



*Newsletter published by the West Africa
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WAQSP NEWS



QUALITY AWARD

ECOWAS Awards the Best
Companies in West Africa for
2017

WAQSP NEWS

**Published by the West Africa
Quality System Programme**

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PREFACE

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (21 June 2016, Abidjan)



► **Marcel Alain de Souza**
President of the ECOWAS Commission



[The ECOWAS Commission, through its projects (ed.)], «must contribute to boost regional integration, structural transformation of West African economies, offer a coherent reference framework for development and integration initiatives, promote the private sector, contribute to the construction of a competitive, secure and sustainable regional economic union, set up a business-friendly environment, in a context of good governance, rule of law, peace and security, and promote strong economic growth, jobs creation and sustainable development within the ECOWAS region».





► **Kalilou TRAORE**

Commissioner for Industry and Private sector Promotion

Dear readers,

The first ECOWAS Quality Awards ceremony was held on the 30th of June 2017 in Abidjan. It represents the culmination of a long process that started officially in January 2016, with the adoption of the harmonized award criteria for all countries. It required a sustained commitment from national and regional private sectors, the public sector and civil society. My thanks go to all those who have worked hard for this clear success.

In this regard, I would like to thank the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency Alassane Ouattara, and his entire government, particularly the Minister of Industry and Mines, Mr. Jean Claude Brou, for having agreed to deal with the challenges of organizing this grand opening with the ECOWAS Commission. I would like to thank all the Quality Ministers and particularly those who have been able to participate in the regional award ceremony.

Dear winners,

With your awards, you become the pioneers of quality in West Africa and set an example that will hopefully be followed by others, for the benefit of ECOWAS citizens. Having proven your merit at national level, you now rank first in the region. Congratulations!

Many thanks to all the companies that participated in this ceremony! The fact that you reached the top level in your own countries is evidence of your excellence in quality. I would like to stress that only national winners qualify to participate in the regional competition.

Behind the organization of these awards, stands a genuine quality promotion system, now operating at national and regional levels.

There are more than 300 executives in the region who have been identified, alerted and trained in quality and have done their utmost to help make this exciting adventure happen: award secretaries, award managers, national and regional auditors, regional supervisors and panel members, to name just a few. About 30 companies from 14 countries took up the challenge. Women entrepreneurs were represented, such as the category C Excellence Award given to Clina Lancet Laboratories headed by a woman who received the special Best Female Business Manager Award (cover photo). Thank you!

Undoubtedly, as with all human endeavours, improvements are expected in future awards. The first step has clearly been taken: the region now has national awards and an ECOWAS Award to develop quality for the benefit of consumers in our region. We can be proud of this.

We would like to extend our warm welcome to our partners, the WAEMU Commission with its experience in the field, UNIDO for its technical expertise provided through the WAQSP team and the European Union for its constant support. I would like to extend these thanks to PTB, GIZ, USAID and ARSO, whose work contributes to strengthening the region's quality system.

The sustainability of these awards cannot be conceived without the definition and management of standards, the basis of quality. The region has made progress in these sectors. We will have an opportunity to present the results of these activities in our next newsletter.

Kalilou Traoré

The ECOWAS Commission gets acquainted with the Tunisian experience in quality infrastructure



Picture of the two delegations

From 10 to 14 July 2017, an ECOWAS delegation, composed of representatives of the Commission, WAQSP and the West Africa Accreditation System (SOAC) visited Tunisia to learn about the country's experience in terms of quality infrastructure. It was led by Mr. Kalilou Traoré, Commissioner for industry and private sector promotion.

ECOWAS has launched a broad programme to make the community quality infrastructure operational. Thus, after the adoption of the Common Industrial Policy (WACIP) in 2010, ECOWAS chose the standardization, quality, accreditation and metrology programme (SQAM) among the priority sectors to be implemented. The legal framework required for the deployment of a quality infrastructure has been set up with the support of WAQSP, particularly through the adoption of key texts relating to the ECOWAS Quality Policy, regional quality bodies and the Standards Harmonization Model (ECOSHAM).

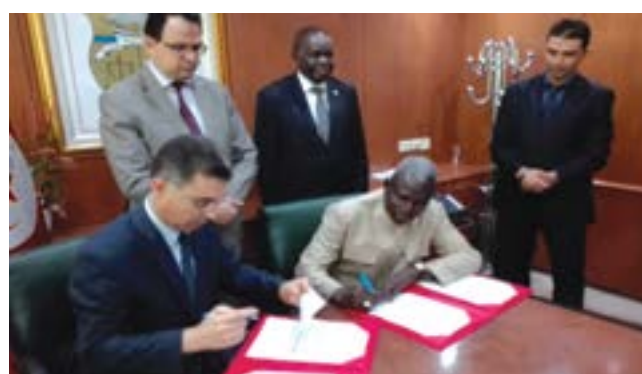
These texts were concluded through six Community Regulations in June 2017 which define the operating method of the regional quality bodies. Regulation C/REG.13/06/17 in particular authorizes the establishment of the Regional Agency for Quality (ECOWAQ) which will be responsible for the management of the executive secretariat of these bodies.

The Commission will henceforth deal with getting everything working. The visit to Tunisia is part of the agenda set to achieve this goal. Thus, the mission visited the National Institute for Standardization and Industrial Property (INNORPI), the Tunisian National Accreditation Council (TUNAC), the National Metrology Institute, the National Consumer Institute, to name

just a few. The delegation was also received by the Minister of Industry, Zied Ladhari. Alongside this, Mr. Aboubacry Baro, President of SOAC, and Mr. Anouar Zouari, Director General of TUNAC, signed a cooperation agreement between the two accreditation bodies before the Tunisian press. The main outcomes of this mission are:



First official meeting of the delegates



A. Baro (President SOAC, in grey) signing the agreement, as Commissioner Traore looks on



- The Tunisian experience in various technical aspects of the quality infrastructure has been shared.
- The delegation presented the state of ECOWAS' quality infrastructure to its Tunisian counterpart.

- The two parties agreed to continue cooperation strategies in each technical field; this goal was achieved by signing an accreditation agreement, as stated above.

WAQSP portrayed at the 23rd ARSO General Assembly

The 23rd General Assembly of the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) was organised in a special context: ARSO declared 2017 the year of «Quality infrastructure in Africa». Participants discussed the “Role of standardization for better quality and a better life in a free trade continental zone”, the theme for this year. Mr. Bernard Bau, WAQSP Programme Manager, provided a report on «Improving Quality Infrastructure in Africa - Developing Economic Competitiveness». He introduced the objectives and achievements of quality infrastructure programmes carried out by UNIDO in the region, before focusing on the role of quality policies, compliance with standards and quality promotion for sustainable social and economic development in the region.

