Welcome

The CROSQ Standard newsletter aims to:
- Raise awareness about the necessity for Standards
- Inform the Standards Bureaux and the Member States about the activities of CROSQ projects

The CROSQ Standard is published four times a year, and is distributed to National Standards Bodies throughout the region. All are encouraged to send articles, photos and updates on their activities, relating to the SME project’s implementation and the development of standards.

If you wish to join the distribution list or to submit articles, please send your request and submission to newsletter@crosq.org.

Editions of The CROSQ Standard can be viewed on the CROSQ website: http://www.crosq.org

CROSQ Teams Visits PTB, Germany

The Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) invited a high-level Team from the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), comprising the Chair - CROSQ (and Executive Director, TTBS), Trinidad & Tobago; Executive Director - Bureau of Standards, Jamaica; Executive Secretary – CROSQ; and the Project Manager (PM) and Regional Technical Support Coordinator (RTSC) of the IDB-funded Regional Quality Infrastructure (RQI) project, to Germany to visit PTB.

PTB is providing not only technical assistance to the project but also financing through the Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ – Federal Ministry of Cooperation and Economic Development). The objective of the visit from 1-5 June 2008 was to discuss the way forward for the project, underpinned by the recently-concluded Baseline Assessment of Metrology in the region. Dr. Alexis Valqui, Mrs. Lieselotte Seehausen and Mr. Jens Koch comprised the ‘host team’ in Germany.

The CROSQ Team visited two agencies in Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Normung e.V (DIN - German Institute for Standards) and Deutsches Akkreditierungssystem Prüfwesen (DAP - German Accreditation System for Testing). They also attended a meeting at the BMZ hosted by Mrs. Evita Schmieg, Head of Division of Trade, Globalization & Investment and Ms. Birgit Hoffman, Project Officer for Technical Cooperation.

The Team then traveled to Braunshweig for three days, during which they attended presentations by, and held discussions with, several PTB staff, including Mr. Dieter Schwohnke, Dr. Kai Stoll-Malke and Dr. Jörn Stenger. The Team visited two testing facilities: Force and Sound. Meetings were also held with Mr. Luis Mussio, Executive Secretary, Joint Committee of the Regional Metrology Organisations and Bureau de Poids et Mesures (JCRB/BIPM) and Mr. Manfred Kindler. A presentation on CROSQ, made to PTB’s Q-5 staff, was fortuitously attended by Mr. Lingston Cumberbatch, Director of TradeCom Facility: this gave Mr. Cumberbatch the opportunity to learn about CROSQ and to discuss a number of funding opportunities with CROSQ.

A major outcome of the visit was an agreement, by way of an Addendum to the Baseline Assessment, on the way forward for a regional metrology structure. The PM and RTSC stayed on for an additional week to finalise activities under the RQI project. The visit was thus a very successful one. It is expected to result in a number of additional awareness and capacity building activities in the region and to take the RQI project several steps further into the next year and beyond.
REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Development of the Regional Information System has begun with the acceptance by CROSQ of the Inception Report as submitted by the consultants, P.A. Services, tasked with this component of the CROSQ/IDB Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME) project. The working prototype of the various components is expected as early as September 2008.

DEVELOPMENT OF 25 NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS
Currently more than the originally estimated 25 normative documents are in production to satisfy the requirements of the SME project. In fact, 35 normative documents are being worked on, 14 of which already are at the Committee Draft stage and have been received by CROSQ and are being circulated to Member States for comments. The remaining Committee Drafts are expected by 31 July 2008.

AWARENESS BUILDING ACTIVITIES
National and Regional Conferences for the SME project, conducted prior to August 2007, have been replaced with SME sector specific workshops and consultations. To date workshops and consultations have been held in Trinidad and Tobago (2), Jamaica (2) and Guyana (1). Further workshops are planned for 2008 and these will include Barbados, Suriname and the Eastern Caribbean. The basic objectives of these workshops are to:
- Sensitize SMEs of the importance of standards to their business;
- Familiarize SMEs with the standards development process, and their role in that process; and
- Familiarize SMEs with standards requirements as applicable to their business.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES
Courses on aspects of implementation, technical requirements and conformity assessment procedures for specialists at SME support agencies (Train-the-Trainer) are planned to be conducted within the last half of 2008. At this time, the normative documents being developed under the project will be sufficiently advanced but will not be formally ratified. The Terms of Reference for these sessions is in the development stage, and facilitators will be drawn from the National Standards Bureaux in the region, as well as the Technical Expert database being developed by the Regional Quality Infrastructure (RQI) Project.

