

MINISTRY PAPER No: _____

PERFORMANCE OF THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA (BSJ) FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/2007 AND FOCUS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2007/2008

1.0 Purpose of Ministry Paper

This report is intended to inform Parliament and the public about the performance of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) for the 2006/2007 Financial Year and its focus for the 2007/2008 Financial Year.

2.0 Mission

The mission of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica is to promote the international competitiveness of Jamaican producers, facilitate trade and protect consumers by providing standardization, metrology and regulatory services.

3.0 Background

The Standards Act of 1968 established the BSJ as a statutory organization with a fourteen (14) member Standards Council appointed by the Minister of Industry, Technology, Energy and Commerce.

The BSJ's mandate is to ensure compliance with The Standards Act, The Processed Foods Act and The Weights and Measures Act. Under these acts the BSJ formulates, promotes and implements standards for goods, services, processes and practices. Other aspects of its mandate are implemented from time to time through the Trade Act, the Customs Act and the Petroleum (Quality Control) Act.

4.0 Functions

The BSJ has both a regulatory as well as a developmental role. In carrying out its regulatory functions, the BSJ:

- Guides the promulgation of national standards which facilitate trade and safeguard against goods which are hazardous to health and safety;
- Maintains a link to the World Trade Organization/Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) as the National WTO/TBT Enquiry Point;
- Is the National Contact Point for the Codex Alimentarius Commission – the FAO/WHO body responsible for the establishment of international food standards;
- Monitors the quality of goods crossing at ports of entry as well as in the marketplace to ensure compliance with standards and regulations;

- Tests and analyzes raw materials, components and finished goods;
- Certifies products, processes, systems and practices; and
- Calibrates equipment.

The developmental role of the BSJ is closely linked to national economic growth through building a culture of quality to afford international recognition. In this regard, the BSJ:

- Provides national and international standards information;
- Provides assistance in the development of national and regional standards;
- Offers industrial training through seminars and in-plant courses as a mechanism to promote the application of standards;
- Conducts research and development; and
- Provides technical advice/consultancy.

Other objectives of the BSJ include, but are not limited to:

- Encouraging the mutual recognition of accreditation and certification systems which are based on internationally accepted criteria;
- Promoting consumer welfare and safety;
- Contributing to the preservation of the environment and conservation of the natural resources of the Community;
- Providing guidance to national and regional bodies regarding matters within its competence, including disputes settlement;
- Promoting and protecting the interests of Jamaica in regional and international standardizing fora, including external negotiations; and
- Promoting awareness of standards and standards-related matters to governments, commerce, industry and consumers.

5.0 Priority Programmes and Targets for Financial Year 2006/2007

The following were indicated in the Ministry Paper of 2005/2006 as the main areas of focus for Financial Year 2006/2007:

TABLE 1: SUMMARY REPORT ON 2005/06 TARGETS

TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS	CONSTRAINTS/REMARKS
Ensure that all critical standards are internationally traceable	All critical standards currently being used are internationally traceable.	There is need to acquire a number of critical standards to improve the traceability level for all of our testing and calibration activities.
Operate all laboratories based on ISO/IEC 17025 systems	The Mass Laboratory is operating based on ISO/IEC 17025 systems. Work is currently underway in respect of the accreditation of the	Progress has been slow due to the pressing demands of other programmes on the laboratory staff.

TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS	CONSTRAINTS/REMARKS
	<p>Dimensional and Temperature Laboratories. the quality manuals are currently being finalized as per the recommendation of the consultant from Physikalisch-Technischen Bundesanstalt (PTB).</p> <p>After the aforementioned laboratories have been accredited, work will commence on the accreditation of the others. However, in the interim, procedures are being developed to facilitate the eventual accreditation of these labs.</p>	
Upgrade two (2) metrology laboratories (Mechanical and Analytical)	A HPLC Machine (used for testing hypoglycin levels of ackee), an x-ray spectrophotometer (used for testing reinforced steel) and a carbon and sulphur analyzer (also used for testing reinforced steel) were acquired for the Analytical Laboratory. The Flow Bench in the Mechanical Laboratory was repaired.	During the financial year 2007/8, a number of items will be acquired as part of the retooling programme currently underway at the BSJ.
Develop and submit a new food safety legislation	The Food Safety Legislation utilizing HACCP principles was developed and approved and has been issued for public comments. It is intended to provide an appropriate legislation that will promote and enhance the implementation of the equivalence of an internationally recognized food safety system in our local food processing industry and to ensure products being imported into the island were made under acceptable conditions and are safe for consumption.	
Develop and implement an exchange programme for key staff with selected "benchmark organizations"	In October 2006, a benchmarking visit was made to standards and metrology institutes in Singapore. An agreement was reached with two of these institutions in respect of training attachments for BSJ inspectors. It is expected that these attachments will take place during the financial year 2007/8.	

TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS	CONSTRAINTS/REMARKS
Certify fifteen (15) food factories to HACCP Standard	One (1) company was Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) certified.	Some companies have expressed an interest however they are constrained by the associated costs of developing the appropriate documentation and implementing the necessary infrastructure. The BSJ has embarked on a marketing campaign to promote this certification programme.
Certify fifteen (15) establishments in the National Certification Mark Programme	Applications were received from five (5) companies. One company received certification. The other four (4) are in the in the process of preparing their quality manuals.	Other companies have expressed an interest; however they are constrained by the associated costs of developing the appropriate documentation.
Establishment of a Certification Body within the BSJ under the GOJ/IDB Quality Jamaica Project	GAP analysis, business plan and procedures development have been completed. Training of the employees, the auditors and the members of the executive committee will occur between 26 February and 02 April 2007.	The Certification Body is expected to be established by July 2007. Stakeholder participation is critical to the sustainability of the Body.
Implement the Labeling Registration Programme	The preparation of the Programme documents is almost complete.	This Programme is to be launched by 31 March 2007.

6.0 Highlights of Performance for Financial Year 2006/2007

In pursuit of its mission and consistent with the priority policy issues of the Ministry, the following were key areas of performance of the BSJ.

6.1 Policy Issue - 1 (Standards Act) - Standards Compliance Programme

To enhance its role in ensuring compliance of both locally produced and imported goods with the requirements of compulsory product standards (also known as technical regulations) and labelling regulations, the BSJ continued its Standard Compliance/Import Monitoring Programme. This involves inspections, examinations and investigations at the ports of entry and establishments in the domestic market.

TABLE 2: REPORT ON STANDARDS COMPLIANCE 2006/07

ACTIVITIES	ACHIEVEMENTS		VARIANCE	REMARKS
	Apr 06 –Mar 07	Apr 05-Mar 06	#	
Inspections of establishments	7,709	5,220	+2,489	Establishments include those on the premises of importers and in the domestic market.
Withdrawals from sale	97,895	139,179	-41,284	This decrease is indicative of the increased level of compliance in the domestic market.
Port of Entry visits	1,647	1,682	-35	
Consignments inspected	14,276	7,218	+7,058	This dramatic increase is a result of the increased efficiency of the port in terms of their container throughput time. Note that this figure represents consignments inspected at the ports of entry and on the premises of importers only.
Consignments detained	432	1,362	-930	Most of the containers were detained for conformance testing.
Consignments re-exported	0	32	-32	Establishments include those on the premises of importers and in the domestic market.

Quality Assurance Programmes

(a) National Quality Awards (NQA) Programme

The activities of the 3rd National Quality Award (NQA) Programme were launched in March 2006 and culminated with an Awards Ceremony on 12 October 2006. This Awards Programme, which was developed by the BSJ as part of its standards monitoring and promotion programme, forms part of a national initiative with the objectives of:

- Promoting the international competitiveness of Jamaican products and services

- Creating a national medium for business excellence

Sherwin Williams (W.I.) Ltd. was awarded the National Quality Award for Excellence in Manufacturing while the Sandals Royal Caribbean captured the National Quality Award for Excellence in Service. The NQA for Excellence in the Small Business Sector was awarded to Indies Pharma Jamaica Limited.

