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

In this Issue
- IDB Projects Update
- Accreditation Activities
- The CROSQ TMC
- Partner Organisation Events
- TTBS Staff Training
- CDB Project Update
- CLAS - Supporting Laboratory Accreditation
- TMC Update
- SME Project Workshops
- Belize Bureau of Standards
- ISO Contest
- Lab Personnel Trained
- Update on CROSQ Activities
- Regional ICT Development Action Plan
- Photo Gallery

ADDRESS BY THE CHAIR OF CROSQ

In a little over 100 years, the world’s population quadrupled from 1.6 billion in 1900 to its current population of 6.7 billion, and is projected to increase even further to 7.9 billion by 2050. Of significant concern is the growing need to reduce the effects of the human footprint in response to the impending ecological crisis through an analysis of the construction industry. Building styles, materials and construction methods have developed alongside man’s own progress, growing to accommodate his ever increasing and varied needs, in activities such as housing, education, work, health care and entertainment. It has been estimated in the United States, however, that buildings account for 70% of electricity use, 12% of water use, 40% of raw material use and 30% of landfill waste, therefore, any solution towards sustainable use of the earth’s resources cannot ignore the impact of buildings.

Much of the energy that goes into building maintenance and upkeep is expended on manipulating the internal environment by controlling the temperature, lighting, water and ventilation. Traditionally there has been no efficient way to regulate these factors independently across different parts of the building, thus, the entire building may be cooled in response to an increased heat load in one area, or an entire floor may be lit when only one office is in use. The development of intelligent building technologies make it possible to identify where a need is and to efficiently transfer resources to that building section to meet the need. A ‘smart’ building, for example, can track the occupancy levels of different parts of the building and adjust the temperature, ventilation and lighting levels accordingly. This type of functionality is achieved by the use of sensors distributed throughout the building that are linked via a communication network. Sensors collect information from around the building on occupancy, room temperature, humidity, lighting levels, air pollutants and transmit this information over the communication network to a computerized controller which automatically adjusts to account for changing conditions. Intelligent buildings will therefore require integrated systems consisting of compatible sensors, actuators, network bridges and controllers seamlessly working together. An infrastructure based on common standards is therefore essential.

The importance of worldwide network standards is evident from the popularity of ubiquitous Wi-Fi networks, which is based on the ISO/IEC 8802-11 standard. Similarly, the integration of sensors and actuators into traditional building elements such as doors, ceilings and windows will also require extensive coordination and collaboration with existing product manufacturers in order to ensure that the increased functionality does not come at the expense of structural integrity or safety issues. Conformity assessment tools such as laboratory testing and certification schemes by recognized and respected institutions will go a long way towards raising public confidence in this technology as well as help protect governments and corporations from making bad investments.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has extensive experience with developing and promoting standards which have been accepted worldwide as well its product testing standards and conformity assessment systems. When combined, these give the public confidence in the compliance of a product or system to a standard.

Initiatives to promote the use and construction of intelligent and sustainable building technology are already well underway, particularly in the United States. The ISO however is uniquely well positioned to establish International Standards for this emerging field that will lead to new products, technologies and practices revolutionizing the way buildings are constructed. Smart green building technologies are relatively new, but they will assume increasing importance as the world prepares to house nearly 8 billion inhabitants by 2050.
SME WORKSHOPS
Workshops were successfully held in four of the CROSQ Member States, targeting the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in each of the territories. The workshops focused on the areas of:

- Standards in the Agro-Processing Industry - July 15 in Jamaica
- Train-the-trainers - September 19 in Guyana
- Standards and Food Hygiene - September 23 in Barbados
- Standards and Tourism - September 24 in Barbados

The workshops were well received by participants and much discussion ensued amongst participants in the relevant areas. Feedback indicated that the presentations were both interesting and informative.

SME PMG MEETS IN TRINIDAD
The Project Monitoring Group (PMG) of the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) project met on September 15 at the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS).

Those in attendance were Dr. Vyjayanthi Lopez, Executive Secretary of CROSQ; Ms. Anne Marie Sirju, Technical Officer of CROSQ; Dr. Michael Seepersaud, Project Manager of the CROSQ/IDF-MIF Projects (Chair); Beverly Monroe, Standards Officer III at TTBS, Elton Patram, Technical Officer of the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS); Karen Watson-Brown, Standards Development Certification Officer at the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ); Anthea Ishmael, Acting Director of the Barbados National Standard Institute (BNSI); Renate Sealy, Technical Officer of BNSI; and Jens Koch, consultant to the SME project.

The main action points from the meeting were: that BSJ announced plans to host a Symposium on October 13 in anticipation of World Standards Day; and the identification of national workshops scheduled for November by the National Standards Bureau in five member states.

The objectives of these workshops are to:

- sensitize the SMEs to the importance of standards to their business;
- familiarize SMEs with the standards development process, and their role in that process; and
- enable SMEs to contribute to the Standard under development.

