



Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association

Handling unique water and waste challenges in the Islands

The Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) is a regional, non-governmental organization established by an Act of Parliament in Trinidad & Tobago in 1991. Originally formed by a group of engineers, the initial purpose was to leverage the experience of water and wastewater experts throughout the Caribbean. One key aspect being considered at the time was whether they could become a certifying body for engineers in the water sector; providing the consistency required to establish guidelines for certification of

professional engineers in the region.

Over time, the Association's scope expanded to represent water, wastewater, and solid waste professionals from public and private sectors. Today, CWWA membership includes not only engineers, but practitioners, scientists, technicians, policy developers – anyone involved with water and waste management.

Their mission is clear and commendable: CWWA

brings together the Caribbean water and sanitation community for the protection of public health and the promotion of sustainable development. Through collective leadership, the Association positively influences advancements in technology, education, science, management, and country and regional policies in the water and sanitation field.

While the primary focus has been on water and wastewater, the CWWA now deals with a third component; solid waste and waste management. Support of ongoing education and training in water supply, wastewater, and solid waste disposal, ensures an availability of skilled manpower and well-informed members of the public. The Association also encourages research and development in the water and waste sector, and publication of the results, to further the goal of technological advances in the Caribbean.

AT A GLANCE

WHO: Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA)

WHAT: The preeminent Association of professionals and practitioners for water and waste sectors in the Caribbean

WHERE: Based in Trinidad, W.I.

WEBSITE: www.cwwa.net

Conquering unique challenges

CWWA President, Jason Johnson, emphasizes that there are unique characteristics of water management in the Caribbean. "People assume, since we are all part of the same region, that all the problems are the same," he says. "That is not the case. We have water scarcities in some areas and flooding issues in others. All manner of things being influenced by climate change, by agricultural factors, by even the most conventional issues, like water mains that have been in use for decades and decades."

To best handle distinct regional differences, the CWWA has designated national sections. Larger islands including Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, and Grenada each have one national section. Some of the smaller islands have sub-regional sections, giving them the ability to interact with one another. For example: Guadeloupe and Martinique are part of a French section; Saint Lucia and Dominica are part of another. As small islands, they are able to share input on their needs, even though they may not have enough attendance to sustain a national section.