GENERAL REGIONAL QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE (RQI) PROJECT UPDATE
The purpose of the CROSQ/IDB RQI project is to strengthen the existing regional metrology infrastructure while harmonizing the regional Measurement, Standards Testing and Quality (MSTQ) infrastructure towards international recognition. Consultants contracted by CROSQ are currently collecting and collating data within the region in order to facilitate the establishment of a regional quality infrastructure. Additionally, CROSQ has established a database of over 50 technical experts from across the region and internationally, some of which are currently being utilised to support the SME Project.

ASSURING TRACEABILITY IN METROLOGY
The Baseline Survey, Demand Estimation and Gap Analysis Studies for the RQI project have been completed. The final report concluded that traceable measurements in the areas of mass, weighing instruments, volume (mainly legal metrology), flow length, temperature, electrical, pH, electrolytic conductivity, pressure need to be developed in the short and medium term. The analysis of the country-specific situation shows that the current metrological capabilities and the market demands are different, which led to the recommendation that laboratory competence be categorized at three different levels (A, B and C) and category-specific development (investment) and training activities be undertaken. In this regard, training interventions for reference Lab personnel are being planned for Category A & B to be hosted by the BSJ during the first week in September. Training at the Category C level is currently being planned.

The Baseline Survey and Gap Analysis noted the lack of recognized metrological traceability and inefficient regional calibration service. These findings will not only form the basis for training interventions but will be the platform on which the Caribbean Reference Laboratories concept (CARLS) will be developed. The report also identified the basic physical quantities.

DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL CALIBRATION, TESTING & VERIFICATION
Phase 1 of the awareness program on the importance of calibration, traceability, testing and verification will be implemented in early August, beginning with workshops in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. This program will continue in October with visits to the other CROSQ Member States. CROSQ is working closely with Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago to host an awareness symposium on areas of need identified by those territories.

DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL ACCREDITATION STRUCTURE
Two sets of interventions have been concluded under this component of the RQI project, with 2 more expected to be completed by December 2008. The overall objective of this component is to build trust in the technical competence of the testing and calibration capabilities of the regional conformity assessment bodies. The specific objectives of the consultancies are to:
- analyze the gaps in the existing accreditation infrastructure;
- determine the scope of accreditation services to be provided;
- propose a framework for a regional approach to accreditation;
- provide technical assistance to harmonize QMS and Accreditation criteria; and
- develop and deliver a “Train the Trainer” programme for personnel/consultants from sector support agencies.

To date, an analysis of the implementation of the 30 milestones required for accreditation, as well as an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of TTLABS and JANNAC has been completed.

CORRECTION STATEMENT: In the Item “Regional Technical Expert” on pg 2, vol 2, issue 2, the second statement should read “Based on discussions with various stakeholders, the decision was taken that the position of the RTE be made redundant”, instead of “Based on discussions at the Tenth TMC and with other stakeholders, the decision was taken that the position of the RTE be made redundant”. The TMC is a technical, standards-developing body within CROSQ and does not make any decisions. Any inconvenience caused by this error is regretted. – CROSQ Executive Secretary
Giselle Guevara joined CROSQ as the Project Coordinator for the Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) project in June 2008. A national of Trinidad and Tobago, she holds a BSc in Natural Sciences and a MPhil in Plant Science from the University of the West Indies (UWI), and is presently in her last semester of the International Masters of Business Administration (MBA) at the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business.

Her past experience includes 4 years at the Analytical Services Unit of UWI St. Augustine where she functioned as the Technical/Business Development Coordinator, and most recently as the Manager of the Trinidad and Tobago Laboratory Accreditation Service (TTLABS/TTBS), a position she held for 6 years.

At TTLABS her responsibilities included Management and Coordination of Laboratory Accreditation activities for Trinidad and Tobago, Laboratory Quality Systems trainer and Country Coordinator for the recently concluded IDB Regional Project entitled “Overcoming Technical Barriers to Trade through the Strengthening of Accreditation systems.” She assisted as a Committee member, workshop facilitator and Accreditation Advisor to the recently concluded CAREC-EU Project entitled “Strengthening of Medical Laboratory Services in the Caribbean” from which the development of CLAS originally began. Under this project she was able to assist with the development of two important documents, the Guidance Document for the application of ISO 15189 to Medical Laboratories as a writing committee member and Preparing for Accreditation - A simple guide for the implementation of Quality Management Systems in Medical Laboratories as co-author (currently being printed).

Ms. Guevara has also successfully presented projects at TTBS for local Government funding for the past 4 years, handling all aspects of proposal preparation, monthly and biannual status reporting, tracking and measurement.

To ensure the local Accreditation Service becomes internationally recognized and has access to projects and International technical expertise, Ms Guevara actively participated in the work of the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), having presented at the 2006 ILAC Conference the paper “Raising Awareness of Accreditation in Developing Countries”. During her tenure at TTLABS, she has had a wide range of experience as a trainer having been invited to conduct workshops on Quality Management for both Testing and Medical laboratories in Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Guyana, Jamaica, and St. Lucia, and recently as a volunteer under the President Bush Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Project in Tanzania, East Africa.