The following sectional prizes were awarded in the manufacturing and service sectors respectively:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| • Customer Focus | PA Benjamin Manufacturing Company Ltd
Digicel Limited |
| • Human Resource Focus | Sherwin Williams
Courts Jamaica Limited |
| • Process Management | Jamaica Producers Group
Restaurants of Jamaica |
| • Business Results | Sandals Ocho Rios
Dairy Industries Jamaica Ltd. |
| • Organizational Focus | Berger Paints Jamaica Limited
Sandals Royal Caribbean |
| • Business Results | Dairy Industries Ja. Ltd
Sandals Ocho Rios |

(b) Gas Pump Certification Programme

The Gas Station Pump Certification Programme is designed to monitor the volumetric delivery of products from the gas pumps, thus ensuring that the amount dispensed from pumps is in agreement with the indicated meter reading. Inspections are conducted every six (6) months.

To date approximately 96% (i.e 3174 of 3309) of gas pumps island wide have been tested and certified by the BSJ.

(c) Monitoring Bottled Water

The BSJ embarked on re-registration of all local bottlers of water as well as sampling and testing of local and imported bottled water. An Inter-Agency Packaged Water Monitoring Committee (involving Water Resources Authority, Ministry of Health and the BSJ) was formed as it has been recognized that a joint approach should be taken in monitoring this industry.

(d) **Target Monitoring Programme**

The Inspectorate Division launched its Target Monitoring Programme with a press briefing on 28 February 2006. The objective of the programme is to make importers and retailers aware of the regulations to which they should adhere, thus helping them to be more compliant. The sectors to be targeted are Appliances, Electronics, Food, Clothing and Footwear, and Paper Products.

The programme will be in three parts:

- **Sensitizing and Awareness Forum** - The main aim of this forum, which is scheduled for 1 May 2007, is to increase the level of awareness of stakeholders of the activities of the BSJ in respect of its inspection of products at the ports of entry and the marketplace.
- **Training/Seminar** - Stakeholders will be invited to participate in seminars on specific products. Seminars for the products to be targeted will take the month preceding the commencement of zero tolerance monitoring.
- **Monitoring** - There will be zero tolerance monitoring with particular emphasis on the product category for that month.

6.2 Policy Issue - 2 - Promulgation of Standards

During the year under review, the BSJ advanced its efforts to facilitate the development of national standards. Representatives from industry were co-opted into respective technical groups to identify and develop standards relevant to the industry which they represented.

The following standards were gazetted:

- Quality Management (ISO 9000:2000 & 9004:2000) standards
- JS 244 - Jamaican Standard Specification for Pneumatic tyres for passenger cars - compulsory
- JS 269 - Jamaican Standard Specification for Pneumatic tyres for vehicles other than passenger cars - compulsory
- JS1 Part 25 Jamaican Standard Specification for the Labelling of Commodities: Labelling of Cigarette Packages - compulsory

The following standards were approved by the Standards Council:

- CARICOM Standard Specification for Brewery Products
- Draft Jamaican Code of Practice for the field production of vegetables - General Requirements

Two (2) groups established to facilitate standards development are:

- a. Jamaica Standards Network (JSN)
- b. National Codex Committee (NCC)

(a) Jamaica Standards Network (JSN)

The Jamaica Standards Network (JSN) is a network of all standards writing organizations in Jamaica, working together to ensure the development of all required national standards, including standards that are to be submitted for consideration as regional (CARICOM) and/or international standards. This network is intended to:

- Facilitate information transfer for the development of standards
- Ensure industry players are sensitive to the dynamics of the global environment
- Respond quickly to market situations
- Remove technical barriers so as to facilitate trade

On 9 October 2006, as a part of the World Standards Week celebrations, a Standards and Certification Symposium was held. The event was largely attended by members of the JSN.

