



# EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE REPORT

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“PARTNERING  
FOR GROWTH”



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## CONFERENCE THEME AND GROWTH AGENDA

The Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference 2017 was convened July 23 -26, 2017 as a special Diaspora Engagement event during the period when Jamaica celebrated its 55<sup>th</sup> year of Independence.

The Conference was framed around Jamaica's Growth Agenda incorporating the principles of inclusive growth and mutual benefits to Jamaica and the Diaspora.



Under the Theme **PARTNERING FOR GROWTH** the Conference was designed around three thematic areas:

1. Human Resources as key drivers of Economic Growth - building, caring and protecting human capital
2. Diaspora Investments for supporting Jamaica's Growth Agenda and
3. Creative Strategies for Sustaining Economic Growth, Job Creation and Employment.

## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

**Six of the major objectives of the Conference were to:**

- Deliver an exciting, energizing and invigorating programme that will facilitate the sharing of information and constructive dialogue around national imperatives.
- Deliver a memorable experience for all attendees
- Highlight initiatives for growing and sustaining the contribution of the Diaspora to Jamaica's Growth Agenda
- Facilitate dialogue between young people in Jamaica and those in Diaspora locations.

- Identify actions aimed at providing solutions for socio-economic problems being faced by the Diaspora in their respective host countries
- Ensure that the conference outcomes are specific, actionable and implementable

### Special Conference Features

The Conference had 8 Special Features:

- Official Opening of the Conference
- The Governor General's Diaspora Awards-awards to 6 Diaspora members for outstanding services
- Diaspora Location Roundtables – Focussed Dialogue on issues faced by Diaspora members in locations where they reside and possible solutions.
- Diaspora Growth Forum – Jamaica's Growth Agenda and opportunities for Diaspora involvement and investments
- Plenary Sessions – sessions that complement



the Diaspora Growth Forum with additional in -depth dialogue on targeted opportunities for mutually beneficial involvement of the Diaspora in Jamaica's Agenda for Economic Growth and Social Development.

- Diaspora Global Young Leaders Forum – strategies for more effective engagement of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Diaspora members
- Diaspora Special Interest Meetings - consolidating actionable outcomes for Diaspora – Jamaica partnerships
- Marketplace – Fast track ” one stop shop” Government Services for the Diaspora and Targeted Private Sector Products and Services for the Diaspora



### Participants

There were 1341 persons who attended and participated in the Conference - 1102 from Jamaica and 239 from the Diaspora.



### Conference Evaluation<sup>1</sup>

The 2 top priority reasons participants had for attending the Conference were:

- a. To be part of Jamaica’s development (62%)
- b. Investing in Jamaica (51%)

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<sup>1</sup> Supporting Data for the Conference Evaluation were provided **by an Independent Poll conducted by the Bill Johnson Team and Evaluation of the Conference by the Jamaica Tourist Board Research and Market Intelligence Unit who conducted a similar exercise for the Biennial Diaspora Conferences 2013 and 2015**

Most of the participants (93%) reported that the Diaspora Conference was very valuable and beneficial for them to attend with a significant proportion (77%) expressing the view that the Conference lived up to their expectations.

The 4 major related reasons are that the components of the Conference:

- a. were informative and valuable (good topics, good and engaging speakers and panellists)
- b. provided opportunities for networking
- c. had high quality exhibitors in the marketplace
- d. conveyed that Jamaica was heading in the right direction.

The Plenary sessions that got the top 2 rankings were:

- a. The Closing Plenary and
- b. Diaspora Growth Forum.

The positive features of the Closing Plenary:

- I. the Speakers were considered to be Knowledgeable and responsive to questions
- II. the content was presented in a clear and understandable manner and
- III. the right amount of material was covered in the time allowed.

The positive features of the Growth Forum:

- I. participants felt encouraged to capitalize on business and investment opportunities in Jamaica
- II. participants had a better understanding of the plans for managing the Jamaican Economy

Participants indicated that the Conference was well organised and executed. They were very pleased with Kingston as the location for the Conference, hospitality, transportation to and from the conference, the availability of information and the quality of speakers and panellists.

Participants recommended three major areas for the improvement of the Conference:

- Better time management – starting and ending on time
- More time and opportunities for interactive dialogue (questions and answers).
- Making it easier to register for the Conference

## MARKETPLACE

Over 40 exhibitors participated in the Market Place. Eleven of these were key **Government Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs)** which provided fast track “one stop shop” services for the Diaspora.