This mission was also an opportunity to monitor the implementation of WAQSP in Burkina Faso. During a meeting organized on June 27th at the headquarters of the Association Burkinabé pour le Management de

la Qualité (ABMAQ), attended by the ECOWAS Director of Industry, the WAQSP National Technical Coordinator (NTC), the UNIDO Chief of Operations in Burkina Faso, and stakeholders from the public and private sectors, Mr. Bau stated he was satisfied with the results achieved. He cited, among other matters, the adoption of the National Quality Policy and its implementation, participation in the harmonization of ECOWAS standards, the qualification of food safety experts, training journalists on quality and supporting Food Technology Department laboratories (accreditation and inter-comparisons). He also successively discussed aspects of the programme with the National Focal Point and the NTC.

Mr. Bau also talked about the private sector and trade with the Head of Cooperation of the European Union in Burkina Faso, Mr. Thierry Barbe, and Mr. Abdoulaye Quedraogo, EPA manager. He told them about the status and progress of the programme. He also informed them of UNIDO's decision to implement the components of the Regional Competitiveness and Quality Strategy in the context of the value chain programmes under the 11th EDF.



Group Picture of participants

LATEST NEWS

ECOWAS makes progress on the establishment of a Regional Accreditation System

Dakar hosted a capacity-building workshop for prospective regional accreditation evaluators from 7 to 11 August 2017. This meeting was part of the WAQSP support programme for the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Accreditation System (RAS).

Regulation C/REG./12/13 of 2013, issued by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers implementing the Regional Quality Infrastructure System, created the RAS. Furthermore, the Council of Ministers defined its organizational and operating rules by implementing Regulation C/REG.10/06/17 in June 2017.

The workshop brought together 24 prospective evaluators from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. Participants were trained on the major changes to ISO/IEC 17025 used for the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories. The new version of this standard is expected in the coming months.

Besides the Dakar workshop, promotional activities on accreditation were performed such as:

- Sensitisation of the Ministers of Industry of Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, as part of a courtesy visit by a delegation led by Commissioner Kalilou Traoré including, amongst others, the presidents of the Nigeria accreditation body of (NINAS) and the West African Accreditation System (SOAC) for WAEMU countries.
- Organization of a brainstorming session on financing methods for the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure.
- SOAC's participation in a fact-finding mission on the Tunisian experience of quality infrastructure in general and accreditation in particular.

During this mission, a partnership agreement was signed between the Tunisian Accreditation Body (TUNAC) and SOAC. In this regard, the ECOWAS Commission plans



Group Picture of participants

to organize the RAS constitutive meeting in November 2017, to elect a President and adopt its internal rules. Following this meeting, in the same dynamic, the WAQSP also organised in Dakar, a regional workshop for the realization of inter laboratory comparison in the food field in West Africa, from the 2nd to the 3rd of October 2017. Mr. Moustapha Diop, Minister for Industry and Small and Medium Industries in Senegal, recalled thus that "international standards requires the carrying out of inter-comparison campaigns to ensure the reliability of measurements". In fact, inter-comparisons or aptitude tests are one of the tools which enable the assessment of the competence of laboratories involved in the control of quality of products. However, these inter laboratory comparisons remain one of the weakest links in the competence monitoring system of agri-food laboratories of the region. To alleviate this deficit, the WAQSP has chosen to support the laboratories of the region through two inter-laboratory comparison campaigns currently under preparation; food physico-chemical analysis campaign and food microbiology campaign. Twenty-one (21) West-African laboratories, in total, will benefit from these campaigns, planned for the beginning of the year 2018. The expected result is the demonstration and improvement of the competence of laboratories of the region, in accordance with the international standards ISO IEC 17025.



Group picture of participants with the Senegalese Minister in charge of Quality, at the workshop from the 2nd to 3rd October 2017



Group picture of the candidates evaluators

Benin finalizes the legal framework for the operationalization of the Agence Béninoise de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (ABSSA)

On 2nd August 2017, the presidential decree on the allocation, organization and operation of the Agence Béninoise de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (ABSSA) was enacted. ABSSA's mission is to ensure the safety of products at all levels of the food chain, in accordance with international requirements on food safety, animal health and plant preservation. This decree aims to bring ABSSA's organization and operation in line with the reforms resulting from Decree no. 2016-681 of 7 November 2016 on the Institutional Framework for Agricultural Development in Benin. The Council of Ministers has also instructed the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to monitor the development of the Agency's development plan as soon as possible.

The Government's decision was welcomed by consumer associations in Benin. According to Mr. Ernest Gbaguidi, President of Benin Consumer's Health and Survival (BSSC), this national agency will support the efforts of associations that are already fighting to protect the health of the community. Through this agency, the risk of non-compliant food products being consumed will decrease, especially considering that non-compliant businesses will be disciplined.

The government of Guinea institutionalizes its Quality Award

Through the Presidential decree No.2017/151/PRG/SGG of Monday 3 July 2017, the Guinean Government introduced the National Quality Award. The decision was made in the Council of Ministers, during its ordinary session on Thursday 11 May 2017. According to the first article of the decree, the National Quality Award is called the «Guinea Quality Award,» reflecting the intention of private and public companies in Guinea. It aims to promote quality and recognize the merits of successful businesses. Article 2 of the same document specifies that the Guinean National Quality Award is subdivided into four levels: the Quality Commitment

Award, the Quality Control Award, the Encouragement Award and the Excellence Award. It is organized every two years and the award is valid in those two years. It is organized by four bodies: the organizing committee, the technical secretariat, the panel and the appointed auditors. The provisions of the decree signed by the President of Guinea, Professor Alpha Condé, specify that the organizing committee reports its activities to the Minister of Industry, SME and Private Sector Promotion.

The presidential decree also states that the regulations of the Minister of Industry, SME and Private Sector Promotion will set the terms of the organization of the award, and the functions and operation of the bodies responsible for the organization of the award.

The government of Ghana considers setting up a National Quality Council

The announcement of the establishment of a National Quality Council in Ghana was unveiled during the Ghanaian National Quality Policy (NQP) validation workshop held on 19 and 20 July 2017 in Accra.

The Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Carlos Ahenkorah, stated that the government was working to set up a national Quality Council made up of representatives of key departments and agencies, including the private sector. The objective of this new body will be the implementation of the National Quality Policy (NQP).

He also stated on this occasion, before more than 70 economic stakeholders from the private and public sectors, as well as Ghanaian academia that «it will also coordinate the activities of institutions that monitor activities related to quality, ensuring that the health and safety of individuals and the environment are protected».

Mauritania Quality Award (MQA)

Raising awareness among business leaders for mass participation

Following the official launch of the Mauritanian Quality Award (MQA), a workshop was held on Monday 17 July 2017 in Nouadhibou for Mauritanian corporate managers. The aim was to raise awareness in readiness for their mass participation in the first award. Mohamed Ould Daf, Chairman of the Nouadhibou Free Zone Authority, briefly stated at the start of the workshop that, it was in the interest of national companies to apply international standards and that his institution was there to assist them in doing this, in support of the Mauritanian government's efforts on quality.

