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.

**WELCOME**

**MESSAGE FROM ITU, ISO AND IEC**

The world is facing a critical challenge. Increasing greenhouse gas emissions are raising the earth's average temperature. As a result, dramatic climate change is forecast and global scientific opinion predicts enormous developmental, economic, social and environmental stresses on our planet. Leading climate change experts have put forward a series of practical solutions to tackle climate change. These solutions include the technical standards published by the world's three leading international standardization organizations: the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

In its groundbreaking report published in 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) cited technical standards, like those published by the IEC, ISO and ITU, as a means of mitigating climate change now, while offering the potential to reduce its effects in the future as new technologies are developed and mature. The three global organizations are coordinating their efforts to ensure that government, business and society are provided with the necessary tools to help combat global climate change and to support the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by increasing energy efficiency, while facilitating sustainable development.

The standards produced by the three organizations reach across all sectors identified in the IPCC report where mitigation technologies, policies and measures, constraints and opportunities exist, including energy supply, transport, buildings, industry, agriculture, forestry, and waste. The IEC, ISO and ITU offer a system of standardization whose output includes standards for the following aspects of the fight against climate change:
- Monitoring and measurement of greenhouse gas emissions
- Measuring the carbon footprint of networks and products
- Designing and building energy efficient homes and workplaces
- Benchmarking for good practices including environmental and energy efficiency labeling
- Promoting good practice for environmental management and design, and for energy management
- Disseminating innovative technologies that promise to help reduce the effects of climate change
- Fostering the introduction of new energy-efficient technologies and services

International standards offer policy makers, industry and users the common tools they need to work together on tackling climate change. The three partner organizations also offer a comprehensive system in which nations and the private sector can participate to establish the priorities for tackling climate change in the years ahead. As such, they offer practical solutions with the potential to be used as part of any international agreement following on from the Kyoto Protocol.

Standards from the IEC, ISO and ITU offer the world's governments and industry the best possible benchmarks to be referenced in any policy making decisions or future climate treaties. The three organizations are working together with other international organizations to ensure that participants at the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference on 7-18 December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark, will be fully aware of the solutions offered by existing and future International Standards.

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We Have Moved!

As of July 20, the CROSQ Secretariat has relocated to its new premises in Bridgetown, Barbados. With the expected increase in the number of staff and projects, the previous premises in Belleville, St. Michael was quickly seen as insufficient to house the growing team.

The Secretariat is now housed in the heart of Bridgetown on the 2nd floor of Nicholas House on Broad Street. The new space is approximately 6000 sq. feet of office space, and comes complete with library and conference room space, as well as a server room and a spacious central flooring plan. The move is timely as an additional 4-5 individuals are expected to have joined the Secretariat by the end of September 2009 - both contract staff and project consultants.

The Secretariat is fully setup in its new premises, and the team is looking forward to hosting many meetings and activities at the new building, including the upcoming Fifteenth Meeting of the CROSQ Council in September 2009 as one of its first welcoming activities.

23 Regional Standards To Go For CROSQ Council Endorsement

The Eighth Editorial Committee (EC) Meeting of CROSQ, held at the Bureau of Standards Jamaica in Kingston, Jamaica from August 17-20, was to date the most productive meeting of the EC.

Editorially completing 7 standards, with an additional 6 standards requiring minor clarifications by the Regional Technical Committees responsible for their development, this brings the total up to 23 standards being signed-off for editorial completion by the end of September.

Of these 23, 18 standards were developed under the CROSQ/IDB-MIF project for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME), 3 were on the general work plan of the CROSQ Technical Management Committee and 2 were already approved by the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) for mandatory adoption in Member States.

The 21 standards (18 SME plus 3 general) have already been circulated to Member States for voting and move forward in the Standard Development Process by being placed in a priority position on the agenda of the Fifteenth Meeting of the CROSQ Technical Management Committee (TMC) to be held on 28-29 September 2009. At this Meeting, the standards will be reviewed and recommendations made to the CROSQ Council for either voluntary or mandatory adoption in Member States. The Council next meets on September 29 in Barbados.

Specifically, the standards to be addressed are:
- specifications for the grading of 10 agricultural products, namely sweet peppers, tomatoes, hot peppers, cabbages, pumpkins, oranges, grapefruits, pineapples, bananas and mangoes;
- specifications for cassava bread; gold articles; coconut oil; carbonated beverages; garbage bags; botanical cosmetics; and fruits and vegetable juices and fruit nectars; and
- codes of practice for food hygiene; wooden craft items; good manufacturing practices for SMEs; and frozen fruit pulp and purées.