The top 3 MDAs that participants visited and used their services were the Passport, Immigration and Citizens Agency (PICA), Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ) and the National Housing Trust (NHT).



Positive features of the Marketplace were:

- a. Quality of Exhibitors
- b. Proximity of Marketplace to Conference dialogue sessions
- c. Opportunities to interact and network
- d. Opportunities for potential and new business

However there were concerns that booth spaces were small and exhibition areas were too hot.

## DAY OF SERVICE

A total of 29 projects were delivered by 152 members of the Diaspora: 19 projects in Kingston and St. Andrew and 10 in rural parishes - St. Elizabeth, Hanover, St. Thomas and St. Ann.



The projects focused on Health, Education, Youth Development, Community Development, Agriculture, Immigration and Heritage.

## **MAJOR ACTIONABLE OUTCOMES**

### **1. Education**

The Diaspora Education Task Force (USA) will:

- a. Provide financial support: for Infrastructure Development for 14 Infant and Primary Schools as a Jamaica 55 legacy project.
- b. Train a Network of Jamaican Teachers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Methodology. The target is 170 teachers.
- c. Conduct the 3<sup>rd</sup> Diaspora Education Summit in Miami Florida in March/April , 2018

### **2. Health**

The Jamaica Diaspora UK will provide financial support for: Infrastructure Development for 55 Health Clinics as a Jamaica 55 Legacy project. Two pledges were made at the Conference for this Initiative:

- A representative from the UK, who owns a medical practice in England pledged support for clinics in Wait-a-Bit, Trelawny, and
- A representative from the Health sector in North East USA pledged support for fundraising for one Clinic.

### **3. Crime Intervention and Prevention**



The Jamaica Diaspora Crime Intervention and Prevention Task Force (JDCIPT) will conduct a specialized Training Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of National Security (MNS). The targeted area will be Training Workshops for officers of the Jamaica Constable Force (JCF) focussed on Strategies for Reducing Gang Related Crime and Violence.

#### **4. Facilitation For Diaspora Contributions**

- a. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministries of Health and Education will provide budgetary support for customs duties for diaspora donation of vehicles (e.g. ambulances, school buses) starting in FY 2018-2019
- b. The Ministry of Health will conduct a Needs Assessment to identify items such as specialist equipment, bedding and materials. The findings will be made available on the Ministry of Health's website to facilitate the Diaspora in targeting and making contributions to the Health sector in Jamaica.
- c. Creative Economy

The Ministry of Culture Gender Entertainment and Sport (MCGES) will establish:

- A Hotline for members of the Diaspora to report cases of abuse or misuse of Jamaican national symbols, icons, intellectual property rights and Brand Jamaica
- A Culture and Creative Industry Council

#### **Jamaica Global Young Leaders**

- Create an online video and audio on Jamaican Culture for cultural immersion of 2nd, 3rd and 4th generation Diaspora members.

# **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference 2017 was convened from July 23 - 26, 2017 as a special Diaspora Engagement event during the period when Jamaica celebrated its 55<sup>th</sup> year of Independence.

The Conference was framed around Jamaica's Growth Agenda incorporating the principles of inclusive growth and mutual benefits to Jamaica and the Diaspora.

## **CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES**

The main objectives of the Conference were to:

- Deliver an exciting, energising and invigorating programme that will facilitate the sharing of information and constructive dialogue around national imperatives.
- Deliver a memorable experience for all attendees
- Developing strategic actions for partnering with and optimising the Jamaican Diaspora's Human and Financial Capital
- Highlight initiatives for growing and sustaining the contribution of the Diaspora to Jamaica's Growth Agenda
- Facilitate dialogue between young people in Jamaica and those in Diaspora locations
- Identify actions aimed at providing solutions for socio-economic problems being faced by the Diaspora in their respective host countries
- Ensure that the conference outcomes are specific, actionable and implementable

## **CONFERENCE PROGRAMME DESIGN**

Under the Theme **PARTNERING FOR GROWTH** the Conference was designed around three thematic areas:

1. Human Resources as key drivers of Economic Growth - building, caring and protecting human capital
2. Diaspora Investments for supporting Jamaica's Growth Agenda and
3. Creative Strategies for Sustaining Economic Growth, Job Creation and Employment.

## **CONFERENCE PROGRAMME PLANNING & EXECUTION**

The Programme and Content Sub- Committee had the awesome task of fashioning the content and schedule for the Conference. This involved consultations and accommodation of a variety of viewpoints and constructive suggestions from stakeholders in Jamaica and the Diaspora.

