

ABSTRACT

A Quality Model for Technical Education in Construction Engineering and Management in Trinidad and Tobago

Muhammad Luqman Abdul-Latif

The College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT) has been established as an autonomous self-regulating institution responsible for the quality and standards of its programmes and awards. Responsibility for the quality of education and academic standards in construction engineering and management, just as in any other subject provided by COSTAATT, is being devolved primarily to the departments which provide that education. Little guidance has been available concerning the departmental quality management arrangements needed to fulfil college and external expectations and requirements.

In this project, various approaches to the establishment of a quality management system at departmental level have been reviewed. A quality model for application to technical education in construction engineering and management in Trinidad and Tobago has been developed based upon a combination of two of the approaches reviewed. A simple self-assessment approach has also been developed based upon the proposed model and applied to a case study of the Building & Civil Engineering Department at the John Donaldson Technical Institute. The quality gap has been analysed and the requirements for quality improvement identified. Further, an action plan for quality enhancement has been proposed, cost and other implications for its implementation identified along with potential benefits. If implemented, it will place the department in a position to satisfy the requirements of ISO 9001: 2000 and certification may be pursued.

Keywords: Muhammad Abdul-Latif; ISO 9001: 2000; quality management model;