Notifications of the 2 standards already approved by COTED have been sent to Member States indicating COTED approval for mandatory adoption. The CARICOM Regional Standard Specification for Safety Matches is the revised and edited version of the standard originally developed in 1999, while the CARICOM Regional Standard Specification for Grading and Quality Requirements of Table Eggs is the edited version of the original.

The Editorial Committee was unable to review the CARICOM Regional Code of Practice for the Handling of Fish and Fishery products at the Eighth Meeting due to time constraints, but editorial review has begun via round-robin to speed up the editorial process.

The next Meeting of the Editorial Committee is scheduled for 16-20 November 2009 in St. Lucia.

Launch of Bid Proposals For Needs Assessments

A tender is to be launched for the establishment of a virtual / physical library and audio-visual conferencing facilities in CROSQ Member States and within the Secretariat. Firms will be invited to submit proposals within 6 weeks, meeting the requirements outlined in the tender dossier for this activity being funded under the 9th EDF (European Development Fund).

The Needs Assessment will determine the current status within each of the 16 organizations (15 National Standards Bodies and the Secretariat) as it relates to equipment, human resources, and reference material (for the library), as well as the infrastructure within the country to support the proposed facilities. It will also address any gaps and deficiencies that exist which would hamper the setup of the library and the conferencing facilities.

The Assessment also includes a component related to the establishment of a Virtual Private Network linking the Standards Bodies and the Secretariat together, to facilitate secure exchange of information and communication.

Ultimately, the accepted consultant will develop a proposal which includes a recommended design setup for each of the proposed facilities, as well as necessary resources for implementation.
On 28 September 2009, CROSQ welcomed a new member of staff to the team at the Secretariat. Mrs. Gina Teemul-Tash, a national of Trinidad and Tobago, joins CROSQ in the newly created position of Technical Officer - Metrology. Mrs. Teemul-Tash holds a BSc in Computing (with Honours) from the University of Greenwich and is currently pursuing a Post Graduate Certificate from the University of Bradford. A former employee at the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) for fifteen years, Mrs. Teemul-Tash worked in the areas of Standards Implementation and Laboratory Testing Services, and most recently held the responsibility for Industrial Metrology in her position as Standards Officer / Calibration Services Unit Supervisor in the Metrology Division.

While at TTBS, she was instrumental in coordinating and supervising all the activities of the Calibration Laboratory Unit, which provided her with ample experience to bring to her new role as Technical Officer - Metrology at CROSQ. In this capacity, she will be responsible for the technical work in CROSQ in regional development and harmonization in the area of Metrology. Mrs. Teemul-Tash is also responsible for coordination of activities of CARIMET, the regional arm of the Sistema Interamericana Metrologia (SIM), which was recently integrated into CROSQ as a Technical Committee.

Mrs. Teemul-Tash plans to play a major role in the development of Metrology in the region and feels that her experience would assist her in the execution of her duties.

On 25 September 2009, CROSQ said goodbye to Ms. Anne Marie Sirju who served as Technical Officer to CROSQ for the past 3 years, based at the Secretariat in Barbados. In this capacity, Ms. Sirju was primarily responsible for the technical work of CROSQ in regional standards development, harmonization and implementation. She organized and sat on Meetings of the Technical Management Committee, as well as assisted the Editorial Committee in its mandate of reviewing and editing CARICOM Regional Standards.

A national of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Sirju was a former officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) before coming to CROSQ, where she served as Head, Laboratory Services Division.

A small informal gathering was held to bid Ms. Sirju a fond farewell. We take this opportunity to thank Ms. Sirju for her inputs and contributions to regional standards development, and wish her well in her future endeavours.
The CROSQ/EDF Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Service (CLAS) project continues to work with National Accreditation Focal points and the National Standards bodies in each CROSQ Member State to provide training and information for the medical laboratories. The CLAS Project commenced its 2nd year of activities from 1 June 2009, with the work plan for 2009-2010 presented and approved by the CROSQ Council in April 2009.

