic growth.

With every country seeking to satisfy its water needs from limited water resources, some foresee a future filled with conflict. But history shows that cooperation, not conflict, is the most common response to transboundary water management issues.

Over the last 60 years there have been more than 200 international water agreements and only 37 cases of reported violence between states over water. We need to continue to nurture the opportunities for cooperation that transboundary water management can provide. We share the responsibility for managing the world’s transboundary waters for current and future generations.

Amongst this responsibility is the importance of ensuring that our shared water meets international standards for sanitation and quality. There are currently more than 430 International Standards which directly or indirectly support the objectives of this year’s World Water Day, relating to water quality, hydrometry and service activities for drinking water supply systems and wastewater systems.

Regionally, CROSQ is in the process of developing 2 normative documents for packaged drinking water: Specification for Packaged Water and the "Code of Hygienic Practice for Packaging Drinking Water", which should be completed early in 2010.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) leads the activities of the World Water Day 2009 with the support of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
The Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) in collaboration with the Dominica Bureau of Standards (DBS) and the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) held a workshop in Dominica on 11 March 2009 at the National Development Foundation Building in Roseau on the Region’s International Trade Arrangements and the importance of standards in the process of export development.

Caribbean Export was represented by Mr. Carlos Wharton (Senior Trade Policy Advisor) and Mr. Kirk Brown (Senior Grants Advisor) while CROSQ was represented by Dr. Vyjayanthi F. Lopez (Chief Executive Officer) and Dr. Michael Seepersaud (Project Manager).

The workshop, which was the first in a series of workshops throughout a number of OECS Member States, was attended by representatives from over 17 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) who were both interested in understanding the impact of trade agreements on their business as well as the importance of standards and quality in the process of exporting.

The importance of standards in the new global environment was underscored in light of the fact that as duties on exports are removed, other technical barriers to trade could negatively affect the ability of SMEs to successfully penetrate export markets.

CROSQ provided presentations on the standards development process, in particular issues related to voluntary and mandatory standards and the development of standards at the local and regional levels. In addition, CROSQ presented on the standards currently under development and the Dominica Bureau of Standards (DBS) addressed matters related to conformity assessment.

Participants also discussed the principles underpinning the CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the role of Caribbean Export in the EPA implementation process especially in the areas of its direct grants assistance programme, strengthening the competitiveness of firms and its role in increasing the awareness of trade agreements across the Region.

During the discussion it was noted that there is still significant work to be done in the process of the development of standards especially as it relates to legislation and necessary infrastructure to ensure that local or imported products conform to the technical regulations in Dominica. Future work is also required to ensure that firms have the know-how on ways to go about applying standards as they seek to enhance their competitiveness in this evolving global trading environment.

Caribbean Export’s mandate is to ensure that firms increase their level of competitiveness in order to take advantage of the new instruments that will govern trade. This series of workshops on international trade agreement and the role of standards in the trading process is the first in a series of sensitisation sessions aimed at empowering entrepreneurs with the knowledge and guidance on how to make full use of the opportunities available under the trading relations of which CARIFORUM Member States are party.

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Message from WIPO for World Intellectual Property Day 2009

Human activity, including decades of technological development, has damaged our planet. Wide-spread pollution and spiraling consumption of the world’s mineral and biological reserves have put unprecedented stress on the environment. Climate change is one of the greatest threats ever faced by society: glaciers are disappearing; desertification is increasing; in Africa alone, between 75 and 250 million people will face increased water shortages by 2020.

As human activity caused the problem, so too can human activity find the solutions. Green innovation – the development and diffusion of technological means to tackle climate change – is key to halting the depletion of the earth’s resources. The race is on to develop accessible alternative sources of energy, as we work to harness the wind and tides, capture the power of the sun, and tap the geothermal energy underground. New plant varieties are being developed to withstand drought and flooding. New environmentally friendly materials will help us construct a more sustainable world.

On World IP Day 2009, the World Intellectual Property Organization highlights the contribution of a balanced intellectual property system to stimulating the creation, diffusion and application of clean technologies; to promoting green design, aimed at creating products that are eco-friendly from conception to disposal; to green branding, helping consumers make informed choices and giving companies a competitive edge.

The power of human ingenuity is our best hope for restoring the delicate balance between ourselves and our environment. It is our greatest asset in finding solutions to this global challenge, enabling us to move forward from the carbon-based, grey technologies of the past to the carbon-neutral, green innovation of the future.