Ms. Guevara sees her role as Project Coordinator for CLAS as one of facilitation and motivation. She recognizes that much work has already gone into CLAS and hopes to continue this development and cooperation with the National Accreditation Focal points in the islands and the National Accreditation Bodies in Trinidad and Jamaica. At the end of her tenure she envisions CLAS to be an Accreditation service operating for the benefit of the entire Caribbean Region.

We take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Guevara to CROSQ and look forward to working with her for the success of the project.

CARICOM ICT STEERING COMMITTEE
In keeping with a decision taken at its Second Meeting in Georgetown, Guyana on May 14, the CARICOM Regional Information Communication and Technologies (ICT) Steering Committee will develop an action plan by 30 September 2008, to accelerate the Community's transformation into an active part of the Information Society.

Sub-committees on Capacity Development, Access, Connectivity and Internet Governance, Regional Partnerships, Legal & Regulatory Framework, Business and Trade, Disaster Recovery and Statistics were charged to draft a two-year action plan to form part of the Regional Information Society Strategy, which will be submitted for the approval by Ministers responsible for ICT in the region.

REGIONAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
During May 2008, a series of National Consensus Building workshops were held in Barbados, The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and the Turks & Caicos Islands. The workshops were aimed at facilitating the development of:
- Standards for Conducting Hazard Mapping, Vulnerability Assessments, and Economic Evaluation for Risk Assessments for the Tourism Sector in the Caribbean; and

The workshops were well attended and provided valuable feedback and input for the consultants responsible for the above components of the project.
GNBS Workshop - Standards in the Food Industry

The Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS), in collaboration with CROSQ, hosted a one-day workshop on 26 June on the topic “Standards in the Food Industry”.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Manniram Prashad, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, who emphasized that the food industry in Guyana needs to observe standards in the processing, preparing, and handling of food products.

Presentations were also made by Dr. Michael Seepersaud, CROSQ Project Manager for the CROSQ-IDB Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Project, who indicated that this workshop was one of a series being conducted regionally to strengthen SMEs and to make them aware of the importance of standards to their business and the economy.

The objectives of the workshop were to:
- Sensitize participants of the importance of standards to their business;
- Familiarise participants with the standards development process, and their role in that process; and
- Make participants aware of the role of Agro/Food industry in the Guyana economy and its contribution to the future development to the sector as a result of the implementation of standards.

More than 15 participants drawn from the SME sector and GNBS attended the workshop. The highlight of the workshop was a presentation and interactive discussion on ISO22000/ HACCP by a Consultant. Other presenters were drawn from the GNBS Food and Drug Department and the New Guyana Marketing Corporation. The Executive Director of GNBS, Dr. Chatterpaul Ramcharan chaired the workshop and also provided an informative presentation.

The workshop was well received, with participants interacting well with the presenters and the general view was that the workshop was quite useful and beneficial to the SMEs.

TTBS Workshop - Standards and Tourism

The Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) sector is one of the fastest growing clusters of businesses in the region, with individual businesses employing less than fifty persons and grossing less than one million dollars (US) in annual sales. SMEs currently operate in the service, manufacture, import and export divisions of trade, encompassing industries in agriculture, tourism, printing and packaging, manufactured articles and food, to name a few.

Recognizing the contribution of SMEs to economic growth, wealth creation and the provision of employment, the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) has undertaken a project in conjunction with CROSQ and the National Standards Bodies of Jamaica, Barbados and Guyana with the aim of enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs through the use of regional standards.

To facilitate the awareness component of this project, TTBS has successfully hosted a series of workshops and seminars, the most recent workshop being held on 29 May 2008 entitled “Standards and Tourism”. The purpose of the workshop was to create a forum where SMEs could discuss standards pertaining to their businesses and be apprised of local and regional initiatives to aid the development of SMEs in the tourism sector.

Twenty-three SME participants attended the workshop from various sub-sectors including tour guides, tour operators, tourist accommodation and taxi rentals. Facilitators from the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), CROSQ, the Tourism Development Company Limited (TDC), the Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute and the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce delivered presentations to a very receptive and focussed audience.

Many poignant issues were discussed during the workshop session; however the main discussion underscored the need for regional certification, and in the interim, the promotion of the local certification program – the Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Industry Certification (TTTIC) at international fora.

Regional and national standards relevant to the tourism industry were also discussed and SMEs were given the commitment from TDC that the sustainability and viability of the industry was a front burner matter, currently being deliberated at the ministerial level.