JANAAC LAUNCH
For International Accreditation Day (June 9), CROSQ and JANAAC collaborated in Jamaica to celebrate this day by first having the launch of the Accreditation Body and co-hosting of a conference. The JANAAC launch was presided over by the Jamaican Prime Minister Hon Bruce Golding and approximately 200 invited guests. The conference entitled “Quality and Competence” was attended by over 100 persons.

WORKSHOPS
Several of the NAFPs have been busy establishing their Laboratory Quality Management Systems (LQMS) working groups which is the proposed mechanism to collaborate with laboratories interested in Accreditation and persons who require training in the laboratory Standards. As a result workshops have been held this year in Haiti, St. Kitts, Barbados, Grenada, Bermuda, St. Lucia with an upcoming one being planned in the Dominican Republic.

A series of Workshops on Measurement Uncertainty were hosted in Grenada, Trinidad, Barbados and Jamaica over a period of two weeks in July. These workshops were a collaborative effort between the CLAS Project and the IDB funded Regional Quality Infrastructure (RQI) project, both being implemented by CROSQ. The workshops were very well attended, with over 150 persons trained. Activities included presentations, group exercises, examples and simultaneous practice sessions. As a result of the feedback from participants, future activities will be planned in this area to continue spreading the training and encouraging more laboratories to include Measurement Uncertainty in their Quality Systems.

Two workshops on the 20 Milestones to Accreditation will be held in November to ensure that laboratories utilize the system to monitor and measure their process improvement. Mr. Manfred Kindler will facilitate the training and ensure that the software is made available to the participants.

CROSQ is collaborating with the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and DIGENOR in the Dominican Republic to host a workshop in ISO 15189 for Medical Laboratories from November 11 to 13. The workshop will accommodate approximately 55 persons from Latin America, the CARICOM Region and the Dominican Republic. The Paris Office of the World Health Organisation (WHO) has also agreed to introduce at the workshop their Laboratory Training Toolkit which participants can use to help build their system.

The project will also host the first of a number of Assessor training workshops in December to ensure that a pool of testing Laboratory assessors is available in each country.

CROSQ AT IAAC MEETINGS
The CROSQ CEO and CLAS Project Coordinator attended that IAAC General Assembly from 30 August to 5 September 2009 in Costa Rica. One of the highlights of the meeting was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CROSQ and IAAC. Earlier this year, CROSQ was admitted to IAAC as a stakeholder member.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
During November, CLAS will be hosting a Technical Committee meeting on Laboratory Safety to develop a guidance document and propose a training plan to assist in and improve the development of Laboratory Safety Management programs.

LQMS
The laboratories are increasingly appreciating that the added value of laboratory accreditation far outweighs the necessary investment in human resources, finances and time, since the process is an independent method of monitoring competence and performance, and assures the validity of results to users. Many benefits therefore accrue to accredited laboratories, users of these services, governments, regulatory bodies and the general public.

As the CLAS project moves to the end of the funding period in 2010, the NAFPs are encouraged to continue working to build strong in-country working groups and take advantage of the available funding to build the quality in their laboratory community. This will strengthen communication, training, improvement processes & forge strong linkages and relationships between the National Accreditation Focal Points, National Accreditation Bodies (TTLABS and JANAAC) and CROSQ.

CLAS AND RQI
The successful implementation of both the CLAS and RQI projects of CROSQ are expected to contribute significantly to the evolution and structure of the Caribbean Accreditation Service. Cooperation established as a result of the two projects among the CARICOM/CARIFORUM 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. Only then can we guarantee – One test, accepted everywhere!
IDB SME PROJECT
Under the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), CROSQ is developing 34 normative documents for the region, specifically applicable to SMEs. CROSQ, through its Project Execution Unit, continues to work closely with relevant Member States and Technical Committees to produce these documents, with 18 Specifications and Codes of Practice having been approved by the CROSQ Council at the end of September 2009. Work continues on the remaining 16 standards with a deadline of April 2010 for completion.

Several awareness-raising workshops were undertaken in several Member States of CROSQ, 12 in 2008 and 11 to date in 2009. A further series of workshops are planned for October and November 2009 in several other Member States:

- Tour Guides and Tour Operators and Good Management Practices in Suriname;
- Wooden and Indigenous Furniture in Guyana;
- Graded Agriculture Produce in Belize; and
- Tour Guides, Tour Operators, Vehicle Rentals and Tourist Accommodation in Antigua and Barbuda.

