

WORLD BANK IN JAMAICA

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About this Newsletter.....

Welcome to 'World Bank in Jamaica' the quarterly electronic newsletter of the World Bank Office in Kingston, Jamaica. The purpose of this online publication is to keep our partners and stakeholders informed about the work of the Bank here in Jamaica

This edition covers the third quarter of the Bank's year (January to March 2011) and highlights key activities undertaken by the World Bank in Jamaica over this period. It provides some information on the Bank's current work and outlines upcoming activities.

Bank's New C'bean Director Visits Jamaica

Francoise Clottes, the new Director for the Caribbean region, visited Jamaica from February 2-4 on her first trip to the region in her new post.

While her visit was short, Ms. Clottes undertook a number of activities in the country.

She met with the Hon. Audley Shaw, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, as well as with Jamaican experts and key industry leaders to discuss a number of social and economic issues in Jamaica. She also held discussions with NGO and other civil society representatives in a breakfast meeting at the Bank's Kingston offices.

Ms. Clottes also visited project activities in Jamaica where she was able to see how government and civil society groups, with support from the World Bank, work together to meet the health, education and training needs of the most vulnerable citizens.

She visited facilities in West Kingston operated by the NGO Operation Friendship.

The Director spoke with staff and clients at a clinic run by Operation Friendship



Caribbean Director Francoise Clottes gets acquainted with clients at the Operation Friendship Clinic in West Kingston during trip to Jamaica

and staffed by government health care workers.

run by Operation Friendship.

The building housing the health facility was refurbished with Bank funding in 2006, and provides pre- and ante-natal services, as well as well-baby and family planning clinics.

Ms. Clottes took up the post of Director for the Caribbean in January 2011.

She also met with a group of young people participating in an Operation Friendship skills training project, supported by a Japan Social Development Fund grant through the World Bank.

They are being trained in welding, computer literacy, construction, life skills and entrepreneurial skills.

The Director also chatted with young students and teachers at an adjacent basic school



Francoise Clottes with Badrul Haque in conversation with youth trainees at Operation Friendship

New Representative for WB Jamaica Office

Italian national, **Mr. Giorgio Valentini**, has been appointed **Representative for the World Bank's Jamaica and Guyana Country Offices**. He will be based in Kingston and also has responsibility for Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago.

Special Representative to Jamaica, Dr Badrul Haque, an American citizen, leaves Jamaica at the end of June. Dr. Haque has been serving as Special

Representative to Jamaica since 2008.

In his role as Representative, Mr. Valentini's priorities will include: (i) to continue relationships between the Bank and authorities in Jamaica and Guyana and (ii) to monitor progress in meeting the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) objectives to ensure the overall quality of Bank services. ▪



Giorgio Valentini

Badrul Haque

World Bank in the Local

News –

[Ctrl + Click and read!](#)

[World Bank Rep highlights need to enforce regulations on remittance transfers](#)

Jamaica Information Service
March 28, 2011

[CCRIF selects new reinsurance broker](#)

Jamaica Observer
March 11, 2011

[The Food Crisis and Jamaica](#)

The Gleaner
February 23, 2011

[Caribbean vulnerable to high food prices](#)

Jamaica Observer
February 18, 2011

[Food prices up, World Bank worried](#)

The Gleaner
Feb 17, 2011

[Sagicor, IFC Discussing US\\$100-m Capital Injection](#)

Jamaica Observer
February 9, 2011

[New World Bank Country Director to Meet With Finance Minister](#)

Jamaica Information Services
February 3, 2011

[New World Bank Country Director to Visit](#)

Jamaica Observer
January 28, 2011

[JSIF funds projects in Manchester and St Elizabeth](#)

Jamaica Information Service
January 17, 2011

['LNG Report not alarming'](#)

The Gleaner
January 10, 2011

[Tourism in 2010 earns J\\$1.98b](#)

The Gleaner
January 7, 2011

[Greater support coming for some community-based projects](#)

Jamaica Observer
January 5, 2011

[Ja selected for pilot climate change project](#)

Jamaica Observer
January 4, 2011

Jamaican Consumers to benefit from \$15M Energy Efficiency Programme

The Executive Board of Directors of the World Bank has approved a US\$15 million loan to increase energy efficiency and security in Jamaica.