TTBS partnered with TDC and CROSQ to host this very informative workshop and the success of the workshop with respect to meeting objectives and benefits derived was evident from the feedback received from the participants. The workshop objectives included: informing SMEs of the requirements of standards relevant to their businesses, apprising them of the standardization process and sensitizing them to the benefits of using standards to improve the quality of services offered.
The Suriname Bureau of Standards (SBS) is a statutory body established on October 15, 2007 by the Suriname Bureau of Standards Act (S.B. 2006 no.30) to develop, adopt, maintain and promote the application of standards and technical specifications. The Bureau is the implementing agency of the Standards Act (S.B. 2004 no.121) and is also the National Institute for:

- Standards and Technical Specifications;
- Certification of Products, Services and Processes;
- Metrology (Measures and Weights);
- Accreditation of Laboratories and Testing Facilities.

MISSION STATEMENT
“The Suriname Bureau of Standards will also contribute to the development of a sustainable and prosperous society, in which men, animal, plant and the environment are protected properly”

VISION STATEMENT
“The Suriname Bureau of Standards should become and remain the Standards Authority in Suriname, with the aims and objectives to develop standards and technical regulations and keep them up to date to facilitate the export- and import trade in goods and services”

COMPOSITION OF SBS COUNCIL
The policy implementation of the Bureau is guided by the SBS-Council, initiated by the Minister of Trade and Industry, and comprises of representatives of both the public and private sector. At present the Chair of the Council is held by the Acting Deputy Director Industry, Drs. Margaret Kerkhoffs-Zerp from the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

SBS MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
The day to day operations of the Bureau is currently managed by the Executive Director, Drs. F. Remy Grauwde, and assisted by two Technical Officers, in the positions of Standards and Information and Communication Officer respectively, a Secretarial Clerk and a Messenger.

CURRENT PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES
Currently the SBS is engaged in its first standardization activity related to the rice industry. A draft standard regarding a “Hygiene Code for Processing of Paddy and Rice” was submitted as a proposal at the Bureau to be proclaimed as a compulsory National Standard. This draft standard was developed by order of the Association of Rice Exporters. In addition preparations are being made by the rice sector to submit a proposal to adopt and proclaim the CROSQ Rice Standard as a national standard.

According to the Annual Operational Plan for 2008 approved by the Council, the Bureau is conducting consultation meetings with all the relevant stakeholder groups, organizations and institutions from the public and private sectors with the aim to raise awareness on standards and standards related issues, including the identification of areas for collaboration with these interested parties.

In the framework of the Trade Sector Support Program, which is funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and currently being executed at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, provision has been made for institutional strengthening of the Bureau. In this regard three (3) Terms of Reference have been prepared for technical assistance and funding for the establishment of a National Standards Information Center and a WTO-TBT National Enquiry Point, an SBS-Website and the preparation of an Awareness Raising Plan, which should be utilized periodically by the Bureau.

As a result of a joint-national awareness seminar organized by the Association of the Poultry Sector in Suriname (APSS), preparations are being made to submit proposals for proclaiming the CROSQ Standards on Poultry and Poultry Products and Specification for Table Eggs into national standards.

It is also worth mentioning that the Standards Officer is involved in the discussions within a Working Group of the Tour Operators, regarding the identification and drafting of standards pertaining to the Tourism Sector.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
The Bureau is in the process of preparing an evaluation/voting document to initiate the standardization process on a compulsory national standard on General Requirements for Labeling of Prepackaged Goods.

As a candidate for a sub-executing agency within the CROSQ-IDB SME and RQI-project, preparations are in progress to organize training workshops for SME’s in Suriname, pertaining to HACCP and ISO-9001:2000.

Mr. S. Monhau, Messenger; Drs. F. Remy Grauwde, Director; Mr. L. Hight, Information/Communication Officer; Mrs. S. Neslo, Secretarial Clerk; Mr. B. Kelin, Standards Officer
The CROSQ Technical Management Committee (TMC) Update

The CROSQ Technical Management Committee (TMC) held its Eleventh Meeting on June 16 and 17 2008 in Jamaica. The meeting was extremely well-hosted by the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) with BSJ staff ensuring efficiency and graciousness before, during and after the convening of the Committee. Members representing the following Member States were present: Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago. The meeting was chaired by Mr Stephen Farquharson of the BSJ (TMC Chair).

The Meeting focused on, in addition to other technical matters:
- finalization of the Regional Standards Development Procedure
- progression of the harmonization of standards for regional use and adoption
- facilitation of requests for technical assistance with regional projects and
- fast-tracking of urgently required normative documents

Discussions were held on the issue of voluntary Standards versus mandatory Technical Regulations. A Technical Regulation is a document which stipulates product characteristics, their related processes and production methods, including applicable administrative provisions with which compliance is mandatory or compulsory.

A Technical Regulation (TR) may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method.

