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# WAQSP NEWS



**2<sup>nd</sup> REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE:**

**A TURNING POINT IN THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WAQSP**



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*PARTENERS' ACTIVITIES*



The West Africa Quality System Program (WAQSP) has taken an important step in implementing its action plan: the 2nd Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee held in Cotonou in October 2016 enabled stakeholders to take stock of activities undertaken so far, identify rooms for improvement and reach a consensus on the next steps. It is a bet made possible by the strong contribution of national experts and especially beneficiary States of the Program. All this shows that the ECOWAS Commission is making great strides in the implementation of its Regional Quality Policy and in particular by accelerating the implementation of the regional quality infrastructure.

Journalists have been sensitized at regional level, the process of institutionalization of National Quality Policies continues. At the country level, the hand is put to the plow and the National Quality Awards are organized with an increasing participation of both private and private actors thus auguring a high level Regional Quality Award. At this level, awareness at national level is conducted concurrently with regional mobilization.

The ECOWAS region is in the throes of a great change, a great positive movement for our economies. The WAQSP funded by the European Union and implemented by

UNIDO plays an important part. Especially that other workshops are open with the ongoing training of more than 100 people in the field of food safety.

Moreover, in the next issue, more will be said about actions carried out in the countries in order to equip member States of the Program with competent human resources that can control and ensure food safety.

Good reading

## ECOWAS QUALITY AWARD: 1<sup>st</sup> edition under preparation *The 1st edition under preparation*

In the framework of the West Africa Quality System Program (WAQSP) which supports the ECOWAS Commission in implementing the Quality Policy of the region (ECOQUAL), it is expected the organization of the ECOWAS Quality Award. For this purpose, the 15 States of the region must first organize their National Quality Awards.

Regarding that we need a strong administrative and technical system for a good organization of these Awards, the WAQSP organized at Dakar in Senegal, a training for key persons of this organization, on the basis of the criteria adopted during the regional workshop held at Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire in February 2016. To date, out of the 8 countries of UEMOA, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso have organized their National Awards, while the 6 left are in the finalization phase of their process as the list of award-winners must be disclosed by October 2016.

With regard to the 7 non-WAEMU States left, it may be noted that Nigeria made good progress. From July 20th to 22nd, the country organized a workshop in order to develop an implementation plan, identify key sub-committees and assign

roles and responsibilities to involved members prior to the implementation of the Nigeria Quality Award (NQ-Awards). The 7 non-WAEMU States left will receive very shortly experts on the ground to support them in launching the process.



## ECOWAS JOURNALISTS TRAINED IN PROMOTING WAQSP AND ECOWAS QUALITY AWARD



The West Africa Quality System Program (WAQSP) held an important training workshop for ECOWAS journalists on Quality infrastructure and the ECOWAS Quality Award from December 8th to 9th 2016 in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). This workshop which brought together some 20 journalists from the whole of ECOWAS countries in addition to Mauritania fits in the framework of the objective of promoting quality culture among Program's interested actors. It aimed to teach journalists Quality Infrastructure notions and criteria of the First ECOWAS Quality Award so as to improve the quality of their relevant papers. As well, on two days various training experts addressed, in turn, the general information and issues related to quality, components of Quality Infrastructure, conduct of the ECOWAS Quality Award, experience of Côte d'Ivoire in terms of organization of the Ivorian Quality Award (PIQ) and the main axes of the communication strategy regarding the ECOWAS Quality Award.

As a reminder the ECOWAS Quality Award has been adopted in 2013 by this ECOWAS



Commission Regulation C/REG.17/12/13 on the adoption of the organization rules of the ECOWAS Quality Award (PCEQ). The first edition is scheduled for the end of June 2017. It is inserted in the framework of WAQSP activities funded by the European Union in the amount of 12 million Euros.

## SITE VISIT: ECOWAS JOURNALISTE AT A CERTIFIED LABORATORY IN ABIDJAN



On the sidelines of the training workshop, the ECOWAS journalists' network has been taking to a tour on the premises of the Laboratory VAGNY Lab on Thursday 8 December 2016. Located in Angré Cocody, (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire), the VAGNY LAB laboratory specializes in quality control of agri-food, industrial and environmental products through microbiological, physico-chemical and biochemical analyzes.

The objective of this visit was to allow journalists to see a practical experience of conformity

assessment. VAGNY lab created since 2001 is accredited for various parameters in microbiology and physico-chemistry since July 2015. Attending journalists have seized the opportunity of this visit to contextualize the theoretical content received in theoretical training in the course of the same day. They were able to visit the rooms of experience and follow the different steps in analysing samples collected from companies.



## INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF NATIONAL QUALITY AWARD: MAURITANIA COMPLIES WITH ITS NATIONAL QUALITY POLICY

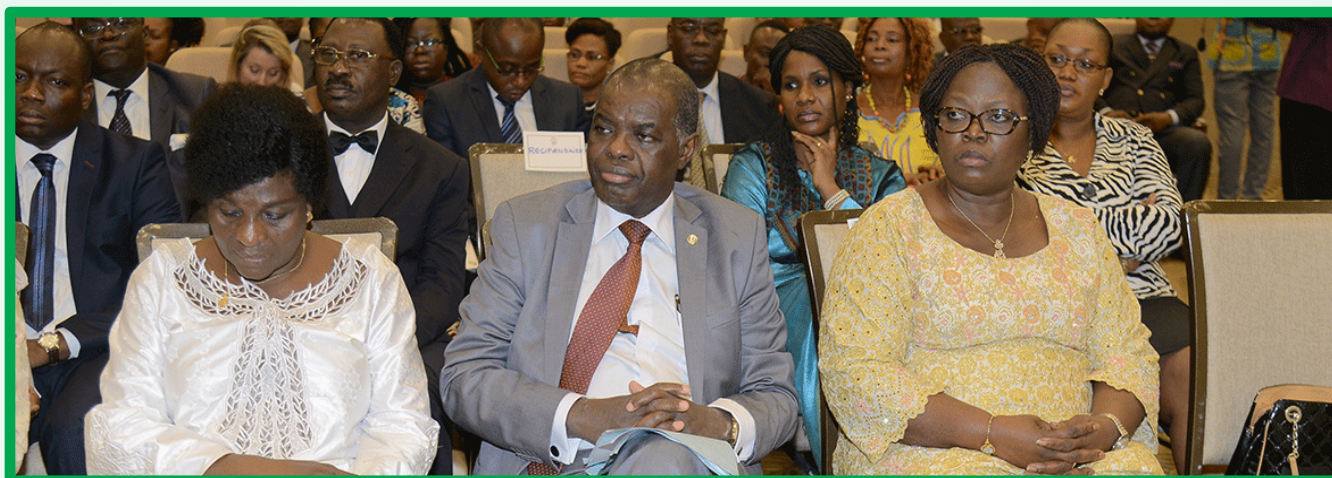


The Republic of Mauritania has institutionalized its National Quality Awards (QNP), like other member countries of ECOWAS benefiting from the West Africa Quality Award (WAQSP). According to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Mauritania, the Award established by National Quality Policy document as adopted by the Government, in the course of the meeting of the Council of Ministers of May 12th 2016 will give a strong impetus to quality in Mauritania. The launch of the first edition of Mauritania Quality Award will benefit from an institutional support and is part of the West Africa Quality System Program (WAQSP) which supports the ECOWAS Commission in the implementation of its Regional Quality Policy (ECOQUAL).

Institutionalization of this Award which stems from the implementation of the National Quality Policy is the result of an inclusive process with all stakeholders, including the directorate of standardization and Quality promotion, Conformity assessment bodies, Employers, Consumers' associations, Association of quality controllers...



## Organization of the Togo Quality Award: WINING COMPANIES REWARDED



On November 10, 2016, the Organizing Committee of the Togo Quality Award proceeded to the official launch of activities, with the opening of registrations for companies interested in applying for. One month after the launch of the Award, several companies registered to participate in the competition.

The ceremony recorded the participation of officials and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Togo (CCIT), and the National Council of Employers of Togo (CNPT), the Togolese Association of Consumers (ATC), the consumers' League of Togo (LCT), the Cabinet NQE, Uranus Group, Q12NT and the Directorate in charge of packaging and legal metrology (DCML). The registration process had been explained to the participants by Mr François F. Kpakpo, President, and Mrs Kossiwoa Lonlonyo ASSAH, Manager of the Togo Quality Award. This was an opportunity for Mr Kalilou TRAORE, ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector Development, to present the programs intended to meeting quality challenges in the Community area. He also took the opportunity to announce the forthcoming organization of the ECOWAS Quality Award in the course of the month of June 2017. Ms Bernadette Essossimna LEGZIM-BALOUKI, Minister of Trade, Industry,

Promotion of private sector and tourism, representing the Prime Minister, presented the challenges facing locally produced products on markets in the current global trading context, as well as actions taken by the Government of Togo to meet these challenges and promote the development of the culture of quality within the populations. On behalf of the Prime Minister, she congratulated award-winners appealing to all economic operators of the country so that they commit in the quality approach.