The Programme and Content Sub- Committee carried out this task within the context of a synchronized team effort which involved all the Sub-Committees of the Preparatory Committee (PREPCOM) for the Conference, the Conference Secretariat headed by the Diaspora Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT), the Chairman of PREPCOM, the Project Manager for the Conference and the Jamaica Diaspora Institute.

The major **Sub-committees of PREPCOM** which worked towards the successful implementation of the Conference are shown in the Table below.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget and Finance</li> <li>• Catering</li> <li>• Day of Service</li> <li>• Entertainment, Look and Feel</li> <li>• Government At Your Service</li> <li>• Logistics</li> <li>• Marketing</li> <li>• Medical</li> <li>• Programme Content and Schedule</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protocol</li> <li>• Public Relations and Media</li> <li>• Rapporteurs</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Secretariat</li> <li>• Security</li> <li>• Technical &amp; Information Technology</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Volunteers</li> </ul>
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Briefing sessions were held with presenters, moderators and panellists from Jamaica and the Diaspora and their suggestions helped to refine the Programme Content and Schedule. Presentations by speakers and panellists were reviewed and suggestions were provided which helped them to finalize the structure and content of their presentations.

The Publications Team did an excellent job in converting the programme and schedule, into an attractive publication which complemented the excellent Conference Magazine. The carefully selected articles in the Conference Magazine together with the Content of the Programme generated interest among attendees to participate in the different programme activities.

The Speakers, Presenters, Moderators and an Interactive Audience, together with the Conference Secretariat, Project Management Staff, Budget, Logistics, Marketing and PR and Entertainment, Look and Feel Committees, the Jamaica Information Service (JIS) , the Creative Production and Training Centre (CPTC), volunteers, members of the

media and the staff and representatives from public and private sector companies who showcased their services and opportunities for business, investment and social partnerships formed an impressive team in making the execution of the programme a successful reality.

The team of rapporteurs performed a critical role in capturing both the content and flavour of what was a continuous and productive set of presentations and dialogues throughout the Conference.

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) and the Bill Johnson Team provided expertise and support for Evaluation of the Conference and the team of Volunteers provided invaluable services during the conference.

## **SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE CONFERENCE**

- Official Opening Ceremony
- The Governor General's Diaspora Awards
- Diaspora Location Roundtables
- Special Diaspora Growth Forum
- Plenary Sessions
- Marketplace
- Special Jamaica Global Young Leaders Forum
- Special Interest Partnership Group Meetings

### **OPENING CEREMONY**

The Opening Ceremony for the Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference combined the Official Opening of the Conference and the Governor General's Diaspora Awards.

These were followed by a Special Welcome Home Reception.

## Official Opening of the Conference



The Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference was officially opened by the Most Hon Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica. He implored the Diaspora to take full advantage of the opportunities that would be presented at the Diaspora Conference for their involvement in Jamaica's Growth Agenda. He also reaffirmed that the Government is cognisant that the Diaspora members, are amongst Jamaica's best assets.

## *Governor General's Diaspora Awards*

The Governor General's Awards recognised six members of the Jamaican Diaspora for their outstanding contribution in the host countries where they reside and Jamaica. Three persons under 35 years of age and 3 persons over 35 received awards.

The Governor General noted that these recipients have been serving quietly and consistently in their communities in Jamaica and in host countries where they reside. He thanked them for preserving the Jamaican character of enterprise, energy, creativity, cooperative endeavours in the host countries where they reside



The recipients were:

### **1. United Kingdom**

Attorney Vendryes Henry and Diaspora Advisory Board Member-Future Leader, Tanesha Westcarr, from the United Kingdom (UK): Future Leader and Adult Education Programme Developer



## 2. USA



Erin Lue-Hing;, former Future Leader member of the USA North East Diaspora Advisory Board Joan Pinnock former Diaspora Advisory Board member for the USA North East and President of the Jamaican American Bar Association, New York.

## 3. Canada

Donika Jones, Unit Executive Board Member and Communications Chair of the Jamaican Diaspora Canada Foundation, Future Leaders Chapter, and Bishop Glenroy Duffus, Superintendent of Education in the Toronto District School Board.



## DIASPORA LOCATION ROUNDTABLES

These Diaspora location roundtables focused on issues being experienced by Diaspora members in host countries where they reside and possible solutions. The areas discussed by location were:

- **USA** -Migrant Rights
- **UK** -Impact of BREXIT and Immigration Legislation
- **CANADA** - Migrant Rights and Health Care Challenges

Conference participants from other locations -Japan, United Arab Emirates participated in one of these major location dialogues which best suited their interests.