Technical Regulations must go through a legislative process, enter National Jurisdictions with Legal Enforcement Status through the various National Standards Bureaux (NSBs) or relevant Competent Authorities (CAs) and thus be implemented in the respective Member States or jurisdiction.

A Voluntary Standard, on the other hand, is approved by the CROSQ Council for use in or by Member States, on a voluntary basis. Voluntary Standards act as excellent guides, or codes of practice and are sources of useful technical information and guidelines but these requirements are not enforced legally.

The use of Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) to guide and inform the Technical Regulation versus Standard debate is one of the tools that can be utilized when decisions are to be made with respect to the status of a proposed normative document.

Currently, all Regional Labelling Standards are deemed mandatory and given the status of Technical Regulation. Other proposals are evaluated on a case by case basis, with factors such as the impact on health, safety and the environment being taken into consideration. The key objective is to improve the quality of life and experience for all CARICOM citizens as well as visitors to the Caribbean.

The Twelfth TMC Meeting is scheduled for September 2008 in Trinidad.

Highlights of the CROSQ Twelfth Council Meeting

The Twelfth Meeting of the CROSQ Council was held on 9 and 10 April 2008. It was preceded by meetings of the Finance and Human Resource (HR) Committees on 10 April and followed by the Fourth Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 11 April. All the Meetings were held at Warren’s Complex, St. Michael, Barbados.

Twelve representatives from 9 Member States were in attendance at the Council Meeting: Mr. Deryck Omar (Chair), Executive Director, Trinidad & Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS); Ms. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues (Vice-Chair), Director, Antigua & Barbuda Bureau of Standards (ABBS); Ms. Anthea Ishmael, Director (Ag.), Barbados National Standards (BNSI); Mr. Jose Trejo, Director (Ag.), Belize Bureau of Standards (BBS); Dr. Steve John, Director, Dominica Bureau of Standards (DBS); Mr. Simeon Collins, Director, Grenada Bureau of Standards (GBS); Mr. Noel Osborne, Council Member, Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ); Ms. Marsha Dennie, Corporate and International Programmes Officer, BSJ; Dr. Darius Gabriel, Director, St. Lucia Bureau of Standards (SLBS); Mr. Fulgence St. Prix, Vice Chair, Technical Management Committee (TMC), SLBS; Dr. Remy Grauwe, Executive Director, Suriname Bureau of Standards (SBS); and Mr. Terrence Awai, Head, Certification Division, TTBS.

The Council Chair presided over the Meeting and thanked those in attendance. He welcomed the representatives from Belize and Suriname as well as the new Executive Secretary, Dr. Vyjayanthi Lopez, and the Vice hair of the TMC, all of whom were attending their first-ever Council Meeting.

Highlights of the Meeting:
- Presentations from 2 organisations on ongoing projects - TDV Global/Wren Group (Canada - CIDA-funded) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA);
- Progress reports from 3 ongoing projects - IDB-SME, IDB-RQI and CDB-RBS;
- Two new proposals - Climate Change Standards (Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), Belize) and Regional Knowledge and Information Network (CROSQ);
- Deliberation and approval of recommendations from the HR and Finance Committees;
- Ratification of recommendations from the 10th and 11th TMC Meetings; and
- Development of a Strategic Plan (2009-2013) for CROSQ.

At the end of the Meeting, the Chairman expressed his satisfaction at having addressed all items on the Agenda and thanked the Members for their cooperation. The deliberations of the Council Meeting were presented and ratified at the AGM. It was agreed that the next Council Meeting would be held during mid-September in Trinidad & Tobago and the next AGM in September 2009. It was also agreed that efforts would be made to involve all 14 Member States in CROSQ activities, in particular Council meetings and project activities.
Accreditation—Delivering Trust in the Global Economy

In an era of increasingly rapid change, markets are only able to function properly if purchasers have confidence that standards are being met. Trust is placed with suppliers in a variety of ways: past experience, recommendation, brand preference and so on. The greater the familiarity the more confident the purchasing decision. In today's complex competitive market, it isn't always possible to buy from 'known' sources, particularly when procuring on a global scale. Reassurance is needed to maintain a level of trust and trading confidence. Independent evaluation is the principle source of this reassurance and such trust is underpinned by accreditation.

‘Trust’ is the theme of International Accreditation Day celebrated for the first time on June 9th 2008. At the national level, accreditation builds trust in the accredited conformity assessment services and in the corresponding results. Internationally, the multi-lateral agreements established by ILAC and IAF confirm and enhance such trust and eliminate “multiple assessments”, namely the need for products and services, to be re-evaluated in every country that a supplier operates.

A joint ILAC and IAF International Accreditation Day is a fitting occasion to mark the fact that both organisations have become better known and have established strong co-operations with international organisations such as ISO, IEC, UNIDO, BIPM and WADA. The multilateral agreements now operate throughout many economies, and a structure has been put into place to support the development of accreditation and related conformity assessment infrastructure in developing economies. Since 2003, the number of newly established Accreditation Bodies has grown by almost 40%.

