



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Editorial

The Editorial Team of the WAQSP Newsletter is pleased to share this second issue of the programme's Newsletter with you. This Programme which is funded by the EU and implemented by UNIDO, aims to support the implementation of the ECOWAS quality policy "ECOQUAL". The Programme was launched in November 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria. It is the 3rd phase of the regional quality programme which the European Union has funded since 2001.

West Africa faces a lot of challenges to industrial development. Lack of proper infrastructures, landlocked and fragmented economies, political and economic barriers is some of the obstacles to attain an inclusive and sustainable industrial development within the region. Industrialization remains an important element to assist in boosting the West African economy for the benefit of all stakeholders and the West African people. One of the major objectives of the WAQSP is to foster industrialization in the participating Member States. An enhanced quality infrastructure will lead to an increase in the quality and safety of products and services through out the region. The WAQSP aims to carry out several activities in West Africa and Mauritania to assist the beneficiaries to achieve this enhanced quality infrastructure thereby developing inclusive and sustainable industrialization to the region.

This second issue of the WAQSP Newsletter provides an overview of some of the activities the programme has carried out to date. A quality culture is being developed, as stakeholders in beneficiary countries become more aware of the WAQSP through the national launching ceremonies performed by the National Focal Points in each of

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the participating states. Requests have been made by Member States to establish a national quality policy in their countries so as to accelerate the establishment of a sustainable quality infrastructure. (page 3)

You will also find in this issue, a testimony by some phase 2 West Africa Quality Programme (WAQP) private sector beneficiaries, who have achieved better production output since obtaining various ISO certifications with the assistance of the WAQP. (page 12).

Our partnerships section highlights some of the synergies being made between the WAQSP and other programmes under the auspices of the ECOWAS Directorate of Industry, including synergies between the WAQSP and the National Quality Infrastructure Project Nigeria (NQIP Nigeria). (page 14)

PROGRAMME FACTS

- An ECOWAS programme launched in November 2014
- EUR 12 million funding by the European Union under the 10th EDF
- Implemented by UNIDO
- Beneficiaries: 15 ECOWAS Member States and the private sector
- Components: Quality, Accreditation, Metrology, Standardization and Conformity Assessment

Reaching excellence through Quality

DID YOU KNOW?

- Did you know that "ECOQUAL" stands for ECOWAS QUALITY POLICY?
- Did you know that ECOSHAM stands for ECOWAS Standards Harmonization Model?
- Did you know that only 4 countries in West Africa have a national quality policy?
- Did you know that Nigeria has a National Quality Infrastructure programme equally funded by the European Union?

WAQSP Components and Expected Results in brief

- Accreditation** : Establishment of a regional accreditation system
- Certification** : Establishment of a regional product certification system
- Conformity Assessment** : Strengthening of conformity assessment bodies and services
- Metrology** : Establishment of a regional metrology and calibration system
- Quality Culture** : Creation and strengthening of quality centres of excellence and awareness
- Quality Policy** : Harmonization of national quality policies with ECOQUAL
- Standardization** : Support of the regional standards harmonization mechanism (ECOSHAM)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sensitization of media professionals on quality in the 15 ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania
- Missions of international experts for the selection of conformity assessment bodies in the countries
- Study on the establishment of an industrial and quality database

NEWS

West Africa Quality System Programme welcomed in West African States

Following the successful launch of the WAQSP in Abuja, Nigeria, a series of launching ceremonies were organized in the West African States to create awareness and kick start the programme activities. The national launching ceremonies brought together the programme beneficiaries and participants from the private and public sectors as well as consumer associations and industries. The turnout was also very high and

some countries recorded as many as 100 participants to the event. The events were also attended by high level government officials in each of the countries, demonstrating the willingness of the West African States to develop an efficient, effective and sustainable quality infrastructure in the region. The government officials clearly requested the need for continuous EU and UNIDO support to enhance their quality infrastructure, thereby boosting national

and intercontinental trade. They also called for the establishment of a national quality policy in each of the Member States in order to successfully implement the ECOWAS Quality policy. Experts from the WAQSP were equally present at some of the launches to make presentations of the programme's aims and objectives.