The workshops will cover the following topics for each of the five territories:

- Tourism, hosted by BSJ;
- Bottled Water, hosted by GNBS;
- Labeling Pre-packaged Foods and Tourism Standards, hosted by the Suriname Bureau of Standards (SBS);
- Labeling of Pre-packaged Foods and Tourism Standards, hosted by the Belize Bureau of Standards (BBS); and
- Standards and the EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement), hosted by TTBS.

RTC-6 - TOURISM
The Regional Technical Committee for Tourism (RTC-6) met on September 30 in Barbados. The CROSQ/IDB-MIF SME project sponsored representatives from Belize, Dominica and St. Lucia to attend this meeting and work on the development of two tourism standards.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION WORKSHOPS
As part of the accreditation component of the CROSQ Regional Quality Infrastructure (RQI) project, funded by IDB and PTB, the Project Execution Unit (PEU), in collaboration with a consultant from Germany, Mr. Manfred Kindler, hosted two workshops and one lecture during the first week in September 2008. The two workshops were held in collaboration with TTBS and the national accreditation body of Trinidad and Tobago, TTIABS. The lecture was held in Barbados and was hosted by CROSQ in collaboration with BNSI and the Barbados Community College (BCC) (see page 3).

RQI PROJECT COMMITTEES MEET IN TRINIDAD
The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for the CROSQ/IDB RQI Project held their third meetings in Trinidad on 14 September 2008.

In attendance at the PAC meeting were: Dr. Vyjayanthi Lopez, Executive Secretary of CROSQ (Chair); Dr. Michael Seepersaud, CROSQ/IDB-MIF Project Manager; Mr. Deenish Maharaj, CROSQ/IDB-MIF RQI Regional Technical Support Coordinator (RTSC); Mr. Jens Koch, consultant; Mr. Frank Ackerman; Ms. Lieselotte Seehaussen, PTB; Mr. Fulgence St. Prix, Standards Officer, Standards Development, St. Lucia Bureau of Standards (SLBS); Mr. Tweedsmuir Mitchell, representing the Caribbean Metrology Network (CARIOMET); and Ms. Claudette Brown, representing JANAAC.

The PSC attendees included Dr. Vyjayanthi Lopez, Ms. Lieselotte Seehaussen, Mr. Frank Ackerman, Dr. Michael Seepersaud and Mr. Tweedsmuir Mitchell.

RQI AWARENESS PROGRAMME
As part of its ongoing work, the PEU hosted a number of activities in order to effectively execute the project, including Phase 1 of an Awareness Programme for all CROSQ Member States. During this Phase, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines were visited between the 6 - 15 August by Mr. Fidel Fernandez, Dr. Michael Seepersaud and Mr. Deenish Maharaj.

The aim of the programme was to implement a series of interactive symposia in selected countries on selected Quality Infrastructure areas in order to:

- raise 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 Bureau of Standards services, actual and potential, within the country.

The awareness was targeted at SMEs and SME sector support agencies, laboratories, public sector bodies, public and private sector decision makers, trade unions, Chambers of Commerce, manufacturers associations, consumer groups, export associations, and academia. The second phase of the programme, targeting other countries in the region, is planned for November 2008.
On 14 July 2008, Mr. Russell Franklyn joined the CROSQ team as the Accountant, with responsibility for all finance issues under CROSQ’s portfolio, including all of CROSQ’s developmental projects. A national of Barbados, Mr. Franklyn holds a BSc. in Economics and Accounts from the University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Campus and is near completion of his professional designation of a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Mr. Franklyn’s experience in the field of accounting has well prepared him for the role of Accountant at CROSQ. He has worked in the private sector as an Assistant Accountant at Caribbean Cricket Lotteries and has also held the post of Tax Officer in the public services at The Value Added Tax (VAT) Division. Recently he has worked for several regional and international organisations such as the Delegation of the European Commission in Barbados and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA). At the Delegation, he assumed the role of Financial Accountant within Administration where he applied European Union (EU) rules and financial procedures in accounting.

He subsequently worked at CDERA as an Accounts Officer under a 9th European Development Fund (EDF) Project ‘Institutional Capacity Building and Infrastructure’ and also played a major role within CDERA’s Finance & Administration Unit. This has helped Mr. Franklyn’s development as a well-rounded person familiar with financial issues that impact regional organisations such as CROSQ.

Mr. Franklyn plans to play a major role in the development of CROSQ, not only from a financial perspective, but also from an operational viewpoint, by creating efficient ways of operating to get maximum output from capacity afforded to CROSQ.

We take this opportunity of welcoming Mr. Franklyn to CROSQ and look forward to working with him in developing a productive and efficient organisation, and achieving our mandate and mission.

**LECTURE IN BARBADOS**

As an accreditation activity under the CROSQ/IDB-MIF Regional Quality Infrastructure project, a lecture was held in Barbados, hosted by CROSQ in collaboration with the Barbados National Standards Institute (BNSI) and the Barbados Community College (BCC).

The half-day lecture entitled “Strengthening Capacity and Competence - The Role of Laboratory Accreditation”, was held on 1 September 2008 at the Sherbourne Conference Centre. Approximately 80 persons from various laboratories in Barbados, public and private sector, attended.

