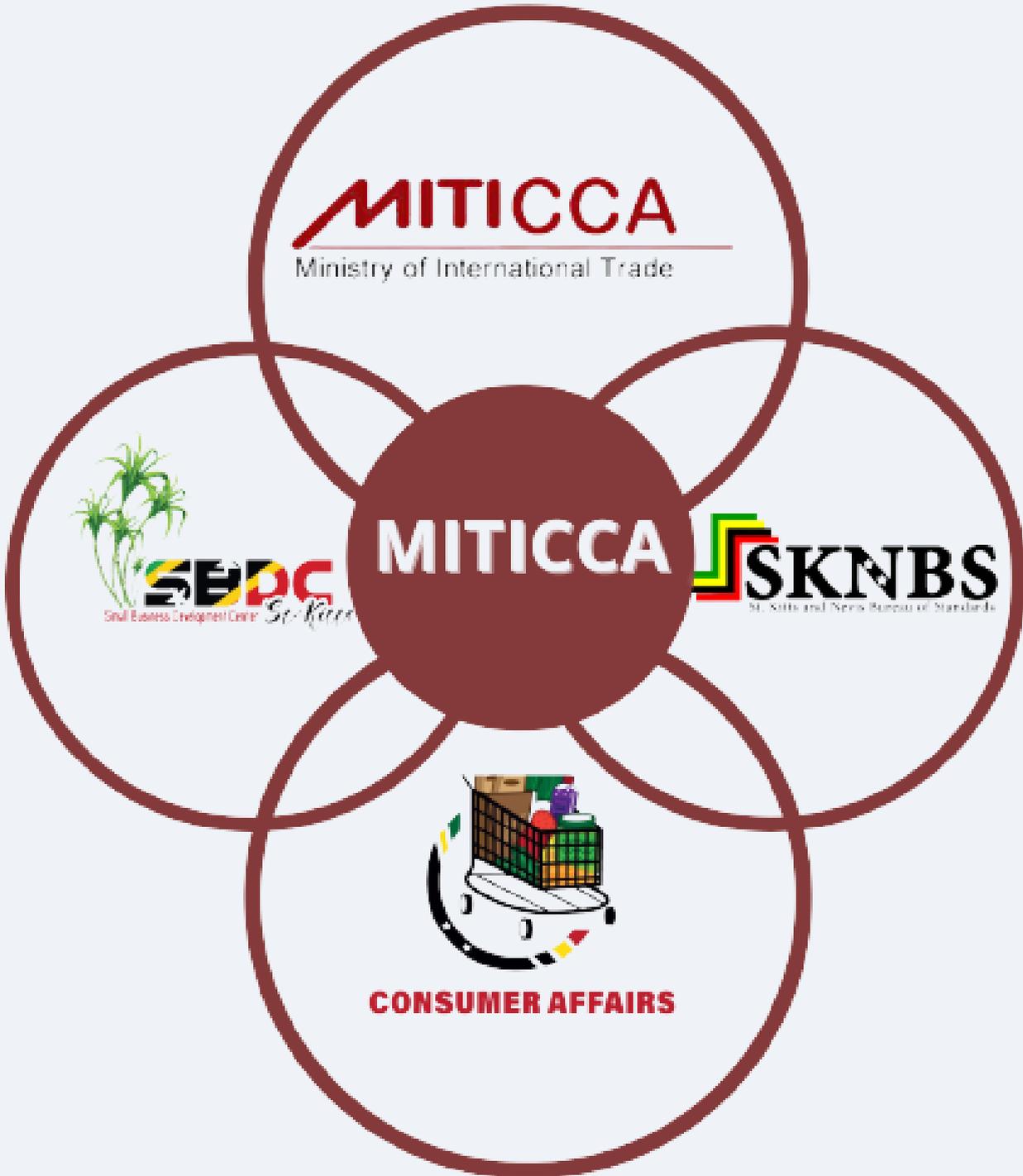




TRADE AT A GLANCE



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Quotes

“The establishment of free trade agreements can be a critical and progressive step towards greater economic integration, and continues to become more valuable in an increasingly global world.”

~ Dan Kildee ~

“Tackling climate change is not a choice, it’s a necessity.”

~ Anish Shah Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Mahindra Group, India ~

“Out of vulnerabilities will come your strength.”

~ Sigmund Freud, neurologist ~

“Motivation is the catalyzing ingredient for every successful innovation.”

