UNCTAD workshop on

Recognition of qualifications to facilitate movement of natural persons
Co-organized by UNCTAD-ACP Secretariat
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Approaches to deal with Recognition of Qualifications in Trade Agreements and Regional Integration Agreements

by

Mr. Russell King
Trade in Services and Investment Specialist
Caribbean Community Secretariat
THE CARIFORUM-EU EPA

- WTO compatible Trade & Development Agreement.

- Title II governing Investment, Trade in Services and E-Commerce:
  - General obligations - most favoured nation treatment, national treatment & non-discrimination
  - Specific commitments - intention to be bound only by specifically scheduled undertakings based on market access and national treatment.

- Market access to 28 EU Member States
OBJECTIVES OF THE CARIFORUM-EU EPA

- Reduction & eradication of poverty through the trade partnership.
- Promotion of regional integration, economic cooperation & good governance.
- Gradual integration of CARIFORUM into the global economy.
- Increasing investment & private sector growth.
- Strengthening of relations in line with levels of development & international obligations.
The CARIFORUM-EU EPA promotes regional integration amongst the CARIFORUM signatories to the Agreement.

Article 238 - Regional Preference - states that any more favourable treatment and advantage that may be granted under the Agreement by any Signatory CARIFORUM State to the EU shall be enjoyed by each CARIFORUM Signatory State.
Signatories should encourage the relevant professional organisations within the signatory states, no later than three years after the entry into force of the EPA, to engage in negotiations in order to formulate recommendations on mutual recognition.

- Accounting
- Architecture
- Engineering
- Tourism
Engagement on the formation of MRAs occurred in November 2009.

Architects Council of Europe (ACE) and professional organisations from the Caribbean signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

MOU outlined intentions to develop the conditions for recognition as well as the scope of equivalence to be determined.

Establishment of the Caribbean Architects Mutual Recognition Agreement Committee (CAMRAC) which coordinated the work relating to the development of the MRAs.
The regulatory requirements vary widely between CARIFORUM and the EU and also within CARIFORUM.

CARIFORUM States agreed to develop a framework for the governance of architectural services within the region – CARIFORUM MRA.

Ensure the development of a properly operating market for the provision of architectural services within CARIFORUM.

CARIFORUM and the EU agreed that the CARIFORUM region would negotiate the CARIFORUM-EU MRA as a group.
MUTUAL RECOGNITION – DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIFORUM MRA

- Initiatives executed to provide legislative and policy guidance to the region.

- Identified elements critical to developing the internal recognition arrangement for Architectural Services.

- For example - Minimum Academic Qualifications and Experience, Breach of Regulations, Continued Professional Development, Indemnity Insurance, Dispute Settlement.
MUTUAL RECOGNITION – DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIFORUM MRA

➢ Additional initiatives undertaken - securing of technical assistance/support, conducting consultations with key stakeholders.

➢ Finalisation of CARIFORUM MRA.
Negotiation of the CARIFORUM-EU MRA for Architectural Services.

Advancing work to lead to the development of the internal recognition arrangements for Engineering Services.

Development of the CARIFORUM MRA for Engineering Services.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Russell King
Trade in Services and Investment Specialist
EPA Implementation Unit
CARIFORUM Directorate
CARICOM Secretariat