(b) National Codex Committee (NCC)

The National Codex Committee (NCC), which was launched in December 2004, has instituted a Secretariat that is comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Industry, Technology, Energy and Commerce (MITEC), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Pesticide Control Authority (PCA), Ministry of Health (MOH), and the BSJ. This Secretariat is housed at the BSJ. In addition to the formation of the NCC, the following eight (8) sub-committees were established:

1. Food Hygiene
2. Food Additives and Contaminants
3. Meat and Meat Products
4. Milk and Milk Products
5. Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
6. Food Labeling
7. General Principles
8. Pesticide Residues

Representatives of the NCC also attended Codex meetings in five subject areas and work is currently underway with respect to the development of a NCC website.

6.3 Policy Issue - 3 - Building Code Project

The BSJ has been facilitating the development of a National Building Code in association with The Jamaica Institution of Engineers (JIE), which has been providing technical support in the process.

To date, 9 of the 11 application documents have been completed. Seven (7) of these documents have been approved by the Standards Council. The development of the

Code is about 96% complete and the final documents are to be submitted for approval of the Standards Council by May 2007.

6.4 Policy Issue - 4 - Business Competitiveness Enhancement

- a) **Certification of the Labeling Facility** – this certification ensures that the products that are offered for sale do not only have labels which conform to specifications but that the information on these labels is verified through testing. One company is currently in the process of receiving this certification.
- b) **Certification of Agricultural Produce (CAP) Programme** – this programme was developed to facilitate Jamaica’s ability to compete globally in the trading of agricultural produce and to increase the level of acceptance and consumption in the local markets. It is designed to ensure that farmers apply the necessary quality and environmental standards and safety regulations in the cultivation of crops using the required principles of science, technology and standardization.

This programme, which is managed by the BSJ and the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS), is supported by a team of stakeholders from various agencies including: PCA, MOA/Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), Scientific Research Council (SRC) and Agro Grace Ltd.

During the period under review, the farmers were recipients of selected raw materials (such as seedlings\seeds, water tanks and fertilizers) and participated in training seminars on the various phases of the project. The necessary draft policies and procedures; audits and auditing instruments have been developed. In addition, auditor training for officers from the JAS and the BSJ has taken place. The second draft of the Farmer’s Management Manual is being developed by the Caribbean Research and Development Institute (CARDI). The draft Jamaican Standards Code of Practice for the Field Production of Vegetables was approved by the Standards Council and was sent out for public comments.

The inaugural awards ceremony for the programme was held on 25 November 2006, which was celebrated as “Eat Jamaican Day,” at the Denbigh Grounds in May Pen, Clarendon. The seventeen (17) farmers were presented with Certificates of Participation, while thirteen (13) eligible farmers were presented with Provisional Licenses to use the CAP Mark for a period of one year. Each stakeholder agency and its representative(s) were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and Certificate(s) of Participation respectively. The CAP Mark was unveiled at the ceremony by the Governor General, the Minister of Agriculture and Project Managers from the BSJ and the JAS. Preparations are being made to gazette the Mark.

- c) **National Certification Mark Programme** - Manufacturers are assisted to obtain Marks of Quality which are awarded to products, processes and practices which conform to relevant standards. Twenty-three (23) companies are currently a part of

d) **IDB MIF/GOJ Implementation of Quality Environmental and Food Safety Systems in Jamaica**

The BSJ is the executing agency for IDB/GOJ Quality Jamaica Project, a Technical Cooperation Agreement for the “Implementation of Quality, Environmental and Food Safety Systems in Jamaica.” The project is implemented and co-ordinated by a Project Management Unit within the BSJ.

The objectives of the project in respect of the SMEs are:

- 1) to develop local demand and capacity to implement quality, environmental and food safety management systems, and
- 2) to improve their level of efficiency, quality, competitiveness and exports.

The management systems to be implemented in the SMEs are: ISO 9000, ISO 14000 and HACCP.