The feature speaker at the opening session of the lecture, the Minister of Health, the Hon. David Estwick, emphasized the importance of high quality testing to Barbados and encouraged the participants to work together to realize the goal of Accreditation. The principal of BCC, Mr. Gladstone Best, also gave an address at the opening session, as did Dr. Vyjayanthi Lopez, Executive Secretary of CROSQ.

Participants were exposed to several presentations which elaborated for them the importance of Quality and Laboratory Accreditation and techniques which can be used to develop, improve and monitor the Quality Management System (QMS). Many of the questions posed to the presenters dealt with future activities and access to training programs for the laboratories to move forward.

Mr. Manfred Kindler (consultant), Ms Giselle Guevara (CLAS Coordinator, CROSQ), Mr Hadyne Rhyn (BNSI) and Mr. Deenish Maharaj (RTSC, CROSQ) presented the programme topics in a very interactive manner that ensured the participants understood the issues and material.

**WORKSHOPS IN TRINIDAD**

Two workshops were held in Trinidad in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) and TTLABS, the National Accreditation body. The workshops were held on 4 and 5 September 2008, and were entitled “The Roadmap to Accreditation in 20 Milestones” and “Laboratory Quality Improvement - the Role of Proficiency Testing”, respectively. Both workshops were held at TTBS and were developed to satisfy an accreditation activity component of the CROSQ/IDB-MIF RQI project.

Over 30 participants were present on each day, representing a wide cross-section of the laboratories in Trinidad and Tobago. Two representatives from Jamaica were also invited, and were subsequently sponsored by the project to attend.

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

Further project implementation initiatives are under development and more information can be obtained by contacting CROSQ via email at peu@crosq.org.
Activities and Events of Partnering Organisations

FIRST CARIFORUM-EU BUSINESS FORUM
The Caribbean Export Development Agency, in collaboration with the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) and the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) will be hosting the 1st CARIFORUM-European Union (EU) Business Forum in Barbados on November 24-25, 2008 at the Barbados Hilton Hotel, Bridgetown.

The CARIFORUM-EU Business Forum is a European Commission and ACP Secretariat supported initiative which seeks to build private sector capacity in the Caribbean Region by providing a platform to facilitate dialogue between entrepreneurs and investors from the Caribbean and Europe. The principal objective of the Forum is to identify business opportunities for trade between the Caribbean and European Markets, as well as to attract foreign direct investment from Europe to the Caribbean.

This year, the CARIFORUM-EU Business Forum will focus on professional services. Specifically, the Forum will highlight Information Communications and Technology (ICT) and Creative Industries – film and video, architecture and interior design. The Forum will provide Caribbean business persons with an opportunity to network with these individuals and to seek new partnerships in the European and CARIFORUM markets.

MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE QUALITY WORKSHOP
The Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) will be hosting a Management of Service Quality workshop entitled “A Key Component to Success in Today's Workplace” from 6-10 October 2008 in Barbados.

Targeted at proprietors, senior executives and general managers in private and public sector enterprises; service quality coordinators and human resource development specialists; and companies and businesses involved in the “Hospitality Assured” programme in the Caribbean, the workshop has the following objectives:
- to help Caribbean companies to develop a culture of service excellence within their operations;
- to provide senior managers with the working knowledge of a broad range of key quality management concepts and tools; and
- to provide insights into the integration of quality management principles into a comprehensive service management system, with strategies that inculcate and support a broad-based customer focus.

3rd CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON CDM
The Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) will be hosting its 3rd Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) on 8-12 December 2008 in Barbados. This annual conference is the Caribbean’s annual signature disaster relief forum for reflection, dialoguing and measuring progress in the region within the context of the Enhanced Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Programming Framework 2007-2012.

This year’s theme of “CDM - A Catalyst for Change”, seeks to highlight the changing face of disaster risk management and to build commitment for and to promote the goal of CDM. Further, the conference aims to facilitate exchanges on CDM related research, tools, models, products, information and education materials, as well as to consider regional response operations in the context of global humanitarian reform.

Plenary sessions will focus on the progress of the CDM agenda and the ongoing dialogue on humanitarian reform and the implications for regional and national disaster response. The Conference will be addressed by several high level speakers and experts in the field of disaster management making it a unique opportunity for the networking of disaster management practitioners, donors, NGOs, Public and private sectors, researchers and civil society.

The CDM conference will also feature a disaster risk management exhibit, cultural evening, poster presentations, special programmes for school children and a craft market.

TTBS Staff Attends Standardisation Training in India
The National Institute of Training for Standardization, Quality and Management (NITSQM) of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been offering an annual International Training Programme on Standardization and Quality Assurance for the nominees of the developing countries under the technical cooperation schemes of the Government of India. The next programme of eight weeks duration is scheduled for October 14 to December 6, 2008 at Noida, India. With this in mind, the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) has nominated two employees, Ms Ronah Persad, and Mr Ryan Biran to attend this training programme.