## SPECIAL DIASPORA GROWTH FORUM



The Diaspora Growth Forum was led by the Economic Growth Council. The Forum focused on assessing and harnessing the potential value of the Diaspora for Jamaica's Growth Agenda and special opportunities for the Diaspora to invest in Jamaica. The dialogue for this Forum concentrated on the following areas:

- Strategies for Expanding the Outsourcing Sector
- Building Jamaica as a key Global Logistics Hub
- Strategies for attracting Global investors
- Creating a Master Plan for Redevelopment of Downtown Kingston
- Initial findings of the CAPRI – JDI Diaspora Valuation Study whose preliminary estimates show that Diaspora Remittances, Investment and Trade represent 24% of Jamaica's GDP.



## **PLENARY SESSIONS.**

**The Growth Forum was complemented by:**

1. **A RICH BLEND OF PLENARY SESSIONS** dealing with ;
  - a. Building (Education), Caring (Health) and Protecting (Crime Prevention and Intervention) our Human Resources the key drivers of Economic Growth and Social Development



b. Opportunities for Diaspora Expertise and Investments in the areas of

- Agriculture – organic food, non-traditional food
- The emerging Medical Marijuana and Nutraceuticals and industries
- Jamaica’s Creative Economy
- Small and Medium Enterprises and Social Enterprises in Jamaica
- New and innovative Tourism products and Services in Jamaica with emphasis on non-traditional areas of tourism such as gastronomy, health tourism, community tourism, part-ownership in tourism companies as well as in linkages areas such as manufacturing



c. Jamaicans at home and in the Diaspora preparing effectively for the challenges and opportunities related to Digitization, ICT and The Future of Work

## 2. A SPECIAL JAMPRO ROUND TABLE

This session showcased Jamaicans who have returned to and invested in Jamaica and are currently running successful businesses



## MARKET PLACE.

The Conference had an innovative Marketplace which featured:

- Express Services by key government agencies demonstrating the Government at Your Service ‘One stop shop’ Fast Track Social and Investment Services for the Diaspora



- Diaspora Targeted Products and Services by private sector entities.

There were over 40 exhibitors in the Marketplace from the private sector (including 4 legacy partners – Jamaica National Bank, Victoria Mutual, Grace Kennedy and Wray and Nephew) and 11 key Ministries, Departments and Agencies. (MDAs)



The Eleven **Government Agencies which participated** in the **Government at your Service** initiative in the Marketplace were:

1. **Administrator General Department**

- Transfer of Motor Vehicles of Deceased
- Funeral Expense Advance
- Securing a Certificate of the Administrator-General
- Receipt of documentation to commence a matter at the AGD

2. **Companies Office of Jamaica**

- New Business Name Registration
- New Company Registration
- Renewal of Business Names
- Business Name Changes and Closures
- Filing of Annual Returns
- Filing other Company Documents

3. **Jamaica Customs Agency**

- Interview and Registration for Prospective Returning Residents
- Provide information on Importation and Exportation processes

- Provision of information on ASYCUDA World Trade Facilities Initiatives

**4. National Education Trust**

- Access waivers for donations to the education sector
- Registration of Donors
- Collection of Donations
- Information on School Needs

**5. National Housing Trust**

- Registration of NHT Voluntary Contributions
- Checking of Account Status
- Collecting of Contribution and Mortgage Payments
- Updating customer information
- Applying for contribution refund

**6. National Insurance Scheme**

- Registration of Individuals
- Checking Contribution History
- Information of voluntary contribution

**7. National Land Agency**

- Title Documents
- Valuation Roll Reports
- Caveat Cards
- Enclosure Plans
- Registered Instruments (Transfer of Land, Caveat. etc.)

