



MARKET INFORMATION ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAS **MIOA**

XX MIOA Executive Committee Meeting November 30, 2010 Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

List of Participants

1. Mr. Terry Long, MIOA Executive Committee Chairperson and Northern Region Representative
2. Mr. Aziz Mohammed, Caribbean Region Representative
3. Mr. Julio Trejo, Central Region Representative
4. Mr. Luis Palmer, USDA
5. Mrs. Cheryl Claus, FAS – USDA
6. Mr. Andrei Krylov, UNCTAD
7. Mr. Frank Lam, IICA (MIOA Technical Secretariat)



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Agenda

09:00 am	Call to Order	Terry Long
09:10 am	Discussion of the Agenda and Approval of the Minutes	Terry Long
09:30 am	UNCTAD	Andrei Krylov
10:00 am	Review of EC Agreements	Frank Lam
10:30 am	Recess	
10:45am	Technical Secretariat Report	Frank Lam
11:15am	PROMEFRUT Update	Frank Lam
11:45am	Discussion - MIOA Regular Meeting	
12.30pm	Lunch	
01:30 pm	Discussion - MIOA Regular Meeting (continued)	
01:40 pm	Update and discussion of planned activities	
02:45 pm	Recess	
03:15 pm	Discussion of future meetings and action to be taken	
04:15 pm	Open discussion	
05:00 pm	Summary	
5:30 pm	Closing	

Minutes
XX MIOA Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 30, 2010

1. At 9:00am, Mr. Terry Long welcomed the members of the Executive Committee (EC) and guests, and thanked Trinidad & Tobago for kindly hosting the meeting. He also asked the participants to introduce themselves and comment briefly on their work. In addition, he offered explanations regarding two representatives (Andean and Southern Regions) who were not able to attend the meeting.
2. Mr. Terry Long asked the EC members to sign the minutes of the previous meeting, held in Miami, Florida, and presented the minutes for discussion and approval.
3. Mr. Terry Long introduced Mr. Andrei Krylov of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), who shared information about the organization, its general objectives, sphere of action and achievements. In addition, he presented the Program for Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP), financed by the European Union, to conclude in December of 2011.
4. Mr. Krylov also presented the INFOSHARE platform and explained its advantages and how it could be adapted in the Caribbean Region, especially for those countries that do not have a Market Information System (MIS).
5. Mrs. Claus asked about how the CFC (Common Fund for Commodities) works. Also, Mr. Long asked about INFOSHARE and its application in the Caribbean Region. Mr. Krylov stated that they have spoken with CARICOM about the possibility of using the platform. Mr. Aziz Mohammed stressed the role of MIOA in any regional project in the Caribbean, as well as that of NAMDEVCO. Mr. Krylov explained that CARICOM would be the institution to make the decision as to how to implement and manage the platform, should it be applied in the Caribbean Region.
6. Mr. Frank Lam referred to the MIOA network in the Caribbean and the risk of the Dominican Republic and Haiti not benefitting, as English is not their official language. Along the same lines, he pointed out that in the Caribbean Region there are three different levels of MIS development. Mr. Krylov replied that there would be no problem with the language and that the platform could be applied no matter what the level of development. Finally, Mr. Lam explained that MIOA's main concern as a network is to get UNCTAD's support in the process of collecting data, so that when a platform like INFOSHARE is implemented, the process will be as standardized as possible.
7. Mr. Aziz Mohammed asked about two components of the project: capacity-building in the countries (methodologies, procedures, etc.) and providing countries with software. Mr. Krylov explained that the server is located in Geneva, Switzerland and that while they can provide support, it is very difficult for UNCTAD to solve technical problems.

Nevertheless, he said that it could be discussed at a later time, and that CARICOM could host the server and be the information repository. Mr. Lam also referred to the time constraints (in that the project concludes in 2011) and asked how feasible it would be to carry out the implementation in such a short time. Mr. Krylov answered that once a country makes a commitment, it doesn't take long. Mrs. Claus asked about the server in the case of the Pacific Region and Mr. Krylov explained that the server is in Geneva, but that once the project ends, the information would be transferred to the Pacific Region.