LATEST NEWS

Mohamed Ould Ethmane, President of the National Committee for the management of the MQA, then presented the steps already taken to organize the first award. He also invited companies based in Nouadhibou to participate, before stating that the Free Zone Authority is available to open an office in Nouadhibou to receive applications from the companies concerned. Once applications are drafted, the files will be sent to the Award Secretariat in Nouakchott. He also presented the MQA to the leaders and heads of companies including the criteria and terms of participation.

At the end of the ceremony, Mrs. Memah Mint Bah Hamed, National Technical Coordinator (NTC) of the WAQSP and manager of the MQA Secretariat, explained the content of the award application and the registration formalities to be completed.

3rd meeting of the WAQSP Enlarged Regional Steering Committee

Stakeholders reviewed the implementation of Phase I and made commitments for Phase II

The 3rd meeting of the WAQSP Enlarged Regional Steering Committee took place on 21-22 August 2017 in Abuja, Nigeria, with the participation of all programme stakeholders (ECOWAS Commission, European Union, UNIDO, ECOWAS member states and Mauritania, FOPAO, Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce & Industry-FEWACCI). It was preceded by the meeting of the Restricted Steering Committee held in the morning of

21st August 2017. The main results achieved at the end of Phase I (September 2014 - August 2017) were presented, in particular the adoption of national quality policies, the adoption of 50 harmonized regional standards, capacity building for 20 accreditation evaluators, the validation of the framework document to set up the ECOWAS quality and industry database, the publication of the first directory of accredited conformity assessment bodies in the region, the organization of national awards and the ECOWAS Quality Award, and the qualification of a hundred experts on food safety, to mention just a few of them..

As part of the activities to be carried out in Phase II of the WAQSP, scheduled to officially end in December 2018, the WAQSP Programme Manager, Bernard Bau stressed, in his opening speech at this meeting, that there are a number of challenges which include the need to build a solid and sustainable quality infrastructure that serves all companies in the region. Mr. Kurt Cornelis, head of cooperation of the European Union Delegation, confirmed the EU's commitment in supporting the region and countries in quality and value chain competition issues through the 11th EDF.

Mr. Aka Kouassi, WAQSP Chief Technical Advisor, stated that the next major steps in Phase II are the support for consumer associations in the region, establishing management bodies for quality regional infrastructure by ECOWAS, the dissemination and promotion of harmonized standards, the harmonization of technical regulations, setting up of the ECOWAS certification mark, the promotion of national and regional quality awards and the introduction of quality modules in university courses.



Group Picture of participants



Setting up the ECOWAS quality and industrial database

A new milestone reached during the Abuja regional workshop



Speech of the European Union representative



Group photo of the validation workshop

The regional workshop on the framework document for the ECOWAS quality and industrial database was held from 23 to 25 August 2017 in Abuja, Nigeria. Participants included the WAQSP National Focal Points (NFP) and National Technical Coordinators (NTC), the representatives of national institutions in member States dealing with statistics and representatives of the private sector in the region, including the Federation of West

African Employers' Associations-FWAEA and FEWACCI. This database is intended to be a reference platform on quality infrastructure both at national and regional levels. It highlights a wide range of information relating to the status of the industry in the community.

Mr. Aka Kouassi, WAQSP Chief Technical Advisor, told participants that the main aim of the meeting was to review the documents proposed for the setup of the ECOWAS quality and industry database. The workshop's opening ceremony was coupled with that of the WAQSP 3rd Enlarged Steering Committee meeting. In his speech, Bernard Bau, the WAQSP Project Manager, stated that the workshop would gather guidance from participants, particularly on matters related to the collection, maintenance and sustainability of the database. According to him, «[this database] will provide reliable and useful data for industrial development». The ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector Promotion, Kalilou Traoré, stated in his speech that this database must be designed to take into account the factors required for its sustainability. He also stressed the importance of providing useful data to stakeholders in the industry, particularly within ECOWAS.

At the end of the proceedings, the comments of the experts at the workshop contributed to the amendment of the database framework document. Furthermore, several recommendations were made, including the need for technical assistance for ECOWAS member States for data collection from national bodies responsible for industry, quality and statistics.

ECOWAS publishes the first Directory of Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies in the region

To support the establishment of the Regional Accreditation System (RAS), ECOWAS published the first directory of Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies in the region. The official presentation of the document took place at the opening ceremony of the 3rd meeting of the WAQSP Enlarged Regional Steering Committee on the 22nd of August 2017, in Abuja.

After the speeches by the ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector Promotion, Kalilou Traoré and WAQSP Project Manager, Bernard Bau, on behalf of the UNIDO Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation, Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, the document was symbolically handed over to the representative of the EU Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, the National Focal Point (NFP) of Togo as a representative of ECOWAS member States and Mauritania, NINAS and SOAC on behalf of accreditation bodies in the community zone, FEWACCI on

behalf of the regional private sector and a representative of regional journalists, an important target group for the dissemination of information to all stakeholders. A signed copy was also sent to each minister responsible for industry in the ECOWAS member States. "We welcome the publication of this exceptional directory which will be of great interest to manufacturing and service organizations and companies in the region", said the representative of Togo on behalf of ECOWAS countries and Mauritania. Mr. Bernard Bau stated that «this directory is one of the first deliverables of the ECOWAS quality and industrial database, which is supported by the WAQSP». The publication of the directory is part of the direct legacy of the RAS missions that are supposed to provide information on the accreditation and conformity assessments available to consumers in the region and beyond.



Le répertoire dédié par l'ONUDI et la CEDEAO remis ...



1...to the representative of SOAC

2...to the representative of the European Union

3...to the representative of the African Chambers of Commerce

4...to the representative of NINAS

5...to the representative of the regional press

6...to the representative of the ECOWAS Member

ECOSHAM: 6 operational technical committees provide ECOWAS member States with harmonized standards

Regulation C/REG.14/12/12 on the adoption of ECOWAS standards harmonization procedures (ECOSHAM) was signed in 2012 by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. ECOSHAM aims to support the harmonization of the standards applied in member states to facilitate intraregional and international trade, protect consumers and the environment, as well as to promote sustainable economic development.

Since 2012, six technical committees have been established: Technical Committee 1 - Agricultural Products (THC1), Technical Committee 2 - Food Products (THC2), Technical Committee 3 - Chemical Products (THC3), Technical Committee 4 - Buildings and Construction Materials (THC4), Technical Committee 5 - Electrical Engineering (THC5) and Technical Committee 6 - Tourism (THC6). All these committees are now operational. To date, about 50 harmonized standards have been adopted by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. A new series of 50 regulations will be examined by ministers of member states for quality at a regional workshop in November 2017. It is expected that they will draw up a recommendation for these regulations

to be adopted by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.

These results were achieved with the support of WAQSP, which facilitated the organization of technical meetings and management meetings necessary for the production of ECOWAS harmonized standards.