**8. Passport, Immigration & Citizen Agency**

- Renewal of Jamaican Passport

- Obtaining Unconditional Landing
- Obtaining Citizenship

9. **Registrar General Department**

- Application for Birth, Death & Marriage Certificates
- Record Updating Applications (Correction of Error, Late Entry of Name, Late Registration, Re-Registration, Addition of Father's Particulars)
- Recording of Deeds
- Genealogical Research

10. **Tax Administration Jamaica**

- Application for Taxpayer Registration Number
- Property Tax Query & Payment Online Services
- Stamp Duty and Transfer Tax Services
- General Consumption Tax

11. **Trade Board Limited**

- Issuing import and Export Licences
- Issuing Certification of Origin
- Monitoring Imports and Exports
- Exporter Certification
- Export of Textiles & Textile Products
- Special Jamaica Global Young Leaders Forum

## **SPECIAL JAMAICA GLOBAL YOUNG LEADERS FORUM**

This FORUM was convened under the THEME: **Mobilizing, Motivating and Activating Together! Strengthening Connections. Working Together. Growing as Leaders.**

Participants included Global Young Leaders - Young Leaders of Jamaican descent in the Diaspora and Young Jamaican Leaders residing in Jamaica.

The FORUM covered three topics identified by the global young leaders and were aligned with Jamaica's development priorities including economic growth, while promoting social advocacy, collegial support and bold leadership.



### **1. Entrepreneurship**

The business opportunities available to Global young leaders in the Diaspora and Jamaica:

- Coaching and access to Funding and Partnerships for international business opportunities for Young Entrepreneurs in Jamaica and in the Diaspora
- The role of digital technology in Entrepreneurship

### **2. Deepening Cultural Ties and Affinity with Jamaica**

Strategies for:

- immersing young persons in the Diaspora into the Jamaican Culture
- maximising connection with young persons in the Diaspora through Global online platforms

### **3. Mentoring Young People**

- Projects for Mentoring Young Persons in Jamaica including the National Youth Mentorship Drive
- Utilizing Expertise of Young Diaspora for Mentoring youth in the HOPE (Housing, Opportunity, Production, Employment) Initiative in Jamaica

### **SPECIAL INTEREST PARTNERSHIP GROUP MEETINGS**

The purpose of these Special Interest Group Meetings was to consolidate actionable items involving partnerships between the Diaspora and Jamaica.

These Special Interest Groups focussed on the following areas:

#### ***Crime Intervention and Prevention – Projects for Diaspora Partnership***

- 150 Station Fix Up
- Peace Management Initiative (PMI) Conflict Resolution and Reprisal Prevention
- We Transform Programme
- Combined Cadet Force Programme
- DRIVE – Direct Results of Inmate Value and Empowerment Programme – Rehabilitation of Offenders
- Football Academy

#### ***Investments Small and Medium Business Enterprises (SMEs) and Social Enterprises (SEs) Equity***

- Equity Investments for SMEs on the Junior Stock Market and Crowd-funding for Investments in Social Enterprises.

#### ***Healthcare – Opportunities for Diaspora Investments, Expertise and Philanthropy***

- Adopt a Clinic Initiative - Adopting 55 Clinics as a special Jamaica 55 Legacy project
- Employment opportunities for Diaspora members in specialized areas of Healthcare such as: cardiology, oncology, nephrology and radiology.
- Investments opportunities in specialized areas of Healthcare : Radiographic Diagnostic Services - CT/MRI/X-Ray/Ultrasound/Mammography

***Education: Opportunities for Diaspora Expertise and Philanthropy***

- Partnership with NET and Diaspora Pledge 2 Build Initiative for 14 state of the Art Infant and Primary Schools – Jamaica 55 Legacy Project
- Partnership for Teacher Education for STEM – Science , Technology , Engineering and Mathematics
- Diaspora Expertise for Special Education- Speech Therapy, Autism and Disruptive Behaviours

**DAY OF SERVICE**



The Day of Service took place on July 27<sup>th</sup> the day after the Conference. A total of 29 projects were delivered - 19 in Kingston and St. Andrew and 10 in rural parishes - St. Elizabeth, Hanover, St. Thomas and St. Ann.

Approximately 152 members from the Diaspora participated in these projects, with 20 projects sponsored by the USA, 4 sponsored the UK, 3 sponsored by Canada and 2



sponsored by members from the UAE.

The projects focused on Health, Education, Youth Development, Community Development, Agriculture, Immigration and Heritage.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

A total of 1341 persons participated in the Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference 1102 from Jamaica and 239 from the Diaspora - Canada, United States of America, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates and Japan.



## CONFERENCE EVALUATION

### Overall Evaluation

The 2 top priority reasons participants had for attending the Conference were:

- a. To be part of Jamaica's development (62%)
- b. Investing in Jamaica (51%)

Most of the participants (93%) reported that the Diaspora Conference was very valuable and beneficial for them to attend with a significant proportion (77%) expressing the view that the Conference lived up to their expectations.

