

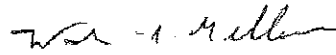
EDITORIAL

The Caribbean region, continues to seek its niche in the area of science and technology. There are many challenges which this region faces in providing enough food for its people, in continuing the industrialization process at a more rapid rate, in the closure of industries that in some cases well over a hundred years old and finding suitable alternatives. We are faced with the development of alternatives in the midst of scarce resources. A major force in today's world is the explosion in information (knowledge), new products and materials, biotechnology and genetics. How can our local scientists harness these developments to the benefit of our peoples? Over and above this we are expected and indeed we have to take into account the effect of the proposed industrialisation on the environment. The challenge is also to provide clean water, clean air, food sufficiency and security, efficient transportation for our peoples and last but not least getting enough of our young persons interested enough in science to pursue it as a career.

Engineers, Scientists and other technologists are called solve these problems for our peoples. This of course means that they have to follow a more inter-disciplinary approach. The regional engineers have the chance, under the new realities in the Caribbean, the ability to market their services throughout the region. This calls for uniform standards so that they can service industries that compete on the basis of quality and product performance.

Access to tertiary education here has grown by tremendously. It is imperative on the engineering institutions to ensure that all engineering training is of the highest standard. The suggestion is being made that it may be necessary to have common exams for those who may want to be engineers but only has practiced without formal training. This may have to be done by some responsible Caribbean Body. A regional quality control and accreditation body should be of some priority.

There were many internal challenges to get this issue to the press. These have now been sorted out and the journal will resume its regular appearance. This journal seeks to bring these issues to the fore and to publish the local, regional and international peer reviewed papers that inform the public about the research and developmental issues that can be of significant benefit to the Caribbean region. The Engineering Faculty at The University of the West Indies through its journal will continue to highlight these efforts. This issue is no exception.



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Editor