- Message from Francis Gurry, Director General, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
POSTPONEMENT OF CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) has announced the postponement of its annual Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development, otherwise referred to as the Sustainable Tourism Conference (STC). The current global situation has made it difficult for countries and delegates to give their full attention to the conference, therefore, after much consideration, CTO has take the decision to defer the conference, said Hugh Riley, the regional tourism development agency’s Interim Secretary General.

However, while the event is not being staged this year, a significant amount of interest has already been shown by some CTO Member Countries in hosting the event in 2010, added Mr. Riley. “The event in 2010 will continue with the focus on how member states can design and implement sustainable tourism policies and practices into their regional and international initiatives, with an emphasis on sustainable tourism issues of special interest to the host country,” the Interim Secretary General said.

“We recognize that the development of the tourism sector in the Caribbean has to continue on a sustainable path, and we will continue to address pertinent sustainable tourism issues throughout the year in the programmes and projects under our sustainable tourism division, for the benefit of our member countries. We expect the event in 2010 to return stronger than ever,” he added.

In the meantime, CTO is coordinating a range of events in 2009 including: The Tourism Human Resources Conference in Curacao (May 27-29); a meeting focusing on developing inspirational leadership for Caribbean tourism; Caribbean Week in New York (June 8-12), an event bringing together the most influential policy makers, marketing professionals and tourism industry officials to interact and discuss both tourism and investment opportunities in the region; and the Second Annual Caribbean Tourism Summit (ACTS) in Washington, DC (June 9-10) - a business-focused summit focusing on updating delegates on tourism related topics that are current and which provoke much discussion.

The audience is made up of tourism educators, trainers and human resource professionals, and every year the conference will also learn Executive Coaching and Team Building Techniques to Create a World Class Workforce. The 5th Tourism Human Resources Conference, which has as its theme, Best Practices for Creating a Motivated and Productive Tourism Workforce, is being organised in collaboration with the Curacao Tourism Board.

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5th TOURISM HUMAN RESOURCE CONFERENCE

The current global economic crisis and its impact on the workforce will be among several key subjects to be discussed when Caribbean tourism human resources professionals meet for the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)’s 5th Tourism Human Resources Conference in May.

A session entitled “Learning from the Best: Success Strategies in Tough Economic Times” has been included in the programme for the 27-29 May 2009 conference, which will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Curacao. In addition, delegates will participate in a workshop on Managing Stress in Difficult Times.

“Like the rest of the workforce, tourism human resources professionals have to grapple with the impact of the global economic meltdown,” said Bonita Morgan, the CTO’s director of human resources, “therefore, it’s important that we explore strategies that work in difficult times and learn from each other’s experiences.”

During the three day conference, the regional human resource professionals will explore a range of issues relating to tourism human resources development, including creating hospitable experiences.

Among the topics to the covered are: From Service to Excellence – The New Hospitable Experience Paradigm; Making Tourism Jobs Inspirational and Challenging; and Creating a Culture of Lifelong Learning at Work. Delegates will also learn Executive Coaching and Team Building Techniques to Create a World Class Workforce.

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A Trainee Trainer Delivers Caribbean Consumer Workshop

In December 2008, the Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI), the ISO member body in Barbados, hosted a workshop to promote consumer involvement in standardization in the Caribbean. The workshop was delivered by the Caribbean trainee to the “Train the trainer” event organized jointly by the ISO Committee on developing country matters (DEVCO) and the ISO Committee on consumer policy (COPOLCO) in Accra, Ghana, the previous February.

Funding for the event was provided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and the British Standards Institution. Participants included 12 representatives of consumer organizations and national standards bodies from Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as 12 from Barbados (see photograph in the Photo Gallery on page 11).

“Train the trainer” sessions followed by events delivered by the trainee trainers are probably the best way to ensure sustainability of the training effort and provide the best chance for replication at the national or regional levels without external support. One of the very positive outcomes was that CROSO, the CARICOM (Caribbean community) Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality, undertook to follow up with the individual countries on the implementation of action plans formulated during the workshop.


Promoting Regional Quality Infrastructure
The Twentieth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was held in Belize City, Belize, from 12-13 March 2009. The Honourable Dean O. Barrow, Prime Minister of Belize, presided.