A closer look at the ECOSHAM technical meetings

- Meeting of the Technical Management Committee (TMC) and meeting of quality Ministers in April 2016 in Lomé, Togo (co-financed by Helen Keller International);
 - Meeting of the THC6 in November 2016 in Banjul;
 - Meeting of the THC4 in November 2016 in Banjul;
 - Meeting of the THC5 in February 2017 in Accra;
 - Meeting of the THC3 in March 2017 in Bissau;
 - Meeting of the THC2 in April 2017 in Cotonou;
 - Meeting of the THC1 in May 2017 in Mindelo.



ECOWAS QUALITY AWARD

The award was presented in the 16 countries of the region and provided motivation for candidates



BENIN

On June 6th, 2017 at INFOSEC in Cotonou, the National Focal Point (NFP) and the WAQSP National Technical Coordination (NTC) launched the ECOWAS National Quality Award in the presence of Benin business and public authority managers. During the National Quality Award launch, 3 out of the 12 applicant companies fulfilled the eligibility criteria: Colas-Benin (Cat. A), Agétip-Benin (Cat. B) and Pharmacie de l'Abattoir (Cat. C). They are thus qualified to represent Benin in the regional award. The representative of the WAEMU resident Commission in Benin, Mr. Yaovi Kounhondé, stated that it was time for "companies in the sub-region to stand out worldwide"; for that to happen, business managers should embrace a quality approach.



The NTC of WAQSP during his speech



BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso launched the national award on 23 June 2017 in the conference room of the Agence pour la Promotion des Exportations du Burkina (APEX-Burkina) in Ouagadougou. The event was held in the presence of WAQSP stakeholders (EU, UNIDO, ECOWAS and WAEMU). At the opening ceremony, the Burkina Faso Minister of Trade, Industry and Handicrafts, Stéphane Wenceslas Sanou, stated the context, the issues at stake in the ECOWAS Quality Award, including its goals before encouraging domestic enterprises to participate in the National Quality Award in order to participate in the ECOWAS Award. He also extended the gratitude of the Government of Burkina Faso to the European Union for financing the programme, the ECOWAS Commission for adopting the Regional Quality (ECOQUAL) Policy and UNIDO for its expertise in performance of the WAQSP. The ceremony ended with the announcement of the companies representing Burkina Faso in the ECOWAS Quality Award: Bank of Africa (Cat. A), SONAR Assurance (Cat. B) and Grace Divine (Cat. C).



CAPE VERDE



A view of the participants in the hall

Cape Verde launched the national award and the ECOWAS Quality Award simultaneously on Friday 31st March 2017. The event was held in Praia in the presence of a hundred guests from different sectors. In his speech, Mr. Abrão Lopes, President of the Quality Management and Intellectual Property Institute stated that launching the first National Quality Awards arises from the partnership with WAQSP. The Minister of Economy and Employment represented by the National Director of Energy, Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Oscar Borges, stated the importance of quality for companies in Cape Verde. He also mentioned that quality management system should change their mentality and offer a competitive advantage



FOCUS

for any organization. For this first edition of the ECOWAS quality award, the companies Cabo Verde Telecom (Cat. A), Casa do Cidadão (Cat. B) and Labojovem (Cat. C) have been selected to represent Cape Verde.



COTE D'IVOIRE

The Ivorian government, supported by the WAQSP national technical coordination, launched the ECOWAS Quality Award nationally. The ceremony held on Wednesday, 21st June 2017 in the conference room of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abidjan-Plateau, brought together the main stakeholders and bodies of the Ivorian Quality System. At this event, the National Quality Award was presented by highlighting the criteria required for national winners to compete in the ECOWAS Quality Award. UNIDO resident representative in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Tidiane Boye, stressed his organization's support for the establishment of the Regional Quality Award. «This totally original award will help to clean up and boost the industrial environment in ECOWAS countries.» Representatives of the European Union, the ECOWAS Commission and Director of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Industry and Mines have, in turn, stated their involvement in the creation of the ECOWAS Quality Award. Moreover, they reaffirmed their commitment to support the initiative which aims to celebrate quality and promote managers of businesses or member organizations involved in a quality process. At the end of the ceremony, FILTISAC (Cat. A) was presented to the public as the only company involved representing Côte d'Ivoire in the ECOWAS Quality Award.



GAMBIA

Gambia held its National Quality Award ceremony at the Coral Beach Hotel on Friday 24th March 2017. The Gambian Quality Award and its benefits were presented to participants at this ceremony. Mr. Papa Secka, Director General of the Gambian Standards Bureau, stated that the National Quality Award is consistent with the National Quality Policy and is fully in line with the standardization vision of the organization, which plans to organize it each year. The Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Mr. Lamin Dampha, stated that the country is tackling the weakness of the national quality infrastructure, which is slowing down the full participation of Gambia in intraregional and international trade. «ECOWAS will organise the Quality Award for the first time in June 2017. Gambia should participate in the ECOWAS Quality Award but should first organize its own quality award to appoint its representatives at regional level,» he explained. Mr. Ricardo Velho, UNIDO consultant, highlighted the fact that any national company wishing to participate in the ECOWAS Award must first compete for the national quality award in its country. To this end, Gambega Company Limited (Cat. A) and Gacem Company Limited (Cat. B), winners of the National Quality Award in their respective categories, were selected to participate in the ECOWAS Quality Award.



GHANA

Ghana jointly launched the National Quality Award and the ECOWAS Quality Award at an event on Friday 31 March 2017 in Accra with 60 participants. Speaking on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry of Ghana, the Director of Industry, Mr. Barwanoba Baeka, stated that «The Government of Ghana is committed to becoming a real partner to local industries, to help them improving the quality of products and services.» He also stated that the aim of the ECOWAS Award was also «a way to encourage organizations to adopt best governance practices and promote sustainable performance.» Mr. James Asare-Adjei, president of the Ghana Industries Association (GIA), urged producers to further internalize the requirements of quality standards to make their products more competitive.



Address of the European Union representative

At this joint event, the National Industries Award was set up by the Association of Ghana Industries. For the ECOWAS Quality Award, Pionner Food Cannery (Cat. A) and Medlab Ghana Limited (Cat. B) were chosen to represent Ghana.



GUINEA

Guinea launched its National Quality Award on Wednesday, 21 June 2017 following the institutionalization of the award. The ceremony was held in the premises of the Grand Hotel de l'Indépendance in Conakry. Mr. Djoumè Sangare, Director General of the Standards Institute of Guinea and Metrology (IGNM), informed participants at the awards that "it will contribute on the one hand to stimulate competition among sponsors and managers of public and private companies and on the other hand to promoting consumer protection". After him, the UNIDO country representative, Mr. Ansoumane Berete, stated that «the opportunity for Africa, especially West Africa to be active in the world market, depends on the desire of African countries to provide quality goods and services.» The ECOWAS resident representative in Guinea, Mrs. Liliane Alapini, outlined the origins of the Quality Award before illustrating its importance in the implementation of the Regional Quality Policy (ECOQUAL). She urged the Guinean private sector to invest more in quality. The Secretary General of the Guinean Ministry of Industry, Mr. Alseny Sylla, confirmed



(From left to right) The authorities representing UNIDO, The Guinean Ministry of Industry, European Union and ECOWAS

the commitment of the Ministry to make the quality award a priority, before thanking partners for their support for Guinea.



