

IN REMEMBRANCE OF Dr. Michael Lines

First Executive Director of Trinidad and Tobago
Bureau of Standards (TTBS)



Dr. Michael Lines

Dr. Michael Lines, who served his adopted country with distinction, passed away on May 8, 2009. He was the first Executive Director of Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) and served from 1974-1988. Dr. Lines was British-born and became a naturalized citizen of Trinidad and Tobago in 1964. He graduated from the University College of North Wales with a B.Sc. degree in Chemistry and a PhD

in Carbohydrate Chemistry. He was also a fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and member of the Society of Chemical Industry.

Before his tenure at TTBS, Dr. Lines worked at the Chemistry Food and Drug Division, Ministry of Health as the Deputy Chief Chemist and Assistant Director. There he was responsible for Drafting a large part of Trinidad and Tobago Food and Drug Regulations. Using his technical and administrative abilities, he assisted in Drafting the Trinidad and Tobago Standards Act and Regulations and played a pivotal role in establishing TTBS in record time. TTBS commenced operations on 8th July, 1974 with a staff of twelve persons and its first office was located at the Salvatori Building, Port-of-Spain.

Under his astute leadership, Dr. Lines accounted for other notable achievements at TTBS. In 1973, TTBS first newsletter called "The Standard" was published. This name is still maintained to date. TTBS opened a reference library to the public in 1975. By 1976, TTBS declared its first set of standards in the following areas: clothing, building materials, engineering, labeling, advertising, electrical goods, animal feeds and fertilizers. Also, TTBS had produced 463 local standards by 1976. In 1982, TTBS relocated to its present site at 1-2 Trincity Industrial Estate, Macoya, Tunapuna, where its Laboratory Testing Facility was established.

Dr. Lines, a recipient of the National Medal of Merit, remarked on TTBS 25th Anniversary on his tenureship "I am glad that I had the opportunity to help in setting up TTBS and contributing to its growth and development during the period 1974-1988".

TTBS is honoured and privileged to have had the services of such a distinguished person like Dr. Michael Lines during its formative years. We will always remain grateful for his sterling contribution to the development of TTBS and his guidance in promoting sustainable development in Trinidad and Tobago through the use of standards.

The Board, Management and Staff take this opportunity to extend our condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Michael Lines.



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
BUREAU OF STANDARDS



Dr. Lines (far right) receiving first set of standards from officials of the Australian High Commission in 1975.



Dr. Lines at plaque marking the opening of TTBS' offices at Macoya, July 8th, 1986.



TTBS' Newsletter 'The Standard' first published in 1973.