The basic objectives of these workshops are to:

- sensitize the SMEs to the importance of standards to their business;
- familiarize them with the standards development process, and their role in that process; and
- familiarize them with standards requirements as applicable to their business.

IDB RQI PROJECT
Awareness workshops on Traceable Calibration, Testing and Verification have been completed in OECS Member States (except Montserrat), Barbados, Belize, Guyana, and Suriname as activities under the IDB-funded Regional Quality Infrastructure (RQI) project. An additional workshop focusing on Chemical Metrology was also held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The aim of these workshops is to implement a series of interactive symposia in selected countries in selected quality infrastructure areas with the specific objectives to:

- raise the awareness among key stakeholders and within selected countries to the importance of Traceability, Verification and Calibration Services;
- inform stakeholders/participants where traceable calibration and verification can be sourced within the region; and
- improve the profile of the National Metrology Institute / National Standards Body services within the country.

Conferences on the topic “Accurate Measurement of Large Quantities of Commodities Sold by Weight and by Measure” were undertaken in Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, and Suriname during April 2009, with an additional conference in May entitled Conference in “Chemical Metrology” held in Trinidad and Tobago.

For the development of a Regional Accreditation Structure, baseline data was collected in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as several workshops conducted for Trainers and laboratory technicians. Meetings were also held with tertiary institutions in Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

In collaboration with the CROSQ/EDF Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Service (CLAS) Project, a series of workshops in Measurement Uncertainty were conducted in July in Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Participants from Belize, Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Dominica also attended these workshops.

CDB RBS PROJECT
The pilot studies report from the consultancy on the development of the Rainfall Intensity Duration Curves and Flood Hazard Maps was submitted in September to the CROSQ Secretariat. One of the findings in the report indicated that the sourcing of data within a few of the targeted Member States for the consultancy was posing a challenge.

Approval has been requested and granted from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) for the engagement of 3 Standards Development Consultants and 3 Technical Consultants to Member States. Negotiations are currently ongoing with these six individuals and their expected commencement date is December 1, 2009.

A revised Terms of Reference for the Seismic Hazard Mapping consultancy is currently being developed by the Regional Technical Committee, with considerable input by the Seismic Research Unit of the University of the West Indies. The advertising of this consultancy is targeted for mid-November 2009 and will run for a duration of 6 weeks.

National Technical Sub-committees (NTSCs) were setup in Montserrat and Belize on May 5 and June 30 respectively, which brings the total NTSCs established to nine.

CIDA PROJECT
Significant improvements in the service capability and delivery of service at the Secretariat has been achieved through the CIDA project being managed by TDV Global. TDV Global will continue to work with CROSQ well into 2010 to assist the various National Standards Bureaus to achieve similar accomplishments and ensure alignment with the Strategic Plan and objectives of CROSQ. As a result, TDV Global will be visiting several Member States throughout the period November 2009 to April 2010 to conduct Institutional Capability and Human Resources Assessments in relation to both CARICOM initiatives and the CROSQ Strategic Plan.
ROLE OF STANDARDS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Although standards have been traditionally accepted for their technical and industrial benefits, their role in promoting economic growth, development, trade, as well as environmental protection, is only now increasingly recognized. Strategies are being put in place to aid in increasing that awareness and recognition and assisting in incorporating the use of standards for economic development and trade.

Under the framework of the “ISO Action Plan for Developing Countries 2005-2010”, the International Organization for Standards (ISO), in collaboration with the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and with the generous financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the European Union under the Ninth EDF, will be conducting a three day workshop hosted by Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on 13-15 October 2009.

This workshop is the first among a series of planned regional workshops being organized to raise awareness and understanding of ISO members in developing countries on the strategic role of International Standards and Standards in general from the economic development and trade perspectives.

The workshop is designed to be delivered with the collaboration or involvement of Regional Economic Communities and/or Standardization bodies. It brings together the Member States of CROSQ and it is envisioned to be interactive with experience sharing by regional members on the benefits that developing economies can derive from standards, including case studies of known aspects such as better opportunities for the development of local industries and internal markets, better opportunities to export, and among others, the chance to play a greater role in the creation of International Standards.

The workshop aims to raise awareness on the benefits and role of standards from the economic development and trade perspectives. It is also intended to assist participants in consolidating their knowledge and understanding of the role of standards in development and trade, and prepare them for their future involvement in national or regional policy discussions.

