

The use of standards continues to impact significantly on the day to day lives of Jamaicans. As a direct result, small and medium enterprises are increasingly using standards to ensure quality outputs and have consequently made significant contributions to the Jamaican economy. To encourage this type of outcome, there has been a sustained effort to promote micro enterprise operations in Jamaica. This year, as the Bureau of Standards Jamaica celebrates World Standards Day with the theme "Standards: big benefits for small business" we at the BSJ are proud of the role we play in facilitating this aspect of industry.

Whether through our Inspectorate's work with cottage industries, small food or drink processing establishments and those companies that are manufacturing other items for export; the efforts of our Building and Non-Metallic Materials Department in improving the quality of hollow concrete blocks made by small manufacturers or through the consistent training opportunities offered to various players in industry by our Training Department, the Bureau continues to demonstrate its commitment to the small and medium sized sectors.

Our work, in recent years has been enhanced by the Quality Jamaica Project (QJP) — a collaborative effort of the Jamaican government with the Inter-American Development Bank — which has been focusing on training and the provision of grants in relation to quality management systems, which can only improve the quality of the output. The diligence of the QJP in providing these opportunities to companies that can most benefit is worthy of commendation.

We continue to encourage all players in industry to recognise the value of utilising standards in their operations. Ensuring that processes are consistently maintained is equally beneficial to the consumer and the producer. If in fact, international standards are consistently adhered to, the viability of the products will be significantly stronger and their presence in the marketplace almost always assured.

Our staff members across the various departments continue to make themselves available to assist industry — small, medium sized and large — in their pursuits of excellence. As a motivated team we will continue to facilitate trade, while protecting consumers by providing standardisation, metrology and regulatory services in keeping with our mission statement. Let us all continue to Make Standards Work for Us.

A close-up portrait of a middle-aged Black man with short, dark hair. He is looking slightly to his left with a neutral expression. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored dress shirt and a patterned tie. The background is out of focus, showing some greenery. The image has a slightly grainy texture, characteristic of a printed photograph.

Is Day Feature

standards: big benefits for small business



world standards day
14 october 2006

The poster depicting the theme for World Standards Day 2006 was designed by Uri Berkowitz, the owner of Design Matters, a graphic design company in London. The circle presented in the poster is a mosaic of diverse elements in industry. The message is therefore that — through the use of standards — small busi-