Ms Persad is the Quality Manager at TTBS and is responsible for the implementation of the quality management system and the recently implemented performance management system. Mr Biran is a Standards Officer I in the Standardization Division. His main portfolio includes the formulation of telecommunications and ICT-based standards for the local industry.

The training programme will comprise four main phases: study, industrial visits, workshops and review of reports. During the six-week study phase, these two employees will be exposed to the various aspects of standardization, quality assurance and management systems; such as fundamentals of standardization, development of national standards, principles and practices of certification and the functions of national standards bodies.

Additionally, industrial site visits and workshops will be held to develop the professional capabilities of these two employees. The participants will be required to write a number of examinations during the eight-week programme and a certificate of achievement will be awarded to each participant at the end of the training period. Overall, the information gained from this training programme will advance the competency of these two employees in the field of standardization and quality management.
CDB Project Update

The CROSQ Regional Building Standards (RBS) Project, co-funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), officially commenced on 1 October 2007 when Mr. Jonathan Platt took up the post of Project Coordinator on secondment from the Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI). Mr. Platt served in this capacity for approximately ten months, during which he did an excellent job of getting the project started.

One of his accomplishments was the Procurement of two consultancies on which the Project Executing Unit (PEU) is awaiting approval from the CDB. It is anticipated that these consultants will begin work by 1 November 2008.

AWARENESS BUILDING PROGRAMME

During his tenure, Mr. Platt recognized the need to visit the CROSQ member states to assist with the setting up of the National Technical Sub-Committees (NTSCs) for the project.

During the week of 14 - 18 July 2008, Mr. Platt visited Dominica, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as they launched the set up of their NTSCs. This provided an opportunity to sensitize the stakeholders with respect to the RBS Project and their role on the NTSCs.

Generic thoughts and suggestions resulting from these meetings were that:
- each deliverable should be sent for comments (by the consultants) on completion, as opposed to waiting until the end of the consultancy to send a draft final report;
- the turnaround time for feedback on documents should be four weeks;
- the project should not only look at the development of the standard but also seek to put in place a harmonious implementation plan;
- the Project Coordinator should be familiar with the information from constituent member states regarding their legislative framework and other relevant issues. It was decided that questionnaires could be used to collect this information;
- all of the Member States should be involved in flood hazard mapping, especially since sea related flood affects all the islands;
- rainfall intensity curves should also be developed for all the islands; and
- the focus on training should be more than that of the professionals. Training should include sub-professionals such as draftsmen, supervisors and foremen, and the business and financial community such as insurance companies and financial institutions.

CONSULTANCIES

Requests for proposals were sent to shortlisted consultants for the Preparation of Rainfall Intensity Duration Curves and Flood Hazard Maps and the Preparation of Seismic Hazard Mapping Consultancies. Two proposals were received for each consultancy, which were evaluated and the results submitted to the CDB for their No Objection.

Advertisements were also placed on various websites and in the press for Statements of Capability for the other two consultancies - Standards Development Consultancy and Technical Consultant for Member States. Proposals received have been evaluated and the results are also with the CDB for their No Objection.

NEW PROJECT COORDINATOR ON BOARD

On Friday August 8, CROSQ welcomed the new Project Coordinator, Mr. Michael Wood. His first week was intended to serve as a handover period, which is part of a succession planning policy that CROSQ is currently putting in place.

Mr. Wood is a Quantity Surveyor by profession, with over twenty-five years experience in diverse areas of the building and construction industry, three of which were spent at BNSI. Thereafter, he formed Middlewood Consultants Ltd. and worked independently under that company’s name. Prior to taking up the Project Coordinator position, he was the Project Coordinator for the re-development of a south coast hotel.

In the area of continuing professional development, he has obtained passes in the coursework component of the Masters of Law (LLM) programme at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Faculty of Law.

VISIT TO ICC CONFERENCE

CROSQ was invited by the International Code Council (ICC) to attend their annual Conference in September and make a presentation on the RBS project.

Both Mr. Platt and Mr. Wood attended this conference as it was seen as the perfect occasion to introduce the new Project Manager to the relevant ICC representatives.

The presentation on the RBS project was well received.
CLAS - Supporting Laboratory Accreditation in the Region

Laboratory Accreditation is a process which gives formal recognition to the technical competence of a laboratory to perform specific tests or calibrations. The process requires the maintenance of a documented Quality Management System and identification of personnel qualified and authorized to perform tasks related to the scope of accreditation.

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. The many benefits therefore accrue to accredited laboratories, users of these services, governments, regulatory bodies and the general public.

The National Accreditation Bodies (NABs) in Trinidad & Tobago (TTLABS) and Jamaica (JANAAC), have recently signaled their willingness to foster cooperation by signing a Statement of Technical Cooperation, the first step in creating a harmonised approach to accreditation in the Region in conformity with the ISO 17011 - Conformity assessment-General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.