The 4 major related reasons are that the components of the Conference:

- a. were informative and valuable (good topics and engaging panellists) and
- b. provided opportunities for networking
- c. had high quality exhibitors
- d. conveyed that Jamaica was heading in the right direction

The Plenary sessions that got the top 5 rankings were:

- a. The Closing Plenary
- b. Diaspora Growth Forum.



- c. ICT, Digitization and the Future of Work
- d. Crime Intervention and Prevention
- e. Health

The Plenary Sessions with the top 2 Ratings had some noteworthy features:

The positive features of the Closing Plenary:

- I. the Speakers were considered to be Knowledgeable and responsive to questions
- II. the content was presented in a clear and understandable manner and
- III. the right amount of material was covered in the time allowed.

The positive features of the Growth Forum:

- I. participants felt encouraged to capitalize on business and investment opportunities in Jamaica
- II. participants had a better understanding of the plans for managing the Jamaican Economy

For the Special Diaspora Locations Roundtables the USA had the highest rating (91%) followed by Canada (75%) and UK (64%).

The Marketplace had 4 positive features:

- I. Quality of Exhibitors
- II. Proximity of Marketplace to Conference dialogue sessions
- III. Opportunities to interact and network
- IV. Opportunities for potential and new business

However, there were concerns that booth spaces were small and exhibition areas were too hot which could have affected the volume and flow of participants visiting booths.

Ninety five percent (95%) indicated that they would recommend a friend or business partner to participate in the next Diaspora Conference while 86% are anticipating attending the next Conference.

Participants indicated the Conference was well organised and executed. They were very pleased with Kingston as the location for the Conference, the hospitality, transportation to and from the Conference, the availability of information and the speakers.

## ENGAGEMENT FOCUS

### 1. CONNECTING

Overall, presentations and participation in interactive discussions were robust and passionate.

### 2. PARTNERING

Opportunities for collaborative relationships for Diaspora investments, expertise and philanthropy were initiated in presentations and consolidated during the special Interest group sessions.

### 3. FACILITATING

Attempts were made by Government at your service agencies and private sector companies in the Marketplace to demonstrate to the Diaspora the ease of investing, and providing their expertise and making philanthropic contributions.

The impact of the IMF agreement on some philanthropic donations is a major issue to be resolved.

Information was provided on work in progress coordinated by JAMPRO to develop a web portal to facilitate fast track one stop shop services for business transactions.

## PROMISES AND RESULTS

PROMISES	RESULTS
<p>Presentations and discussions that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exciting</li> <li>• Engaging</li> <li>• Energizing</li> </ul>	<p>Presentations and discussions were informative passionate and invigorating and signalled Diaspora interest for intensifying partnerships for advancing the growth agenda</p>
<p>Opportunities for inclusive Diaspora involvement in Jamaica’s GROWTH AGENDA will be pinpointed for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diaspora Investments</li> <li>• Diaspora Expertise</li> <li>• Diaspora Philanthropy</li> </ul>	<p>The Growth Forum plus different plenary sessions provided information on opportunities for investment, expertise and philanthropy: Healthcare, Education, Crime Intervention and Prevention, BPO, Redevelopment of Downtown Kingston, Agriculture, Medicinal Marijuana, Cultural and Creative Industries, SMES, SEs, and Tourism.</p>
<p>Specific Actionable Outcomes</p> <p>Targeted Initiatives for which there is commitment for resources and collaborative action for post conference implementation.</p>	<p>Actionable outcomes were consolidated in the Special interest Group meetings.</p> <p>Day of Service activities signalled that action on specific post conference initiatives started immediately after the Conference.</p>
<p>Opportunities for Diaspora To discuss Socio-Economic Issues in host countries and identify solutions</p>	<p>Issues were discussed with focus on Impact of Immigration Legislation, Migrant Rights and Healthcare Challenges.</p> <p>Initial solution strategies were identified but there is need for more work to finalize these through post conference action initiatives.</p>
<p>Special dialogue focussed on engagement of 2,<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Diaspora members</p>	<p>A Special Global Young Leaders of Jamaica Forum was designed and conducted by young leaders from the Diaspora and Jamaica with exciting possibilities for strengthening Affinity and Cultural ties with Jamaica</p>

## SAMPLE OF COMMENTS FROM DIASPORA MEMBERS

### Location of Conference

“I appreciate that it was held in Kingston,”

“Most of the issues discussed affected Kingston; and it was important that we immersed in the capital city. How can you solve problems if you are not immersed in them?” she asked.