The project is divided into four components as follows:

Component 1

Raise awareness and achieve a “Buy In” among SMEs regarding the importance of ISO 9000 and 14000 Management and HACCP Food Safety Systems as a tool for continuous improvement and competitiveness

- Over two thousand (2000) persons have been made aware of the project through seminars or workshops.
- Two (2) Public Awareness sessions have been held and presentations have been made to seven (7) associations and fifteen (15) companies.
- “Inside the QJP” is a bi-monthly programme being aired on the JIS radio.
- The Quality Jamaica website, www.qualityjamaica.org.jm, was developed in October 2006 and feedback from customers has been positive.

Component 2

Develop a local supply of qualified consultants, auditors and trainers specifically trained in the implementation of ISO 9000 and 14000 Management and HACCP systems in SMEs

- Eight hundred and fifty-six (856) persons have been trained in General HACCP Awareness and Internal Auditing.
- Six hundred and fifteen (615) persons have been trained in ISO 9000/14000 Requirements, Documentation and Internal Auditing.

- Ninety-two (92) trainees have completed the HACCP and ISO 9000 and 14000 “Train the Trainer Course” (this includes fifty (50) persons trained in ISO 9000 Lead Auditing).

Component 3

Facilitate the implementation of these systems in approximately 100 Jamaican SMEs

Forty two companies (42) have joined the programme and are at different stages of the implementation process:

- **HACCP** – One (1) company has been certified to HACCP, one (1) company has been recommended for readiness for certification and another company is expected to be certified by July 2007. To date, twenty-three (23) GAP Audits have been performed while a total of forty-four (44) Review Audits of Pre-requisite, HACCP Plans and Internal Audits have been done.
- **ISO 9000 and 14000** – Fourteen (14) companies are implementing the ISO 9000 system while ten (10) companies are implementing ISO 14000. Each company has completed two (2) evaluation audits; the third and final audit is scheduled for April 2007. Projected date of certification is May 2007.
- **Match Grant Funding** – Ten (10) companies have received Match grant funding for reimbursement of monies spent on technical assistance.

Component 4

Institutional strengthening, that is to enhance the ability of the BSJ to attain international recognition as a Certification Body

- The BSJ has completed the development of procedures, business plan and Gap Analysis for the Certification Body. A benchmarking visit has been conducted at the Perry Johnson Registrars and best practices are now being implemented in the management system. Document review training is scheduled for execution from 26 February to 02 March 2007. Auditor and executive committee training is scheduled to be executed at the end of March 2007. Fifteen (15) persons have been identified as possible trainers however; the consultant will be making the final decision on the auditors who have met the requirements of ISO 19011, which is the standard that governs the qualifications of auditors.

e) The Bureau of Standards Trade System (BSTS)

The Bureau of Standards Trade System (BSTS) was born out of the Jamaica Trade Point Trade Facilitation Project. The project is aimed at rationalizing public sector processes, thereby significantly improving trade facilitation.

The system is intended to:

- Assist the BSJ and Customs Department to monitor imports in a more targeted and efficient manner.
- Enable a more organized and controlled export system by offering exporters a convenient 24-hour approval and export certification application process.

- Eliminate unnecessary paperwork, duplication of information and the time expended moving from agency to agency.

The Import Module of the BSTS went live on 12 March 2007 with the Export Module to follow in June 2007.

6.5 Policy Issue - 5 - Popularization of Standards, Science and Technology National Innovation Awards Programme (NIAP)

National Innovation Awards Programme (NIAP) - The National Innovation Awards Programme (NIAP) is a joint initiative of the BSJ, the SRC and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture (specifically the Association of Science Teachers of Jamaica – ASTJ). The programme was launched in 2004 and forms part of a national initiative with the objective of popularizing science, technology and standardization to the future generation.