Nationally, there is greater recognition of accreditation, in particular from Regulators, who are adopting accreditation as a mechanism to deliver a multi-discipline solution that can support or act as an alternative to Legislation.

As we move into the future, the work of ILAC and IAF will focus on seeking greater recognition in industry, as a means of facilitating global trade, continuing the development of accreditation frameworks in the developing economies, and simplifying the working processes of ILAC and IAF with a view to strengthening the multilateral mutual international recognition through their respective Arrangement and MLA.

- Adapted from IAF preparation by Daniel Pierre, the Chair of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and Thomas Facklam, the chair of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

CROSQ Celebrates International Accreditation Day

9 June 2008 was designated as the first International Accreditation Day by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). Accreditation – as independent and authoritative attestation of the competence, impartiality and integrity of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) and in turn the value and credibility of the corresponding attestations of conformity – underpins trust in the global market.

The value of accreditation has been widely recognised and adopted by economies and societies worldwide. Trust, the theme for this year’s International Accreditation Day, has been chosen to highlight the way in which accreditation rules and procedures are harmonized at a worldwide level to underpin free global trade of products and services conforming to customer’s requirements and to legal requirements regarding health and safety and protection of public interests in general.

Accreditation touches, in some way, every level of our lives. When something is supplied, whether it is drinking water or complex IT systems, trust is placed in the supplier. The competence of the supplier can be evaluated through the use of third-party assessment. But it is through accreditation of third-party evaluators that society can have confidence that when something is measured, calibrated, inspected, tested or certified the job has been done competently. The ability to distinguish between a proven, competent evaluator ensures that the selection of a laboratory or certification body is an informed and trusted choice and not a gamble.

In competitive and open markets, both government and business rely on trust to ensure a fair exchange of safe goods and services. The essential aspect of accreditation is that it underpins this confidence because it is a valid means of verifying claims about quality, performance, and reliability. With the globalization not only of trade, but of many other issues such as climate change and environmental protection, security and health, trust must be achieved on a global scale. The use of internationally-recognised standards as the reference criteria for accreditation and the development of the ILAC and IAF Multilateral agreements are therefore key to building trust across borders and promoting best practices in conformity assessment worldwide.
Caribbean Gift & Craft Show Launched at Sherbourne in Barbados

Planning for the 15th Caribbean Gift and Craft Show (CGCS) continues apace at the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) reports Show Manager, Veona Maloney, in an update for the show's official launch in Barbados, held on 11 June 2008 at the Sherbourne Conference Centre.

According to Ms. Maloney, "CGCS 2008 has special significance - achievement of a laudable milestone and a focus on the youth and design." Young designers of the region will have the opportunity to showcase their creativity and ingenuity in the 'Embracing Design Division' of the show, and to capture the 'Best New Designer Award' and the 'Best Design School Award' - two new award categories which have been added to the Best of Show Awards this year.

'Onsite Caribbean' a new and exciting collection of home accessories developed by eight (8) companies from Barbados, Dominica, Haiti and Jamaica under the direction of noted designer and Trade Facilitation Office Canada's (TFO Canada) Consultant Patty Johnson, will also have its regional launch at CGCS 2008, and this should appeal to regional and international buyers and members of the public in attendance.

The 15th Caribbean Gift and Craft Show featuring Caribbean Fashion Rhythms takes place at the Sherbourne Conference Centre in Barbados from October 2-5, under the theme "Celebrating Handmade Designs and Caribbean Traditions."

For further details and registration information for CGCS, visit www.caribbegiftandcraft.com or contact Ms Veona Maloney at e-mail: vmaloney@carib-export.com.

Trade-Related News

EPA SIGNING DELAYED
The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Commission (EC) and the CARIFORUM is to be signed in July 2008. The date was agreed at the Twenty-Sixth Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) of CARICOM in Antigua and Barbuda on May 10.

The COTED also held discussions on what must be put in place for implementation of the EPA following the road map developed by the CARICOM Secretariat, and agreed on the need to identify national coordinators in each Member State to move the process forward.

The EPA negotiation was concluded last December and Member States of CARIFORUM are in the process of reviewing the text prior to signature.

WORLD BANK APPROVES OECS CREDIT
The World Bank Board of Directors recently approved three zero-interest credits totalling US$7.2 million for the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada and St. Lucia to implement an Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) regional e-government integration programme.