Benin to upgrade the laboratories for accreditation

Cotonou, Benin Republic, 16 June 2015 – The Honourable Minister in charge of Industry, Commerce and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Mrs Assogba Françoise Abraoua in her opening speech, acknowledged the role of the WAQSP, UNIDO, EU and ECOWAS in the development of effective quality infrastructure in the region and particularly in Benin. She expressed the wish that this new WAQSP will continue to assist in the components started during the previous WAQP and particularly to have a specific programme to upgrade the laboratories in Benin for accreditation.

A beneficiary of the previous West Africa Quality Programmes, the foremost telecommunications operator in Benin MOOV, winner of the latest WAEMU Quality Awards gave a testimony of their success. The Director of the "Laboratoire Central de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments", the biggest laboratory in Benin, made a presentation of the country's quality infrastructure.



Mrs Assogba Françoise Abraoua - Minister in charge of Industry and Commerce and SMEs, Mr Manuel Fernandez Quilez -, EU Representative and other participants



Mr. Christian SOMDA - Cabinet Director of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Crafts, Mr. Marou SAWADOGO - EU representative in Burkina Faso, Mr. Salifou ISSOUFOU - WAEMU representative and Mme Simone ZOUNDI - member of the WAQSP National Monitoring Committee in Burkina Faso and other participants

Establishment of the National Monitoring Committee in Burkina Faso, by Mr Christian SOMDA, Cabinet Director of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Crafts

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso 22nd October 2015 –Mr. Christian SOMDA, Cabinet Director of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Crafts, in his opening speech stated the Government’s commitment to ensure the efficient implementation of the WAQSP in the Country. This, he said, will enable the implementation of a regional quality infrastructure, thereby facilitating intra-regional and international trade as well as the sustainable development of the region. He recalled the main achievements of the two previous programme’s phases and thanked the ECOWAS Commission for adopting the regional quality policy and UNIDO for its expertise and continued engagement in the implementation of this new WAQSP.

Cape Verde invests in the creation, maintenance and continuous improvement of the institutions involved in the management of quality infrastructure

Santa Maria, 20 June 2015 – In Cape Verde, more than 80 people were present at the launching ceremony of the WAQSP. The event was graced by several Ministers. The opening speech was made by the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Investments and Entrepreneurial Development, Dr Leonesa Fortes. Dr Fortes in her opening remarks confirmed the Cape Verdean government’s investment in the creation, maintenance and continuous improvement of the institutions involved in the management of quality infrastructure. She noted the importance of the development of national and regional quality infrastructure and more importantly the role of conformity assessments services in the country to support exports and ensure proper access to regional/international trade.



Dr Leonesa Fortes, Minister of Tourism, Investments and Entrepreneurial Development, Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Education and sport, DG Tourism, CEO Trade Fair

WAQP recognized as invaluable partner of Government of The Gambia in strengthening the national quality infrastructure

Bakau, 30 June 2015 – In The Gambia, over 50 participants were present at the opening ceremony of the national launching of the WAQSP. The key message delivered at this ceremony was the willingness of The Gambia to work closely with the WAQSP to strengthen its national quality infrastructure. Mr Alieu Secka expressed the full support of the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) to the WAQS Programme whose areas of intervention will tackle the needs of the country.



Mr Papa Secka, DG The Gambia Standards Bureau and Focal Point, next to him is the representative from the Ministry of Trade, Mrs Baturu Camara-Ceesay and finally, Mr Alieu Secka, the CEO of Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ghana set to finalize its National Quality Policy and set up a National Quality Programme

Accra, 25 June 2015 – The national launching of the WAQSP in Accra created awareness on the objectives of the Programme. Mr Ignacio Burrull Head of Operations of the EU Delegation to Ghana reaffirmed the EU's continuous

commitment to support trade facilitation and quality in Ghana and in the West African region. He also indicated the EU's willingness to promote consumer's protection and to support export through improving the quality of products. The Chief Director for Ministry of Trade and Industry together with the CEO of Ghana Standards Authority as well as the programme's major beneficiaries and stakeholders praised the WAQSP and its achievements during its previous phases, and expressed their expectations from the ongoing WAQSP.