The loan will benefit Jamaica's residential, commercial and industrial energy consumers through the Energy Security and Efficiency Enhancement Project. It was approved on March 10.

The project will help Jamaica develop detailed policies and plans on renewable energy to reduce the island's high dependence on imported petroleum products while moving to cleaner fuels.

The project is designed to contribute to reduced energy costs, increased energy security and improved economic competitiveness. It also supports addressing climate change by contributing to

reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Some specific activities which the project will support include:

- Developing detailed policies, strategies and plans on renewable energy
- Strengthening the regulatory framework for public-private monitoring of the energy sector
- Introducing the LNG programme to support off-oil diversification
- Promoting wind and solar energy
- Expanding the Bureau of Standard's energy efficiency testing and labeling capability and information programme

The US\$15 million loan with a variable spread is payable

in 30 years, including a five and a half year grace period.

"Given the current crisis in energy worldwide, this World Bank loan programme is very well timed," says Hilary Alexander, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Mining and Energy.

"It presents a way forward for the country in attacking the serious issue of energy inefficiency, and along with other complementary projects, will allow us in a short time to become a more productive nation." ▪



Regional Forum at UWI looks at Remittances in the Caribbean

The importance of remittances to the Caribbean cannot be underestimated.

Remittances represent more than 20 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in some Caribbean countries. For Jamaica, remittances are the leading source of foreign exchange inflows.

On March 24-25, the World Bank, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona and the Canadian Government hosted a regional remittances forum at the Mona Visitors' Lodge, UWI. A wide range of stakeholders from a number of countries- including

Caribbean

regulators from Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the United States, Canada and the Eastern Caribbean States - participated.

The forum's theme was ***"Enhancing the Efficiency and Integrity of Remittance Transfers through Effective Regulatory and Supervisory Systems in the Caribbean."***

World Bank Executive Director for the Caribbean, Marie-Lucie Morin gave opening remarks at the start of the event.

She stressed the need for public and private stakeholders

in the remittances industry to work together to ensure effective regulation of the sector and efficient service delivery to clients.

The forum provided an excellent avenue for this as service providers, industry regulators and remittance market analysts and regulatory experts discussed industry trends, challenges in regulation, shared experiences and networked over the two-day event.

Many participants expressed satisfaction with the forum and some said they would have welcomed more time to discuss emerging issues. ▪



Participants at the Regional Forum on Remittances at UWI, Mona.



Jamaica hosts first National Consultation on World Bank's new Social Protection Strategy

On February 22, Jamaica became the first country to host a national consultation on the World Bank's concept note for its new Social Protection and Labour Strategy.

The consultation took place at the Wyndham Hotel in Kingston with a group of national stakeholders mobilised with the assistance of the Planning Institute of Jamaica

Helena Ribe, World Bank Sector Manager for Social Protection, presented the concept note on behalf of the Bank.

She noted that some of the areas of focus in the new global social protection strategy are already being

implemented in Jamaica through programs such as Steps-to-Work, which targets unemployed adults in poor households and builds their skills to help them seek and retain employment.

"We had a rich exchange of experience sharing and this will feed into the Bank strategy for the next ten years," Ribe noted.

"We were delighted that Jamaica was the first country where consultations took place and feel this is evidence of Jamaica's leading role in the implementation of effective social protection programs like PATH (Programme of Advancement through Health and Education)."

The half-day consultation was attended by representatives from relevant government ministries and agencies, as well as from private sector organisations, NGO groups and international development partners. ▪



Helena Ribe, World Bank Sector Manager for Social Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean makes her presentation at the Consultation



Jamaica - 'REDI' for Rural Development

The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) which began in 2010 picked up steam in the first months of 2011.

Six agreements were signed with five community-based organisations (CBOs) from the parishes of Manchester and St Elizabeth on January 13.

REDI, which is being implemented by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), gives grant funds to groups across rural Jamaica. The grants support the development of businesses in the key sectors of agriculture and tourism.

REDI also builds capacity in key organisations to ensure sustainability of rural enterprises in these sectors.