Presently a European Development Fund (EDF) funded project is being executed by CROSQ to facilitate the creation, implementation and functioning of a Regional cooperation in Accreditation called the Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Service (CLAS). It is expected that CLAS would continue to build on work executed regionally for Accreditation, and would ensure access to appropriate regional institutions, laboratories and stakeholders. This will strengthen communication, consensus building and negotiation, forging strong linkages and relationships between the National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs), National Accreditation Bodies (TTLABS and JANAAC) and CLAS, while facilitating admission to appropriate regional and international co-operations and access to international expertise.

The overall objective is to improve regional capacity for the functioning of the Laboratory Accreditation service in a cost effective manner that leverages existing expertise and harmonises processes and procedures, while being internationally recognised. It was proposed that initially particular focus be placed on medical and public health laboratories taking advantage of the human resource development, institutional capacity, networking, and information sources already created by the CARIFORUM project ‘Strengthening of Medical Laboratory Services in the Caribbean’, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC - 2002-2007).

It is seen that a major part of the work of CLAS will be to work with small member states that do not have NABs, to continue the development of NAFPs whose role is seen as:

- promoting accreditation and its use to regulators and users of relevant services, and encourage good practice in laboratories;
- identifying individuals as experts and centres of national expertise in specific technical areas; and
- working with the National Standards Bureau to coordinate in-country activities such as training and seminars.

To this end the key benefits of CLAS to the region will be:

- maximum use of scarce resources
  - economies of scale
  - promoting experienced medical and testing laboratory professionals
  - ensuring common documentation and document control
  - maintaining regional databases of experts;
- harmonisation of the conduct of laboratory accreditation processes throughout the region;
- to provide coordinated support for NABs and NAFPS;
- to support the NAFP countries within CARICOM/ CARIFORUM in Accreditation;
- to support the NAFP countries in regional accreditation Co-operations such as IAAC (with TTLABS and JANAAC still having direct individual influence);
- to support the NAFP countries in international Co-operations such as ILAC (with TTLABS and JANAAC still having direct individual influence);
- Coordination of regional access to proficiency testing programs;
- to provide assistance to NAFP countries for achieving Accreditation; and
- to provide training and consultancy services to the laboratories for upgrading their Quality Management System in preparation for Accreditation.

The successful development of CLAS and cooperation among the CARICOM countries will lead to mutual benefit and ensure continued national and regional development, enabling countries to become more competitive globally and re-enforcing confidence in the reliability of testing performed in the Caribbean. Only then can we guarantee – One test, accepted everywhere!

Manfred Kindler giving a presentation at an Accreditation lecture in Barbados
TWELFTH TMC MEETING
The CROSQ Technical Management Committee (TMC) held its Twelfth Meeting on September 15 and 16, 2008 in Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting was hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) at its Trinicity Industrial Estate, Macoya offices. Members representing the following Member States were present: Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Stephen Farquharson of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ).

At this meeting elections were held for the posts of Chair and Vice Chair of the TMC. Jamaica and St. Lucia retained their posts of Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

Discussions were held on various issues of relevance to the regional standards development process and activities, including the 35 standards currently being developed under the CROSQ/IDF-MIF Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) project and the procedures for mandatory regional standards.

A revision to the standard for the specifications for the Labelling of Retail Packages of Cigarettes was noted as being under development, and it was indicated that Member States adopting or implementing the revised standard when it is completed will be conforming to the requirements of the WHO - FCTC to which they are Signatories or Ratifiers.

The need for preparation of finished standards for publication was addressed, and the roles and responsibilities of the CROSQ Editorial Committee as it relates to the standard development process were discussed. The decision was taken that the Editorial Committee should be convened shortly to address editorial matters of relevance to the CARICOM Regional Standards developed under CROSQ, and this meeting is scheduled for October 1 and 2 in Barbados.

The next TMC Meeting is scheduled for January 2009, to be held in Barbados.

WORLD STANDARDS DAY MESSAGE
The theme of this year’s World Standards Day message is Intelligent and Sustainable buildings. “Energy efficiency, safety, security and communication are issues that are crucial for the construction sector. Sustainability principles combined with state-of-the-art information and communication technology (ICT) will ensure that commercial, government and residential buildings meet these requirements” to quote the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) from their Press Release.

The development and use of standards continues to positively affect society and mankind in wide-ranging disciplines across the globe. Regionally, CROSQ stands committed to play its role in this endeavour.

We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them. - Albert Einstein

CROSQ/IDB-MIF SME Project Workshops

JAMAICA
The Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) held a workshop on July 15 on ‘Standards in the Agro-Processing Industry’. Mrs. Denyse Perkins, president of the Jamaica Agro-processors’ Association gave a presentation on ‘The Importance, Use and Application of Standards in the Agro-Processing/Food Industry’. Participants received a Standards Update from Mrs. Vonetta Nurse-Thompson, Standards Development and Certification Officer at BSJ.

GUYANA
The Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) held a Train-the-Trainers workshop on September 19 which attracted approximately 15 persons. Presentations were made by the CROSQ/IDB-MIF Project Manager, Dr. Michael Seepersaud, on the development of the normative documents, and the feature presentation was on ‘Conformity Assessment’. Both presentations elicited much discussion.