The workshop targets standardization officials within a National Standards Body or Government officials responsible for policy development on standards related activities of ISO members in the English speaking Caribbean and Central America region and non-ISO members of CROSQ.

A Technical Assistance (TA) project will be implemented to assist the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), to enable its National Bureaux of Standards (NBS) and associated private sector intermediary organisations jointly to identify shared capacity building needs.

Local NBS face great difficulties both in terms of equipment and installations and a lack of technical training and capacity in all elements of the national quality infrastructure. Conformity assessment for exports and import inspections cannot therefore be handled according to international standards and best practices. This prevents the region from participating fully in the framework of international trade, since Caribbean economies are exposed to increased levels of technical barriers to trade.

The technical assistance aims at identifying how to best move forward and to develop and draft an action-based capacity building programme for the medium term. The final goal is to draft a project proposal, that could be supported by the ProInvest Programme or other donors.

A first start-up/training workshop is expected to take place in October 2009. It will bring the partners together and present the first results of collection and review of available information on CROSQ, RQI/TBT studies and current activities. Participants will be able to exchange experience so as to facilitate a more focused and fruitful needs analysis process.

- ProInvest Newsletter 03/2009
The Internet (and the World Wide Web) has become a leading resource for information and communications, making it possible for users to disseminate and have access to information on demand. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is not so much the application of technology but the ability to use information. According to the European Commission, “the importance of ICTs lies less in the technology itself than in its ability to create greater access to information and communication in populations that are underserved.” Therefore, ICT must be used in such a way as to maximize information resources and to create ones where none previously existed but which are necessary for development.

To address the deficits which relate to the establishment of an Information Society in the region, the CARICOM Secretariat has established a Regional ICT Steering Committee to identify necessary areas in which the region should be focused (according to WSIS). A work plan is being developed on the recommendations made by the Committee, but this work plan does not adequately prioritise the necessity of fostering ICT development to facilitate trade and the development of a quality infrastructure.

With the signing of the EU/CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), and the impending negotiations between CANADA and CARICOM, these agreements and arrangements are placing pressures on the Standards Infrastructure. CARICOM countries are all involved in the International Trade arena being Members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and are at present involved in a number of CROSQ Projects which are developing the Quality Infrastructure of the Region. Each of these projects require access to information on standards and technical regulations, not only from developed countries but also from each of the Caribbean nations.

These NSBs are not only at various levels of development but also are developing and supporting growing economies, producing standards for economic and social development. The present capability of modern technology allows for the creation of a virtual image of all NSBs to be at the same level of development in their access to information and the tools for disseminating information on standards and technical regulations. There is need then to re-assess and re-tool, where possible, each NSB in the region with well-developed functioning websites, communication technology, databases that are needed for development and decision making, and the capability of contributing to the body of knowledge on standards information.

ICT is the use of technology to organize and disseminate information in a way that supports networks, and creates an inclusive approach to information, inclusive of both the provider and the customer. It is also an approach that will allow the region’s standards institutions to become more visible in a changing and demanding market. The support of this initiative will add real value to the existing projects and is the building block for the creation of a knowledge infrastructure for the region. It is essential for Trade and Development and will further add to the regional integration movement of which CROSQ is an instrument within the Standardization World.

To this end, CROSQ has formed a Regional Information Network (RIN) Committee which comprises a plenary of professionals from the various NSBs and the Secretariats of CROSQ and CARICOM, covering the areas of marketing and public relations, information and knowledge management, library sciences, information technology, and enquiry points for WTO/TBT notifications, as well as Codex nodes. The establishment of such a group is vital to the successful integration and information sharing amongst the CROSQ Member States and the CROSQ Secretariat, as well as the integration and awareness-raising within the CARICOM Secretariat.

The overall functions of the RIN Committee will be to coordinate the development of a CROSQ ICT strategy policy and to provide the Secretariat with technical input, guidance and assistance into the development of CROSQ (the Secretariat and its Member States) in all areas of ICT. More specifically, the RIN Committee will be required to:

- monitor and evaluate the implementation of projects related to ICT;
- provide expert policy guidance on the subject areas identified within the context of ongoing and proposed initiatives;
- provide technical input and guidance for the development of an Information and Communication Technology Strategy for CROSQ;
- serve as a review panel for technical documents including draft and final documents produced for the CROSQ Secretariat and Council under the relevant fields;
- make recommendations to the Secretariat and Council on opportunities for enhancing and sustaining project outputs and attaining project outcomes related to ICT; and
- advise on NSB training requirements.

