Steps in the Strengthening of the National Quality Infrastructure

A Developing Country Perspective

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Outline

- National Quality Policy
- Regional Initiatives
- Stakeholder engagement
Considerations in the development of a National Quality Infrastructure

- Make linkages to the Multilateral System
  - The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago embarked on a national Aid for Trade Strategy

- Participate in the International and Regional Initiatives (if applicable)
  - Coherence and integration is key

- Determine what is needed to effect the initiatives at the national level
National Quality System

- The system relies on an overarching policy to give it effect and an infrastructure to support the related initiatives
  - it combines initiatives, institutions, organizations (public and private), activities and people
Quality Policy

- The Quality Policy (QP) is the basic governing instrument for establishing, formalizing, and overseeing the development and performance of a Quality Infrastructure (QI)
  - Developing and agreeing upon the QP requires wide stakeholder engagement
  - An implementation plan and communication plan should accompany the policy

Key: Appropriateness for the specific context of a particular country (Gap Analysis)
Elements in Trinidad and Tobago’s NQP Implementation Plan

- **Component 1**: Formation of Governance bodies
  - Quality Councils, Project oversite offices

- **Component 2**: Review of Legislation
  - To clearly define mandates, avoid overlaps and address gaps

- **Component 3**: Address institutional strengthening
  - Empowerment of institutions/ capacity building

- **Component 4**: Building a Quality conscious society
  - Effecting a Culture change
A Quality Policy Supporting the Quality System and Infrastructure

- The QP provides a transparent non-discriminatory framework to link and underpin other national policies
  - it gives a definition of the QI institutions roles and responsibilities
  - it gives authority for planned initiatives to be undertaken
  - it harmonizes related national operational and legislative agendas
  - it gives a clear direction for QI development in relation to national priorities
Regional Initiatives

- CROSQ - CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality:
  - Coordinated approach to the development of the quality infrastructure at the regional level – takes advantage of national competencies
  - The development of National Quality Policies based on a Regional Quality Policy – promotes coherency
  - Development of regional committees to treat with QI matters
  - Capacity building
Tangible Benefits Of Formal NQI

- **Economic Growth:**
  The NQI positively contributes to the SDGs, innovation and diversification

- **Social Development:**
  It promotes greater enforcement of regulations while ensuring the safety and well-being of persons

- **Environmental Protection:**
  the NQI assists more effective use of natural resources, the environment and climate
Stakeholder Engagement

- Have a National Launch of the (QP)
  - High level Participants
    - Persons aware of the QI gaps
  - Panel Discussions
    - legislative reform
  - Sectoral Break out Sessions
    - diversification

- Consider various forms of engagement
  - Prior and during implementation
Summary – Key Learnings

- In the absence of a policy the infrastructure may be developed in an *ad hoc* manner and not relate to national development priorities
  - review other national related policies
  - legislative components may be needed to give mandatory status

- A robust gap analysis is needed:
  - if legislative roles are to be clearly defined
  - to avoid agenda overlap of responsibility
  - to establish a baseline for monitoring and evaluation

- Regional initiatives support buy-in at the national level
- Funding mechanisms should be identified for implementation
- Have the Government champion initiatives to foster buy-in
  - Engage stakeholders to relate NQP to their specific areas of interest
Thank You for your attention

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