BARBADOS
CROSQ, in collaboration with the Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI), held two half-day workshops in September at the Savannah Hotel. Participants in both workshops were welcomed by CROSQ’s Executive Secretary, Dr. Vyjayanthi Lopez.

The theme of the first workshop which was held on September 23 was ‘Standards and Food Hygiene.’ Participants at this first session heard presentations from CROSQ’s IDB-MIF Project Manager, Dr. Michael Seepersaud, on ‘Good Management Practices’ and Acting Director of BNSI, Ms. Anthea Ishmael, on the ‘Importance of Standards.’ Ms. Ishmael also chaired the discussion on ‘Standards and Food Hygiene.’

The second workshop with the theme ‘Standards and Tourism’ was held on September 24, which targeted tour operators and tour guides. Participants were again introduced to the ‘Importance of Standards’ by Ms. Ishmael and Technical Officer at BNSI, Ms. Renate Sealy.

Renate Sealy, delivered a presentation on ‘Standards and the Tour Operators and Tour Guides’.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS
Plans are under development for further workshops on Tourism, Bottled Water, Labeling of Pre-packaged Foods, and Standards and the EPA. These workshops are scheduled for November 2008 and will be held in Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad.
ABOUT THE BUREAU
Established by the Standards Act of 1992, the Belize Bureau of Standards (BBS) is the national organization for the preparation, promotion and implementation of standards relating to goods, services and processes. The Bureau exists to improve and enhance the quality of products to the consumer; to therein facilitate increase in trade and the use of quality management systems and international standards; and consequently foster economic growth and development.

After the elections of 2008, the new Administration has recognised and emphasised the significance of the Bureau of Standards and its Consumer Protection initiative. The Government of Belize (GOB) has facilitated the enrichment of the Bureau by endorsing the expansion of its financial and human resources fundamental to building its functional and technical capacities.

Prior to this, the Bureau’s staff comprised of four public officers, only two of whom had the technical skills and expertise to execute the Bureau’s mandate. Now with a team of seven technical officers and supporting administrative personnel, the Bureau has a staff of ten public officers with an additional three officers to be recruited within the next fiscal year.

The Bureau comprises of three technical units:
- Standards;
- Metrology; and
- Consumer Protection.

The Standards and Metrology units are responsible for the administration of the Standards Act and Metrology Act respectively, ensuring compliance to the appropriate legislation and mandatory national standards (24 declared national standards, 14 of which are compulsory; and 4 declared national Codes of Practice of which 1 is compulsory) and the inspection & calibration of commercial scales and pumps.

The Consumer Protection Unit, while its governing law is still in the drafting phase, is there to ensure that consumers can seek redress and lodge their complaints on issues of quality and performance of product or service, as well as to create public awareness for consumer issues and to educate the general public about consumer rights and responsibilities.

To compliment the newly boosted Bureau, it has established a toll-free Consumer Protection Hotline to simplify the process for consumers to liaise with the unit.

ACTIVITIES
Apart from the routine function of essentially promoting quality control through standardization and all its subsequent measures, the Bureau also engages in other projects at the regional and international level, and represents Belize at the following organizations:
- CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards & Quality (CROSQ);
- CODEX Alimentarius Commission;
- CODEX Coordination Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean; and
- Inter-American System of Metrology.

Its Consumer Protection Unit also participates in a monthly Pan-American Dialogue organized by the Federal Trade Commission, and conducts regular inspections and market analysis submitted directly to Cabinet. BBS has also increased its participation in regional and international workshops and organizations in an effort to build capacity.

Along with other national standards bodies within CARICOM, BBS is participating in three major projects funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). These projects will help to define and charter an internal strategic plan that will foster the necessary development of the Bureau - a stepping stone on the way to becoming a leading institution in the strengthening of Belize’s competitive edge both domestically and globally.

The Bureau recently participated in the Mass Metrology Workshop from September 8 - 12 held in Jamaica, and the Regional Tobacco Control Workshop in Jamaica on August 12 - 15. BBS is currently preparing for World Standards Day on 14 October 2008 and the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) Workshop this year, November 9 - 11, to be held in Belize.

WORKS IN PROGRESS
Some works in progress include four draft national standards in the final stages of the standards development process:
- Red Kidney Beans;
- Tobacco;
- Organic Agricultural Production; and
- Bread & bread rolls.

The Bureau has also established networks with the municipal governing bodies in an effort to have uniform and consistent support at the national level and continues to work toward continued sustainable long-term growth and development. With continued support from central government, the future of the Belize Bureau of Standards is secure and its on-going efforts to positively impact the Belizean consumer will be successful.
ISO Contest for Young Standardizers

HELUM REIHING 2008 INTERNATIONAL AWARD
The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) held the fifth edition of the bi-annual Contest for Young Standardizers in Developing Countries in May 2008. The purpose of the contest was to encourage young professionals in developing countries and economies in transition to engage in international standardization and to raise awareness of the importance of standards in promoting safe and sustainable economic development.