The first meeting of this Committee was held in Barbados on 9-10 September 2009, with representation from 10 Member States and the CROSQ Secretariat for a total of 21 participants. A draft project proposal was discussed with implications for ICT activities and initiatives to support the development of the NSBs and the Secretariat, as well as the strengthening of the information sharing and exchange within the region as it relates to the development of a Regional Quality Infrastructure.

This Committee was presented to the CROSQ Council at its Fifteenth Meeting held in Barbados on 30 September to 1 October 2009, where it was mandated to develop a draft Regional ICT Strategy for the Member States of CROSQ for presentation at the Sixteenth Council Meeting in April 2010.
The CROSQ Technical Management Committee (TMC) held its 14th and 15th Meetings on 24-25 June 2009 and 28-29 September 2009, respectively.

The 14th meeting was held at the Blue Horizon Hotel in Barbados and was attended by representatives from the Member States of: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Guyana, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Meeting officially welcomed the respective representatives from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Guyana, as it was their first meeting of the TMC.

A paper prepared by Trinidad and Tobago entitled Guidelines for Web-Based Meetings was on the agenda for consideration, and it was decided that a training needs assessment survey should be carried out within Member States to ascertain training requirements of National Standards Bodies (NSBs) in an effort to prepare proposals to the CROSQ Secretariat for funding under the 10th EDF project of the European Union. Such a project would be geared to increasing capacity of the NSBs for increased efficiency.

The progress of the CROSQ/IDB SME Project on the development of 34 regional standards was also noted, and the TMC agreed that 19 standards should be ready for presentation to CROSQ Council for adoption at the 15th Council Meeting in September-October 2009. It was anticipated that the remaining 15 standards should be ready for presentation to the 16th Council Meeting scheduled for April 2010.

A paper prepared by Saint Lucia on Mandatory and Voluntary CARICOM Standards, brought the need for good regulatory practices as recommended by the WTO in the implementation of standards into sharp focus, and as a result the TMC agreed that training should be provided to Member States in developing Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) for the implementation of Technical Regulations. Agreement was reached that funding would be provided through the CROSQ/IDB SME project for this activity.

The 15th Meeting was held at the CROSQ Secretariat at its new location in Bridgetown, Barbados. Representatives from the following Member States attended the event - Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting acknowledged the presence of the Technical Officer (Standards) Designate, Mr. Fulgence St. Prix, and challenged him to increase efficiency within the standards development section to ensure that CROSQ’s mandate is realised.

The TMC recommended the 18 standards completed under the CROSQ/IDB SME project to the CROSQ Council for endorsement as CARICOM Regional Standards, and authorized the CROSQ Editorial Committee to begin editing a further 9 standards developed under the SME project - Code of Practice for Packaged Water, Code of Practice for Coconut Water, Specification for Packaged Water, Specification for Natural Coconut Water, Code of Practice for Fishery and Fishery Products, Code of Practice for Tour Guides, Code of practice for Vehicle Rentals, and Code of Practice for Indigenous Furniture. The Editorial Committee is scheduled to meet in Saint Lucia in November 2009.

At this meeting, the TMC also recommended a Pricing Policy and Publishing Policy to the CROSQ Council for adoption which takes into account a pricing structure for standards developed by the TMC, among other things.

Training of the members of CROSQ’s Regional Technical Committees (RTC’s) on the standards development procedure, standards writing and editing was approved as recommended by the Editorial Committee. To this end, a proposal for training in standards formatting using the ISO template was submitted by Trinidad and Tobago, and financial support is being sought from the CROSQ/IDB SME Project for this and other training activities. It was noted that Member States should be notified and encouraged to submit to the Secretariat various requests specific to their RTC as it relates to this training.

In order to increase the efficiency of the standards development process and to reduce the over-taxation of Member States as it relates to the work of the members of the various RTCs and the Editorial Committee, the TMC agreed that in the ongoing development of its Work Programme, a maximum of 15 standards will be considered bi-annually, based on priority which will be determined against a set criteria. Further, Members agreed to review the procedure for the management of Technical work of CROSQ by the 16th TMC meeting.