The programme is geared towards students at the primary and secondary levels of academic institutions. In 2006, project activities were as follows:

The Annual Science, Technology and Standardization Essay & Poster Competitions - Approximately two hundred and twenty (220) entries were received in the following categories: *Saving our Seas; Saving our Forest; Saving our Ozone; Saving our Natural Habitat; Saving our Land; and Standardization and Metrology.*

The Annual Science, Technology and Standardization Quiz Competition - The competition was held in the eastern, western and central regions of the island and was open to primary, preparatory and high schools. Over one hundred (100) schools participated in the competition which focused mainly on standardization, science and technology.

The Annual Science, Technology and Standardization Summer Camps - The Science, Technology and Standardization Summer Camps 2006, were jointly hosted by the BSJ and SRC. The theme for the summer camps was *Creative Kids: Exploring Science, Technology and Standardization.*

20th Annual Science and Technology Conference - This conference, which ran from 21 to 23 November 2006, was held under the theme: *Science & Technology for Economic Development: Impacting the CARICOM Single Market (CSM)* and provided the BSJ with an opportunity to mount a display.

The BSJ sponsored and delivered a presentation during the session titled *Science & Technology Creating Business Opportunities & Wealth: Manufacturing, Tourism, Entertainment & Sports.* The presentation highlighted the BSJ's retooling efforts as well as its role in CROSQ and in the harmonization of standards.

6.6 Policy Issue - 6 - Consumer Protection

a) Guarding the Ackee Export Market

Based on the submission of the required information and subsequent review by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), some five hundred and twenty-five (525) cases of ackee from three (3) firms, were exported to the United States under new screening procedures in December 2006. These cases were tested in Jamaica and based on the results these canned ackees were released for shipment. Two laboratories (BSJ and Technological Solutions Limited (TSL)) have submitted analytical reports that have been accepted by the FDA. Processors may therefore use either of these laboratories for sample selection and testing.

Another firm has been selected to submit the five (5) initial codes under the new screening arrangement for lockdown and sampling at the airport but has not yet done so.

Since December 2006, the three (3) firms mentioned above have officially resumed shipping to the U.S. having had five (5) successful clean shipments and are listed on *The Import Alert* section of the FDA's website as exempt from detention without physical examination.

The Jamaica Agro-Processors Association, in which most ackee producers hold membership, has proposed an Ackee Industry Management Programme. The primary objective of the programme is to implement a system of self management which is expected to improve quality and conformance levels throughout the Ackee Industry. This Programme is being supported by the MOA and MITEC through the BSJ.

(b) Monitoring the Cement Industry

Against the background of the crisis in the cement industry triggered by the recall of all cement produced by Caribbean Cement Company Limited (CCCL) at its plant in Rockfort, from 19 to 25 February 2006, the BSJ has now tightened its monitoring and testing regime to involve a daily check of the product.

Through meetings with CCCL, Consumer Affairs Commission (CAC) and other industry stakeholders, it was agreed that the quarantined non-conforming product be released to CCCL for rework/inter-grinding. The final product will be subject to rigid monitoring and close supervision by the BSJ. The inter-grinding/rework process commenced 10 February 2007. Further, the BSJ will continue to pursue measures designed to ensure the recertification of the CCCL under the National Certification Mark Programme, thus ensuring that both the company and consumers benefit from this quality assurance designation.

(c) **Revision of Cement Standards**

In December 2006, a Cement Technical Committee was formed to revise the cement standards for Portland (Ordinary and Rapid) and Blended Hydraulic Cements. The Committee is assisted in its work by an international cement expert from the Centro Metrología de México (CENAM). The Committee is expected to complete its work by June 2007.

(d) **Reinforcing Steel Bar (Rebar) Programme**

The Reinforcing Steel Bar (Rebar) Programme is one in which steel bars for the reinforcing of concrete imported into Jamaica is monitored. This is done through enforcement of the compulsory standard JS 33: 2005 - Hot rolled Steel Bars for the Reinforcement of Concrete.

Each shipment of rebar imported is inspected primarily at the port of entry where samples are collected for testing to ascertain the mechanical and chemical properties. The importer is presented with the test results and a certificate which indicates that the importer is in compliance with the standard.