Other members of the Conference in attendance were: the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, the Rt. Hon Hubert Ingraham; the Prime Minister of Barbados, the Honourable David J. H. Thompson; the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit; the Prime Minister of Grenada, the Honourable Tillman Thomas; the President of the Republic of Guyana, His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo; the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Honourable Bruce Golding; the Prime Minister of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, the Honourable Dr. Denzil L. Douglas; the President of Suriname, His Excellency Drs Rinaldo R. Venetiaan; and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Patrick Manning.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. the Honourable Alrich Nicholas, represented the Republic of Haiti; the Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Investment, the Honourable Rufus Bousquet, represented Saint Lucia; and the Minister of National Mobilisation, the Honourable Michael Browne, represented St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Associate Members in attendance were the Honourable Osbourne Fleming, the Chief Minister of Anguilla, and the Honourable Dr Ewart Brown, Premier of Bermuda.

OPENING SESSION
The Opening Session was addressed by the Chairman of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, the Honourable Dean Barrow, Prime Minister of Belize, and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, His Excellency Edwin W. Carrington.

In his statement, the Chairman of Conference posited that at the heart of the Meeting’s deliberations must be a reminder of what integration was designed to achieve.

Additionally, the Secretary-General emphasised the importance of regional responses to international developments that were a cause for concern. “If anything this period in global history has underscored for us in this Region is the absolute urgency for this Community to have the capacity to act and indeed to so act as one entity in such instances,” he said.

CSME
Heads of Government reiterated their commitment to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and its implementation and effective functioning, paying particular attention to free movement of persons, accreditation and standardisation mechanisms.

They also emphasised that the CSME was a critical platform for meeting the challenges resulting from the current global financial and economic crisis and for CARICOM’s successful insertion into the world economy.

CLIMATE CHANGE
Heads of Government committed their countries to play a more active and visible role in the negotiation process in the build-up to the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
Heads of Government agreed that, even as the Region focused on the current financial problems, it would continue to direct attention to the transformation of regional agriculture and to food security. They received and supported a proposal from the Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for the convening of a World Summit on Food Security on 14-16 November 2009.

ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT
Heads of Government also received a presentation on Information and Communications Technology for Development (ICT4D) from the Prime Minister of Grenada, the lead Head of Government with responsibility for Science and Technology.

The need for Member States to re-examine the management and coordination of the various components of ICT4D at the national level was accepted and in this regard, they agreed to establish national committees to guide and inform these reviews.

Heads of Government also agreed that their governments would support the convening of a meeting of Ministers responsible for ICT in May 2009, at which the draft Regional ICT Policy and Action Plan will be presented for consideration.

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA)
The Heads, in reaffirming the mandate given to the Secretary-General to coordinate EPA implementation among Member States, endorsed the establishment of the Unit to promote EPA Implementation and confirmed that the assistance of the Unit is available to all Caribbean Forum of African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States (CARIFORUM ) signatory to the EPA.

Heads of Government exchanged views with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, who represented his President, on issues relating to the implementation of the EPA and on his country’s relations with the Caribbean Community.

The Heads agreed that discussions with the Dominican Republic should be continued with a view to arriving at a consensus on the designation of the CARIFORUM Coordinator under the EPA.

NEXT MEETING
It was agreed that the Thirtieth Regular Meeting of the Conference will be held in Guyana on 2-5 July 2009.

- Adapted from the Communiqué Issued at the Conclusion of the Twentieth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) by the CARICOM Secretariat
During the first week of March the Sistema Interamericano de Metrología (SIM) Professional Development Committee and the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) International Technical Cooperation invited all SIM members to participate in the workshop “NMI Relationship with Metrology Users”, hosted by Centro Nacional de Metrología (CENAM) in Querétaro, Mexico.

24 participants from 21 countries, among them 7 CROSQ members, took the opportunity to discuss the relationship of National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) with metrology users. The addressed objectives of the workshop were to:

- increase the awareness about the relevance of NMIs for the metrology users in industry, commerce and services;
- discuss different tools to address and evaluate the needs of the metrology users; and
- foster the relationship between NMIs and the metrology users.