8. Mr. Long inquired as to the next step and Mr. Krylov said that it is hoped that a workshop will be held in February, together with CARICOM and CARDI, to initiate discussion. Mr. Mohammed stated that Mr. Nigel Durrant of CARICOM has been invited to give a presentation at the MIOA meeting. Mr. Long suggested a meeting with the members over the next few hours to define the actions to be taken in the coming months, with MIOA participating in said meeting, and he stressed that this is the kind of activity that MIOA supports in the different regions. Mr. Long asked Mr. Mohammed to take leadership and asked Mr. Lam to participate on the team in representation of MIOA. Mrs. Claus asked about financing for this project and Mr. Krylov explained that the project is financed by the European Union for the 96 countries of ACP, and that in June of 2011 a proposal would be presented for follow-up in the different countries, depending on the particular situation of each country. Mr. Long thanked Mr. Krylov for his participation.

AGREEMENT EC-XX-2010-01: Appoint a committee to work together with UNCTAD, CARICOM and CARDI on the proposal for a regional Caribbean MIS Project.

Responsible parties: Mr. Terry Long, Mr. Aziz Mohammed and Mr. Frank Lam

9. Mr. Terry Long commented on the celebration of MIOA's 10th Anniversary, and that at the EC meeting in Miami, Florida it had been decided that a memento should be given to each of the participants. Mr. Mohammed said that it would be best to present them at the reception on Wednesday. Also, Mr. Long mentioned that eight individuals who have been with MIOA since its creation would be honored and presented with a certificate of recognition.
10. Mr. Frank Lam presented the MIOA EC agreements made at the last meeting held in Miami, Florida, in September, 2010.
11. Mr. Long said that a decision needed to be made regarding the dates for the MIS Administrators Workshop. Mr. Lam mentioned that the workshop would be scheduled over three days, including a visit to a wholesale market. Mr. Mohammed stated that the focus should be on training trainers, to aid in the future dissemination of the information, and that the different countries should be asked who will be selected to participate in the workshop. Mr. Lam added that the most important thing was to know who the requests will be sent to, in the interest of ensuring the most appropriate choice of participants, and on another note, asked if it was necessary for all MIOA countries to participate or if the focus could be on the countries that need the most help. Mr. Luis Palmer mentioned that

some countries could participate as presenters instead of participants, and thus all countries would be represented. Mr. Long supported the idea of having all countries represented, despite the differences in their levels. Mr. Lam suggested that those countries that have made more progress in their MIS could, within the framework of this workshop, try to come up with ways to join forces in supporting the other countries. Mr. Long suggested holding the workshop during the week of March 21.

AGREEMENT EC-XX-2010-02: Hold the II Administrators Workshop in San Jose, Costa Rica (IICA Headquarters) during the week of March 21, 2011. Also, hold the MIOA Executive Committee Meeting one day before the workshop.

Responsible parties: Mr. Frank Lam, Mr. Luis Palmer and Mr. Carlos Tellez

12. RECESS

13. Mr. Lam presented the Technical Secretariat (TS) Report and reported on the progress of the PROMEFRUT Project in Central America and the Dominican Republic, as well as the support provided by MIOA. He also stated that the consultant Maritza Rodriguez of Colombia had been hired and that a first meeting would be held the week of January 24, 2011 in Costa Rica. In addition, he reported that the TS has been in contact with the Latin American Federation of Food Markets (FLAMA, in Spanish), which consists of over 240 wholesale markets, that they have expressed interest in working more closely with MIOA, and that FLAMA representative Mr. Marcelo Amado (Uruguay) will participate in the MIOA Regular Meeting in Trinidad & Tobago
14. He also reported that the TS has been in contact with Mr. Michael Weber, of Michigan State University, who has expressed the CTA's interest in working more closely with MIOA. In addition, he mentioned that in November a conversation had been held with the General Director of CFC about MIOA, and that there is interest in knowing more about MIOA's work, with the aim of eventual project financing, particularly due to CFC's interest in strengthening MIS.
15. Mr. Lam reported that the agreement between IICA and MIOA will expire on April 15, 2011 and asked the EC to analyze the option of renewing the agreement. He also expressed IICA's interest in continuing to support MIOA as TS.

AGREEMENT EC-XX-2010-03: Draft the Action Plan (2011 – 2013) to go along with the new agreement between IICA and MIOA.

Responsible party: Technical Secretariat

16. Mr. Lam shared the proposal on the Hemispheric Seminar to Access the U.S. Market, relaying IFT's interest in supporting this proposal, and suggested forming a committee to plan the details of this activity.
17. Finally, Mr. Lam presented the MIOA financial report to the EC.