GUINEA-BISSAU

The ECOWAS Quality Award was officially launched in Bissau on Monday 12 June 2017. The aim, on the one hand, was to introduce participants to the National Quality Award, the ECOWAS Quality Award, the winning companies and candidates in the regional contest, and on the other hand, to encourage national companies to take part in the national award. Mr. Augusto Mendes Pereira, on behalf of the Minister of State for Energy and Industry stated that Guinea-Bissau had already organized its fourth National Quality Award in 2016, at the end of which four national companies were awarded out of twelve applicants: Innovation SARL, ECOBANK, ASECNA and PETROMAR. PETROMAR (Cat. B) and Emicor & Filhos Lda. (Cat. C), who were named to represent Guinea-Bissau for the ECOWAS Quality Award. Mr. Pereira reaffirmed the strong commitment of the Guinea-Bissau government to promote a national culture of quality by supporting the organization of the National Quality Award in 2018. He ended by congratulating the WAQSP for its support in promoting the quality approach in the ECOWAS region.



LIBERIA

On the 11th of April 2017, the Liberian government launched its National Quality Award attended by some fifty people. Mr. Samuel R. Monger, National Focal Point of the Programme, reminded participants of the background to the creation of the National Quality Award, as part of the WAQSP activities launched on the 30th of June 2015 at the headquarters of the National Standards Laboratory. The European Union Representative, Mr. Hans Lambrecht, praised the enthusiasm of Liberian companies, stating that a market without quality poses a high risk for consumers, if the compliance of products cannot be demonstrated. The Liberian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Axel M. Addy, emphasized in his opening speech the objective of the award which, according to him, aims to promote and assess excellence in organizational performance through awareness of quality. He called on legally established companies to engage with the Quality Award. At the end of the proceedings, the company Dura Plast Incorporated (Cat. A), was selected to take part in the ECOWAS quality award.



MALI

Like other WAQSP beneficiary countries, Mali officially launched the ECOWAS Quality Award in the presence of the Minister of Industrial Development, Mr. Mohamed Aly AG Ibrahim. This took place on Thursday, 22th June 2017, in the Ministerial Conference Room in Bamako. At the start, the Operations Director of UNIDO in Mali, Mrs. Traore Haby Sow, talked about the creation of the ECOWAS Quality Award «which aims to stimulate competition within the ECOWAS zone and ensures that companies adopt a quality system and international standards, a requirement to operate in international markets». The Representative of the ECOWAS Commission in Mali, Mr. Abdoulaye Bane, stated that «it is by bearing in mind the importance of the role played by industrial development that ECOWAS heads of state and governments adopted the West African Common Industrial Policy (WACIP) on July 2nd, 2010». Mohamed Aly AG Ibrahim expressed the gratitude of the government of Mali to ECOWAS, the European Union, UNIDO, WAEMU and WAQSP for all the actions undertaken to develop quality infrastructure activities. During the ceremony, Conseil Ingénierie et Recherches Appliquées (CIRA) was announced as the winning business to represent Mali in the ECOWAS Quality Award (Cat. A).



MAURITANIA

The Mauritanian government officially launched its national quality award on Wednesday 12 April 2017. The event took place at the premises of the Mauritania-Nouakchott Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture. It was an opportunity for some Mauritanian companies to enter the first ever competition for this Award. The Representative of the European Union Delegation to Mauritania, Mr. Hans-Christian Beaumont, stated the positive aspects of the cooperation between the European Union and Mauritania and the importance of ensuring the compliance of national products with international standards. The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Mrs. Naha Mint Hamdi Ould Mouknass, stressed that there is interest in the quality system which constitutes a major advantage for any company. According to the Minister, in a world of strong competition, only the quality on offer determines consumer choice. To this end, she made Mauritanian companies aware of the need to include quality.



NIGER

Niger officially presented the ECOWAS Quality Award at a ceremony that took place on the 23rd of June 2017 in Niamey. In her introductory remarks, the Ministry of Industry's communications officer provided a brief overview of the process that led to the launch of the ECOWAS Quality Award. The Niger Minister of Industry, Mr. Abdou Maman, stated that the organization of the Quality Award was a part of the government's policy, aimed at improving the competitiveness of products to increase and diversify the volume of commercial exchanges and to generate resources needed to improve gross domestic product and the living standards of communities. He informed participants that the Niger Government will support the promotion of a quality culture among companies and consumers, particularly as part of company capacity building initiatives to offer quality products and services that are compliant with the applicable standards. SOGEA SATOM (Cat. A) and La Laitière du Sahel (Cat. B) are the two National Quality Award-winning companies appointed as Niger's representatives in the ECOWAS Quality Awards.



NIGERIA

At the end of the first ECOWAS Quality Award ceremony, the Nigerian Quality Infrastructure Project (NQIP) published a statement that looked at Nigeria's participation in the process and the ceremony. From this statement, it appears that three Nigerian companies were awarded in different categories for their efforts in the field of quality.

They are Clina Lancet Laboratories Ltd which received the Excellence Award (Cat. C), as well as the special award for the best company manager in the region. In category B, Zaika Foods Ltd received an award for the best innovative product in the region and PZ Cussons was given the leadership award (Cat. A) as the organization that is most compliant with the award criteria based on quality management system ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 9004.



These Nigerian companies thus awarded regionally were the national award winner at level 4 of the Nigerian National Quality Award (NiNQA).

The Nigerian Quality Award was launched in April 2017 by NQIP with the support of WAQSP. The award ceremony will take place in Lagos on 22 November 2017.



Representatives of the three winning companies from Nigeria at the ECOWAS Quality Award



SENEGAL



A view of participants in the hall

The ECOWAS Quality Award was launched on Friday 9th June 2017 at the Hotel Fleur de Lys in Dakar. On this occasion, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Mines

and Industry, Mr. Mamadou Diop, released the name of the two companies representing Senegal in the regional award. They were Eiffage Senegal and LABOSOL - AGTS, respectively in categories A and B. According to the general secretary, WAQSP aims to establish a framework for the development and running of an effective quality infrastructure in the region to facilitate intraregional and international trade, protect consumers and the environment and promote sustainable economic development. For the UNIDO representative in Senegal, Mr. Victor Diwandja Djemba, the organization of the award is aimed at boosting awareness to improve products in the region. The Director of the Office of the Ministry of Mines and Industry, replacing Minister Mr. Aly Ngouille Ndiaye, stated that the ethos of the ECOWAS Quality Award was «Striving for Excellence through Quality».