The OECS Programme will help harmonize regional e-government frameworks and applications by automating and pooling resources across the region, resulting in time- and cost-savings for governments, businesses and private citizens. It will focus on:
- Public Financial Management
- Tax Administration
- Customs administration
- Government Procurement and
- Health and Other Social and Productive Sectors

NEW EDITION OF ISO 9001 EXPECTED OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2008
A new edition of ISO 9001, the world's most widely used quality management system standard, will be circulated in July as a Final Draft International Standard, on which ISO's national member bodies as a whole may vote. Subject to formal approval by the ISO membership, the publication of the revised version should be in the October-November 2008 time frame.

The proposed ISO 9001:2008 does not introduce additional requirements compared to the last edition in 2000 and does not change the intent of ISO 9001:2000. The new edition will also not require any specific reassessment for certification.

Compared to the 2000 revision, ISO 9001:2008 represents fine-tuning, rather than a thorough overhaul. It introduces clarifications to the requirements existing in ISO 9001:2000, based on user experience over the last eight years, and changes that are intended to improve further compatibility with the ISO 14001:2004 standard for environmental management systems.

Training Sessions at the Grenada Bureau of Standards

The Grenada Bureau of Standards in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, with funding from the Organization of American States has hosted three (3) workshops during the period January 2008 to May 2008, geared at assisting exporters and potential exporters from Grenada to enhance the competitiveness of their products.

The first of these workshops, ‘Measuring and Managing Customer Loyalty and Satisfaction’ was held on the 29th and 30th of January, 2008 at the Conference Room of the Grenada Bureau of Standards. This workshop was facilitated by Mr. Meghnath Gosein, Business Manager of the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI).

Some of the areas covered in that workshop were Understanding Customer Behaviour; Measuring Customer Satisfaction; Customer Loyalty Programmes; Establishing Customer Service Objectives; Service Excellence as a Competitive Advantage and Developing a Culture for Customer Service Excellence. A total of thirty (30) participants attended the workshop. The participants were drawn from factories, service providers, and home-based and cottage industries.

The second workshop, ‘Market Entry Requirements’ was held on the 3rd and 4th of April, 2008 at the Conference Room of the Bureau. This training session was also facilitated by Mr. Meghnath Gosein of CARIRI. The objectives of this session were to examine ways in which firms can select potential regional and international markets and to provide participants with the necessary market research abilities to enter these markets.

Some topics covered in this workshop include New Developments in Global Trade; Non-tariff Barriers to Trade; Labelling and Packaging Requirements for Export Markets; The Economic Partnership Agreement; Documentation Required for Exporting; Grenada’s Bi-Lateral and Multi-Lateral Trade Agreements; Market Research and Financial Considerations for Export Marketing. Participants of this workshop came from various private and public sector organizations.

‘Documenting your Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) Programme’ was the name given to the third workshop, held on May 20th and 21st, 2008 at the Conference Room of the Bureau. The objective of this workshop was to sensitise agro-processors to the use and benefits of a HACCP System in accessing regional and international markets, as well as to apprise them of the requisite documentation necessary for HACCP Certification.

In keeping with the Bureau’s goal to provide assistance to SME’s, there were participants from thirty-four (34) food companies including agro-processors, fish processors and businesses involved with the exportation of food products. Facilitators included specialists from the Grenada Bureau of Standards and the Produce Chemist Laboratory. Some of the topics covered in this training session include Introduction to Good Manufacturing Practices; Introduction to HACCP; Development of a GMP/HACCP Implementation Plan; Development of Process Flow Diagrams; Conducting of Hazard Analysis and Establishing Critical Control Points.

CDB’S CTCS NETWORK

Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE’s) in the Caribbean Development Bank’s (CDB) Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) can benefit from assistance under the CDB’s Caribbean Technological Consultancy Services (CTCS) Network.

The CTCS comprises an informal partnership with national cooperating institutions (CIs) and NGO’s providing technical assistance and/or funding to individuals, groups and business entities. This assistance is provided in the form of:

- In country training, through workshops and seminars, to address common problems and technical needs;
- Direct hands on interventions by resource persons to assist in solving specific problems faced by individual enterprises; and

Donor Agency Project Funding Opportunities

- Training attachments to transfer improved managerial and technical skills to MSE's needing to increase efficiency improve product and service quality and enhance their capabilities.

The areas of operation covered by CTCS are not restricted to any particular sectors and span a wide cross section of productive activities such as: agro processing; manufacture of garments, furniture and shoes; production of soft furnishings, ceramics/pottery and straw craft; baking, the services and hospitality sectors, renewable energy, and energy conservation.

For further information on the CTCS contact Mr. Jerome Singh at 246-431-1885 or via e-mail at singhj@caribank.org.
CDB Project Update

PROJECT LAUNCH
The official launch of the Regional Building Standards (RBS) Project was held at the Warrens Office Complex in Barbados to make the public and all stakeholders aware of the project and the benefits to be derived from its implementation.