The World Bank has provided a loan of US\$15 million to the Government of Jamaica for REDI.

The January 13th financing agreement signing ceremony with CBOs took place in Mandeville, Manchester.

Agreements were signed between JSIF and the Maggoty Development Committee Benevolent Society, Manchester Parish Development Committee, the Porus Craft and Agricultural Association Special Authorised Society, the Prospect Pig Farmers Association Cooperative Society and the Treasure Beach Women's Group and Benevolent Society.

An agreement was also signed between JSIF and the Manchester Parish Development Committee which signed on behalf of the Top Plowden and Wigton Sweet Potato Growers Association.

The groups are involved in a number of activities including cassava and potato growing, craft production & pig farming.

In December 2010, two financing agreements were signed with the Middlesex Beekeepers Group and the Porus Entrepreneurial Group, for the expansion of beekeeping, honey production and value-added products. •



Snapshots from the REDI Signings in St Elizabeth (Dec 2010) & Manchester (Jan 2011)



Tourism Ministry and JSIF work towards Community Tourism Policy

The New Year started off with a renewed thrust towards community tourism for Jamaica's tourism sector.

On January 4, the Tourism Ministry and the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) signed a Sponsor Agreement for the Development of a Community Based Tourism Policy.

This was signed under the World Bank- funded Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI).

The objective of the project is to develop a framework aimed at enhancing policy and institutional capacity to develop community-based tourism as a sustainable growth sector in Jamaica.

The policy framework should help ensure that smaller players and community members are able to take advantage of opportunities in the tourism sector.

Tourism Minister Ed Bartlett thanked the Bank for its support to Jamaica

The Minister said that although brand Jamaica is a strong one, the country must be conscious of emerging market and travel trends and be responsive to them. •



World Bank Special Representative Badrul Haque and Tourism Minister the Hon. Ed Bartlett address the media at the Sponsor Agreement Signing.

Apps for Development

A competition brought to you by  THE WORLD BANK



* WHAT ARE APPS?

'Apps' is an abbreviation for application software or application.

An app is a piece of software designed to help the user perform singular or multiple related specific tasks.

It helps to solve problems in the real world. It can run on the Internet, computer, phone or other electronic device.

J'can shortlisted in 'Apps for Development' contest

Jamaican student **David Bernard**, is among the 107 entrants shortlisted in the World Bank's **Apps for Development** competition.

The competition offers US\$45,000 in prizes and financial support, as well as global exposure, to participants.

It aims to bring together software developers and development practitioners to use World Bank data in the creation of innovative software applications.

Competitors were asked to create software, tools, data visualisations or "mash-ups", related to one or more of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

David is a graduate student at the University of the West Indies, Mona, studying the sociology of development.

His entry is an online system ('MDG Chart Generator') that charts all the statistics in the World Bank's MDGs dataset and also explains the MDGs in simple language. David's entry can be viewed here - [MDG Chart Generator](#).

Apps* created by the contestants range from SMS services to apps for an iPhone, and include games aimed at children, as well as educational and statistical modeling tools.

The winners will be announced at the joint World Bank/International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings in April 2011. •

WB Executive Director hosted by Jamaican Govt

The Government of Jamaica hosted Ms. Marie-Lucie Morin, the World Bank Executive Director for Canada, the Caribbean and Ireland between March 20 and 24.

Ms Morin met with a number of Government officials including the Ministers of Finance, Education and Labour and Social Security, as well as with the head of the Planning Institute of Jamaica.

She was also able to meet with representatives from the private sector.

A highpoint of Ms Morin's visit was a field trip to various projects being implemented by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).

The trip took her across three parishes where she was able to see project activities which are facilitating individual and

community development. She was able to meet with beneficiaries and discuss the impact of Bank-supported programmes on their lives •



Executive Director Marie-Lucie Morin meets youth trainees and JSIF staff on a visit to a skills training programme in West Kingston.

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Upcoming Events on the World Bank Jamaica Calendar

IMPORTANT DATES

April 11, 2011- Global Launch of the World Bank's World Development Report 2011 '**Conflict, Security and Development.**'

