



KEEPING THE FIRE BURNING

OOCUR 10th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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OOCUR Objectives

- Enhance the understanding of issues related to utility regulation
- Facilitate communication among members
- Facilitate the sharing of information and experience among members
- Facilitate the sharing and exchange of expertise on regulatory issues through training and educational programmes
- Provide advice on the establishment and enhancement of effective utility regulation
- Undertake research on issues relating to utility regulation

OOCUR

Structure

- Governed by a General Assembly, an Executive Council and a Secretariat.

Activities

- *Annual conferences – 2002 to 2012*
- *Training courses*
- *Workshops*
- *Newsletters*
- *Caribbean Regulatory Research Centre (CRRC) - to be established*

OOCUR - 10 years of helping Caribbean Utility Regulators

Looking Towards the Future...

Will OOCUR be able to continue to assist its members in addressing utility regulation matters?

Will it continue to stimulate the growth of the organisation and its members?

General Assembly

The General Assembly – Three delegates from each Member regulatory agency (*only vote per Member*); initially primarily Commissioners. This has been broadened whereby the delegates include Executive Directors, Directors General and Chief Executive Officers and other Directors.

Executive Council

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Three Executive Members

The General Assembly elects the representatives for the Executive Council.

Changes

There have been several changes in the representatives of the General Assembly and Executive Council.

- Change can bring new and refreshing ideas
- Change can also bring dislocation, confusion and re-organisation

There should always be a level of continuity.



Secretariat

- Manage day-to-day affairs of OOCUR
- Provide support services to membership
- Prepare work programme and budget
- Maintain financial records
- Manage technical assistance programmes
- Establish membership and consultant databases
- Establish library and website
- Liaise with media

Actual Secretariat

- Secretary-General – the only permanent employee (post vacant since 2010)
- Administrative assistance – part-time, temporary
- Prepared work programme and budget
- Managed finances
- Assisted with executing the Annual Conference
- Arranged training course and workshops (in early years)
- Represented OOCUR at international meetings

Other Associations

- *NARUC* - National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
- *AFUR* - African Forum for Utility Regulators
- *ICPEN* - International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network
- *ICN* - International Competition Network

Objectives

OOCUR	To assist in the improvement of Caribbean utility regulators, foster development of transparent and stable utility regulation and foster co-operation
NARUC	To serve the public interest by improving the effectiveness of regulation
AFUR	To support the development of effective utility regulation in Africa through harmonisation of policies and exchange of information
ICN	To build consensus and convergence towards sound competition policy principles across the global antitrust community
ICPEN	To generate and share information and intelligence on consumer protection issues

Objectives



OBJECTIVE	OOCUR	NARUC	AFUR	ICN	ICPEN
<i>Information sharing</i>	●	●	●	●	●
<i>Capacity building</i>	●	●	●	●	●
<i>Harmonisation</i>		●	●		●
<i>Advocacy</i>		●	●	●	
<i>Collaborating with International Agencies</i>	●	●		●	

Annual Meetings

- **OOCUR** - participants present papers; only plenary sessions; General Assembly and Executive Council Meetings held after conference before social events.
- **NARUC** - Mainly administrative General Assembly sessions; plenary sessions; breakout presentations for different groups.
- **AFUR** - participants present papers; forum where members can respond and discuss a previously circulated study.
- **ICN** - individual papers are not presented, special project groups present their reports which usually involve findings on research into best practices. There are plenary sessions and breakout working groups sessions.
- **ICPEN** - two major conferences each year: plenary sessions and smaller breakout groups on consumer issues. A report on member agencies' achievements and challenges is discussed.

Feedback from OOCUR 9th Annual Conference

POSITIVE

- High quality of presentations on relevant topics
- Presentations provided information on actual experiences from other jurisdictions

NEGATIVE

- Lack of interaction following or during presentations
- Lack of panel discussions on relevant topics

Membership Interaction

OOCUR	Peer review, workshops, training
NARUC	Committees monitor, discuss and report on industry developments, training
AFUR	Sector specific subcommittees, workshops, training, publish guidelines, surveys
ICN	Five substantive working groups with sub-groups to deal with key elements, teleconferences, webinars
ICPEN	Project-focused working groups; Internet sweeps, teleconferences

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Established links with some agencies – NARUC, ITU
- ***High degree of enthusiasm at the leadership level***
- ***Survived through several changes in the leaderships***

Weaknesses

- Membership appears limited to the English-speaking Caribbean
- Limited interaction between Annual Conferences
- ***Funding***
- ***Weakening sense of presence in the region***

SWOT Analysis

Opportunities

- Solicit/encourage more Associate Members
- Inform members about relevant training opportunities
- Establish working groups
- Need to reassess role of Secretariat

- ***Chart new direction for the organisation***
- ***Leveraging the full potential of OOCUR members***

Threats

- Limited communication and sharing of information
- Reticence, lack of follow-through on decisions

- ***Potential that members may become impatient and withdraw***
- ***Perception that OOCUR is a “gentleman’s club”***
- ***Inadequacy of funding***

Recommendations

- Encourage and support the participation of new members by providing more opportunities for interaction and participation
- Determine structure and set-up of Secretariat
 - *Permanent - with Secretary-General/Chief Operating Officer?*
 - *Rotating – linked to the Chairman’s agency?*
- Identify opportunities to exchange information with international regulators and other associations of regulators to promote best practices in regulatory matters
- Modify the format of the Annual Conference
- Establish and maintain two functional Standing Committees
- Be a source of information to agencies such as Caricom
- Identify other revenue sources – workshops, sale of information

Annual Conference

Format of the Annual Conference be modified to include breakout sessions dealing with the output of specific work groups that can focus on specific matters relating to the particular utility sector.

There should be the promotion of wider participation in the General Assembly (three attendees from each member agency). This meeting should also be rescheduled to an afternoon session during the Annual Conference instead of sessions after the main conference.

This may promote greater interest of members in the administrative aspects of OOCUR.

*OOCUR should continue to endeavour
to overcome any challenges that may
hinder its development, as it serves
a very important role in the Caribbean.*

Let's keep the fire burning!





THANK YOU!