



**Forum: Metrology – Trade Facilitator
Request for support**



TRINIDAD and TOBAGO

Core Problem:

The core problem is the infrastructural underdevelopment of systems and mechanisms which will assure competence (confidence) in Measurement (M), Standards (S), Testing (T) and Quality (Q). A vital prerequisite for developing countries such as Trinidad & Tobago to inspire and gain the confidence of its trading partners, opening up sustainable Markets (repeat business) for the various commodities it has to trade, in a very global market, ranging from Petrochemicals and Fuels to Agricultural Produce and specialised “niche” market items – tropical fish, cut flowers, honey, sugar, cocoa and tropical fruit. A lack of technical expertise is at the helm – while the political will exists – passing of Metrology Bill in June 2004, some capital investment – there is no resident Organisation which can determine and implement the infrastructure best-suited for the islands, given their own unique situation and needs. An in-depth analysis is required, and a prioritised short, medium and long-term action plan, avoiding the pitfalls which other, more experienced counterparts are able to identify.

Significance of the problem:

With regard to the economy, society, international trade, safety and the environment, the negative impacts are real. Lack of competitiveness in international trade and under pricing and the inability to properly measure Flow, Mass and Volumes, hamper economic growth. With small islands, the environment is critical – safety of beaches, food etc is vital to the tourists and tourism is a significant contributor to employment here. The Government has National Development Plans (available from the GOTT website) and this social and economic policy framework emphasises sustainable development, protection of the environment, improvement in social policies (healthcare, education, labour conditions, care of the disabled, elderly and very young) – these depend on Revenue and once again confidence in Measurement and Quality Assurance are critical.

What is needed:

Support in analysing the entire MSTQ arena, holistically and uniquely from the local standpoint as well as the vital role a country, so strategically located geographically as T&T, like this plays from a global perspective is paramount. The various opinions need to be substantiated by factual investigation and determinations. An assessment of the current state or situation, with vital leads to the way forward is critical – this must be done by experts, who have the technical background, competence and training which is not now available in the Caribbean – there is no formal educational path for anyone to pursue – reliance is purely on trying to imbibe and incorporate ad hoc, piecemeal policies, loosely adopted from what someone “saw” or “heard” at some point in time, having no complete knowledge of either the science or the endeavour, previously.

(Note that a request may be made for support in analysing the MSTQ problems)

Contributions:

The Government is willing to contribute the human resource to do the work, and money for the purchase of equipment. (I currently have a budget of TT\$1,000,000 to spend on equipment purchase. The technical guidance and training are what are not available here. For example, who are the best (or highly recommended) suppliers/manufacturers of this type of specialised Calibration and Test Equipment?

Whom to address:

During the Forum:

Anne Marie Sirju,
Head, Laboratory Services Division (includes Metrology, since TTBS is the legally appointed NMI),
Trinidad & Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS),
Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI),
Trinidad & Tobago

After the Forum:

Executive Director,
Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards,
Trincity Industrial Estate,
Macoya,
Tunapuna,
Trinidad & Tobago,
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OR

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