~ Clayton Christensen, economist and Harvard professor ~

“The goal is to normalize trade relations based on sound science and consumer protection.”

~ Mike Johanns ~

“Competition is not only the basis of protection to the consumer, but is the incentive to progress.”

~ Herbert Hoover ~

“As I have said, the first thing is to be honest with yourself. You can never have an impact on society if you have not changed yourself. Great peacemakers are all people of integrity, of honesty, but humility.”

~ Nelson Mandela ~

Services Go Global

The Ministry of International Trade, Industry Commerce and Consumer Affairs in collaboration with the Caribbean Export Development Agency hosted a four-day virtual workshop which commenced on Monday 8th November 2021 to Thursday 11th November 2021 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. The facilitators were Dr. Tamu Browne from St. Kitts and Nevis and Dr. Nsombi Jaja from Jamaica.

The Services Go Global (SGG) programme has been developed to optimize the CARIFORUM region's export of services by building the capacity service providers to capitalize on opportunities under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), CARICOM Single Market (CSM) and other existing 3rd party Trade Agreements. The programme follows a logical, sequenced approach to exporting. It is a roadmap that takes the exporters through 4 stages, 12 modules and 100 competencies of export preparation. With the completion of each module, elements of the service provider's export plan would be developed. Service providers undertaking the course will complete the essential elements of their export plan and will have the valuable skills necessary to successfully engage in the international marketplace.

Particularly, for St. Kitts and Nevis, local service providers were given an opportunity to develop their export plans, access Regional and International markets and develop their global brand. Additionally, the Services Go Global (SGG) workshop provided business with the tools to help sharpen and enhance their business, in a time when businesses need to reboot and rejuvenate and innovate their business model. In essence, businesses were prepared to better serve their clients and to add value when entering a foreign a market with preparing an export plan.

Over the 4 days virtual training, participants were exposed to a comprehensive guided four stage road map for exporting services. This include:

Stage 1: Preparing your business which looks at understanding trade in Services, assessing export-readiness and developing an export plan

Stage 2: Conducting Marketing Research: including researching markets, sectors and gathering market intelligence

Stage 3: Developing a Marketing Strategy: including starting a marketing plan developing an online strategy

Stage 4: Entering the market which reviews market entry options financing, getting paid and also contracting and legal aspects associated with exporting services.

A total of ten businesses were represented at the workshop and participants included service providers from the health and wellness, professional services, videography, sports, tourism, and performing arts sectors.

The workshop concluded with a brief ceremony, which included instructions on the post evaluation, a virtual group photo, final remarks from the facilitators and closing remarks from a representative from the ministry.

**Prepared by: Ms. Shameda Pemberton
Administrative Support Officer**



EPA UNIT

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The EPA contributes to Goal 1 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals '**NO POVERTY**', by providing opportunities for individuals to secure jobs and an income.

1

NO POVERTY



WHAT IS THE GOAL HERE?
To end poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030.

WHY?
More than 700 million people still live in extreme poverty and are struggling to fulfil basic needs like health, education, and access to water and sanitation. 70 per cent of the global total of extremely poor people live in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Poverty has many dimensions, but its causes include unemployment, social exclusion, and high vulnerability of certain populations to disasters, diseases and other phenomena which prevent them from being productive.

1 NO POVERTY



By 2030
167 million
children
will live in
extreme
poverty
If the world
doesn't take
action
to improve
health
and education



The EPA contributes to Goal 8, '**DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**' of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by providing the opportunities for CARIFORUM States to engage in productive activities, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation.

Prepared by: EPA Secretariat



MITICCA Staff Retreat 2021



Theme: "Building a Team of Teams: Strengthening departments and reducing silos."

Ministry of International Trade, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Staff Retreat was held on Thursday, 09th December 2021 at the Ministry of Agriculture Conference Room in La Guerite, Basseterre, and was attended with such exuberance that you could feel the air of belonging upon entrance. The Ministry consists of the St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS), the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) St. Kitts, the Consumer Affairs Department (CAD), and the Department of Trade.

Staff members, representatives from the four (4) Departments turned out in their numbers to take part in the proceedings planned for the auspicious day. Mr. Delwayne Delaney of SBDC St. Kitts and Ms. Latoya Davis from the Department of Trade hosted and made every member of staff welcomed as they looked forward to what was next on the anticipated agenda; that did not disappoint.



