

The First of the Pool of Evaluators in Barbados Trained by the Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC)



Seated from left to right: Ms. Valda Alleyne, Executive Director, BAC; Dr. Ruby Alleyne, facilitator, Ms. Yvonne Walkes, Chairman, BAC; and Mr. Jason Stafford, co-facilitator

The recently held workshop on “**External Evaluation/Peer Review**” training at Grand Barbados Beach Resort was enlightening and provided a forum for networking among the local and regional professionals who have an interest in Quality Assurance and Quality Enhancement in post-secondary/tertiary education in Barbados.

The Remarks were delivered by Ms. Yvonne Walkes, Chairman of the Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC). Ms. Walkes acknowledged that “the use of external expertise in the quality assurance process not only signals to tertiary education providers that the quality assurance agency is taking an independent route for the assessment of the institution or programme of study but also that there is professional judgment through national, regional and international subject matter experts or professionals.” Ms. Walkes spoke to the evaluators’ ability to confirm evidence

submitted by providers for accreditation and registration. The workshop was aimed at equipping the evaluators, selected by BAC, with the requisite skills and knowledge to be effective external evaluators/peer reviewers for the registration and accreditation processes.

The workshop, facilitated by Dr. Ruby Alleyne, Vice-President, Quality Assurance and Institutional Advancement and Mr. Jason Stafford, Manager, Institutional Advancement of the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), provided practical exposure through a mock site visit where the participants had the opportunity to not only make preparations for the site visit, but also to undertake the visit, interviewing key administrative and faculty members and a student representative.

One of the participants, Mrs. Lynn Beckles, found the workshop to be an excellent exercise and stated, "It was a good opportunity to really understand the organizational structure (of BAC) and it reinforced the integrity of the accreditation process." Mrs. Jacequeline Moe-Cox, an evaluator who delivered the Vote of Thanks commended the BAC and facilitators for a highly interactive workshop.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Alleyne also commended the evaluators for their active participation and contribution to the workshop, which was critical for a successful workshop. Prior to the workshop, the evaluators attended an orientation meeting with the BAC to familiarize them with the accreditation and registration processes.