There is the need for the BSJ to reaffirm its relationship with The Jamaica Customs Department to ensure that importers of rebars present an entry certificate from the BSJ before clearance is given for the product to be removed from the wharf.

6.7 Policy Issue 7 - International Programmes

The participation of Jamaica in regional, hemispheric and international standards issues was further strengthened during the review period with the following activities being the main highlights:

(a) **Jamaica's Election to Leadership Positions in Regional Organizations**

COPANT - The Pan-American Standard Commission (COPANT) is an association that promotes standardization and related activities. COPANT members are the national standards bodies of twenty-eight (28) countries of the Americas (North, South and Central Americas, and the Caribbean).

- **COPANT Board of Directors** - Jamaica was elected to the (COPANT) Board of Directors for the period 2006-2008.
- **COPANT Technical Management Commission (TMC)** - Jamaica was elected to the COPANT Technical Management Commission for the period 2007-2009.

CROSQ - CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards & Quality (CROSQ) is an intergovernmental organization that is responsible for harmonizing and implementing of standards, facilitating international competitiveness of goods and services in the

CARICOM Single Market and Economy and enhancing social and economic development.

- **CROSQ Executive Committee** - Jamaica was re-elected to the Executive Committee of CROSQ for the period 2006-7. In addition, Jamaica is a member of the Finance, Human Resource, Technical Management and Editorial Committees of CROSQ.

(b) **Harmonization of Regional Standards**

In an effort to facilitate the development and harmonization of regional standards, Jamaica has worked closely with all other member states and CROSQ in the development of regional standards. Based on the work done, the following CARICOM Standards are now ready for approval;

- CARICOM Standard for Poultry Meats and Poultry Products
- CARICOM Standard Specification for Brewery Products
- CARICOM Standard Specification for Rum

(c) **CROSQ/IDB Project: Promoting SME Competitiveness in the Caribbean through Technical Standards**

The BSJ is one of four sub-executing agencies for the captioned project. The other sub-executing agencies are the Standards Bureaux of Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana and Barbados.

The project is intended to encourage the participation of SMEs in the standardization process in CARICOM. It is being executed by CROSQ with funding from the IDB through its technical cooperation facility, the MIF. The four-year project is expected to boost the competitiveness of SMEs and facilitate the export of goods and services regionally and internationally.

Status Report

During the period under review, execution of Component 1: *Awareness-Building* took place. Major achievements were as follows:

- 17 October 2006 - Focus Group Meeting with SME business persons,
- 15 November 2006 - National Conference – Theme: *Awareness of the Importance of Standards for Small & Medium-sized Enterprise Competitiveness* targeting participants primarily from the business sector and the media.
- December 2006 to present - the revised Second Interim Report from the consultants

- re the Sector Analysis, is being reviewed and comments are being requested from stakeholders. The outcome will determine the two (2) sectors of the Jamaican economy which will be the focus of the project.
- 29-31 January 2007 - Fact-Finding Mission/Visit by two (2) IDB Consultants based in Germany. Discussions/interviews were focused on deducing the effectiveness of the awareness activities under the project; as well as ascertaining whether the most effective strategies/methods have been designed in order to achieve the objectives of the project.

d) Jamaica/México Bilateral Agreement

There is a Technical Cooperation Agreement between Jamaica and Mexico. Among other areas covered in the agreement is the development of metrology capabilities in Jamaica.

In September 2006, The Unit Head of the Dimensional Metrology Laboratory underwent training in the area of dimensional metrology at CENAM in Mexico. Expertise was gained in the calibration of various industrial instruments to enable greater efficiency and reduction of calibration uncertainty in the laboratory.

In October/November 2006, a Scientific Officer from the Mass Metrology Laboratory, received training, at the above-mentioned institution, in mass metrology - High Accuracy Mass Calibration - using the sub-division method and in the Construction/Interpretation of Uncertainty Budgets. As a result of the training received, the officer is now able to undertake mass calibration to higher levels of accuracy.