SIERRA LEONE

The government of Sierra Leone officially launched its National Quality Award on Friday 31 March 2017 at the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau. Mrs. Adama Kamara, member of the organization committee and director of finances at the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau stated that the National Quality Award is a novelty in the country, as «it is the very first time that Sierra Leone is organizing such an award». The objectives of the award according to Mrs. Kamara are to: «(...) strengthen quality culture in industries, reward organizations for their efforts to achieve quality, promote local products and the image of the country both regionally and internationally». In his speech, Mr. Kingston B. Evans, chairman of the National Monitoring Committee, stated that the National Quality Award is a strategy to create quality awareness among all national stakeholders and to facilitate intraregional and international competitiveness. He stated that the award covered the following categories: Company of the year, Product of the year, Service of the year and Individual award of the year. The Sierra Leone Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Ibrahim Washingai Mansaray, encouraged stakeholders to take advantage of the event by networking and sharing information on quality. For the ECOWAS Quality Award, the company G. Shankerdas and Sons (SL) Ltd. (Cat. A) was appointed to represent Sierra Leone.



TOGO

In Togo, the ECOWAS Quality Award was launched nationally on 30th May 2017. Jointly organized by the National Focal Point (NFP) and the WAQSP National Technical Committee (NTC), the event brought together major actors in the country's quality system. The two Togolese quality award-winning companies entered for the regional competition, FORMATEC (Cat. B) and Cabinet d'Expertise Comptable (AEC) (Cat. C), were introduced to the public. Mr. François Fidégnon Kpakpo, chairman of the Togolese award organization committee and the NFP stated that the aim of the ECOWAS Award was «(...) not only to get

FOCUS

as many companies as possible in the sub-region to engage in the quality system, but also to ensure a better position for products and services from ECOWAS countries in the international market». In the name of the Minister of Industry and Tourism, the general secretary Mr. T'Faraba Atara urged Togolese companies and institutions to get involved in the quality and certification system, regardless of their size and sector, and to take part in the Togolese Quality Award and the Regional Quality Award.



Group Picture of participants

Award ceremony for the first ECOWAS Quality Award

The ECOWAS Commission rewards the best companies in the region



The award ceremony for the first ECOWAS Quality Award took place on Friday, 30th June 2017 in Abidjan, in the presence of Quality Ministers from the region, stakeholders (ECOWAS, EU, UNIDO, and WAEMU) and partners (particularly FEWACCI, SOAC and NINAS) of the Programme, as well as managers of institutions and business owners.

During a ceremony that took place under the patronage of His Excellency Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and presided by the Ivorian Minister of Industry and Mines Mr. Jean Claude BROU, before some 400 participants, several awards were given to companies, individuals and institutions that have contributed to the promotion and development of quality in West Africa.

The companies won awards in three categories: small companies (Cat. C, less than 20 employees), medium companies (Cat. B, 20-100 employees) and large companies (Cat. A, more than 100 employees). For each category, there is an Excellence Award and four Special Awards (Leadership, Product Development, Resource Management and Stakeholders Orientation). The companies taking part in the ECOWAS Quality Award are National Quality Award winners.

Countries	National Winners
Big enterprises	
Bénin	✓ Colas
Cabo Verde	✓ Cabo Verde Telecom
Burkina Faso	✓ BANK OF AFRICA
Côte d'Ivoire	✓ FILTISAC
Libéria	✓ DURA PLAST INCORPORATED
La Gambie	✓ GAMBEGA COMPANY LIMITED
Ghana	✓ Pionner Food Cannery
Mali	✓ Conseil Ingénierie et Recherches Appliquées (CIRA)
Niger	✓ SOGEA SATOM
Nigéria	✓ PZ, Lagos
Sénégal	✓ EIFFAGE SENEGAL
Sierra Leone	✓ G. Shankerdas and Sons (SL) Ltd
Medium enterprises	
Burkina Faso	✓ SONAR Assurance
Bénin	✓ AGETIP-BENIN
Cabo Verde	✓ Casa do Cidadão
La Gambie	✓ GACEM COMPANY LIMITED
Ghana	✓ Medlab Ghana limited
Guinea Bissau	✓ PETROMAR
Niger	✓ LA LAITIÈRE DU SAHEL
Nigéria	✓ Zaika Food, Lagos
Sénégal	✓ LABOSOL – AGTS
Togo	✓ FORMATEC
Small enterprises	
Bénin	✓ Pharmacie Abattoir
Burkina Faso	✓ Grace Divine
Cabo Verde	✓ Labojovem
Guinée Bissau	✓ EMICOR & FILHOS
Nigéria	✓ Clina-Lancet Laboratories
Togo	✓ Cabinet d'Expertise Comptable (AEC)



For this first edition of the award, FILTISAC from Côte d'Ivoire, AGETIP-BENIN from Benin and CLINA LANCET LABORATORIES from Nigeria respectively won the excellence awards in categories A, B and C. The other award-winning companies were:

- Cat. A - Large companies: PZ CUSSONS (Nigeria), SOGEA SATOM (Niger), CIRA (Malia), Cabo Verde Telecom (Cape Verde)
- Cat. B - Medium companies: PETROMAR (Guinea Bissau), Zaika Food (Nigeria), Medlab Ghana Limited (Ghana), LABOSOL-AGTS (Senegal)
- Cat. C - Small companies: LABOJOVEM (Cape Verde), Accounting firm (Togo), Pharmacie Abattoir (Benin), Grâce Divine (Burkina Faso)

The ECOWAS Quality Award is an essential component of the ECOWAS Quality Policy (ECOQUAL). Introduced in 2013, it falls within the Commission's efforts to promote a «culture of quality» within the region. It aims to award the best companies in the sub-region in the field of quality, with the aim of encouraging economic operators and officials within organizations to improve the quality of the products and services offered to consumers.

Welcoming, Setting up & Entertainment



Beginning of the ceremony & speeches



Awards delivery



Awards delivery



Group photos (Jury, Organizers & Ministers)



Group photos (Jury, Organizers & Ministers)



INTERVIEW

Focus on FILTISAC, EXCELLENCE AWARD winner

(Cat. A - Large company) of the first ECOWAS Quality Award



AMADOU Charles, Director General

WAQSP - Please can you introduce yourself?

CEO FILTISAC - My name is Ibrahim Charles Amadou, CEO of FILTISAC since 2012.

WAQSP - Could you briefly tell us about FILTISAC?

CEO FILTISAC - FILTISAC is a stock corporation established in 1965 by two great men, Félix Houphouët Boigny and His Highness the Aga Khan.

The first project of Industrial Promotion Services/West Africa (IPS/WA), one of the Aga Khan's funding instruments for economic development, was FILTISAC, a manufacturing unit for bags made from natural fibres, jute, used to package cocoa, coffee and cashew.

In 1998, FILTISAC diversified its activities by establishing a synthetic fibre packaging manufacture unit.

In the 1990s, it set up subsidiaries in the WAEMU (COFISAC in Senegal, FASOPLAST in Burkina Faso and EMBALMALI in Mali).

In 2009, FILTISAC absorbed its subsidiary SISEP, which is specialized in the production of rigid plastic packaging (preforms, bottles, flasks, jerry cans, canisters, etc.).

In 2013, Groupe Fibako Ivoirembal, specialized in the manufacture of rope and twine in Bouaké, was absorbed by FILTISAC.