Mr Burrull, EU Delegation and other participants chief Director for Ministry of Trade and Industry Mr Robert B Tandor (Chairman NMC & Director for Standards at the MOTI)

Guinean government supports the WAQS Programme in the implementation of the ECOQUAL



Mr. Boubacar BARRY, Minister of Industry and Private Sector Promotion representing the President of the Republic of Guinea His Excellency Professor Alpha CONDE, Mrs. Jacqueline Sultan, Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Jean-Albert Camara, Secretary General to the Minister of Fishery and Aquaculture, Mr. Marc Yombouno, Secretary General of the Ministry of Commerce, Mrs. Els Mortier, EU Representative, and other participants

Conakry, 24 June 2015 – Over 90 participants attended the national launching ceremony of the WAQSP in Guinea. The event was attended by several Ministers of the Guinea government. Mr. Boubacar BARRY, Minister of Industry and Private Sector Promotion (representing the President of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency Professor Alpha CONDE) confirmed the

satisfaction of the Government for the constant and precious support to the development of the Country. He stated that Guinea would like to contribute to international trade and is confident that this Programme will help the Country to progress in quality matters so as to facilitate the integration of Guinea in international trade.

Presentations were made by two

beneficiaries of the previous programmes, the Director General, Dr. Sékou Moussa KEITA (Centre for Environmental Studies and Research - CERE), and Dr. Vincent KAWE, Head of the Laboratory (Central Veterinary laboratory of Diagnostic - LCVD), attesting to the achievements of the previous programme.

WAQSP set up in Guinea Bissau

Bissau, 29 June 2015 – In Guinea-Bissau, The Prime Minister in his opening remarks stressed the importance of the WAQS Programme for the development of the private sector in the country.



Group photo of participants: Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau, Ing.º Domingos Simões PEREIRA (first row, second from the left), the Minister of Energy and Industry Dr. Florentino Mendes PEREIRA, Professeur Dr. Ingº Luis Mira AMARAL, President of the BIC Bank of Portugal, Dr. Victor Djemba, UNIDO Representative and Dr. Gabriel Labão DAVA, UNDP Deputy Representative

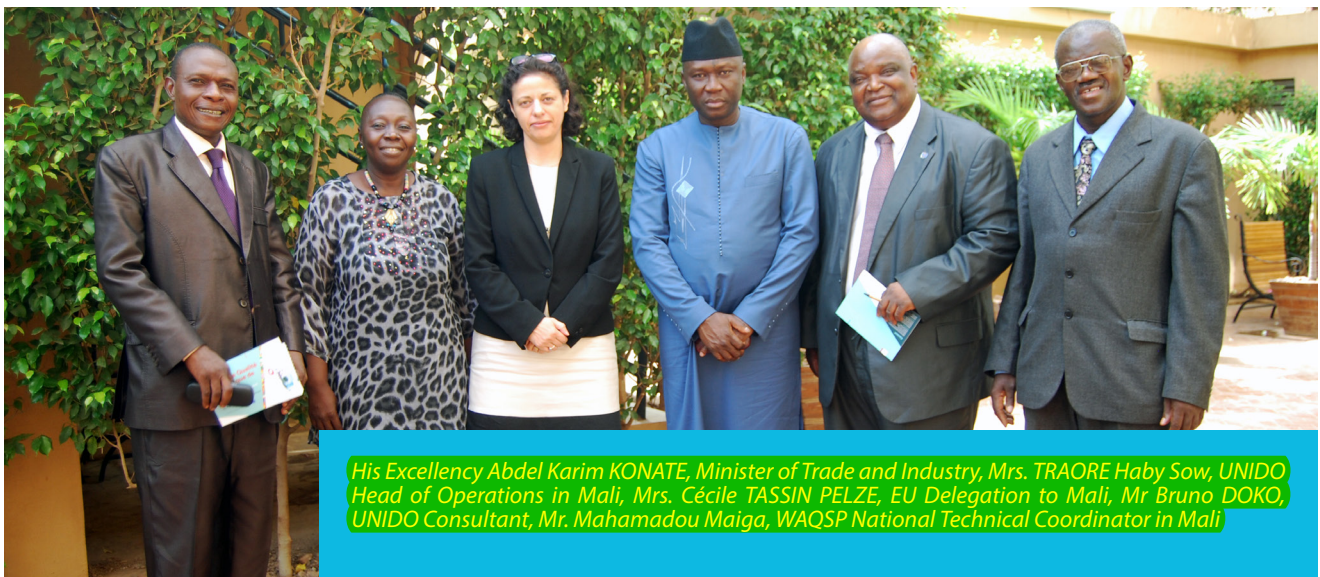
Liberia to strengthen its quality system through the WAQSP