The ceremony was chaired by Dr. Vyjayanthi Lopez, Executive Secretary of CROSQ, and presentations were made by members of various organizations who are directly involved with the project:
- The Hon. George Hutson, Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce;
- Mr. Deryck Omar, Chairman, CROSQ;
- Mr. Andrew Dupigny, Portfolio Manager, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB);
- Mr. Mark Johnson, Senior Vice President of Business & Product Development, International Code Council (ICC); and
- Mr. Jonathan Platt, Project Coordinator, CROSQ/CDB RBS Project.

Invitations were sent to organizations and individuals in the relevant fields from across the region, with attendance of twenty-eight persons from the various national and regional organisations. The attendance from the Standards Bureaus specifically, was much lower than expected and anticipated, with only representation from the Barbados National Standards Institute (BNSI).

The launch was well attended by the media, however, with representatives from the two local newspapers, all of the local radio networks, and local and regional television media.

REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE & NATIONAL TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEES
The project is moving along steadily with the formation of the Regional Technical Committee and its subsequent meetings. The First Meeting of the Regional Technical Committee (RTC), the steering committee for the project, was held on 7 April 2008 immediately following the project launch. CDERA, Dominica and the ICC were represented at this meeting. The Second Meeting of the RTC was held in May 2008 via teleconferencing.

National Technical Sub-Committees (NTSCs) are now in the process of being set up in each of the CDB Member States, which will ensure effective communication and implementation of project initiatives by all stakeholders. Visits have already been made to some of the Member States to assist in the establishment of the NTSCs and to ensure smooth functioning and operation of these committees. Members of the CDB Project Unit are expected to visit the remaining countries to also assist in this set up.

PROJECT COORDINATOR RE-ADVERTISEMENT
Mr. Jonathan Platt was seconded in October 2007 for a period of 6 months to assist in the start-up and the development of the various project activities until such time as a suitable candidate could be found for the position of Project Coordinator.

At the Twelfth Council Meeting in **** held in Barbados, the decision was taken that Mr. Platt be seconded for a further four months until August 2008, and that the position of Project Coordinator for the project be re-advertised.

The post was advertised as decided and the received applications are now being reviewed, with interviews scheduled for the first week of July 2008.

CONSULTANCIES
Requests for proposals will soon be forwarded to the shortlisted consultants for the development of: Rainfall, Intensity, Duration Curves and Flood Hazard Maps; and Seismic Hazard Maps. The aim is to have these consultants on board before the end of August 2008.

Requests for Statements of Capability for the additional consultancies for: Standards Development Consultants; and Technical Consultants to Member States are expected to be published in August 2008, and will be publicized both regionally and internationally.

AWARENESS BUILDING
Planning has begun for a series of awareness building programmes for the project, as there has been a noticeable lack of knowledge on the existence of current National Building Standards in some Member States, as well as the development of this Regional Building Standard.

These awareness initiatives will include activities such as, inter alia:
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Newspaper Articles
- Televised discussions

The aim of the activities will be to raise awareness of the Regional Building Standard, as well as the issues that need to be considered and addressed for the Standard to be applied appropriately.
Photo Gallery Of Events

Head Table listening to Dr. Lopez, Executive Secretary, CROSQ at CROSQ/CDB Project Launch

Andrew Dupigny, Portfolio Manager, CDB at the CROSQ/CDB Project Launch

Attendees of the CROSQ/CDB Project Launch

Project Manager and Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce at CROSQ/CDB Project Launch

Twelfth Council Meeting Attendees

Representatives from Belize, St. Lucia (TMC Vice Chair) and Suriname at Twelfth Council Meeting
CROSQ’s Visit To Germany

Members of CROSQ and PTB Representatives during Team Visit to Germany

Members of CROSQ and PTB Representatives in Sound Testing Laboratory at PTB, Germany

2008 EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 13-16</td>
<td>CANTO’s 24th Annual Conference &amp; Trade Exhibition</td>
<td>Trinidad</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 13-17</td>
<td>44th Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Food Crops Society</td>
<td>Miami Beach, FL, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 17-18</td>
<td>2nd Annual Human Resource Training &amp; Best Practices Conference</td>
<td>Trinidad</td>
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<td>July 15</td>
<td>Jamaica National Workshop on Graded Agri-Produce</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
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<td>July 26</td>
<td>Trinidad National Train-the-Trainers Consultation</td>
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<td>August 22-31</td>
<td>CARIFESTA X</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 14-23</td>
<td>ICC Annual Conference &amp; Trade Show</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN, USA</td>
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<td>September 15-19</td>
<td>24 Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits &amp; Vegetables</td>
<td>Washington, DC, USA</td>
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<td>September 17-18</td>
<td>Thirteenth Council Meeting of CROSQ</td>
<td>Trinidad</td>
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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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