

Welcome to the 2018 Annual General Meetings of the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) and the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) National Workshop

Ladies, Gentlemen and Friends - **Wah Gwaan!**

On behalf of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ), it is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the 2018 Annual General Meetings of the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) and the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) National Workshop on The Future of Healthcare.

I am delighted to be hosting these meetings in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the Island's second city – a virtual tourist mecca. This is an exciting event for us at the BSJ, because for many of you it is your first time to Jamaica - as it is my first time to host a COPANT General Assembly. So I say **“Welcome Mon!”**

The theme for the 2018 meetings is **“One Voice - Regionally Standardized, Globally Harmonized.”** The central focus of our week is to strategize ways in which the region can improve standards development, through collaboration and consensus, to successfully compete globally.

The programme for COPANT's week in Jamaica is multifaceted, promising interactive workshops and breakout sessions; bi-lateral meetings, networking possibilities; organized tours, exhibitions and fun.

Our national workshop is proposed to explore the theme **“The Future of Healthcare: Natural Products – Medicinal Ganja in Support of Good Health”**, in pursuits of Sustainable Healthcare through standardization and innovation. The day will outline the role of standards work in developing the health industry with quality services, alternative products, new technologies and equipment and the emergence of information systems. The goal is to learn the good practices from across the world in order to strengthen our national and regional healthcare systems.

The BSJ is counting on you to join us with one voice to share the importance of standards in shaping our world. I look forward to seeing you all in **Jamaica land we love.**

Sincerely,

Stephen Wedderburn
Executive Director, Bureau of Standards Jamaica