Monrovia, 30th June 2015 – In Liberia, Mr. Frank Sawyer, Deputy Minister for Administration of Commerce & Industry speaking on behalf of Honourable Minister Axel M. Addy stated that Liberia as a country is a beneficiary of the past West Africa Quality Program; two National Standards Laboratory were established in the WAQP Phase 2, several technicians were trained in quality programs, and a number of local

industries also participated in quality industrial programs. Liberia through the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has developed several key national policies: National Trade Policy, Industrial Policy and National Export Strategy. Mr. Sawyer also ensured that the overall national quality system is built and strengthened through accessibility to regional quality systems like accreditation, certification, conformity assessment and metrology

systems. This, he said, will greatly enhance the country's trade facilities. He concluded by calling all national stakeholders, donors and developing partners to cooperate and support in building a national platform required to ensure Liberia's fullest participation and accrue the benefits that the WAQSP offers.

Government of Mali affirms commitment to recently adopted National Quality Policy during the launching ceremony of WAQSP



His Excellency Abdel Karim KONATE, Minister of Trade and Industry, Mrs. TRAORE Haby Sow, UNIDO Head of Operations in Mali, Mrs. Cécile TASSIN PELZE, EU Delegation to Mali, Mr Bruno DOKO, UNIDO Consultant, Mr. Mahamadou Maiga, WAQSP National Technical Coordinator in Mali

Bamako, 18 June 2015 – In Mali, over 80 participants attended the national launching ceremonies of the WAQSP in Bamako. The Minister, His Excellency, Abdel Karim KONATE, Minister of Trade and Industry, first expressed his thanks and the government's recognition to the EU as donor of the Programme, UNIDO and stakeholders for their contributions to the success of the Programme in Mali. He affirmed the Government's

commitment to the National Quality Policy adopted on 10 June, 2015 for the development and functioning of an efficient national Quality Infrastructure. The Minister pleaded for the sensitization to quality measures as well as the set-up of a quality culture in the country. He also highlighted the socio-economic advantages of quality in the domain of health and environment. It was decided to hold the first NMC Meeting of the WAQSP in order to present the annual

activities of the Programme for its adoption. Testimonies were made by the firms KOUMALIM-SA (ISO 22000 certified in December 2010) and the National Laboratory for Health (Laboratoire National de la Santé) (accredited in June 2013).



M. Hans-Christian BEAUMOND, Minister Counsellor EU Representation in Mauritania, M. Ebaya OULD MOHAMED SALECK, Head of mission representing the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, M. Mohamed ETHMANE, Director of Standardization and Quality Promotion, M. Marcel GBAGUIDI, UNIDO

Mauritania places high hopes on the WAQSP as a good basis for economic development and regional integration

Nouakchott, 15 June 2015 – In Mauritania, M. Ebaya OULD MOHAMED SALECK, Head of mission representing the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism expressed his thanks and recognition to the EU and welcomed the commendable efforts of UNIDO through the effective implementation of the West Africa Quality System Programme which will “assist ECOWAS to achieve” the birth of a regional quality infrastructure, as a good basis for economic development and regional integration.

Finalisation of a National Quality Policy in Niger



Mr. Omar Hamidou Thiana, Minister of Industrial Development and Mines, Mrs. Sani Mariama Moussa, Minister Delegated for Industrial Development, Mr. Ousmane Abdou, Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Mr. Manou Abdou, Programme Officer, EU Delegation in Niger

Niamey, 30 June 2015 – In Niger, over 50 participants attended the national launching ceremonies held in Niamey. Three of the country’s ministers were present at the launch which was a success. Mr. Omar Hamidou Thiana, Minister of Industrial Development and Mines highlighted the adoption of the ECOWAS Regional Quality Policy and the reinforcement of technical capacities of regional bodies in standardization, certification, metrology and accreditation. He affirmed the “the Ministry of Industrial Development and Mines would like to financially contribute to the finalization of the National Quality Policy in Niger”.