An online TMC meeting is slated for the third week of November 2009 to review the status of action items assigned and agreed to at the 15th TMC Meeting. The date and location of the 16th TMC Meeting is as yet not determined but the agenda will focus primarily on the remaining standards developed under the CROSQ/IDB SME project.

CROSQ’s Partnership with Other Organisations

DISASTER MANAGEMENT EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE
CROSQ attended the Third Meeting of the CDEMA (formerly CDERA) Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Education Subcommittee of the CDM Coordination and Harmonization Council (CHC) on 15 July 2009 in Barbados where the development of a work plan for the Sub-committee was discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2009 in Jamaica, during the CDEMA Comprehensive Disaster Management conference.

ASSISTING IN DEVELOPING C@ribNET
CROSQ attended the First Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee to the project being developed by the Caribbean Knowledge Learning Network (CKLN) to produce C@ribNET. Held on September 17, the Meeting introduced the Committee members to the current progress of the development of C@ribNET, as well as established working groups on particular aspects of the project development. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14 in Grenada.
New Disaster Management Programme in the BVI

Representatives from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA - formerly CDERA) have introduced the Comprehensive Disaster Management Harmonized Implementation Programme (CDM HIP) – Phase One, to National Disaster Organisations representatives in the Virgin Islands on September 16.

Officers from key ministries, departments and statutory boards were in attendance at the Treasure Isle Hotel Conference Room where Ms. Cisne Pascal, Programme Coordinator and Ms Gayle Drake, Programme Officer for CDM HIP/CDEMA, presented on the transition from CDERA to CDEMA and gave an overview of the CDM HIP Phase One. His Excellency, Governor David Pearey, Ms. Sharleen Dabreo, Director of the DDM and Ms. Arlene Smith, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Deputy Governor’s Office were also among those delivering brief remarks.

A five-year project expected to be implemented in 18 participating states, including the Virgin Islands, CDM HIP Phase One will run until March 2013. The US$11,706,192 project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), with contributions from other donors, including CDEMA’s participating states.

The long term overall impact of this programme is to achieve regional sustainable development through the reduction of losses in the Caribbean region and to impact disaster management coordination at the national and regional levels.

The major results are two-fold - providing enhanced institutional support for CDM Programme implementation, and enhancing community resilience in CDEMA states. Implemented by CDEMA in partnership with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), this programme supports the Caribbean’s enhanced CDM strategy via a harmonized multi-donor approach.

The Virgin Islands and the Department of Disaster Management were lauded for achieving an advanced stage in preparatory work in developing a National CDM Policy Strategy and Programming Framework.

As part of the reasons for the visit to the Virgin Islands, the CDEMA officials met with representatives from the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, Trade and Investment Promotions and other key Government agencies as well as local contractors to examine and document the successes of the Safer Building Programme in the Virgin Islands.

This programme is designed to help improve the resilience of buildings to withstand the impact of disaster and it is the intention of CDEMA to replicate this programme in its other 17 participating states.

National and Regional Organisations and sectors will be supported in mitigating, managing and coordinating recovery and rehabilitation as they pertain to hazards and climate variability and change. The increase in the resiliency of communities, National and Regional Organisations and sectors will be sought through the elaboration of adaptation of model approaches including the creation and implementation of a system for the Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting (ME&R) of the regional enhanced Comprehensive Development Strategy (CDM).

CDEMA is the regional inter-governmental agency responsible for disaster management.

- CDEMA Press Release

4th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in association with its Partners will host the fourth Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) under the theme “Strengthening CDM through Youth and Community Empowerment” at the Rose Hall Resort and Spa, Montego Bay, Jamaica on December 7-11, 2009.

This Conference is the Caribbean regions annual signature disaster management forum, which provides the platform for reflection and dialogue on initiatives and issues to advance the CDM Agenda and measuring progress in the region within the context of the Enhanced CDM Strategy and Programming Framework 2007-2012. CDM is the regional contribution to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, a blue print for global action in Disaster Risk Reduction.

In that regard, the CDM Conference is a regional event of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) global platform and is structured to promote good practice, share ongoing research, chart the way forward for the advancement of CDM in the Caribbean and to provide a unique opportunity for facilitating networking among disaster management Practitioners, Donors, NGOs, Public and private sector organisations, researchers, civil society and other CDM Stakeholders.