The holding the conference in Kingston was a positive move. “I like that it was in Kingston, the change of venue is good. Kingston has fewer tourists at this time of the year and I could enjoy being Jamaican, walking around the city, and buying my own food,”

I'm a firm believer that downtown Kingston should be redeveloped. There has been some progress in this regard; however, some people are now seeing the light. When I walk downtown I see the beautiful architecture of the buildings, which show the rich multi-culture of the city,”



## **Components of the Conference**

“It was a great conference, I love the fact that people were able to come together from different regions.

“I would have liked to see some more community engagement”.

“I found the Market Place to be quite valuable in providing information on the range of products and services offered to the Diaspora.”

“I detected a rise in the level of optimism among Conference attendees; and there was the perception of seriousness in the approach of the Conference organizers evidenced in part by the increased role the private sector is assuming in this endeavour.”

“The programme was overly intense with information and with not enough time for Diaspora response and discussion.”

“Diaspora expertise and input could have been marshalled more effectively”.

“The Government should recognize that true partnership means consultation and respect for the views and the expertise of the Diaspora more broadly and not just the views of a few.”

“The Diaspora Bond project has been on the drawing board for several years, and many in the Diaspora have expressed frustration with lack of progress on this or any other vehicle for investing in Jamaica.”

“There was no clear indication of an effective mechanism to tap into the exceptional abundance of human resources available in the Diaspora.”

“The Conference Centre is not suitable for the Marketplace”.

“The registration Process was complicated.

“The evening events (other than Monday) were less than satisfactory. The event on our last night was disappointing. Not a good way to end an excellent Conference”.

# MAJOR ACTIONABLE OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## MAJOR ACTIONABLE OUTCOMES

### 1) Education

The Diaspora Education Task Force will:

- ❖ Provide financial support: for Infrastructure Development for 14 Infant and Primary Schools as a Jamaica 55 legacy project.
- ❖ Train a Network of Jamaican Teachers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Methodology. The target is 170 teachers.
- ❖ Conduct the 3<sup>rd</sup> Diaspora Education Summit in Miami Florida in March 2018
- ❖ Conduct a Guidance Counsellor training programme to facilitate appropriate student STEM advising
- ❖ School University pairing :
  - Ocho Rios Primary in Jamaica with Sea Castle elementary , Miramar Florida
  - Constant Spring Primary in Jamaica with Orioles Primary, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
  - Northern Caribbean University, Jamaica with Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California, USA
- ❖ Organize a Network of Occupational Therapists to support targeted Diagnostic services for students in Jamaica with special needs.
- ❖ Donate one School bus that is equipped to transport children with special needs



### 2) Health

- i. The Jamaica Diaspora UK will provide financial support for:



Infrastructure Development for 55 Health Clinics as a Jamaica 55 Legacy project

Two pledges were made at the Conference for this project. .

- representative from the UK, who owns a medical practice in England pledged support for clinics in Wait-a-Bit, Trelawny, and
- A representative from the Health sector in North East USA pledged support for fundraising for a Clinic.

ii. Pledges were also made by representatives from the Health sector in the USA (New York and Atlanta) for supporting training and development for the Health Sector in Jamaica. Several delegates also made commitments to continue offering support to the health care sector in Jamaica.



### 3. Facilitation for Diaspora Contributions

- d. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministries of Health and Education will provide budgetary support for customs duties for Diaspora donation of vehicles (e.g. ambulances, school buses) starting in FY 2018- 2019.
- e. The Ministry of Health will conduct a Needs Assessment to identify items such as specialist equipment, bedding, materials etc. The findings will be made available on the Ministry of Health's website to facilitate the Diaspora in targeting and making contributions to the Health sector in Jamaica.
- f. Creative Economy  
Ministry of Culture Gender Entertainment and Sport (MCGES) will establish:

- Hotline for members of the Diaspora to report cases of abuse or misuse of Jamaican national symbols, icons, etc.
- Culture and Creative Industry Council



### 3) Crime Intervention and Prevention



The Jamaica Diaspora Crime Intervention and Prevention Task Force (JDCIPT) will conduct a specialized Training Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of National Security (MNS). The targeted priority area will be Training Workshops for officers of the Jamaica Constable Force (JCF) focussed on Strategies for Reducing Gang Related Crime and Violence.

### Jamaica Global Young Leaders

Create an online video and audio on Jamaican Culture for cultural immersion of 2nd, 3rd and 4th generation Diaspora members.

## MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

### Health

- Efforts should be made get the support of the Diaspora to assist in providing the necessary personnel with relevant expertise for the new hospitals and where possible assist in sourcing equipment.
- To address the issue of renal failure, there needs to be greater public/private partnerships, for expansion of facilities to offer treatment and increase donation from the Diaspora to fund live kidney transplant procedure to be done in Jamaica.

## **Education**

- The “Pledge2Build” Jamaica 55 project should be a collaborative initiative involving the Diaspora Education Task Force, The National Education Trust and Jamaica National Foundation.

## **Crime Intervention and Prevention**

- The Jamaican Diaspora Crime Intervention and Prevention Task Force (JDCIPT) should build a network of experts in crime and national security within the Diaspora and map their skills with critical security areas in Jamaica for which there are gaps locally. These include 6 priority areas identified by the MNS:
  - 150 Stations Fix Up
  - Peace Management Initiative (PMI) Conflict Resolution and Reprisal Prevention
  - We Transform Programme
  - Combined Cadet Force Programme
  - DRIVE – Direct Results of Inmate Value and Empowerment Programme – Rehabilitation of Offenders including projects such the “Beacon Project”.
  - Football Academy in Montego Bay

## **Diaspora and Jamaica’s Growth Agenda**

- Encourage the Diaspora to invest at least 20% of their long term savings in Jamaica.
- Utilization of the Global Network of icons in the Jamaican Diaspora as Brand Ambassadors and drivers of major investments to Jamaica
- Finalize the Feasibility Study for the Global Immigration Card for Jamaicans in the Diaspora in conjunction with Ministry of National Security and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to review existing honorary consul policy, examine the needs and opportunities in different Diaspora locations to determine the scope of expansion of the number of Honorary Consuls.

### **Medical Marajuana**

1. Focus should be placed on the sensitisation towards changing the stigma associated with marijuana and rebranding it as a viable enabler of economic growth and job creation.
2. There is need to explore creative ways of channelling Diaspora investments into the development of the Medical Marijuana and Nutraceuticals sector, in view of the challenges posed by the issue of Correspondent Banking Relationships (CBRs) in the international banking industry

### **The Creative Economy**

- 1) With regard to intellectual property rights, Jamaica needs to sign the Madrid Protocol for the purpose of trade marking content produced by our musicians.
- 2) The Diaspora should be encouraged to invest in the National Stadium in order to transform it into a modern state of the art facility.

### **Small and Medium Size Business Enterprises (SMES) & Social Enterprises**

- 1) The Diaspora should be encouraged to invest in SME's through the Junior Stock Market and Social Enterprises through crowd –funding initiatives.

### **Jamaica's Diversified Tourism Product**

- 1) The Diaspora should be urged to explore the investment prospects which exist in non-traditional areas of tourism such as gastronomy, health tourism, community tourism, part-ownership in tourism companies as well as in linkages areas such as manufacturing.

### **Jamaica Global Young Leaders**

Jamaica Global Leaders should:

1. Promote cultural tourism through partnerships using the AIRBNB model, so that young members of the Diaspora visiting Jamaica have the opportunity to experience the real Jamaica.

2. Be encouraged to pool expertise to assist in a Mentorship Programme for youth in the HOPE (Housing, Opportunity, Production, Employment) Initiative in Jamaica.

## **SUPPORTING REPORTS**

There are four reports which complement the Executive Conference Report by providing detailed additional information .These are:

- Day of Service Report
- MDAs Report
- Conference Evaluation Report
- Rapporteurs' Report

These REPORTS will be provided as special attachments to the Executive Conference Report.

### **DAY OF SERVICE**

This report presents narrative and pictorial records of the 29 projects conducted and how these were received and appreciated by the beneficiaries.

### **REPORT FOR MDAs**

Individual Reports for MDAs participating in the Marketplace focusing on the services offered and their views on the use of these services by Diaspora Conference participants.

### **CONFERENCE EVALUATION**

There are two Evaluation Reports - one by the Bill Johnson Team and another by the JTB (Jamaica Tourist Board) Intelligence Unit.

The Bill Johnson Report has two major components: Views and expectations of participants prior to the Conference and Post Conference views of Participants.

The JTB Evaluation Report focusses on participants' evaluative comments and assessment for each session based on their involvement in the different components of the Conference.

## **RAPORTEURS' REPORT**

Detailed report on each session of the Conference showing key discussion points and major recommendations.