Senegal to advance its inclusive sustainable industrial development in conjunction with the definition of a national quality policy in line with ECOQUAL



Mr Jean Pierre SACAZE EU representative, M. Mamadou DIOP Secrétaire Général du Ministère de l'Industrie et des Mines, Représentant Monsieur le Ministre

Dakar, 10 June 2015 – In Senegal, Mr. Mamadou DIOP, Secretary General to the Minister of Industry and Mines, stressed the urgent need for Senegal to be assisted in the definition of its national quality policy aligned with the ECOWAS policy (ECOQUAL). He also recalled the personal commitment of the Minister in the monitoring of the programme which has led to the designation of the Director General of the ASN (Association Sénégalaise de Normalisation) as President of the National Monitoring Committee (NMC) and

also informed of the nomination of the members of the NMC in the coming weeks. In his remarks, Mr. Jean Pierre SACAZE, Economic Adviser at the EU Delegation in Dakar stressed the important support given to trade development in West Africa and expressed his satisfaction in the results achieved during the course of the different quality programmes. Mr. Victor DJEMBA, the UNIDO Representative in Dakar gave an overview of the evolution of the quality programme in the previous phases. He used the opportunity to announce the formulation of a programme in support of the national quality infrastructure through the UNIDO Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) programme. A PCP is designed to support the national industrialization goals and development projects of the benefitting country. Senegal alongside Ethiopia is one of the two pilot countries to implement this ISID vision of UNIDO through the PCP.

Implementation of a Product Certification Scheme by Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB)



The Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Trade & Industry, Hon. Kaisamba EU Representative Mr. Mr. Stephan Van Preat, Chief Director of Trade and Industry; . Charles May-Weather Thompson, The Chairman of the Programme Dr. Ibrahim Shami, Hon. Deputy Minister of Health & Sanitation Madam Madina Rahman, The Chairman National Monitoring Committee, Mr. K. B. Evans

Freetown, 26 June 2015 – In Sierra Leone, The Hon. Deputy Minister of Health & Sanitation Madam Madina Rahman called for collaborative inter-Ministerial consultations for uniformity and sustainability of the Programme as the country is far behind in catching up with other countries in the African Continent and the rest of the world. Mr. Evans, Chairman of the National Monitoring Committee, informed the audience that the Sierra Leone Standards


Bureau will soon commence the implementation of Product Certification Scheme, provision of the third party guarantee of quality, safety and reliability of Sierra Leonean products that has undergone a rigorous inspection and testing to enhance customer's satisfaction. The products cover, water, cassava, rice, vegetable oil, cereal based food, peanut butter, beverages. Mr. Stephan Van Preat, EU Representative, stated the European Union supports the Government of Sierra Leone in various projects implemented by Ministries, Departments and Agencies. He stressed that the country is facing a serious challenge due to the Ebola outbreak and this should

serve as a wake-up call for the Government of Sierra Leone to diversify its resources. He noted that for this to happen, standards need to be set. He called on the Government to include the "Agenda for Quality" as a pillar under the current "Agenda for Prosperity". The Chief Director of Trade and Industry Mr. Charles May-Weather Thompson said that National Quality Infrastructure will help improve the quality and competitiveness of products, trade promotion, environmental health and safety of the general public against the dumping of sub-standards and/or counterfeit products into the country.

Overview of the National Quality Policy in ECOWAS and Mauritania

The WAQSP team has just completed a report on the situation of quality infrastructure in the 15 ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania at the start of this new WAQSP Phase 3 in 2015. The report gives an overview of the state of quality infrastructure in all the beneficiary countries. The table below is an excerpt of the report and shows the status of the national quality policies in the Member States.

Status of the national quality policy (NQP) in ECOWAS Member states including Mauritania

Countries	Existence of a National Quality Policy (NQP)		Comments 
	Yes	No	
Benin Republic		•	Yet to define a NQP
Burkina Faso	•		NQP adopted by Decree n ° 2012-310/PRES/PM/MICA/MEF, of April 24, 2012
Cape Verde	•		The NQP of Cape Verde policy developed and approved by the Council of Ministers according to the Resolution No. in June 2015. 55/2015.
Côte d'Ivoire		•	Elaboration of the NQP currently in progress
Ghana		•	Elaboration of the NQP currently in progress
Guinea		•	Yet to define a NQP
Guinea-Bissau			Yet to define a NQP with the assistance of the WAQSP
The Gambia	•		The elaboration of a NQP in The Gambia commenced in 2010 and in June 2014, a national policy on the quality infrastructure and the technical framework was approved.
Liberia		•	Yet to define a NQP with the assistance of the WAQSP
Mali	•		Adoption by the Council of Ministers June 10, 2015 of the NQP document and its action plan for 2015-2017.
Mauritania		•	Yet to define a NQP
Niger	•		A project of NQP elaborated with the support of the WAQSP. (Awaiting approval)
Federal Republic of Nigeria		•	NQP under development in the framework of the national quality programme (National Quality Infrastructure Programme (NQIP)).
Senegal		•	Yet to define a NQP with the assistance of the WAQSP
Sierra Leone		•	Yet to define a NQP with the assistance of the WAQSP
Republic of Togo		•	Yet to define a NQP with the assistance of the WAQSP