Pastor of the Rivers of Living Water Christian Center and former Chief Education Officer, Dr. Debbie Isaac motivated the Departments' staff under the theme: "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work". Dr. Isaac highlighted that the significance of teamwork took empathy, support, shared responsibility that builds bonds, and trust that improves service quality which can be rewarding. Dr. Isaac further interjected the necessity to promote a positive office culture that fosters psychological safety, and the need to create work-life balance that ultimately encourages innovation. The life-long educator in Dr. Isaac continues as she left, all present, with her wisdom quoted by Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress and working together is success."

The four (4) Departments showcased their talents with song, dance, and skit as each demonstrated their duties as dedicated Government employees who knew their trade and the myriad reasons each assigned task was important and necessary to the functionality of, not only the Department, the Ministry and the Federation but also the livelihood of the citizens and inhabitants of our proud St. Kitts and Nevis.

As the purpose of the Staff Retreat was geared towards the development and knowledge of the staff of MITICCA, simple exercises were thrown into the mix to further bring about a 'oneness'; a team spirit that comes with working together, and each was testimony to the energy that the four (4) Departments had, and displayed as the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Jasemin Weekes, Directors Mr. Stuart Laplace, Mr. Paul Queeley and Mr. Sean Lawrence, and Ms. Javashiti Battice Evelyn, Administrative Staff, looked on with pride.

See pictures on the next page --->

Pictures from MITICCA's Staff Retreat 2021



Global Entrepreneurship Week

Theme: Building Forward Better- Creating Equality and Equity through Entrepreneurship

SBDC St. Kitts undertook a successful Global Entrepreneurship Week. Numbers don't lie and in the case of Global Entrepreneurship Week, by the numbers, one can confirm that it was a success.

The week commenced on the 15th November, 2021 with the Minister's Speech. In her presentation, the Hon. Wendy Phipps outlined the Ministry's continued commitment to support the SME sector and the importance this sector plays in the overall landscape of commerce.

We added two new events which saw great traction from the onset. The first was the SBDC storytelling, where entrepreneurs were invited to tell their business story on Facebook and the entrepreneur with the most "likes" was awarded \$500.00. The winner is Ms. Tashiba Clarke owner of Kickstart Brilliance Preschool received 526 "likes" with second closely behind with 476 by Ms. Chadine Richards who is a prominent nail technician. At the end of the deadline (19th November 2021), the amount of "likes" by all who participated amounted to 2004. Important to note that the interaction is still ongoing and the likes now stands at 2142 and counting.

Based on the heightened interest, we will continue to encourage entrepreneurs to tell their business story to inspire others while promoting their entity. Additionally, there was the launch of the SBDC Registry which seeks to capture businesses' information so as to inform in a timely manner, the opportunities afforded to them. To date, we have 76 businesses which have registered.

Submitted by: Ms. Chedingham Brookes
Junior Industry Officer

We wrapped up the week with a panel discussion under the theme, **“What Marketing looks like: the Game Changer”**. The discussions were moderated by Ms. Patrice Harris while the panelists were Ms. Jade Johnson (promoter/ marketer), Mr. Johnathon Brown (videographer) and Ms. Jihan Williams (IP Registrar). This attracted a steady 100 individuals virtually and close to 1000 viewers to date.

Another GEW in the books as SBDC St. Kitts continues to make its mark among the SME sector to continue its growth. As the theme suggests, **“Building Forward Better- Creating Equality and Equity through Entrepreneurship”**.



CEDA Mission to St. Kitts & Nevis

Representatives from the Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA), namely Dr. Damie Sinanan, Manager of Competitiveness and Export Promotion at CEDA and Financial Assistant, Ms. Tonya Cummins, visited St. Kitts for the week of 8th – 12th November, 2021. The Caribbean Export Development Agency is the regional trade and investment promotion agency focused on accelerating the economic transformation of the Caribbean and is funded through the European Development Fund of the European Union.



(L-R) Mr. Philip Brown, Director of the Small Business Development Center; Ms. Tonya Cummins, Financial Assistant at CEDA; Mrs. Jasemin Weekes, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of International Trade, Industry, Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Labour and Dr. Damie Sinanan, Manager of Competitiveness and Export Promotion at CEDA.