Key conference sessions will include:
- Professional Development Sessions;
- Case Study Sessions;
- Showcasing of Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme to Advance CDM;
- Disaster Management Exposition; and
- Youth Session.
New Secretary General for CTO

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) has announced the appointment of a new Secretary General. He is Barbadian Hugh Riley who has been the organization’s Interim Secretary General for the past several months.

In making the announcement, CTO’s Chairman, Hon. John Maginley, who is Minister of Tourism for Antigua & Barbuda, described Mr. Riley as an experienced Caribbean tourism professional with a clear vision of how to move the tourism sector forward.

“I am pleased to announce that after an extensive search and a thorough selection process, the CTO Council of Ministers has offered Mr. Riley the position of Secretary General and he has accepted,” Minister Maginley said.

“Mr. Riley has an intimate knowledge of the tourism industry and a sound strategic vision for what the region’s tourism sector needs in order to remain competitive and to thrive, particularly in these trying times. We are confident that he is up to the challenge,” Chairman Maginley added.

Mr. Riley’s appointment takes effect from August 17th. As the organization’s Chief Executive Officer he will oversee the CTO’s offices in Barbados, North America, the UK and Europe, succeeding the late Arley Sobers and the Hon. Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace. He will also lead the organization’s initiatives to strengthen relations with our strategic partners, including the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) and the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA).

CTO, as the region’s tourism development agency, provides research, human resources, marketing, communications and technology services internationally to its public and private sector members. CTO has been in the forefront of recent efforts to interface with the governments of the US and UK on a range of issues affecting Caribbean tourism.

ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN TOURISM ORGANISATION

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), with the headquarters in Barbados and marketing operations in New York, London and Toronto, is the Caribbean’s tourism development agency and comprises membership of over 30 governments and a myriad of private sector entities.

The CTO’s mission is to provide to and through its members, the services and information needed for the development of sustainable tourism for the economic and social benefit of the Caribbean people.

The organization provides specialized support and technical assistance to member countries in the areas of marketing, human resource development, research and statistics, information technology and sustainable tourism development. The CTO disseminates information on behalf of its member governments to consumers and the travel trade.
Dr. Michael Seepersaud, Mr. Noel Osbourne, Mr. David May and Dr. Vyjayanthi Lopez at the Bulk Commodities Workshop in Jamaica

CROSQ/IDB-MIF Project Monitoring Group in Barbados

Participants of the ISO Workshop in St. Lucia

Trinidad and Tobago Workshop on Labelling for Export

Attendees of the First Meeting of the Regional Information Network Committee in Barbados

Regional Inter-Comparison Preliminary Meeting at BSJ, Jamaica
### 2009 Calendar of Events (October – December)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 5-9</td>
<td>Mass Attachment Metrology Training</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 7-8</td>
<td>Laboratory Quality Systems Workshop</td>
<td>St. Lucia</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10-20</td>
<td>2009 Conference &amp; Joint Annual Meetings of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF)</td>
<td>Vancouver, Canada</td>
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<td>October 14</td>
<td>World Standards Day</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13-15</td>
<td>ISO/CROSQ/TTBS Workshop on Trade and Standards</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>World Food Day</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 25-30</td>
<td>SIM General Assembly</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Caribbean Export Regional Workshops on Intellectual Property as Marketing Tools for SMEs</td>
<td>Dominican Republic, Belize, Grenada and Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2-13</td>
<td>WTO Consolidated Training Course on Agriculture, SPS and TBT</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3-4</td>
<td>CROSQ/EDF CLAS Project Lab Safety Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 11-13</td>
<td>IAAC, CROSQ &amp; DIGENOR Workshop for Medical Labs (ISO 15189)</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
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<td>November 16-20</td>
<td>Internal Auditing Training</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
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<td>November 25-26</td>
<td>20 Milestones Workshops</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27-29</td>
<td>Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 30 - December 4</td>
<td>Mass Attachment Metrology Training</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1-2</td>
<td>20 Milestones Workshops</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
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<td>December 7-10</td>
<td>Ninth Meeting of CROSQ Editorial Committee</td>
<td>St. Lucia</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7-11</td>
<td>4th Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management Conference entitled “Strengthening CDM through Youth and Community Empowerment”</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7-11</td>
<td>Assessor Training</td>
<td>Antigua</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>CROSQ/IDB SME Project Monitoring Group Meeting</td>
<td>St. Lucia</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9-16</td>
<td>SIM Metrology School</td>
<td>Brasil</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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