Seven tools were presented and analyzed in depth:

- Calibration and calibration rounds;
- Verification;
- Intercomparisons;
- Training programs;
- Awareness raising programs;
- Metrological evaluation services; and
- Demand inventory

The creators of a modular analysis and consulting tool directed at measurement-dependent industry (MESURA program) presented their approach and experiences. During on-site training visits in major companies, parts of the tool were applied to demonstrate the relevance of metrology services in the particular case.

“Speed matching” tables were greatly accepted by the participants to obtain a maximum of information sharing and to make arrangements for further contacts.

One major result of the workshop is the initiative of several participants to follow up with the development of selected tools in three working groups: Training, Calibration rounds, and Advice to companies. Until the next SIM General Assembly several steps are aimed to be achieved. All SIM members are invited to participate in the tool development. If interested, please contact Mahdha Flores C. (mahdha.flores@prodigy.net.mx).

Documentation of the workshop is available at the SIM homepage: http://www.sim-metrologia.org.br/nmi.php.

International Accreditation Day 2009

June 9, 2009 will mark International Accreditation Day, a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities.

Building on the success of the inaugural international accreditation day in 2008, which saw the hosting of major national events, seminars, and press campaigns in over 50 countries, an even greater level of activity will take place this year to communicate the value of accreditation to Regulators, businesses and the general public.

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). Accreditation that is internationally accepted and meets international standards, thereby providing confidence in the accuracy and reliability of testing, inspection and certification.

Standards and accreditation play an increasingly important role in improving the operations of the marketplace and promoting growth and trade. Many factors have contributed to this such as mass production, a growing demand for interchangeable parts, globalization, manufacturers’ concerns about litigation, demand for cheaper and cheaper goods, public demand for product safety and concerns about technical compatibility between products.

In such a complex and highly competitive market, a level of confidence is required when procuring products or services. Such reassurance is underpinned by accreditation. Specifiers, like Government regulators, have come to appreciate the importance of credible accreditation programs that are based on internationally-recognized standards. With restricted budgets, many Regulators can no longer do it all themselves and increasingly, they must rely on third-party organisations to support their regulatory efforts. When they do so, they need a fair and meaningful basis for identifying qualified and competent providers. Accreditation provides this declaration of competence.

- From the website of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)
The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide. May 17 marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

This year, to mark World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, the ITU Council adopted the theme: Protecting children in cyberspace. The theme of this year’s WTISD aims at ensuring that children can safely access the Internet and its valuable resources without fear of falling prey to unscrupulous predators in cyberspace.

Children and young people are among the most prolific users of the Internet and mobile devices. As stated by ITU Secretary General, Hamadoun I. Touré, “Cyberspace is the nursery for young minds to grow and expand their horizons. It is the font of knowledge and information in the digital age and the incubator of fresh ideas and new innovations. It is a cornucopia of all that is good and wonderful in the virtual world of entertainment where one can conjure, almost with magical ease, anything the mind desires at the click of a finger.”

However, as children and teenagers venture into the wide open world of cyberspace, they are among the most vulnerable to exploitation. Without safeguards, their lives are at grave risk in the vicious world of cybercriminals and paedophiles that prey on easy targets.

According to recent surveys, over 60 percent of children and teenagers talk in chat rooms on a daily basis. Three in four children online are willing to share personal information about themselves and their family in exchange for goods and services. And one in five children will be targeted by a predator or pedophile each year.

Protecting children in cyberspace is clearly our duty. The Child Online Protection (COP) initiative - an integral part of ITU’s Global Cybersecurity Agenda - was launched and endorsed by Heads of State, Ministers and heads of international organizations from around the world to address this issue. COP is in line with ITU’s mandate to strengthen cybersecurity and to establish the foundations for a safe and secure cyberworld for future generations.

The need for COP is clear. A decade ago, there were just 182 million people using the Internet globally — and almost all of them lived in the developed world. By early 2009, however, there were over 1.5 billion Internet users worldwide, and more than 400 million of them had access to broadband. With over 600 million users in Asia, 130 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 50 million in Africa, the Internet is a growing common resource - vastly increasing the dangers online, especially for children.

The Internet and the growing convergence in online applications and mobile devices are global resources that must be allowed to flourish for the common good. We must endeavour to make cyberspace a safe, healthy and productive environment for our children. We have to create a global network to protect our children online by enacting national legislation, strengthening capacity building, increasing public awareness and improving national cyber responsiveness.