During this time, Dr. Sinanan took the opportunity to encourage Micro, medium and small businesses (MSMEs) in St. Kitts and Nevis to apply for readily available grant funds through the 2021 Direct Support Grants Programme organized by the Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA). A total of €3 million equivalent to EC\$9.3 million will be awarded to MSMEs in countries that form part of the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM). Businesses in St. Kitts and Nevis and CARIFORUM can get up to €30,000.00 equivalent to EC\$93,000.00.

In an effort to promote this programme, a press conference was hosted at the Conference Room of the Ministry of International Trade et. al on Wednesday 10th November, 2021 at 2:00p.m. Dr. Damie Sinanan, Manager of Competitiveness and Export Promotion at CEDA explained that businesses will now have readily accessible funds compared to previous years which was done on a reimbursable basis. This initiative was done after having realized that, due to the pandemic, businesses do not have the cash flow to spend those funds upfront and wait for reimbursement from CEDA."

Dr. Sinanan further elaborated that "under the first grant call, we gave one firm from St. Kitts and Nevis a grant. That was Sugar Town Organics. Under the last call, we were able to give two firms. I would like to see eight to ten firms from St. Kitts and Nevis get a grant this time around."

Also speaking at the press conference held at the conference room of the Ministry of International Trade was Mrs. Jasemin Weekes, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of International Trade, Industry, Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Labour and Mr. Philip Brown, Director of the Small Business Development Center in St. Kitts.

For more information regarding the 2021 Direct Support Grants Programme, visit www.carib-export.com or contact Ms. Deidre Brathwaite at dbrathwaite@carib-export.com



**CONSUMER AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT
ST. KITTS & NEVIS**

Consumer Affairs Sensitization Meeting – Consumer Protection Bill 2021

On Wednesday 10th November 2021, the Consumer Affairs Department conducted the first in a series of stakeholder consultative meetings with large and medium sized supermarkets and wholesalers across St. Kitts. This meeting saw representation of managers, owners and supervisors from these establishments in addition to the attendance of Mr. Kevin Hope, Executive Director of the St. Kitts & Nevis Chamber of Industry & Commerce.

The meeting began with Mrs. Nakesha McDowell welcoming all participants, followed by a brief overview of the intended purpose of the Bill by the Director of Consumer Affairs Mr. Paul Queeley, which then transitioned into a general discussion centering around the new provisions contained within the document and the way in which fines and penalties would be levied.

Mr. Devin Richardson provided insight on the serious topic of offering expired items for sale to the public and participants were shown statistical data on the amount of expired items removed from supermarket shelves, in addition to the value of these confiscated items to highlight the level of revenue loss to the businesses.



Mrs. Trista Wattle-Stennett – Senior Officer assured each representative that the work conducted by the Department is not geared at targeting any supermarket in particular but is focused around ensuring all abide by the laws as stipulated within the Consumer Protection Act. Representatives were also advised to check their stock often to avoid losing revenue due to having expired items on shelves and to put items that are approaching their expiration date on sale/discount at least one (1) month before this date.

After dialoguing for about three (3) hours, participants were encouraged to continue reviewing the hard copy of the Bill which was distributed and submit comments/recommendations on such to the Department within one (1) week.



The Consumer Affairs Division regularly compiles supermarket prices in St Kitts- Nevis to make saving easier for you. SKN Shopper lets you get a broader perspective, by comparing costs across the federation and highlighting the best ones. With this application, you can search for items on your list by brand and name, as well as filter your search by area!



CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

DOWNLOAD OUR SKN SHOPPER APP

FEATURES

- ▶ **Comparing Supermarket Prices across the Federation**
- ▶ **Best Price will be Highlighted**
- ▶ **Search list by Brand and Name**