- The Jute factory produces jute natural fibre packaging to pack cocoa, coffee and cashew nuts with an annual capacity of 23,000,000 bags.
- The Synthetic factory produces flexible packaging in synthetic fibres, polypropylene (PP) and polythene (PE) aimed at agribusinesses and the food industry: cotton, cocoa (big bag), rice, fertilizer, milled flour, refined sugar, with a production capacity of 15,000 tonnes a year.
- The Rigid Packaging factory produces rigid synthetic packaging (PET, PEHD) for the food industry (preforms and stoppers), for tankers and the phytosanitary sector. Its production capacity is 240 million preform units, 300 million stoppers, 2.5 million PEHD pieces and 18 million PET pieces.
- The Rope factory in Bouaké produces around 1,200 T of thread and twine each year.

FILTISAC is listed on the WAEMU stock exchange.

WAQSP - What made you take part in this regional competition?

FILTISAC CEO - Our participation was motivated by our desire to be assessed by a complete benchmark (ISO 9001:2015 and CSR requirements) in order to see where we stand and to identify opportunities for improvement in our quest for excellence. Taking part also allowed us to see where we stand compared to other companies in the ECOWAS common area. We were also officially chosen by the Ministry of Industry and Mines to represent Côte d'Ivoire, which we accepted as a great honour.

WAQSP - What does the ECOWAS Quality Award represent to you?

FILTISAC CEO - Firstly, we're proud to have won this award. This shows the maturity of our QMRS. In addition, areas for improvement have been identified. The Award has a different meaning depending on whether you are in or outside a company.

Internally, it's recognition of the expertise of our staff and the leadership of managers at various levels. It's also a lever to motivate and unite teams. It also gives personal satisfaction to each employee.

Outside of the company, it boosts the confidence our clients have in our quality assurance and offers potential clients who wish to use us a guarantee, that their satisfaction remains our absolute priority. It should be noted that FILTISAC was the first Ivorian company to get ISO 9001 certification in 1997. We were named winners of the Excellence Award of the Ivorian Quality Award in 2016; this result undoubtedly led to the decision by our supervising Ministry to appoint us to represent Côte d'Ivoire in this regional competition.



The Representative of the Winner with the Ivorian Minister of Industry

Furthermore, you will see that FILTISAC has Coca Cola's accreditation to produce preforms and caps for fizzy drinks and mineral water. We are also FSSC certified for these two activities. We are also compliant with Nestlé and Unilever's social and environmental (SEDEX) requirements.

WAQSP - What can or must this award do for FILTISAC?

FILTISAC CEO - The Award will boost FILTISAC's reputation within the ECOWAS region and beyond. It must also allow us to consolidate our position as a leader in packaging in the WAEMU region and conquer new markets.

WAQSP - For future awards, what would you recommend to ECOWAS, companies, governmental authorities and donors?

- To companies: Taking part in the regional award is an excellent barometer and an opportunity to have your QMRS. assessed by professional skilled auditors for free. The preparation and involvement of all staff, starting with management, is necessary.
- Governmental authorities: Encourage and support companies during their preparation.
- Donors: Continue to support the Award because it is an excellent tool to promote quality in the region.
- ECOWAS: Improve planning at different stages (launch, registration, notice of assessment audit, scheduling results, etc.) of the Award as well as communication about the Award.

ACTIVITIES OF PARTNERS

WAQSP supports awareness raising of metrology and quality in Benin

With the joint support of the government of Benin and WAQSP, on Friday 23rd June 2017, the Agence Nationale de Normalisation, de Métrologie et de contrôle Qualité (ANM) organized a discussion about metrology and quality, broadcasted on national television channel ORTB. The intended purpose was to raise public awareness about the importance of metrology and quality in the development process, especially consumer protection. As stated by Mr. Youssouf Mama Sika, National Technical Coordinator (NTC) of the WAQSP, it dealt with contributing to developing quality awareness among consumers and urging them to demand quality. «The WAQSP supports Benin through the ANM agencies and other stakeholders and sectors to raise the quality of life in the country», he added.

Mr. Loukoumanou Osseni, general manager of the ANM, Mr. Gabriel Ahissou, ANM director of metrology, Mr. Youssouf Mama Sika and Mr. Ernest Gbaguidi, President of the Consumer Association took part in the broadcast. Mr. Loukoumanou introduced the ANM, its powers and duties in the scope of promoting quality. «At the ANM, we have a set of actions to protect consumers; optimum management actions for competitiveness, sustainable economic growth, as well as actions that are not well-known by the public for now», he stated. Mr. Gabriel Ahissou introduced the mass laboratory, «one of the ANM's technical departments, which in particular assesses the compliance of measuring instruments such as scales. This laboratory is much requested nationally; it also deals with requests for expert reports in the French-speaking region». Mr. Ernest Gbaguidi reported that «users of the quality infrastructure benefit from referring to the ANM so they can satisfy the quality needs of consumers».

Validation workshop: Ghana finally has its National Quality Policy

The Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), with the support of the government and the support of the EU TRAQUE and WAQSP Programmes, organized the Ghanaian National Quality Policy (NQP) validation workshop on 19-20 July 2017. More than 70 stakeholders from the industry, academia, the private sector and the public sector actively took part in the two days of work.

The draft drawn up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, with the support of the TRAQUE programme, was examined, approved and aligned with the ECOWAS Quality Policy (ECOQUAL), adopted by the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government on 28th February 2013. Ghana was one of the few countries in the ECOWAS sub-region which did not have a technically approved National Quality Policy. The deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Carlos

Kingsley Ahenkorah, stated that the overall purpose of the NQP that must be to improve Ghana's competitiveness in international markets, increase the performance and level of exports from the country, while protecting consumers and the environment from counterfeit and hazardous products. According to him, this document deals with issues such as standardization, technical regulations, metrology, conformity assessment and accreditation. Mr. Ahenkorah stated that the Ghanaian government will ensure that the objectives linked to the topic areas of the NQP, which must be implemented in the short-term of between two to five years as mentioned in the implementation plan, will be achieved rapidly.

Professor Alex Dodoo, GSA Executive Director, stated that the need for a National Quality Policy was clear, as «no country has made real progress in the modern world without having an effectively executed NQP... When it is well developed and correctly implemented, this National Quality Policy should improve the quality of life of all Ghanaians», he concluded.

Sara Bagré, first winner of the Pedro Vilaseca Award

Mrs. Sara Djiguemde Bagré was named the winner of the 2017 Pedro Vilaseca Award. After Ouagadougou where she received from Mr. Bernard Bau, WAQSP Programme Manager, the amount allocated in addition to this award, the award was given to her officially on 30th June 2017 in Abidjan, as part of the ECOWAS Quality Award ceremony.

The Pedro Vilaseca Quality Award is aimed at people originally from West Africa, and particularly young professionals, who have demonstrated a steadfast commitment or who have made special achievements in the field of promoting quality in the region. The award is supported by a group of quality professionals, managers of various Standardization bodies in West African countries and specialists from international cooperation agencies such as UNIDO, who have witnessed the legacy of Pedro Vilaseca in West Africa.

