



MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

Standards have a key role in building manufacturing and export capacity



Trade Minister (right) with Ms. Erica Caruth, Head Metrology Division (left) during a tour of the Metrology Laboratory

October 14, 2015:- Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry delivered the Feature Address at the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards' World Standards Day celebrations themed '*Standards, the world's common language*' on Wednesday 14 October, 2015 at the Bureau's Head Office, Macoya Industrial Estate.

Speaking to a packed audience of TTBS staff members, Senator Gopee-Scoon acknowledged the important role national standards

play in the development of a country. She said '*national standards play a major role in supporting national strategies aimed at trade competitiveness, economic diversification and the sustainable development of our country*'. She added that '*a key role of the Ministry is to grow our national manufacturing base. In this context, I greatly appreciate the role of standards and quality in building up our national manufacturing, and export capacity. This focus on quality is essential if we are to have our products and services successfully traded and marketed within the region and in the wider global community*'.

Minister Gopee-Scoon noted however that although the TTBS role in shaping the national quality and trade competitiveness is vital, there are also other significant national capacity building measures that need to be addressed. She stated that these included '*increasing our production capacity, improving our labour productivity and accelerating innovation in the development of value-added goods and services as we strive to ramp up our exports*'. Senator Gopee-Scoon gave the commitment of the Ministry to work closely with the TTBS to ensure the successful execution of its twin mandates under the Standards Act (No. 18 of 1997) and the Metrology Act (No. 18 of 2004). She assured the Bureau's staff that the '*Ministry will take a leading role in ensuring the implementation of this important piece of*

Legislation so that our national institutions and the private sector can take advantage of a world class system of measurement that is internationally recognized’.

In highlighting the strategic focus of the Bureau, Dr. Puran Bridgemohan, Chairman, TTBS noted that *‘TTBS has undertaken a number of initiatives aimed at sensitizing national stakeholders to the need for robust National Quality and disseminating the technical knowledge required for organisations to do their part in this regard’.*

Mr. Theodore Reddock, Acting Executive Director, TTBS encouraged employees to see World Standards Day as a time to *‘rededicate ourselves to standards and use standards as quality and quality to achieve success’.*

While Mr. Errol Rampaul, Head, Standardization Division provided an overview of the Bureau’s significant accomplishments over the 2014-2015 period and its initiatives and projects for the next fiscal year. Ms. Erica Caruth, Head Metrology Division shared with the audience the importance of the Metrology Act and its role in the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI).

The Minister also toured the facilities of the Bureau as part of her visit, including the Metrology Laboratories, Implementation Division, Standards Information Centre, Fabric Laboratory, Electrical Laboratory and Materials Laboratory.

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Contact:

Yolande Agard-Simmons

Manager, Corporate Communications, Ministry of Trade and Industry

Level 17, Nicholas Tower • 63-65 Independence Square • Port of Spain.

Tel: (868) 625-9947/623-2931 ext. 2714 • Fax: (868) 627-3913 • Cell: (868) 499-0770

Email: agard-simmons@gov.tt • Website: www.tradeind.gov.tt