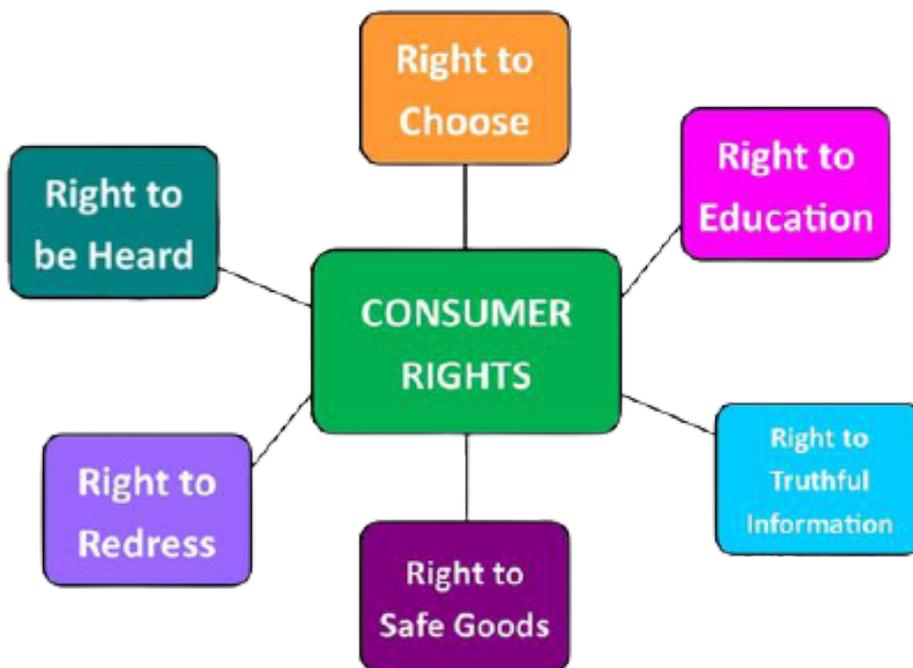


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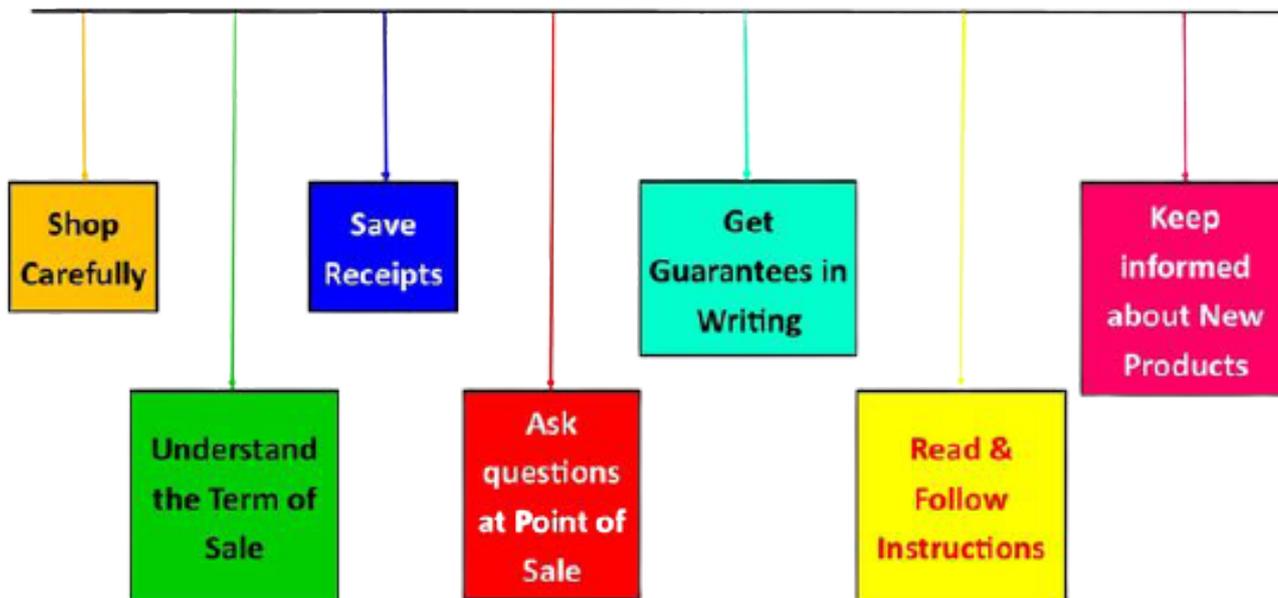


Do You Know your Consumer Rights?



Do You Know Consumers have Responsibilities?

Consumer Responsibilities



Consumer Affairs Department
Ground Floor, Nagico Building
Bladens Commercial Development
Basseterre, St Kitts

869-465-2521 Ext 2616/2640
869-467-1550/467-1641
consumeraffairs@gov.kn
St Kitts Consumer Affairs Department
www.miticca.gov.kn



Avoid Online Shopping Scams

Santa's Receipts are Gold

Whether buying online or in store keep all receipts – they are gold. Without a receipt, retailers usually will not refund you or even do an exchange even if the items are faulty.