On the basis of the report issued by auditors and in the Category A, the company Brasserie BB Lomé, level 4, received the Award of Excellence; the Communauté Electrique du Bénin (CEB), Level 2, picked up the Award of Quality Control and the Energie Electrique du Togo (CEET), Level 1, obtained the Award of Commitment to quality.

In category B, Université FORMATEC, level 4, received the Award of Excellence and in category C, the firm Audit et Expertise Comptable (AEC), Level 4, received the Award of Excellence.

## 5th EDITION OF THE BENIN QUALITY AWARD: THE BENINESE GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKES TO SUPPORT ITS REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ECOWAS QUALITY AWARD



In the framework of promoting quality culture and approach in Benin, the Beninese Agency of standardization and quality management (Abénor) assessed and honored a dozen companies during the 5th edition of the Beninese Quality Award. The Awards ceremony was organized on Tuesday, 18 October 2016, at Palais des Congress of Cotonou in the presence of delegations from ECOWAS, WAEMU, EU and of the West Africa Quality System Program (WAQSP).

Colas Afrique in Category A (Large company), AGETIP-Benin in the Category B (medium-size company) and Pharmacie de abattoir in Category C (Small Business) were awarded. Mensah Lawson Héchelli, representative of the ECOWAS Commission, said that the Commissions of WAEMU and ECOWAS

rejoice in the institutionalization of the Quality Award in Benin and in other Member States. For the representative of the European Union, his institution supports these initiatives in the framework of the West Africa Quality System Program funded by his institution in order to promote the competitiveness of the sub-region and develop opportunities for companies in the space to access the European market. He invited the Governments of the West African sub-region to bring political support to the efforts contributing to the quality approach.

The Beninese Minister of Industry, Trade and Crafts, Lazare Sèhouéto, reassured on the commitment of Beninese authorities in announcing that "For 2017, the government plans to make the quality

infrastructure a priority because otherwise, Benin would face big difficulties in economy at sub-regional and international levels. It is also an issue of public health, protection of consumers and business sustainability ". He finally congratulated winning companies for their efforts.

## ECOWAS QUALITY AWARD: NIGER GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO ENVISAGE THE REGIONAL AWARD



The Republic of Niger designated its representatives to the WAEMU and ECOWAS Quality Awards. They are respectively: La Laitière du Sahel in Category B and SOGEA SATOM Niger in Category A. They were both winners of the Award of Excellence (corresponding to level IV of National Awards) at the end to the Niger Quality Award.

The construction company, *SOGEA SATOM du Niger* received the Award of Excellence in Category A, during the 5th edition of WAEMU Award, organized in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 24 November 2016. The Director General of SOGEA SATOM was received by the Prime Minister of Niger, Brigi Rafini at a meeting

attended by the Minister of Industry, Abdou Mamane, his Chief of Staff, his Deputy Secretary-General and several other officials. The Prime Minister welcomed this distinction and urged the leaders of the company to continue in the same direction, especially regarding the ECOWAS Quality Award.

Moreover, he appealed to all the companies of Niger to follow the example of SOGEA SATOM and "Laitière du Sahel", the two representatives of Niger at the ECOWAS Quality Award.

