Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Trade and Industry

Quality for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean (QSEC) Project Closure Event

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

SENATOR THE HONOURABLE PAULA GOPEE-SCOON
MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

FEBRUARY 28TH, 2024

mti
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
MINISTRY OF TRADE
AND INDUSTRY

Salutations

- Senator the Honourable Penelope Beckles-Robinson, Minister of Planning and Development
- Senator the Honourable Marvin Gonzales, Minister of Public Utilities
- Mr. Lawford Dupres, Chairman and other Members of the Board of Directors of TTBS
- Mr. José E. Trejo, Executive Director of TTBS
- Members of the TTBS Board of Directors
- Members of the Media
- Specially invited guests
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,
It is indeed a pleasure for me to deliver the Keynote Address at today's Quality for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean (QSEC) Project Closure event. I especially wish to thank the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) for funding this important initiative and the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) for their unwavering support in ensuring the success of the Project.

We are pleased to be part of this regional pilot which aims to develop energy efficiency quality infrastructure services for selected domestic appliances, specifically - light bulbs, refrigerators and air conditioning units.

Achievements of the QSEC Project

The Quality for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean (QSEC) Project has been very successful as it has helped to build the technical capacity of two regional testing laboratories in Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica; piloted the Energy Efficiency Labelling Programme in five (5) CARICOM Co -participating Countries (Belize, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic); and developed a Regional Model Guide for the seamless functioning of an Energy Efficiency Labelling Programme. It also developed a Regional Database for the sharing of energy efficiency test results on the selected appliances.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG 7, focuses on the use of Affordable and Clean Energy through the development of innovative energy solutions. The completion of this QSEC Project contributes to the achievement of this SDG.

Green Manufacturing Initiative (GMI)

This Project is also aligned with the Green Manufacturing Initiative (GMI) which will be launched in April 2024. The GMI will largely assist all (small, medium and large) manufacturers in the non-energy sector with adopting or improving green manufacturing practices including the use of

energy efficient products, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, the recycling of waste materials and the production of eco-friendly packaging and biodegradable products.

As the Government encourages the manufacturing sector to move towards green manufacturing processes, having the appropriate quality infrastructure in the form of testing laboratories and labelling standards, will provide the support needed for their transition.

Impact of the QSEC Project

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), in its "Energy Efficiency 2021" Report, there has been a notable global trend towards greater energy efficiency. The Report highlights that energy efficiency improvements play a significant role in reducing energy demand growth and, consequently, greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, the IEA noted that global energy efficiency improvements contributed to reduced energy-related carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 10% over the past decade.

This transition towards greater energy efficiency underscores CARICOM countries' commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions which mitigates the impact of harmful Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) on the environment. Based on these developments, the National Development Strategy (Vision 2030) and the National Environment Policy (2018) prioritize energy conservation and efficiency as critical pillars in our development agenda. These issues are also in congruence with Trinidad and Tobago's obligations under the Paris Agreement, which seek to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to safeguard the planet for future generations.

Regional Database

The implementation of the Regional Database would facilitate the sharing of energy efficiency test results on selected appliances and light bulbs which would be generated out of the Energy Efficiency Laboratories in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. This would contribute to enhancing the quality infrastructure across the region as those countries without the testing facilities can draw on the database for information.

Energy Efficiency Laboratory

As an embodiment of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to promoting greater energy efficiency, this country invested over TT$380,000 in partnership with PTB, CROSQ and the Ministry of Planning and Development's Global Environment Fund (GEF) Project to outfit an Energy Efficiency Laboratory. In November 2022, I had the pleasure to launch this Laboratory - the first of its kind in our Region at the facilities of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS). I am aware that during Day 1 of this event both virtual and physical tours of the Energy Efficient

Laboratory were conducted. This state-of-the-art laboratory positions Trinidad and Tobago as the first Regional Centre of Excellence for testing the energy efficiency of lighting products and is a significant milestone for this country and the wider CARICOM Region.

The establishment of the Energy Efficiency Lab is another testament of the Government's ongoing commitment to improving energy efficiency and strengthening our national energy policies and regulatory frameworks.

Energy Efficiency Labelling Programme

The Energy Efficiency Labelling Programme involved testing of CFL's and LEDS against the energy efficiency labelling standards. These test were conducted at the newly launched Energy Efficiency Lab which utilises international and regional standards for testing performance and labelling requirements of lighting products.

To date, TTBS has tested twenty-two (22) batches of LED lighting samples and two (2) batches of CFL lighting samples locally and four (4) batches of LEDs and one (1) batch of CFLs from the region.

What is alarming is that after conducting labelling tests on some local CFL and LED samples, they failed to meet the standard, indicating a deficiency in labelling practices. Furthermore, the performance testing showed that LED samples failed to meet the requirements of the international standard. The CFL samples also produced similar results.

In the regional piloting countries of Jamaica and Barbados, similar trends in testing outcomes were observed. In Jamaica, all tested LED and CFL samples failed to meet both labelling and performance standards. In Barbados, while there was an improvement in LED labelling compliance, with 50% passing, all LED samples failed performance testing.

These statistics are indicative of a need to implement rigorous quality control procedures to ensure greater adherence to international standards for lighting products.

To overcome these challenges, concerted efforts are required to strengthen regulatory frameworks, enhance product testing and certification processes and foster greater collaboration among stakeholders to create a more resilient and sustainable energy environment in the Region.

In response, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), through the Bureau, intends to enforce the National Standard for LEDs and CFLs with the new Energy Efficiency Lab testing all models of bulbs on sale in the local market for conformance. This will reduce the supply of sub-standard and non-conforming LED and CFL products on the market.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen, we celebrate the closure of this transformative Project, I wish to acknowledge the contributions of all stakeholders for their assistance, insights and visionary leadership during its implementation-from start to finish. I especially recognise CROSQ, INDOCAL, PTB and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. I also wish to acknowledge the support of the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ministry of Public Utilities in facilitating this innovative project in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Quality for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean Project stands as a beacon of innovation and collaboration in our pursuit of a cleaner, more efficient energy future for the Caribbean region.

As we move forward, let us remain committed to the principles of sustainability, quality, and inclusivity, ensuring that every step we take leads us closer to a greener and more prosperous tomorrow. Together, let us continue to harness the power of partnership and innovation to create a legacy of sustainable energy for generations to come.

I thank you.