Regional Competitiveness

- Through Quality and Quality Infrastructure Development
Presentation Format

• What is CROSQ? - What do we do?
• How can we cooperate?
What is CROSQ?
&
What do we do?
What is CROSQ?

CROSQ is the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality:

• Council - board of directors
• Secretariat (based in Barbados) - technical specialists, resource mobilizers, network brokers, project managers (5 TOs and 2 PCs)
• Regional Special Committees - Standards, Metrology, Accreditation and Conformity Assessment, Quality Promotions and TBT
Operationally, CROSQ is the cooperative network of the 15 National Standards Bureaux (NSBs) of the Member States of CARICOM working towards:

- Harmonize **standards** and **technical regulations**.

- Ensure transparency and effective regional **stakeholder consultation** in the development and **implementation** of regional standards.

- Help to develop and share **Metrology** infrastructure and systems between Member States.

- Promote the mutual recognition of **conformity assessment procedures** across trading nations - inspections, testing, certifications.
• Help Conformity Assessment bodies to become accredited to international standards – labs, inspection and certification bodies

• Offer technical assistance and resource mobilization opportunities to educational institutions, private or state-owned companies or agencies or other entities in the Community and familiarizing them with the application of standards and standards-related matters.

• Provide guidance to Community Organs and Bodies regarding matters of QI development, including disputes settlement.

• Facilitating quality infrastructure (QI) development at the national and regional levels, to international standards.
In Summary, CROSQ is involved in:

- Trade facilitation
- Enhancing efficiency with the private sector in the production and delivery of goods and services
- Improving the quality of goods and services traded within the Community and with third states
- Securing consumer and environmental protection
- Advancing a quality culture in CARICOM
- Developing, promoting and facilitating the use of an accessible, affordable, internationally recognized RQI
How can we Cooperate?
- Three ways
(1) Reminder Messaging
Reminder: Quality is Everyone’s Responsibility

Quality is not an act, it’s a habit – Aristotle (3rd Century BC)

Quality is the best business plan

Quality is not a problem to be solved; it’s a business strategy

Quality means doing it right when nobody is looking

Quality is something that is remembered long after the price is forgotten

Quality is doing something better today, that you did it yesterday
• Don’t be afraid of chaos theory and complex adaptive thinking. The journey of a 1000 miles begins with one step.
• One size does not fit all - things need to be fit for purpose - optimize and one day, evolve - you do not walk alone
• Anyplace is a good place to start; Q and QI is contagious - it spreads
• There is no best way; but there is always a better way. So just start.
• Don’t reinvent the wheel - adopt and adapt
• Don’t let others define your reality for you - define it how you will use it and get it funded
• Its not “challenge and gaps” - its “opportunities for development”
• You don’t need institutions, you just need people to coordinate – start with what you have – the coalition of the willing and able
• Don’t think that you are always playing catch - up; there are many at this stage of development
(2) Where to Start:

Ready to take off in regards knowing what to do and where to head, But not too sure what is the next step and how to take it?
National Quality Policy

Strategy

Legislation

People - PM & TO: look for QI problems and solve them

Systems: solve them, sustainably by cooperative networks of people

Institutional Constructs

Target Sectors and partner with donors/technical organizations for support

Design and implement NQI demonstration projects – Trade, PSD, VCs etc
Institutional Resources to Start

Programme Manager
• Coordinate the development of the National Quality Infrastructure
• Build and maintain relationships with Development Partners.
• Mobilise resources in support of National Quality Infrastructure development – network government, private sector and donors; write proposals and win them; and outsource project implementation
• Implement National action plans, programmes and projects.

Technical Officer (TO) (specialist or generalist)
• Provide national technical guidance
• Coordinate the work of national technical experts and development etc.
• Represent the interests of the FICs at international and hemispheric fora.
• Provide technical advisory services to the Programme Manager.
• Later on : add other TOs
(3) Action Mentoring
(Share information, knowledge & Experiences)
• **National Level**: Suriname Standards Bureau & Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards & Costa Rica / Colombia & Netherlands

• **Regional Level**: Observer for a time on CROSQ Regional Technical Committees:
  • Standards
  • Metrology
  • Accreditation and Conformity Assessment
  • Quality Promotions
THANK YOU!!

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