Do Not Let The Grinch Steal Your Christmas

Identity thieves love unsecured wireless network. Only connect to networks that require a security key or password. If you use a wireless connection at home be sure that the security features are turned on and set your own passwords rather than using the default password.

Give The Scammers Goose Eggs Not Your Money

If you see popular items online for much less than the typical price beware, this could be a scam. That amazing deal may simply be a way to get your credit card information. Stick with companies, you are accustomed to or companies that you know. Steer clear of email and social network offers from unfamiliar sellers. Don't let scammers take your money and run.

Make A List, Check It Over & Over

Decide on how much you can spend this holiday and stick to it. When making a list include any amount of each person if you know what you are getting them or expect to pay for it.

For more information, please visit the St. Kitts Consumer Affairs
Department Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/consumeraffairsskn>

Comments needed for the Draft Bureau of Standards Bill



The St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS) is inviting the general public, especially businesses, to read and provide comments on the Draft Bureau of Standards Bill.

The Draft Bill can be found by clicking 'Acts' under the 'About Us' tab on www.sknbs.org. Persons can fill out the comment form directly under the Draft Bill.

The deadline for receipt of comments is November 08, 2021. Comments can be sent to sknbs@gov.kn If you have any questions call 869 467 1498.

The Bureau of Standards Bill, 2021, was read for the first time in the National Assembly on August 05, 2021. It is significant as it sets the foundation for a National Quality Infrastructure (NQI).

An NQI is a national framework that guides the production of local goods and services based on agreed standards that follow international benchmarks.

As the bill addresses the NQI, it speaks on matters such as standardization, accreditation, metrology, and conformity assessment (testing, inspection, and certification).

The Bill allows for inspection of goods and commodities at the border. It also permits the inspection of establishments that sell goods and commodities in the country. Such inspection may include checking for labels as well as testing of commodities to ensure they conform to certain regulations.

The Bill was moved by the Honourable Minister Eugene Hamilton, in the absence of the Minister of International Trade, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Honourable Senator Wendy Phipps. It was seconded by the Honourable Attorney General Vincent Byron.

It is a Bill to provide for the preparation, promotion and implementation of standards and standard related activities in relation to commodities, goods, services, processes, and practices to ensure quality through compliance with technical regulations where relevant by the establishment and operation of a Bureau of Standards to define the powers and functions of the Bureau of Standards, to provide for transitional provisions and for incidental matters.

Workshops being held to draft National Quality Policy (NQP)

Basseterre, St. Kitts, October 11, 2021 (SKNBS): Several stakeholder workshops are currently being held virtually to draft a National Quality Policy (NQP) for St. Kitts and Nevis. Various stakeholders being engaged include Fisheries, Tourism and Transport, Light Manufacturing, and Regulators.

Sadie-Ann Sisnett, who is the Project Manager from CROSQ, said that these workshops will aid in the development of the NQP implementation roadmap. The workshops are also an effort to strengthen the policy and regulatory framework in support of the development of a National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) in St. Kitts and Nevis. “This would mean that St. Kitts and Nevis would join many of the CARICOM Member States in the development of its Quality Infrastructure,” she said.

She explained that the National Quality Policy is the basic government instrument that sets out the objectives of the QI infrastructure in relation to Metrology, Standardization, Accreditation, and Conformity Assessment to build the foundation for effective trade.

“It is expected to address the identified weaknesses in the QI of Member States so that they would be able to take advantage of opportunities resulting in enhanced regional and extra-regional trade,” she said. Ms. Sisnett noted that these stakeholder workshops are considered best practices because they will learn from the best in these areas of expertise, the best examples of it being done correctly, and the lessons learned having gone through this process before.

She said that stakeholders would also learn how to put into practice what is taught in the workshops. “We will also learn with a little tweaking from the individual country how to make it stick and not remain in theory and paper, but how to best put it into practice,” she said. “Having incorporated what we will learn from these workshops the NQP of St. Kitts and Nevis is therefore expected to serve as an instrument to contribute to the production of additional goods and services, meeting international standards, increase trade, higher levels of productivity, innovation, competitiveness and consumer health and environmental protection over the next 10 years, while at the same time creating a quality culture that supports a diversified, resilient and competitive sustainable economy.”

The St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards successfully applied for support under the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the CARICOM Regional Organizations for Standards and Quality Project to develop an NQP under the Strengthening of the Regional Quality Infrastructure Programme.

