“The Importance of Standards & Quality – The Role of CROSQ”.

CROSQ – CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality
• Anne Marie Sirju – CROSQ Technical Officer
The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) is an Inter-Governmental Organisation created by the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
11/3/2008 The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and Standardisation
CROSQ’S Mandate

• To harmonise and promulgate Regional standards
• To facilitate international competitiveness
• To increase regional and international trade
• To facilitate the sustainable production of goods and services in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)
• The enhancement of social and economic development
CROSQ’s Objectives

- The Development of Regional Standards
- To facilitate the establishment of internationally recognized Quality, Testing, Calibration, Inspection and Certification systems
- To enhance the international competitiveness of regional goods and services by fostering a culture of quality in regional enterprises
CROSQ’s Objectives…

- To provide guidance to Organs and Bodies of the CSME, including trade dispute settlements
- To promote and protect the interests of Member States and Associate Members in Regional and International Standards Fora
- To promote the awareness of standards-related matters including technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and metrology
Development Road Map

1975 - 2002

The Caribbean Common Market Standards Council

2002 - 2003

Agreement Establishing CROSQ signed by Governments

2003 - 2006

CROSQ Secretariat in place; Regional Quality Infrastructure (RQI) being established

2006 - 2009

International Recognition of the RQI (MSTQ)
Establishing a Regional Quality Infrastructure (RQI)
### Progress in Establishing The RQI (MSTQ)

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<tr>
<th>NATIONAL LEVEL</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Training/Workshops in WTO TBT and Metrology</td>
<td>To build capacity of the Member States re: international requirements</td>
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<td>2 Representation of Member States in Trade Negotiations</td>
<td>To support understanding of role in international Standards Development negotiations</td>
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<td>3 Technical Assistance</td>
<td>Laboratory equipment for strengthening Metrology (Measurement Capability) infrastructure in region</td>
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<td>4 Participation in development and use of harmonised Regional Standards</td>
<td>Reduces the cost of development at national level, while supporting national interests.</td>
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### Progress in Establishing the RQI (MSTQ)

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<th>REGIONAL LEVEL</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CROSQ establishing links with International bodies (ISO; CODEX; WTO; EU;ILAC etc)</td>
<td>For recognition of the Regional MSTQ model as established in support of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Implementation of regional projects to support the RQI</td>
<td>To provide the necessary regional infrastructure for recognition by international organisations</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>CROSQ Projects in Regional Metrology; Regional Standardisation; Regional Testing Infrastructure and Regional Quality Assurance mechanisms.</td>
<td>The deepening of the regional model which recognises the strengths and weaknesses of individual Member States in the Single Market.</td>
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Establishing the RQI
e.g.: Metrology

- **2004**
  - Strengthening of relationship between CROSQ and CARIMET (Metrology Organisation for the Caribbean)
- **2004-2005**
  - Approval of projects to strengthen Regional Technical Capacity in Metrology
- **2005**
  - Recognition of the Regional model (CARICOM membership in CGPM; CROSQ signs the CGPM/CIPM MRA)
- **2006-2009**
  - Establishing an internationally-recognised Regional Metrology Infrastructure (With grant funding – IMF/PTB Project)
Government Relations

The CROSQ Regional (RQI) Model
(Interdependent State Partnership Model)

- Developing the standards and technical specifications
- Ensuring participation through policy and training,
- Ensuring compliance with mandatory regulations
- Access of all Member States to Internationally recognized Regional resources

REGION’S Publics /Civil Society
REGION’S Private Sector
REGION’S Member States

The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and Standardisation
Customers Want Integrated Solutions
CROSQ Regional (RQI) Model
Interdependent Resource Sharing Model

Based on Regional Auditing, Assessing & Verification

- REGIONAL Quality Assurance Mechanism
- REGIONAL Standards Infrastructure
- REGIONAL Metrology Infrastructure
- REGIONAL Testing Infrastructure

Implementation at National levels

Accreditation of Medical and Testing laboratories

Regional application of National competencies with International recognition

11/3/2008

The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and Standardisation
CROSQ’s PROJECTS

- SME PROJECT (IDB – MIF)
- CTO Hospitality Assured Program
- CDERA Hazard Mapping Project
- Regional Building STANDARDS (CDB)
- RQI / METROLOGY PROJECT (IDB – PTB)
General Objectives of SME Project
CROSQ’s 1st Project – started 2006

1. Strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

2. Involve SMEs in industry, country and region-wide standardisation efforts

3. To facilitate trade in goods and services

4. Promote regional, hemispheric and global integration
Specific Project Objectives

1. Deepen the existing regional model for standardisation and technical standard setting

2. Demonstrate to the public and private sector the strategic importance of standards in facilitating trade

3. Demonstrate that the application of standards will ensure sustainability

4. Facilitate greater stakeholder involvement and investment in standards development
Project Description

- The Project has four components
  1. Awareness-raising activities
  2. Development of standards and conformity assessment guidelines
  3. Training
  4. A national and regional information system
Component 2: Development Of Standards & Quality Assessment Guidelines

- Activities...

Development of harmonised standards and conformity assessment guidelines (based on national and regional technical requirements identified for major regional and international export markets)
Project Benefits

1. Build awareness of the importance of standardisation and conformity assessment in regional stakeholders

2. Develop a body of relevant regional standards to assist targeted export industries

3. Deepen the process for harmonising of standards to promote integration, improve market access and facilitate trade

4. Provide practical information on technical requirements, regulations, standards, acceptable tests and certificates
How To Contact Us…

- Our website: http://www.crosq.org

- Email: crosq.caricom@crosq.org
QUESTIONS???

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to assisting you in your standardization endeavours.