A

s shown above, only 4 countries within the region have adopted a National Quality Policy. This includes Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia and Mali. 2 countries, Niger and Nigeria have initiated the adoption of a National Quality Policy and there are currently no National Quality policies in the 10 remaining participating States.

However, as reported, all the beneficiary countries have established one or more structures to handle standardization, metrology, conformity assessment, accreditation and quality promotion.

The NQP is relevant to a country in order to ensure that goods and services emanating from or traded in the country are designed, manufactured and supplied in a manner that meets the needs, expectations and requirements of the purchasers and consumers as well as those of the regulatory authorities in the local and international markets.

The WAQP has been assisting the beneficiary countries through the WAQP phase 1 and 2. In this 3rd phase, the Programme will be assisting the countries without a NQP to formulate one as well as support the other countries in the implementation of their national quality policies in line with the ECOWAS regional quality policy (ECOQUAL). The existence of an NQP will enable a better implementation of the ECOQUAL, which is the main objective of the WAQSP.

COUNTRY FOCUS

Cape verde



The new WAQSP will continue in the development of quality infrastructure in the region in continuation of the previous first and second phases of the WAQP.

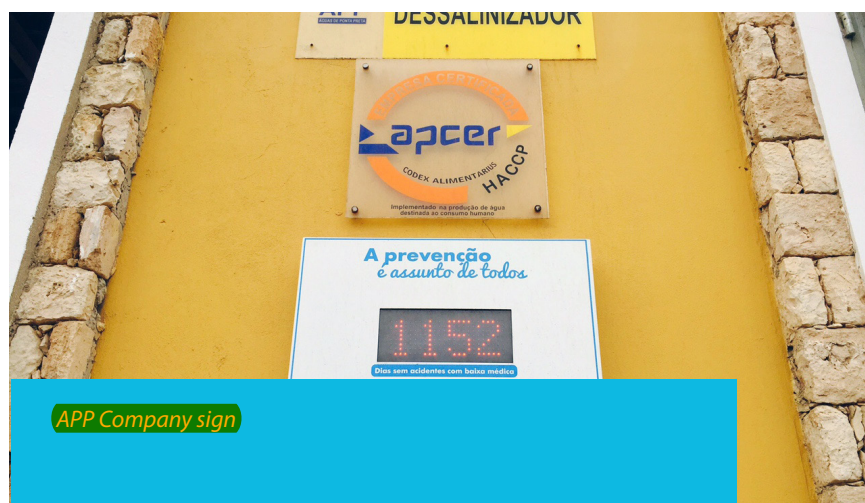
Cape verde – invest in quality management systems

(IGQPI) is in charge of standardisation, metrology and product certification in the Country. WAQP supported Aguas Ponta Preta (APP) through accreditation ISO (its first HACCP certification) in the

WAQP Phase 2.

APP was set up in 2000 by CASSA Group and Cabocan, located in Santa Maria, Sal Island, Cape Verde. Its mission is to provide basic energy services, water and sanitation in a hotel zone named Ponta Preta, allowing the development of tourism in that area of the island. Its activities cover the whole water cycle, desalination to reuse, through purification, distribution and treatment of waste water. Moreover, APP produces and distributes electricity. Its main clients are hotels and resorts, this ensures the supply of water and electricity for the provision of quality tourist service.

In Cape Verde the Institute for Quality Management and Intellectual Property



APP Company sign

APP, CEO Interview by the WAQSP National Technical Coordinator in Cape Verde, Ms. Joana Morais Flor



APP CEO - Mr. Damià Pujol Alibés

1. What are the main advantages of the implementation of the HACCP system on APP?

The main advantages resulting from the implementation of HACCP and later on the ISO 9001:2008 was a boost in confidence with regards to our desalinated water production process. It also gave us access to a new management tool, based on the knowledge of the indicators at each stage of our business. Additionally, I would like to put into highlight the excellent level of involvement of the entire operating team in the process, adding to its industrial culture which is an obvious advantage for the company.