The award was organized by the Association Burkinabè pour le Management de la Qualité (ABMAQ) which has been recognized as being of public benefit; the ABMAQ has been working to promote quality in Burkina Faso since 1992.

The Pedro Vilaseca Award was awarded based on the submission of a 300-word essay analysed by panel members. The Award comes with €500 in cash and transport and accommodation costs covered for the winner when they go to collect the Award as well as media coverage.

Details of the Pedro Vilaseca Award and the entry requirements are available on the ABMAQ website: www.abmaq.bf



ACTIVITIES OF PARTNERS



Mrs. Vilaseca (right) handing her award to the representative of the winner

ECOWAS-USAID SPS Programme: Major achievements to establish sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) in the region

As part of the meeting of the Regional Steering Committee organized by WAQSP in August 2017, the ECOWAS-USAID SPS was the subject of a presentation. The objective was to make participants aware of this programme through its activities and achievements in the 2017-2018 stage.

Mr. Benoît Gnonlonfin, main programme advisor, presented the 10 main activities provided in the action plan for this period. Among other keynote items, he mentioned the creation of an SPS institutional working group, the assessment of the current situation of national SPS committees and the holding of a regional meeting and information and awareness rising of the private sector and SME about sanitary and phytosanitary standards and regulations. Other activities are also planned such as the establishment of a Scientific Committee (group of experts), the support of a broader SPS partnership with the United States, including coordination to push forward the trade and investment framework agreement (TIFA) and participation in the main meetings of international bodies responsible for SPS issues: CAC, IPPC, OIE and OMC.

According to Mr. Gnonlonfin, the programme has seen major achievements since February 2017. Among other matters, he mentioned having taken part in the 2017 ECOWAS-RURAL HUB planning meeting, the effective creation of an institutional SPS working group on 3rd May 2017 in Dakar, the preparation and running of training of trainers sessions on the control and management of aflatoxins at Porto-Novo, organized by the Centre Trade and Investment in West Africa on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd June 2017, and then capacity building for ECOWAS member states to increase the participation and successful use of Codex 2 trust funds.



B. GNONLONFIN, during his speech



DO YOU KNOW?

Award Categories

- Leadership Award

The Leadership Award is the first of four special awards after the Excellence Award. The purpose of this award is to boost registered organizations through a shared project approach and sustainable medium and long-term performance to contribute to the development of ECOWAS.

The Leadership Award takes into consideration elements such as the inclusion of legal and accounting standards within the organization, use of the seven principles of quality management, existence of market shares in the ECOWAS region, good governance (coherence between decisions made by the general meeting, the board of directors and the executive management), policies, roles, responsibilities and authorities within the organization, quality objectives and planning of actions to achieve this.

- Product Development Award

The Product Development Award rewards good practices in design, management and improvement processes to support an organization's policy and strategy; the Product Development Award determines the capacity of the company to fully satisfy its clients and other interested parties while creating value.

It is based on criteria such as: operational planning and management, processing and/or sale of local products, requirements related to products and services, design and development of products and services, costs involved in research and development over the past two years, products and services, release of products and services and control of non-compliant output elements.

- Resource Management Award

The purpose of the Resource Management Award is to encourage organizations to manage resources efficiently and sustainably by having their staff take part in optimizing all processes, encouraging them to undertake initiatives and responsibilities and improve efficiency.

It is assessed on issues such as: human resources (percentage of local, regional, management, technical staff, total workforce) / (social security investment) / (equal opportunities at work policy, career path), protection of personal privacy, infrastructures, continuity plan (information system, equipment, building), environment to implement processes, surveillance and measurement resources, corporate knowledge, recognition of the merits of staff, recognition of the skills of staff, staff reward system, skills, awareness raising, communication, etc.

- Stakeholders Orientation Award

The Stakeholders Orientation Award looks at the identification of improvement opportunities and innovation to meet the actual and future anticipated needs of

interested parties. It is awarded to companies based on criteria such as: understanding of the organization and its context, understanding of the needs and expectations of interested parties, actions to be implemented to deal with risks and opportunities, environmental protection - managing natural resources in a spirit of sustainable development (contributing to protecting the environment), process management, products and services provided by external service providers, etc.

- Pedro Vilaseca Award

Pedro Vilaseca was an eminent expert on quality and standardization. Engineer, university professor and researcher, he was the Executive Director of the Chilean Standardization Institute for 10 years before dedicating the last 25 years of his life to cooperation and development. In particular, he contributed to creating and strengthening national standardization organizations in a number of French-speaking countries and particularly in Africa. He trained several generations of quality experts to whom he communicated his passion for excellence and taste for achievement.

Pedro Vilaseca was also the author of an impressive number of publications and professional and technical, as well as cultural and artistic works. He was a great humanist and a very generous man. He made several donations, during his training courses, of an astonishing number of books, standards and personal technical documents.

Pedro died on 11 November 2011, following an aggressive illness after a final mission to Mozambique for UNIDO. His quality expert colleagues and friends all over the world wish to continue his work through a quality award that would reward young hopefuls who share and perpetuate his vision of a better world.





DO YOU KNOW?

15 companies honoured at the first edition of the ECOWAS Quality Awards

Out of the 28 companies that took part in the ECOWAS Quality Award, 15 were rewarded in different categories. The table below provides relevant information on each distinguished company

Country	Name of companies	Award	Category
Benin	– Pharmacie Abattoir – AGETIP-BENIN	– Management des ressources – Excellence	Category C Category B
Burkina Faso	– Grace Divine	– Orientation parties intéressées	Category C
Cape Verde	– Labojovem – Cabo Verde Telecom	– Leadership – Orientation parties intéressées	Category C Category A
Côte d'Ivoire	– FILTISAC	– Excellence	Category A
Ghana	– Medlab Ghana limited	– Management des ressources	Category B
Guinea Bissau	– PETROMAR	– Leadership	Category B
Mali	– Conseil Ingénierie et Recherches Appliquées (CIRA)	– Management des ressources	Category A
Niger	– Sogea Satom	– Réalisation du produit	Category A
Nigeria	– Clina Lancet Laboratories – Zaika Food Lagos – PZ CUSSONS, Lagos	– Excellence – Réalisation du produit – Leadership	Category C Category B Category A
Senegal	– Labosol-Agts	– Orientation parties intéressées	Category B
Togo	– Cabinet d'Expertise Comptable (AEC)	– Réalisation du produit	Category C

WAQSP IN A FEW WORDS

West Africa Quality System Programme

Support to the implementation
of the ECOWAS Quality Policy

DONOR

European Union

FUNDING AMOUNT

EUR 12 000 000

BENEFICIARIES

Regional Level

UEMOA Commission, ECOWAS Commission

National Level

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo & Mauritania.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

UNIDO

ISSUES

Quality Infrastructure : Quality policy, Accreditation, Metrology, Standardization, Conformity assessment, Quality promotion
Technical regulations

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