At the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), ITU was entrusted by leaders of the international community with Action Line C5: “building confidence and security in the use of ICTs”. The WSIS outcomes also specifically recognized the needs of children and young people and their protection in cyberspace. The Tunis Commitment recognized “the role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the protection of children and in enhancing the development of children” as well as the need to “strengthen action to protect children from abuse and defend their rights in the context of ICT”.

During this year’s WTISD, ITU and the United Nations (UN) calls upon all stakeholders (policy makers, regulators, operators and industry) to promote the adoption of policies and strategies that will protect children in cyberspace and promote their safe access to online resources.

This will not only lead to the building of a more inclusive information society, but will also enable Member States to meet their obligations towards protecting and realizing the rights of children as laid out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted on 20 November 1989.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes the right to education and access to information, as well as the right to engage in play and recreational activities. The Convention also accords the child protection against all forms of exploitation and inducement to engage in any unlawful activity. According to Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, “It is our duty to ensure that the provisions of the Convention are applied rigorously so that children can safely access the Internet and other online resources without fear of falling prey to unscrupulous predators.”

The ITU and the UN are inviting countries to consider organizing programmes to mark WTISD 2009 with a focus on the theme of Protecting Children in Cyberspace, being sure to involve all sections of society to formulate awareness and consensus on the issues underlying the theme.

Additionally, WTISD 2009 will be marked by a high-profile ceremony to present the World Telecommunication and Information Society Award to eminent personalities who have contributed to protecting children in cyberspace.

- Adapted from the International Telecommunication Union
Photo Gallery Of Events

Attendees of the launch of the CLAS project in Guyana

Staff of CROSQ, with instructor Ryan Ziegler, undergoing training in Entropy system

Launch of the Barbados National Technical Subcommittee for the CROSQ Regional Building Standards Project

Attendees of the ISO Workshop held in collaboration with BNSI in Barbados

Anthea Ishmael, Director (Ag.) of BNSI awarding a certificate to a participant during an ISO Workshop
CROSQ’S MISSION

The promotion and development of standards and standards related activities to facilitate international competitiveness and the sustainable production of goods and services within the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) for the enhancement of social and economic development

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Email: crosq.caricom@crosq.org

Please visit our website: www.crosq.org
Electronic editions of the CROSQ newsletter are available for download from our website

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS (APRIL – DECEMBER)

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<td>April 2</td>
<td>G20 Summit</td>
<td>London</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17-20</td>
<td>Fifth Summit of the Americas</td>
<td>Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 23-24</td>
<td>Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
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<td>April 24</td>
<td>National conference (SME project)</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>World Intellectual Property Day</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<td>April 27-30</td>
<td>Fourteenth Meeting of the Council of CROSQ</td>
<td>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
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<td>May 5-6</td>
<td>Regional Workshop for the Development of the Strategy and Standards for the Regional Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean Project</td>
<td>Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<td>May 7</td>
<td>Second Joint Project Advisory Committee / Technical Advisory Committee for the Regional Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean Project</td>
<td>Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 7-10</td>
<td>Forum on Next Generation Network Standardization</td>
<td>Colombo, Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>May 13-15</td>
<td>2nd World Congress: Information and Knowledge</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13-15</td>
<td>Tenth Joint CSL/JIFSAN Symposium on Food Safety and Nutrition - Methods and Systems for Tracking, Tracing, and Verifying Foods</td>
<td>MD, USA</td>
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<td>May 17</td>
<td>World Telecommunication and Information Society Day</td>
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<td>May 20</td>
<td>World Metrology Day</td>
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<td>June 15-19</td>
<td>Seventh Meeting of the CROSQ Editorial Committee</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
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<td>June 24-25</td>
<td>Fourteenth Meeting of the Technical Management Committee of CROSQ</td>
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<td>June 14</td>
<td>International Accreditation Day</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<td>July 9-11</td>
<td>ICT Symposia on ICTs and Climate Change</td>
<td>Quito, Ecuador</td>
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<td>September/October</td>
<td>Fifteenth Meeting of the Council and Fifth Annual General Meeting of CROSQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>First Meeting of the CROSQ Regional Information Network</td>
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<td>October 14</td>
<td>World Standards Day</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>World Food Day</td>
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<td>October 26-28</td>
<td>Fifteenth Meeting of the Technical Management Committee of CROSQ</td>
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<td>November 27-29</td>
<td>Commonwealth Heads of Government</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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