MEXICO HELD A VERY SUCCESSFUL SECOND VERSION OF THE COPANT INTERNSHIP ON CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

On November 7-11, 2016, was carried out the COPANT Internship on Conformity Assessment - Management Systems, organized by the General Direction of Standards (DGN) in Mexico, with the collaboration of the Mexican Accreditation Entity (EMA) and Mexican standardization bodies. It had also had the support of funding from the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ).

The objective of the internship program was to train conformity assessment auditors from the national standards bodies members of COPANT in training, to conduct audits of management systems.

45 people representing 25 countries attended the training: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The main agenda items included:

- The Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade of the WTO - Obligations in Relation to Conformity Assessment
- Standards used in the activities of conformity assessment and standards requirements for different Management Systems
- The ISO/CASCO committee and international and regional accreditation bodies: IAF/ILAC/IAAC
- Actors of 1st, 2nd and 3rd part in the Conformity Assessment
- Guidelines for conducting management system audits
- Experience in the Evaluation of Energy Management Systems
- Laboratory visit
Alberto Ulises Esteban Marina Director General of Standards DGN, Maria Isabel Lopez Director General of EMA, Carlos Pérez Director General of NYCE and Rafael Nava representing CANENA conducted the opening of the course. They stressed the value of these COPANT regional trainings organized with the support of its members, the importance of harmonizing the standards and criteria for conformity assessment in the region and thus facilitating international trade.

The training consisted of sessions of presentations, dynamics and feedback on the subjects treated. In addition, a visit was made to NYCE laboratories to demonstrate how tests are performed on certain products to verify compliance with technical specifications, as well as a leisure visit to KIDZANIA Cuicuilco (ANCE) in which representatives of ANCE presented compliance schemes in certification, as well as the importance of being members of the IEC CB SCHEME. At the end of these presentations, they were shown a video on ANCE and the Mexican system of standardization and conformity assessment as well as the importance that this one has in the life of all the Mexicans and in the international trade.

The event had the following speakers Maria Isabel López and Martha Mejía of EMA, Ricardo Aranda Deputy Director General of International Trade Rules of the Ministry of Economy, Domingo Avila, Nicolás Canuto and Cuauhtémoc Naples of NYCE, Luis Iván Hernández of ANCE, And Pedro Cano and Hortensia Villavicencio de SIGE.