

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CANQATE CORE GROUP 'QUALITY IN FOCUS'



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Dear Colleagues

Greetings from the Trinidad and Tobago CANQATE Core Group!

The Trinidad and Tobago CANQATE Core Group (TTCCG), the local chapter of CANQATE, continues to make strides in promoting awareness and facilitating dialogue on matters of interest to quality practitioners. The importance of quality assurance implementation in higher education transcends the specificities of institutional characteristics, relationships or wider environments.

As Trinidad and Tobago confronts current economic challenges precipitated by depressed international markets in oil and gas, the role of quality practitioners in higher education will assume ever increasing importance as institutions seek to find more creative and effective ways to respond to calls for greater regulation, accountability, access, and a more flexible, creative and competent human resource base.

Through its ongoing efforts, the TTCCG seeks to ensure that a sound understanding of quality continues to inform perceptions of what defines outstanding institutions.

About Us

For those of you who are less familiar with us, the 'Core Group', as it is also known, was re-established in July 2014, as the local Chapter of the 'Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education' (CANQATE). Our parent body is the leading indigenous association for quality professionals in the region, with members throughout the Caribbean.

Our current membership comprises public and private institutions of various sizes and diverse missions, all of which have a common interest in leveraging quality as a key driver for student success.

2014-2015 in Review

In this our first official update, you will find a brief summary of events since our re-establishment, as well as important information about upcoming events that will affect the development of our local chapter within the next few months.

Strengthening Our Local Chapter

In 2015, the Operations Committee and management team worked hard to produce and implement the following:

- the first set of TTCCG by-laws;
- key policies (including a code of conduct) to guide operations; and
- an electronic application form and membership database.

Members who attended our most recent seminar in October 2015, would have received copies of the by-laws.

Workshops and Seminars

Since our re-establishment, the local Chapter has successfully held a number of events targeting quality practitioners and other interested persons in tertiary education, with the aim of promoting awareness of quality issues, initiating dialogue and attracting membership.

In September 2014, we offered a workshop on *Credential Fraud Evaluation*. In 2015, we hosted two *free* seminars, one in March on "*Strategic En-*

-rolment Management, and the other entitled, “From Accreditation to Re-Accreditation: Institutional Perspectives” in October. All events were well received. These free events were made possible due to revenue earned from our first workshop combined with sponsorships from member institutions.

As part of our commitment to you and to the development of a strong and vibrant professional development community it is our intention to continue to offer seminars, workshops and innovative programmes to stimulate discussion and facilitate the acquisition of applied knowledge and essential skills for quality practitioners. Through such activities the TTCCG will facilitate:

- Institutional strengthening for quality assurance
- Promotion of best practices in the delivery of tertiary education
- Establishment of partnerships towards organizational sustainability



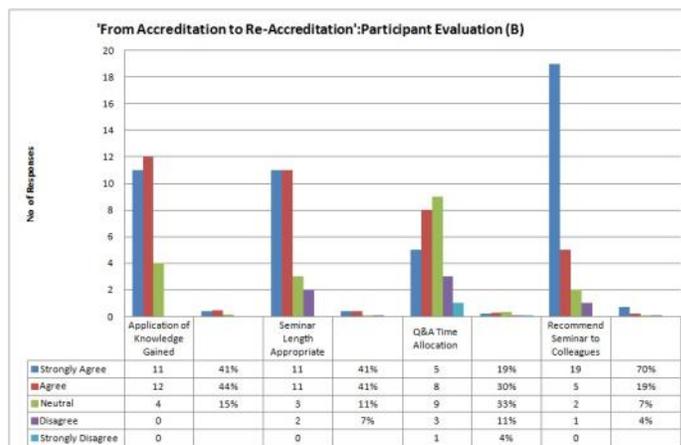
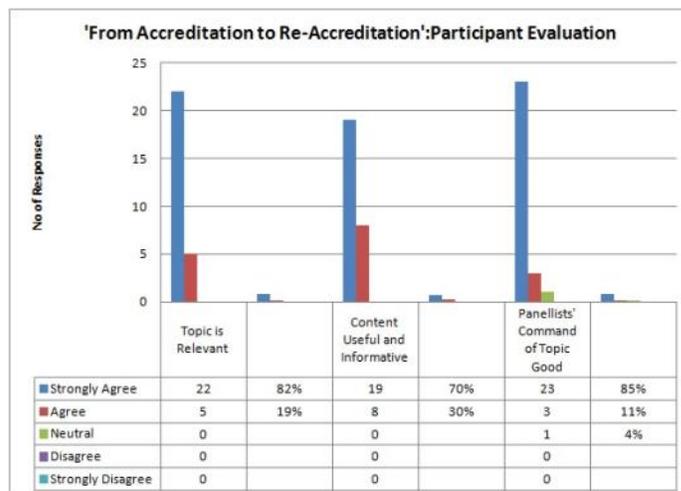
Presenter: Dr. S. Pilgrim, at the seminar, ‘Strategic Enrolment Management’, Courtyard Marriott, Port of Spain, March 2015.



Presenters: (From L-R) Dr. G. Paul, President, COSTAATT, Rev. Dr. E. Joseph, VP Acad. Affairs, West Indies School of Theology; Dr. R. Alleyne, VP Quality Assurance and Inst. Effectiveness, UTT, and Dr. P. Butcher, Ex. Director, Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute at the seminar,

‘From Accreditation to Re-Accreditation: Institutional Perspectives’, Arthur Lok Jack GSB, Mt. Hope, October 2015.