According to Alan Bryden, ISO Secretary-General: “In a globalized world, public policies can no longer be developed and implemented in isolation when they impact on trade, health, security and the environment. Increasingly, the use and referencing of standards, based on the consensus of stakeholders, form part of good regulatory practices and good public governance”. The theme for the 2008 competition was therefore “International standards supporting public policies”. Young standardizers were encouraged to explore the new relations between public policies and international standards and illustrate how the latter can assist public authorities to comply with widely accepted principles and objectives.

The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) entered this competition for the first time in May 2008 with an essay written by Mr Ryan Biran, Standards Officer 1 in the Standardization Division. Mr Biran’s main portfolio at TTBS includes the formulation of telecommunications and ICT-based standards for the local industry. With this in mind, his paper focused on the defining role of international standardization and public policy in the context of globalization and development. It further discussed the causal link between standardization and policy development in the information and communication technology (ICT) industry and concluded by recommending a framework, incorporating international standardization, for growth, performance, and development in developing countries.

On 2 September 2008, TTBS was informed by the ISO Central Secretariat that Mr Biran was the winner of the ISO Contest for Young Standardizers and will be awarded the Helmut Reihlen 2008 Award. As such, he was invited to participate in the 42nd Meeting of the Committee for Developing Country Matters (DEVCO) and the 31st ISO General Assembly from 12 to 17 October 2008 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The award consists of a cash prize, as well as, a return ticket to Dubai and hotel accommodation for the entire ISO event. The award ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday 14 October 2008.

Although he is now part of an elite group, Mr Biran credits his success to hard-work, diligence, a positive work environment and the continuous support from colleagues. He also thanked Mr Deryck Omar, TTBS Executive Director, for the confidence to submit this essay on behalf of TTBS.

The TTBS delegation for the 42nd DEVCO meeting and the 31st ISO General Assembly will include Mr Deryck Omar, Executive Director, Mr Errol Rampaul, Head, Standardization Division, Ms Ronah Persad, Quality Manager and Mr Ryan Biran, Standards Officer I.

Regional Lab Personnel Attend Training in Jamaica

A Mass Metrology Workshop was held in Jamaica from 8 - 12 September 2008. The workshop addressed the needs relevant to laboratories in categories A and B and focused on mass and weighing instruments.

The activity was undertaken under the CROSQ Regional Quality Infrastructure (RQI) Project, (funded by the IDB, CROSQ and PTB); in collaboration with PTB, the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS), the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ), and other laboratories from the South and Central American region.

The overall aim of this project component is to enable the National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) of the region to cooperate in a regional network.

Specifically, the proposed training was intended:
- to develop the capability and competence of the A and B Laboratories in Mass and Weighing Machine Calibration so that they can effectively participate in the Regional Network; and
- to ensure that the national physical standards are maintained and relevant service provided efficiently.

Twenty-one participants from across the CARICOM territories attended, with representatives from countries such as Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname.

Informative presentations were given by Ms. GISelle Guevara, Project Coordinator, CROSQ/EDF Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Services (CLAS) project on ‘An Introduction to ISO/IEC 17025’; and Mr. Francis Hamilton from TTBS who spoke on ‘An Introduction to Basic Metrology.’

Additionally, Mr. Tweedsmuir Mitchell, Mr. Sheldon Walker and Mr. David Elliston of BSJ jointly presented on the topic ‘An Introduction to Mass and Weighing Instruments Calibration Methodologies’, and Mr. Luis Omar Becerra of CENAM in Mexico spoke on the “Operation Principles of Different Types of Weighing.”

Mr. Juan Carlos Castillo from IBMETRO in Bolivia provided an informative presentation on ‘Inter-comparisons (Planning and Conducting)’, while Mr. Francisco Garcia of CESMEC in Chile, Mr. Friedrich Pietsch from PTB, Germany and Mr. Becerra simulated practical calibration exercises for the audience’s benefit and learning.
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.

RELOCATION IN THE WORKS
The CROSQ Secretariat, currently situated in Belleville in Barbados, has found a new location to accommodate its growing number of staff members. Relocation activities and plans are still under development but it is expected that the Secretariat will have moved into its new site by the end of this year.

MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TOURISM
The Regional Technical Committee for Tourism (RTC-6) met on September 30 to discuss standards for Tour Guides, Tour Operators, Short term Car Rentals and Tourist Accommodation, as well as the work plan for the committee.

In attendance at the meeting were:
- Ms. Kim Osborne, Organisation of American States (OAS);
- Ms. Mareba Scott, Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO);
- Ms. Loreto Fuffy-Mayers, Green Hotel Certification;
- Ms. Nadia Pacquette-Anselm, Dominica Bureau of Standards (DBS);
- Ms. Renate Sealy, Barbados National Standards Institute (BNSI); and
- Mr. Julius James, St. Lucia Bureau of Standards (SLBS).

Dr. Michael Seepersaud, CROSQ/IDB-MIF Project Manager, and Ms. Anne Marie Sirju, Technical Officer of CROSQ were also present as observers.

