



WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY GREETINGS 2016

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Today, Thursday 9th June 2016 is World Accreditation Day. The theme for this year is “***Accreditation: a global tool in support of Public Policy***”. This is a very apt theme in this time of development of Nations as they all seek sustainability at a time of great uncertainty and financial upheavals. National sustainability in its essence is the ability of a nation to acquire wealth to ensure a good quality of life for all its citizens while being mindful to protect the environment so that future generations will have a world to live in and experience as we also have experienced. This is not a new concept as many ancient societies, such as the Indian tribes of the Americas, the Aborigines of Australia, the Chinese and the Polynesian people’s, have many proverbs and adages that speak to living not for this generation but for that which is two generations away. So it is quite ironic that as a global society we have come full circle and have committed our countries to achieve the United Nations 17 Sustainable Goals by 2030. Absolutely none of those goals can be achieved without national public policy.

So what does all of this mean? It means that conformity assessment is going to be central in providing evidence of compliance. Conformity assessment activities include inspection, certification, testing and calibration. For example, to prove that a country is reducing its emissions of greenhouse gases, the country needs to submit regular reports to the international fraternity. One of the easiest ways to ensure that the reporting is accurate is to develop a greenhouse gases certification scheme based on the suite of International Standards called *ISO 14064 – Greenhouse gases* and national regulations. This is established via the public policy process. According to ISO's Katie Bird, these standards “*provide government and industry with an integrated set of tools for programmes aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as for emissions trading*”. Therefore, the certification scheme that is developed to support this activity can be assured through accreditation of the certification body for that specific scheme.

There are many ways in which conformity assessment is applied on a national scale. However, it can only be assured through regular evaluations for competence and integrity. This is what accreditation brings to the table. However, the national benefit of accreditation can only be experienced and achieved by national commitment and support of the need for the accreditation of conformity assessment activities and services. This process of support will then provide support for the development, implementation and enforcement of Public Policy through reliable conformity assessment activities. As a result, systems will improve by becoming more efficient and effective.

On this special day, we at the Trinidad and Tobago Laboratory Accreditation Service, TTLABS, would like to publicly congratulate all of its accredited laboratories for the commitment to integrity and competence in service by deciding to seek accreditation, working through to achieving it, and finally maintaining this status. It is a difficult process but fulfilling when embraced. These laboratories are:

- LAS-001 Analytical Technologies Limited, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago since 2007
- LAS-002 Angostura Limited Laboratory, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago since 2007
- LAS-003 Trinidad Cement Limited, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago since 2011



- LAS-004 Environmental Sciences Limited, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago since 2011
- LAS-005 Kaizen Environmental Services (Trinidad) Ltd, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago since 2014
- LAS-006 Caribbean Premier Laboratory Ltd, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago since 2014
- LAS-007 Caribbean Analytical Services Limited, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago since 2016
- LAS-008 Grenada Bureau of Standards Analytical Laboratory, Grenada since 2016
- LAS-002M Central Diagnostics Ltd, Bermuda since 2015

To laboratories considering the process, we encourage you to venture through this path and embrace all the learnings that you will glean through the experience. It is only through these types of processes that diamonds can be formed.

I extend my heartfelt greetings to you all, our clients, our assessors, members of the Laboratory Accreditation Committee, our stakeholders, both private and public sectors, and last but not least our staff in the Secretariat and the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards both past and present who all contributed to the development of TTLABS to this point thus far. I wish you all a Happy World

Accreditation Day 2016 and look forward to our continued working relationships in the future.

REFERENCES

Bird, K 2006 "New ISO 14064 standards provide tools for assessing and supporting greenhouse gas reduction and emissions trading" *ISO News*, 3 March.