



USAID/JAMAICA— WEEKLY REPORT

July 3, 2012 Highlights:



Caption: Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica, Ms. Denise A. Herbol (left) presents the "USAID Development Content" award to JUTC Mobile. The mobile apps for JUTC Mobile looks at how persons can efficiently schedule their transportation routes around the island.



Caption: Ambassador Pamela E. Bridgewater (right) and Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica, Ms. Denise A. Herbol (second left) peruse one of the many booths at the students' expo at the Junior Achievement Jamaica's Conference.



Caption: From left, USAID's Program Specialist, Claudette Anglin and Supervisory Program Officer, Sean Osner are seen here with students from the Ardenne High School who won "Company of the Year" award at the Junior Achievement Company of Entrepreneurs' Conference.

◆ **Digital Jam 2.0** -The Government of Jamaica in collaboration with The World Bank, USAID/Jamaica, Jamaican private sector ICT (information communication and technology) companies and international development partners staged the first Digital Jam 2.0 - "The Future of Work is Online." The 3-day event included an Apps Contest, Seminars, a Marketplace and Job Fair. This interactive, youth-oriented event was held in Kingston, June 28-30, 2012, at the Jamaica Conference Centre. USAID hosted a booth at the event and fielded a number of interviews. In addition, the Mission Director, Ms. Denise A. Herbol presented the "USAID Development Content" award to the Jamaica Urban Transport Company (JUTC) Mobile team that developed an application which addressed development issues in the country. Digital JAM 2.0 was staged against the background that unemployment affects a large number of Jamaica's youth, and the global online world of business and employment presents unparalleled new options. The virtual economy now offers new opportunities and solutions for entrepreneurs and Jamaica's youth, such as using the internet to earn a living by performing paid tasks in the virtual economy.

◆ **JACE Conference** - From June 27-July 1, 2012, Junior Achievement Jamaica hosted a technology and innovation-themed conference for students who participated in this year's Junior Achievement Company of Entrepreneurs (JACE) program. The conference, in its second year, was held at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI). In the six-month program, young people ages 15-24 from high schools and community-based organizations across the island organized and operated real business enterprises: they conceptualized a product/service, wrote a business plan, sold shares to capitalize on their companies and at the end, will liquidate their companies. The top 75 students from the companies formed this year attended the five-day conference and participated in workshops led by corporate executives and industry experts; tackling team challenges in which they were asked to solve major problems, using technology, in four sectors: agriculture, education, energy, and healthcare; display and sell their companies' products at a public expo which was held at the historical site of Devon House where Ambassador Pamela E. Bridgewater and USAID's Mission Director Denise A. Herbol participated. Students from the Ardenne High School came out victorious as "Company of the Year" and this was presented to them at the awards ceremony which was held on June 30, 2012. Other sectional prizes were distributed to several schools.

◆ **EFJ & FCF Merger**- The Cabinet has noted the proposals for the merger of the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) and the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) and has agreed that the merger should take effect as soon as possible. The Attorney General is to review and finalize the legal requirements related to the Government of Jamaica, after which a note is to be sent to Cabinet. It was agreed that the Conservator of Forests should be the Permanent Director and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for the Environment should be the Institutional Director, with the Chief Executive Officer of the National Environment and Planning Agency as an alternate.



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Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) Visit-** The International Monetary Fund's Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) will be in Jamaica the week of July 2, to meet with the Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ), International Development Partners (IDP), private sector, and others. The group will be reviewing the reform activities of TAJ and Customs. The last visit was October 2011. Meetings are being organized for USAID representatives as well as Project to Promote, Renew, Invigorate, Develop and Energize the Economic Environment (PRIDE) Jamaica.
- ◆ **National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy Media Launch–** The development of tools for the media campaign that will assist in achieving objective 4 of the USAID/PEPFAR which is to finalize and disseminate the National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy has been completed. In preparation for placement of advertisements (one 30sec radio ad and one 60sec television) the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MLSS) will host an official launch of the campaign. This high level launch will mark the first introduction of the tools to the general public. MLSS will be making the key address that will mark the official launch and USAID as the primary funders will bring remarks at the event and this will be done by the Mission Director. The launch is scheduled for July 3, 2012 at 11:00am at the Mona Visitor's Lodge. The National HIV/Workplace Policy to date has undergone public consultations and review and it has been committed to the joint select committee of parliament during 6 sittings. The report of the committee was tabled in the parliament back in November 10, 2009 and the house debated the report and approved the recommendations of the joint select committee on February 16, 2010. Currently, the policy is being submitted to the Human Resource Committee of the Cabinet to be approved as a white paper. This is the final stage that will lead to the development of the legislation. The media campaign will aid in the public awareness on understanding the importance of policies on HIV as well as understanding the importance of private sector companies developing policies on HIV.
- ◆ **The Jamaican Association of Social Workers (JASW) Launch & AGM-** The Jamaican Association of Social Workers (JASW) will host its launch and Annual General Meeting on July 6, 2012 at the Pegasus Hotel. The Mission Director will bring greetings at the launch ceremony on behalf of USAID.
- ◆ **Camp Summer Plus 2012 Press Launch–** Camp Summer Plus 2012 will be hosting a Press Launch on Friday, July 6, 2012 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. The launch will be held at the Ministry of Education's 3rd Floor Conference Room. During Summer 2011, USAID/Jamaica collaborated with the Ministry of Education and several private sector entities to pilot Camp Summer Plus 2011. The camp was implemented for one hundred and twenty five (125) Grade 3 students from eight (8) schools, in one Region 1 at the Shortwood Teachers' College. The results in both the academic and social dimensions were encouraging and supported the claims made by researchers, that effective summer programs are valuable in improving reading skills. Beginning July 9, 2012 and ending August 11, 2012, Camp Summer Plus 2012 will be implemented for five weeks in seven locations in three education regions impacting 1000 students. Camp Summer Plus has two main aims, namely: a) to provide focused, intensive, data-driven academic programs which are facilitated through technology and the arts, in the critical areas of reading and mathematics; and b) to provide nutritional, psychological, social and other support which are known to impact student performance. The Mission Director will bring remarks at the Press Launch.
- ◆ **USAID's 50th Anniversary Church Service-** USAID established its Mission in Jamaica in 1962 the same year the country gained its independence. This year the Mission will be commemorating its 50th anniversary with a series of events to highlight the work that has been done in Jamaica, throughout the period. USAID is partnering with the Lyndhurst Methodist Church to host a church service in honor of the Mission's 50th anniversary. This will be held on Sunday July 8, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. Approximately 300 persons will be in attendance at the service including Ambassador Pamela E. Bridgewater, USAID/Jamaica's Mission Director, Denise A. Herbol, Ministers of Government, and the Opposition Party, representatives from the Diplomatic Corp along with partner agencies.