18. Mr. Long asked Mr. Lam to present the results to date regarding the PROMEFRUT Project. Mr. Lam began by addressing the two month delay in the project. Likewise, he stressed that 50% of the MIS delegates in the region have recently signed on, which represents a challenge for the project. Mr. Mohammed expressed his concern regarding the turnover in personnel in the region's MIS, as well as the situation in Belize. Mr. Lam responded that the case of Belize is a special situation, in that neither delegate is currently working for the institution that had assigned them to the project. Mr. Julio Trejo added that this situation is normal in the different countries and that Guatemala has paid a lot of attention to institutional strengthening, especially in the area of information on market prices, as well as in food safety and food security.
19. Mr. Long read the letter that will be sent on behalf of MIOA to the Administrator of the AMS (USDA); he emphasized that the administration plays a key role in any MIS and asked the EC members to sign the letter.
20. Mr. Lam reported on the contact that had been made with Mr. David Hallan of FAO (Rome, Italy), who was invited to the MIOA Regular Meeting as an observer. He also requested the EC's approval to present a project proposal to the CFC. Mr. Long mentioned that past contact with FAO had not yielded positive results, but suggested planning the contact strategy very carefully. Along the same lines, Mr. Lam suggested that it would be better to work with UNCTAD for now, and then see what may come about in the future.

AGREEMENT EC-XX-2010-04: Send the EC a blank sample questionnaire, together with a completed example, to document the technical cooperation actions among MIOA member countries.

Responsible party: Technical Secretariat

21. LUNCH
22. Mr. Trejo spoke about the work that they have been doing in Central America with the Central American Strategy for Territorial Rural Development (ECADERT, in Spanish) and Mr. Lam suggested inviting the authorities from CAC, CARICOM and other regional organizations to the MIOA Regular Meetings.
23. Mr. Terry Long asked the EC for their comments regarding the Regular Meeting to be held in Trinidad & Tobago. Mr. Mohammed reported that there would be two presenters from UNCTAD at the regular meeting on Thursday. Next, there was a discussion as to the details of the agenda for the MIOA Regular Meeting, as well as the voting process in the MIOA Rules of Procedure.
24. Mr. Terry Long brought up the topic of the delegates from MIOA member countries and the possibility of only sponsoring one delegate for the regular meetings of the organization. Mr. Mohammed stated that although MIOA sponsors two delegates, there

is no way to follow up on the actions or reports that are turned in to the authorities in their countries, especially when there are changes of delegates. Mrs. Claus suggested that it might be better if the organization sponsored one delegate and each country were responsible for the second delegate. Mr. Lam suggested that rather than only sponsoring one delegate, meetings could be held every two years, and that although the Rules of Procedure suggest an annual meeting, this would allow for more time between regular meetings.

AGREEMENT EC-XX-2010-05: Sponsor one delegate per member country for MIOA regular meetings.

Responsible party: MIOA Executive Committee

25. Mr. Frank Lam asked the EC about the letter that would be sent to the authorities regarding the selection of participants for the Administrators Workshop in Costa Rica. Mr. Long said that it would most probably be through the MIOA Regional Representatives, or in some cases, through IICA. Mrs. Claus stressed the possibility of taking MIOA and the importance of the concept of Market Information to the ministerial level in the interest of getting political support. Mr. Lam stated that this was also an issue for IICA.
26. Mr. Long asked about the evaluation of the regular meeting, and Mr. Lam explained that the same format as in previous years would be used.
27. Mr. Terry Long closed the meeting at 5:30pm.

In addition, during the IX MIOA Regular Meeting, the following points were discussed, to eventually be considered and approved by the new EC:

- a. Make joint efforts with the Regional Representatives and the Technical Secretariat for the following countries to join MIOA, thus completing the 34 countries of the Inter-American System:
 - i. The Caribbean Region: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam (5 countries)
 - ii. The Andean Region: Venezuela (1 country)
- b. Invite the authorities of the Regional Councils (CAS, CAC, CARICOM, CAN, etc.) to the next MIOA regular meetings as observers.
- c. In the interest of promoting MIOA and the concept of market information, PMA offered to support MIOA's participation in the 2011 PMA Fresh Summit International Convention and Exposition (October 14-17, 2011 in Atlanta, Georgia).