The meeting was held successfully, with the finalization of the drafts for the standards for Tourism Accommodation and Short Term Vehicle Rentals.

The next RTC-6 meeting is scheduled for January 2009.

CDM EDUCATION SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE
CROSQ was in attendance at the First Meeting of the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Education Sector Sub-Committee of the CDM Coordination and Harmonization Council (CHC), held in Barbados on 8 August 2008. The meeting looked at the particular functions of the sub-committee and began to develop steps for the way forward for this committee and its required outputs. The next meeting is scheduled for 8 December 2008 at the CDM Conference to be held in Barbados (December 8 - 12).

The work towards the development of a regional Information and Communication and Technology for Development (ICT4D) strategy and Action Plan will continue when the members of the Regional ICT Steering Committee meet in Barbados 13-17 October.

The meeting will bring together representatives from Member States of the Caribbean Forum of African Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM), other Regional and international organisations, representatives of private sector and civil society and the CARICOM Secretariat. This meeting is a follow-up from the meeting of the Committee in May of this year where it was agreed that the Committee would meet to develop a draft action plan to augment the development of a regional strategy.

In Barbados four working groups will outline specific deliverables of the draft action plans. The Working Groups that will meet are: Capacity Building; Access Connectivity and Internet Governance; Legal and regulatory Framework; and Business, Trade, Culture and Disaster Management.

In addition to reporting on the work of their Working Groups delegates will also review the draft framework of the Regional ICT4D Strategy. The Draft Framework and Action plan are to be presented to the next Meeting of ICT Ministers of the Caribbean Community.

The Regional ICT Steering Committee was established in 2004 and brings together a range of expertise and is organised in sub-committees. The Regional ICT Steering Committee serves as an advisory and support body to the CARICOM Secretariat identifying issues relevant to ICT4D and the Information Society and providing technical advice and briefs.

Draft Regional ICT Development Action Plan on the Agenda

Promoting Regional Quality Infrastructure
Photo Gallery Of Events

Delegates at the ICC Conference

Participants of the SME Tourism workshop

Staff of Belize Bureau of Standards during a Christmas celebration

Jens Koch, PTB; Deenish Maharaj, CROSQA; and Alexis Valqui, PTB during the PTB visit

Participants at the Accreditation workshops in Trinidad involved in a brainstorming session

Giselle Guevara speaking at an Accreditation workshop held in Barbados
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>Bahamas Chamber of Commerce, Globalization and Competitiveness</td>
<td>Nassau, Bahamas</td>
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<td>Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 6-8</td>
<td>Regional Workshop on Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and Environment</td>
<td>Santiago/Chile</td>
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<td>October 6-9</td>
<td>Twenty-Ninth Special Meeting of the COTED (Agriculture)</td>
<td>St. Vincent &amp; the Grenadines</td>
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<td>October 6-10</td>
<td>Management of Quality Service Workshop</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
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<td>October 8-11</td>
<td>2008 World Export Development Forum</td>
<td>Montreux, Switzerland</td>
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<td>October 13-15</td>
<td>Caribbean Shipping Association Annual General Meeting, Conference &amp;</td>
<td>Port-of-Spain, Trinidad</td>
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<td>Exhibition</td>
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<td>October 13-17</td>
<td>Sub-Committee Meetings of the Regional ICT Steering Committee</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
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<td>October 16-19</td>
<td>Healthy Caribbean 2008: A Wellness Revolution Conference</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
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<td>October 17-19</td>
<td>Culinary Heritage Exposition</td>
<td>Nevis</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
<td>Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (External Trade)</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
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<td>October 29-31</td>
<td>Sixth Annual Caribbean Internet Forum</td>
<td>Port-of-Spain, Trinidad</td>
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<td>November 3</td>
<td>Regional Forum on Intellectual Property: How to identify and value intangible assets</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
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<td>November 5-8</td>
<td>Island of the World Fashion</td>
<td>Nassau, Bahamas</td>
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<td>November 10-11</td>
<td>Caribbean International Leadership Summit 2008</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
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<td>November 17-18</td>
<td>CARICOM-Canada Business Forum: New Directions for Bilateral Trade and Investment Linkages</td>
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<td>November 24-25</td>
<td>First CARIFORUM-EU Business Forum</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
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<td>November 24-25</td>
<td>Twenty-sixth Ministerial Meeting of COTED</td>
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<td>November 26-28</td>
<td>First Americas Hub Conference: New Horizons - New Opportunities</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
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<td>December 1-3</td>
<td>CCAA 32nd Miami Conference on the Caribbean and Central America</td>
<td>Miami, Florida</td>
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<td>December 8</td>
<td>Third CARICOM-Cuba Summit</td>
<td>Cuba</td>
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<td>December 8-12</td>
<td>Third Caribbean Conference on Disaster Risk Management: CDM - A Catalyst for Change</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
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<td>December 16-17</td>
<td>Latin American and Caribbean Summit</td>
<td>Salvador de Bahia, Brazil</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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