2. What is the feedback from the clients after the certification process of APP?

We have noted more trust from our customers, who valued positively this investment in quality control taking into account the relationship between



APP Installation - Sal, Cape Verde

drinking water, public health and socio-economic development.

3. Is there interest in other certifications? Why?

There is full interest in other certifications in terms of quality because the adaptation of industrial processes and standardization increases the assurance of the quality of our product; drinking water. APP develops its public duty and activity under the rules of the Economic Regulation Agency and the Company's management considers it strategic to continue to adopt certifications in the relevant areas for the water sector.

4. What are the future APP's projects in the field of Quality?

We are currently scheduling progressive implementation of certification for the management of health and safety (ISO 18001: 2007), energy efficiency (ISO 50001: 2008), environmental management (ISO 14001: 2004) and food security (ISO 22000: 2005).

5. Would you recommend the implementation of quality systems to other companies? Why?

Yes, I do, particularly for two reasons:

- quality assurance of the goods
- efficiency and improvement of the productive processes of the companies that will increase the industrial development of the country

6. What would you like to see implemented in this new phase of the WAQSP?

I would like to see a larger number of enterprises in all sectors improve as a result of the adoption of quality management systems in order to demonstrate the development of the country, for which the IGQPI is the guardianship institution in the sector.



Overview of APP Facilities



APP Team

Niche Cocoa certified ISO 22000:2005 in Food Safety Management systems in 2013 through WAQP support

Niche Cocoa Industry Limited, is a Ghanaian owned business that processes cocoa beans into semi-finished products i.e. cocoa liquor, cake and butter for export. Niche Cocoa Industry is one of the beneficiaries of the WAQP, phase 2. The Programme provided the technical expertise and guided the company through ISO 22000 certification just within 18 months which is seen as a very commendable feat. Although the certification process was complex, the company was able to go through the process within a short space of time thanks to the tireless effort of staff and the unflinching technical support of the Programme. As a result, Niche Cocoa Industry Limited joined the prestigious



Testimony of a representative of Niche Cocoa, beneficiary of the previous WAQP project during WAQP launch

league of internationally certified food and beverage companies in Ghana in 2013 when they obtained certification to ISO 22000:2005 Food safety management systems - Requirements for any organization in the food chain. For Niche Cocoa Industry Limited, the certification has been an image-booster and opened new international markets. The company currently exports to the European and

Asian markets such as Germany, Turkey and Japan. *In the area of accreditation, the company looks forward to gaining certification in occupational health and safety management standard with the help of the current WAQSP.*

Ashanti foam factory limited certified ISO 9001:2008 in 2012 through WAQP



Testimony of a representative of Ashfoam, beneficiary of the previous WAQP project during WAQP launch

Ashanti Foam Factory Limited is currently the only company that manufactures, distributes and sells polyurethane foam products in Ghana which is certified to ISO 9001-2008. The company's flagship products include mattresses and pillows which come in various designs, sizes and textures, and have seen consistent development over the years, attracting high patronage and sales. Following the WAQP's evaluation of companies in the ECOWAS Region, Ashfoam met the criteria which qualified it to be supported by the WAQP Phase 2 towards certification to ISO 9001:2008. The Programme provided the technical advice by sponsoring a Consultant to guide the company through the process

of certification and also paid for the initial certification fee. ".....Since their certification in 2012, the company has become more quality conscious and this awareness has significantly reduced customer complaints and resulted in the introduction of other complementary brands which include bed sheets, duvets, sofas, students' beds, specialized baby beds, and towels. Ashfoam has become a household name in many Ghanaian homes as a premium brand of choice.

PARTNERSHIPS

ECOWAS Quality Partners Meeting

26th-27th August 2015 Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria

The first ECOWAS Quality Programs Partners meeting included representatives from UNIDO, GIZ, SIS and PTB. This four institutions are currently implementing the ECOWAS regional quality policy through different projects. The Partners decided to synergize some of their activities in order to rationalize resources to achieve better “results”.