## NIGERIA LAUNCHES ITS FIRST NATIONAL QUALITY AWARD



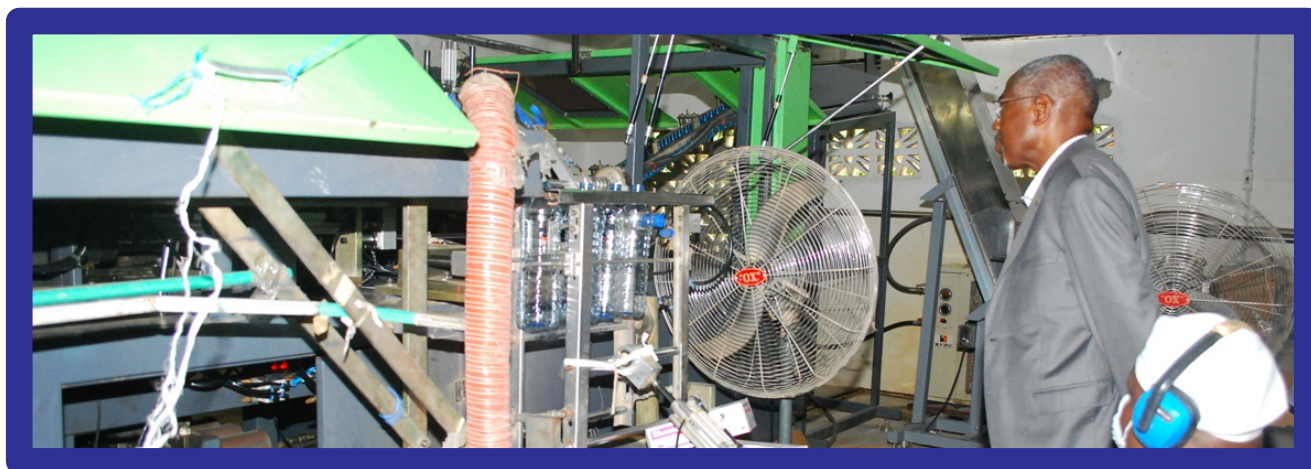
On April 20th 2017, Nigeria proceeded to the official launch of its first National Quality Award. In his message read by Chuma Ezedinma who was representing him, the Regional Director Jean Bakole recalled that the rules of this Award were aligned on those of ECOWAS RQ-awards. The representative of the EU delegation in Nigeria, Nadia Cannata, emphasized the advantages of the launch of the

National Quality Award for the promotion of a culture of quality in Nigeria. She promised the support of the EU in the work of the National Committee of the Quality Award (QANC).

The competition is open to any company operating on the territory of Nigeria, depending on its size and category.

Source: [www.ninqa.org](http://www.ninqa.org)

## VISIT OF THE CENTRAL LABORATORY FOR FOOD SAFETY CONTROL (LCSSA): ECOWAS INQUIRES ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM ON THE LABORATORY



Taking advantage of his presence in Cotonou (Benin) in the framework of the holding of the 2th Meeting of the Regional Expanded Committee of WAQSP, the Commissioner at WAEMU in charge of the Department Enterprises, Energy, Telecoms and Tourism, made a field visit, on Monday, 17 October 2016, to the Central Laboratory for Food Safety Control (LCSSA). He represented his counterpart of the ECOWAS Commission in charge of Industry and Promotion of private sector and led a delegation composed of the representatives of TBT-EU and PTB programs, Mensan Hechelly Lawson, Director of industry at ECOWAS, Adelaide Belemsigri, Director of standardization and Quality promotion at WAEMU. For reminder, LCSSA laboratory was accredited in March 2016 by BELAC (Belgian organization of accreditation). It will be evaluated for accreditation by the regional system of accreditation of ECOWAS, in particular through the West Africa System of Accreditation (SOAC). The objective of this visit was on the one hand, to see the impacts of the accreditation on the

activities and services of LCSSA and on the other hand, to measure the potential of the laboratory in terms of expansion of its activities at the regional level. In his remarks, the Director of LCSSA, Mr. Kinnou Kisito Chabi SIKKA mentioned that he enjoyed training in quality and accreditation during Phases 1 and 2 of the WAQSP. As the Director of LCSSA, he thanked the WAQSP for its support to the laboratory. "Companies contact us for various services here in Benin and in the sub-region. There is a change in mentality of Beninese authorities who expressed their availability for more support to the laboratory," he said. He wished to remind that LCSSA enjoyed support during Phases 1 and 2 of the Program up to the obtaining of the accreditation. In terms of recommendation, Mr. Lawson asked him to strengthen the collaboration with consumers' associations.

The meeting was ended with the visit of the different departments of the Laboratory.

## VISIT OF THE CERTIFIED COMPANY FIFA: ECOWAS MEASURES THE IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE FOR QUALITY

On October 17th 2016, on the sidelines of the CRP meeting, an ECOWAS / WAEMU delegation leaded by Guy Amédée AJANOUHON Commissioner at WAEMU representing his counterpart of at ECOWAS, visited at Tori (30 km from Cotonou), the production plant of mineral water of named FIFA. This company was certified in the frame of the WAQSP - phase 2. It won the Beninese Quality Award together with the WAEMU Quality Award in 2015.

The purpose of the visit was to measure the impact of the certification. Under the leadership of the Deputy Director General of the company, the delegation visited the units of laboratory, the production hall and collected explanations regarding the mechanism of production within the factory. In terms of benefits,

The Deputy GM informed that the company had to expand its staff to cope with the increase in the customer base as a result of a better image against consumers. The company even launched a new packaging on the market. He thanked the WAQSP for its support in the quality approach. "Thanks to

the accompaniment of the Program, the company aims to obtain the certification ISO 2000," he said to the delegation.