At the end of November 2006, Scientific Officers from the Mass Metrology and Chemistry Laboratories also received training in Density Determination of Liquids and Solids, Hydrometer Calibration and Volume Determination of Solids using the hydrostatic method. Aspects of the training have improved mass calibration results while knowledge gained in other areas will be instrumental when the Density Metrology Laboratory is established.

(e) Retooling - MESURA Programme

In an effort to better serve the nation in the areas of metrology, commerce, environment and health, the BSJ commenced an upgrading programme for the organization. The overall objective of the programme is to increase the competitiveness and efficient operation of the Jamaican industrial and service sectors, through the implementation of an adequate Metrology, Testing, Standardization and Accreditation support system. Experts from CENAM were chosen to work closely with the BSJ to ensure the success of this programme.

The MESURA Programme is divided into four (4) different stages.

Stage 1 of the programme took place during the period 14 and 22 August 2006 and included the following:

- **Inspection of BSJ's Laboratories** – the organizations' capabilities were ascertained.
- **Industry visits** – the industry needs and possible opportunities for the BSJ to enhance its services and thereby broadening its customer base were identified.
- **Forum** – the challenges in metrology, testing, standardization and accreditation in Jamaica were highlighted.
- **Workshop** – metrology needs in order to improve efficiency in Jamaican industries were identified. Approximately thirty (30) companies were represented at this event and at the forum.

Stage II & III - These stages comprised two (2) main activities:

- **Activity A** - Training in Basic Metrology was conducted during the month of November by two experts in the area of Metrology. The main objective of the course was to improve the level of Basic Metrology knowledge across all the technical departments.
- **Activity B** - Visit of nine (9) experts from CENAM to assess BSJ laboratory facilities - The objective of this visit was to conduct a comprehensive analysis and diagnosis of the metrological disciplines offered at the BSJ. This diagnosis allowed for recommendations for the strengthening of the laboratories. The recommendations focused on standards and equipment, human resources and training, methods and procedures, laboratories conditions and other critical factors. In addition, training was offered in various areas such as uncertainty analysis.

This stage will come to an end in May 2007 with the visit of another expert, who will conduct an assessment of the Flow and Volume Laboratory.

Stage IV - This stage will involve:

- implementation of the recommendations from the assessments which have been conducted under Stages II and III.
- confirmation or calibration of standards and equipment
- training program
- development and update of methods and procedures
- improvement of laboratory condition and other factors

6.8 Other Activities

The following capital projects were pursued by the BSJ during 2006/2007:

- Replace Air Condition Unit

- Replace Bulbs & Fixtures
- Waterproof Roof – Main Building
- Refurbish Foyer
- Connect Sewage System to Main

7.0 Summary of Main Programmes for Financial Year 2007/2008

For the financial year 2007/8, the focus will be on continuing or commencing implementation of the following projects and programmes:

- Develop and participate in international programmes and activities based on Technical Cooperation Agreements (existing and new)
- Participate in intercomparisons and similar international cooperative exercises to demonstrate equivalence with international guidelines
- Continuation of the Target Monitoring Programme
- Market and promote Conformity Assessment Programmes (e.g. Certification Mark, Registration of food establishments)
- Review the Standards Act, Weights and Measures Act, the Processed Food Act as well as the attendant Regulations for each Act.
- Continue Benchmarking Programme (overseas training attachments, benchmarking visit(s) to other standards institutions, MESURA Programme)
- Develop and implement a Public Education Programme
- Several capital projects to upgrade the physical facilities :

8.0 Budgetary Outturn 2006/2007 and Proposal for Financial Year 2007/2008

The BSJ is designated as a self-financing public entity. As at March 2007, actual unaudited income was \$557M (budgeted \$546M), while expenditure was \$462M (budgeted \$503M). Budgeted income for the 2007/2008 financial year is \$620M while estimated expenditure is \$614M.

Phillip Paulwell
Minister
Ministry of Industry, Technology, Energy and Commerce
May 30, 2007