SKNBS joins the world community in celebrating World Standards Day



Basseterre, St. Kitts, October 14, 2021 (SKNBS): Today, the St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS), has joined the rest of the global community to celebrate World Standards Day.

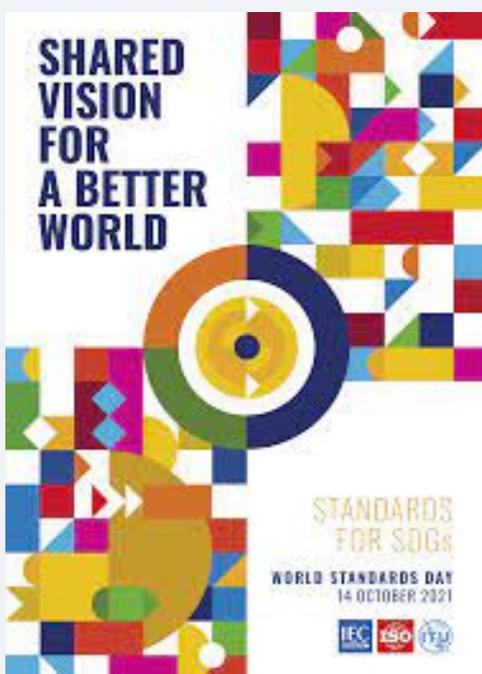
Every year on October 14th, World Standards Day (or International Standards Day) is observed across the world. The day recognizes the efforts of thousands of experts who work for organizations like the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (IETF).

The goal of World Standards Day is to promote awareness of the relevance of standardization to the global economy among regulators, industry, and consumers.

The 14th of October was selected to commemorate the inaugural meeting of representatives from 25 nations in London in 1946, when they resolved to form an international organization aimed at promoting standardization. Even though ISO was founded a year later, the first World Standards Day was not observed until 1970. The theme for World Standards Day 2021 is “Standards for Sustainable Development Goals.”

Around the globe, various activities are chosen by national standards bodies to commemorate the date. This year the SKNBS appeared on the EK Show on Freedom FM on October 13 to speak about the day and other matters concerning standards. The Bureau also released an explanation video about standards and the various standards adopted in St. Kitts and Nevis. Persons can watch this video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okZTKtQwNBw>

Teach the Teacher sessions were also held virtually so that Principles of Business and Agricultural Science teachers from high schools across the Federation, would be better able to teach standards to their students. The main topics covered during the sessions included the Importance of Labelling in Business and Labelling and Agriculture Standards.



Submitted by Ms. Zarina Lawrence
TBT Officer

Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sknbs>

Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/sknbureauofstandards/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sknbureau>

SKNBS participates in CEMSS Career Day

Basseterre, St. Kitts, December 03, 2021 (SKNBS): Students of the Charles E. Mills Secondary School were given a glimpse of the work of the St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS) during the school's career fair held on 2nd December 2021.

The Bureau houses the St. Kitts and Nevis' National Multipurpose Laboratory which provides air quality, chemistry, metrology and microbiology services. Each department gave an overview and demonstration of what they do, much to the delight of the students.

The Air Quality Department displayed some of the equipment that they use and gave students information about the indoor analysis of air.



The Chemistry Department tested the pH in lime water and soap water, showcased how milk of magnesia works in the stomach and tested for chloride ions in water using the argentometric method.

The Metrology Department demonstrated how they verify different scales and gas pumps.

The Microbiology Department displayed various code types of microorganisms that they test for at the lab including E. coli, salmonella, listeria, yeast and mould.

After each overview and demonstration, students were quizzed on what they learned during the presentations for a chance to win several prizes.

Students who were interested in science and mathematics were intrigued by the work of the departments. They were given a QR Code to scan to view the list of careers in science and mathematics they could choose from. The careers can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3EmmiUw>





The background is a light beige color, decorated with various festive elements. In the top left and top right, there are two large, stylized fireworks exploding upwards. The fireworks have trails of yellow, orange, and red, with bursts of light blue and yellow. Scattered throughout the page are small, multi-pointed stars in yellow, orange, and light blue. A large, elegant, dark red flourish or ribbon-like shape curves around the bottom and right side of the main title.

Season's Greetings!

*from the Ministry of International Trade, Industry,
Commerce and Consumer Affairs*