ECOWAS Commissioner Kalilou TRAORE and Director of Industry Mr Mensan LAWSON-HECHELLI, representatives from UNIDO, GIZ, PTB and SIS

ECOSHAM Technical Committee on harmonisation of Standards for Tourism in ECOWAS Meeting

13th – 16th July 2015, Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria



Group photo of participants at the meeting

The meeting's objectives were to enable the team of experts to take stock of all the information documents relative to the ECOSHAM procedure as well as identify the standards to harmonise. A Work plan was drawn up during the course of the Meeting, which contains an action plan and calendar to achieve the necessary harmonisation. This year the WAQSP has assisted the ECOWAS Commission in organising 4 ECOSHAM Meetings in Abuja, Abidjan, Dakar and Lomé.

ECOWAS Development Partners Regional Economic Integration Group Meeting

29th June in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria

The ECOWAS development partner's regional integration group held a meeting on 29th June in Abuja, Nigeria on the theme of “Fostering regional economic integration and competitiveness in West Africa”. The meeting was co-organized by UNIDO and GIZ.



Group photo of ECOWAS Technical and Financial partners – ECOWAS Commissioners Dr Ibrahim Bocar BA, Mr Kalilou TRAORE, Mr Ahmed Hamid, Mr Brian O'Neil Head of Cooperation EU Delegation to Nigeria present at the meeting in Abuja 29th June 2015.

Read more: <http://www.unido.org/news/press/unido-continues-to-s.html>

WAQSP and NQI joint capacity building for Media professionals



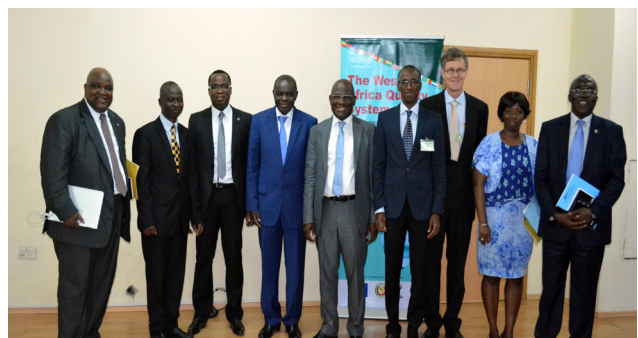
The WAQSP and the National Quality Infrastructure Programme Nigeria (NQIP Nigeria) carried out a sensitization workshop for media professionals on quality and quality infrastructures as part of a capacity building scheme. This will ensure the media acquires a better understanding of the national and regional quality programmes, the role played by the technical and financial partners as well as

enhance the quality of information being reported regarding standardization, accreditation, metrology, quality promotion, good governance and best practices for industry in Nigeria and the rest of the West African region.

Events Gallery



Working Session of the National Technical Committee on Metrology, August 18th 2015, Abuja, Nigeria

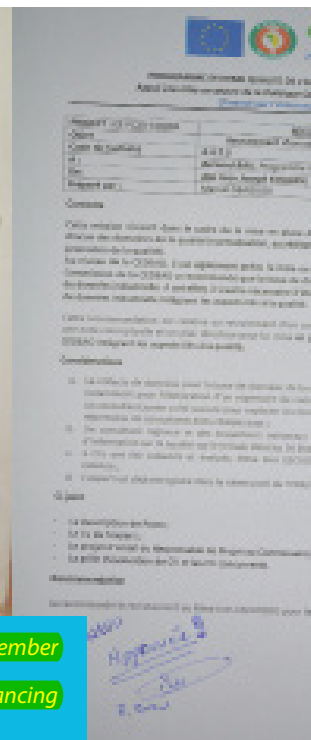


Technical team of Experts during a briefing mission with Commissioner Kalilou TRAORE in the framework of the study to set up the regional quality infrastructure of ECOWAS, Abuja 3rd September 2015. The EU programme monitoring expert, Mr. Bert van Manen, (3rd person from right) attended the meeting as observer.

1 year of WAQSP, 100th recommendation!



Approval of Recommendation N°100 exactly 1 year anniversary of the Programme (September 2014-September 2015), same day as the 3rd Restricted Steering Committee of the WAQSP. NB: (a recommendation is an administrative document signed by the project manager that allows the financing of a technical activity)



CONTACTS

Download the project leaflet here:

In English: http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/media/documents/pdf/TCB/WAPQ_EN.pdf

In French: http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/media/documents/pdf/TCB/WAPQ_FR.pdf

In Portuguese: http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/media/documents/pdf/TCB/WAPQ_PT.pdf

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