

Global Supply Chain Forum Barbados, 21 - 24 May 2024

Panel Title: Strengthening Caribbean Small Island States' Supply Chain Resilience Day 2

Panel Organizer: Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission (OECSC)

- **Panelist 1:** Roselyn Opel, Head, Pooled Procurement Services (PPS) Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, St. Lucia
- **Panelist 2:** Douglas Fraser, Head of Procurement, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Barbados
- **Moderator/Panelist 3:** Jean-Jacques Verdeaux, Procurement Manager, Latin America & Caribbean, World Bank
- **Panelist 4:** Felix Ohnmacht, CCO and Co-Founder, Axmed PBC

Abstract: The OECSC panel, at the Global Supply Chain Forum in Barbados from 21-24 May 2024, highlighted the importance of connectivity and economic interdependence of global supply chain management. This aimed to build awareness of procurement and supply chain challenges in the Caribbean small island states, share the success with the pooled procurement (PPS) initiative and discuss how technology can be employed for effective supply chain/procurement management.

The panel focused on the following:

- a) the benefits of pooled procurement as a strategic tool to enhance competitiveness and bargaining power for the small islands and the way forward to position the region as a supply chain hub; and
- b) existing supply chain challenges and an overview of how technology and capacity building can be used to manage the supply chain effectively.

Aims: The panel provided an interactive opportunity to exchange the latest developments and knowledge as well as showcase the power of collaboration to streamline supply chain operations in the OECS region. Additionally, the discussion panel presented innovative approaches being used by the partner organisations to enhance supply chain resilience and competitiveness in the OECS region.

Outcome(s):

The panel shed light on and generated awareness of the recent supply chain optimization initiative in the OECS region. Following on from and drawing on the ongoing CDB, World Bank and OECSC partnership, the panel showcased how a regional approach could potentially support in building resilient supply chains in the OECS region.



Panel Discussion Report.

Empowering Small Island States in the Caribbean: Pooled Procurement and Innovative Technologies for Supply Chain Resilience

Parallel Session: B1

Day 2: Wednesday, 22 May 2024 Time: 09:00-10:00 (GMT-4) Room: Pointsettia

Best Practices: -

The panel discussion noted that there have been concerted efforts in the recent 2 years towards developing the Supply Chain systems within the OECS Region to support Public Procurement and governments to deliver to their citizens led by the OECS with the support of various multi-lateral donors. It was agreed that some of the initiatives currently being undertaken included:

1. Operationalisation of new procurement frameworks, professionalisation of public procurement staff/practitioners, building of relationships with academic institutions to undertake research that supports the development of public procurement in the small state Caribbean context and the development of a Supply Chain framework and surge capacity for natural disasters.
2. Harmonisation of procurement Standards, development, enacting of required legislations to support Public Procurement and Pooled Procurement of public projects to negotiate for competitive harmonised prices and standards across the region, given the difference in population and GDP of small islands so that we all benefit from the Pooling Mechanism.
3. Member States are actively sensitised to adopt agile procurement systems that actively tackle unnecessary administrative requirements as seen in other larger markets, late payments that create bottlenecks in the public procurement eco-system and work towards being an open, attractive government market.
4. There is a deliberate strategy to establish strong digital procurement practices, leverage innovative financing and collaborate with impact-oriented private sector and multilateral partners to strengthen the Supply Chain ecosystem in our Islands.

Recommendations: -

1. Undertake analysis to drive procurement consolidation at the national, sub-regional and regional levels, which requires leveraging technology more widely and effectively. Consider developing policies and strategies that drive pooled procurement at the OECS and regional levels.
2. SIDS in the Caribbean should consider passing a framework to support more collaboration in the Public Procurement and Private sector space, and capacity building in the implementation of public procurement projects.
3. Specific targeted actions are often more effective than larger reforms. Let's focus on reinforcing and extending the scope of the pooled procurement services of the OECS which already serves countries in the Caribbean.



4. Take OECS learnings and best practices to CARICOM and the larger Global Supply Chain community as the region also considers establishing OECS Health commodity “hub and spoke” model to optimize the supply chain and reduce prices.
5. Regional Thematic session to articulate the uniqueness of Supply Chains within the Caribbean States that rely on the Global Supply Chain networks for their economic survival.

Commitments and Actions: -

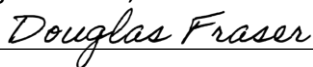
1. OECS-Commission through the OECS-PPS is putting together a Regional Pooled Procurement framework to support pooled procurement of regional projects across different areas of development and is requesting support of the Global Community to establish the Centre of Procurement Excellence for Public Procurement for the region.
2. It is the responsibility of the international financial community to take action and provide immediate support to the integration of procurement of supplies and goods in the region. The World Bank and CDB are committed to it.
3. Collaboration is key across governments, regional entities, including OECS, and the financing partners, such as Caribbean Development Bank.
4. As a Public Benefit Corporation, Axmed stands steadfast in its commitment to deliver access to its platform free of charge, aiming to deliver high quality health commodities at highly competitive prices.

Signed by Panelists: 29th May 2024

Roselyn Opel, Head, Pooled Procurement Services (PPS) Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission



Douglas Fraser, Head of Procurement, Caribbean Development Bank



Jean-Jacques Verdeaux, Procurement Manager, Latin America & Caribbean, World Bank



Felix Ohnmacht, Chief Commercial Officer and Co-Founder, Axmed PBC