## 2nd REGIONAL MEETING OF THE EXPANDED STEERING COMMITTEE: A NEW TURNING POINT



Benin housed on 18 and 19 October 2016, the 2nd meeting of the Regional Expanded Steering Committee of the West Africa Quality System Program (WAQSP). The works took place at Novotel Hôtel in Cotonou with the participation of all the key actors involved in the implementation of the Program. The main objective was to inform on the current level of implementation of the PSQAO and collect recommendations for a better implementation of the next phase.

On the occasion of the ceremony Mr. Bernard BAU, Head of the Program, indicated that the current phase was part of the logic of developing a Quality Infrastructure within ECOWAS area, essential to promote the industrial sector and accompany the economic growth of the member States. At this stage, an approximate achievement rate of 50% was reached despite the delay observed in its startup. Guy Amédée AJANOUHON Commissioner at WAEMU, representative of the ECOWAS Commission, welcomed the support of the European Union and the accompaniment of States in the implementation of the Quality Infrastructure in the West African region as well as definition of National Quality Policies within member States. He moreover rejoiced about the introduction of the ECOWAS Quality Award whose objective is to encourage businesses,

companies and production units of the region to commit resolutely in the quality approach. For Amzat salami, Secretary General of the Department of Industry, Trade and Crafts representing the Minister, this 2nd CRP was " a step for new orientation of activities in order to achieve more conclusive results ...In fact, the situation of our national & regional quality infrastructure concerns at the highest level because it raises the question of competitiveness of our products and contribution to enhancing the value of our resources. The Common External Tariff (CET), the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between our sub-region and European Union, in the domain of trade, as well as agreements at the level of the World Trade Organization (WTO), are all challenges to face and constitute pressures for acceleration of ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure implementation ...". He stressed that before officially launching the works.



## Fifth restricted steering committee of the WAQSP



The fifth restricted steering committee of the West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP) was held on October 31st, October 2016 at the European Union Embassy in Abuja (Nigeria). Chaired by Mr Kalilou TRAORE, ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Industry and Private Sector Promotion, the meeting deliberated on the following main points of the agenda:

- a. Analysis of the state of implementation of recommendations of previous meeting
- b. Report of the last enlarged Steering Committee meeting held in Cotonou
- c. State of implementation of the Programme since the last Steering Committee meeting, namely state of implementation of the acceleration measures
- d. Adoption of work plan September 2016 – August 2017
- e. Orientations for the request of the second phase of the WAQSP

The following participants attended the meeting:

- Mr. Juan Casla, Head of Economic Cooperation and Energy Section of the EU Delegation to Nigeria.
- Mr. Frank OKAFOR, Project officer of Economic Cooperation and Energy Section of the EU Delegation to Nigeria.
- Mr. Kalilou TRAORE, ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Industry and Private Sector Promotion.
- Mr. Mensan Hechelli LAWSON, ECOWAS Director of Industry
- Mr. Aminou AKADIRI, FEWACCI Chief Executive Officer.
- Ms. Fatouma M. IBRAHIM, FEWACCI.
- Mr. Bernard BAU, WAQSP Project Manager/UNIDO (joined by phone).
- Mr. Aka Jean Joseph KOUASSI, WAQSP Chief technical Advisor.
- Mr. Doudou NDIAYE, WAQSP Communication Expert.
- Mr. Namalgiebzanga Christian KAFANDO, WAQSP Monitoring & Evaluation Expert.



### *PARTENERS' ACTIVITIES*

Regional workshop for the implementation of the metrology function: Metrology managers of quality management laboratories trained

The ECOWAS Commission had submitted a request for technical support to the TBT / EU program, including the organization of a metrology capacity building workshop for a pool of testing laboratories, presenting a potential but that could not be retained for an accreditation assistant by the WAQSP.

Following the positive response of the TBT, the two programs organized this workshop on 17 and 18 October in Cotonou, Benin, under the theme: "Deployment of the metrology function in a test laboratory". Some 20 test laboratory technicians from the 15 ECOWAS member countries and the Mauritanian region took part. These managers of metrology laboratories were trained on the one hand in the implementation

stages of the requirements of ISO 10012 and on the other hand to the metrological confirmation processes related to mass, volume and temperature.