Excerpts from participant feedback from the seminar, ‘From Accreditation to Re-Accreditation: Institutional Perspectives’ is presented below.



Elections are Coming!

Inaugural elections to install a new management team are scheduled to be held in July 2016, via a virtual forum. Existing positions on the management team are: *Country Director*, *Deputy Country Director/Secretary*, and *Chair / Coordinator of the Special Projects, Events and Member Mobilization Committee and Chair / Coordinator of the Operations Management Committee*. As the Management Team is actively reviewing the current structure to enhance capacity to offer

increased services to members, you may see some new positions advertised in the upcoming call for nominations.

We are looking for motivated, passionate and committed individuals to join the management team in making a difference.

All persons who register for TTCCG membership by 3rd June, 2016 will be eligible to vote.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Members' Corner

Welcome New Members!

On behalf of the Special Projects, Events and Member Mobilization Committee, we wish to warmly welcome new members listed below to the TTCCG. We are delighted to add a cadre of active, enthusiastic individuals such as yourselves, to the organization, and look forward to many years of rewarding association. We now urge you to join one of the committees listed above by writing us at:

TTCCGroup@gmail.com

1. June E. Alexis-Matthew, VP Institutional Advancement, COSTAATT
2. Michaela C Broomes, Administrative Assistant II, University of Trinidad and Tobago
3. Michol Claxton, Marketing and Public Relations Officer, COSTAATT
4. Brian-Anthony David, Manager, Quality Assurance, Cipriani College of Labour & Co-operative Studies
5. Denise, K Dennis-Horsford, Quality Assurance Officer, University of the Southern Caribbean
6. Permillla Farrell, Director, COMPASS Centre, COSTAATT
7. Nicollette Francis - Henry, Executive Assistant, COSTAATT
8. Reynela J. Gilkes-Alvarez, Career Advisor, COSTAATT
9. Kathy-Ann A. Jeet, Quality Assurance Officer, University of Trinidad and Tobago

10. Naseem Koypass, Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs, COSTAATT
11. Gillian E. Lyiscott-Barrow, Research Officer, COSTAATT
12. Omar Maraj, Senior Instructor - Centre for Education Programs, The University of Trinidad and Tobago
13. Tamara T. Mohamed, Research Officer, The University of Trinidad and Tobago
14. Doodnath Persad, Director, Quality Assurance and Institutional Research, COSTAATT
15. Rodney Rajkumar, Research Officer, University of the Southern Caribbean
16. Keah Roberts-Toby, Research Officer, The University of Trinidad and Tobago
17. Roxanne A Sargeant, Research Officer II, Dept. of Quality Assurance and Institutional Research, COSTAATT
18. Paula P Sellier, Lecturer (P/T), COSTAATT
19. Avalon St. Louis-Clasp, Quality Assurance Officer, University of Trinidad and Tobago
20. Nordian Swaby-Robinson, Administrative Research Officer, University of the Southern Caribbean

Join Us!

If you are not already a member of the TTCCG, we would like to invite you to join us by completing the application form at the link overleaf. Membership is free and open to both CANQATE (institutional, individual, associate) and non-CANQATE* members.

Whether you are a quality professional, a member of faculty, an administrator or serve in any other capacity in a tertiary environment, and you value excellence and are committed to innovation and improvement, we are the right choice for you!

**TTCCG Bylaws provide that Non-CANQATE members who join us are expected to become members of CANQATE after a year.*

Join Us Continued...!

APPLICATION FORM

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16BIFYUUG-N2E7R9Z-vsANwsHIMG23B5K8rv1RBR0m2aO/viewform?usp=sent_form

Latest News

As part of our role in supporting the continued growth of a vibrant, cohesive community of quality practitioners, it is important to us to celebrate the achievements of our members.

- In this vein therefore, we wish to congratulate Mr. Doodnath Persad, Director, Quality Assurance and Institutional Research, College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT) on the acceptance of his paper, *'Who's Going to Leave: A Multi-Level Approach to Investigating Attrition'*, which will be presented at the end of May at the 2016 international conference of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) in Louisiana, USA.

In addition, we wish to extend sincere appreciation to Dr. Eduardo Ali, immediate past Country Director for his vision, commitment and instrumental role in the reestablishment of the Core Group;

Sincere thanks are extended as well to Ms. Wendy Augustus, for her service as Deputy Country Director during the period July 2014 to October 2015.

If you would like to share information on your professional achievements or other significant information affecting membership, please send an email addressed to the Coordinator, Special Projects, Events and Member Mobilization at TTCCGroup@gmail.com.

Contact Us

For further information on the TTCCG or to provide comments or feedback on anything in this newsletter, please feel free to address the management team at TTCCGroup@gmail.com.



Country Director
(Interim): **Carla Alonzo**
(COSTAATT)



Coordinator/Chair:
Mr. Jeremy Williams
Operations Management
Committee
(UTT)



Coordinator/Chair:
Ms. Gersha Pierre
Special Projects, Events and
Member Mobilization Committee
(USC)



Non-Portfolio Member:
Mr. Bobby Sookram
(SBCS)