Message from the Editor

Having come to the end of another year, the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies give thanks to all of its major Stakeholders who provided support in achieving our varied targets. As we make the transition towards a New Year let us assess the year 2011 and devise a strategic plan for the upcoming year to succeed in those areas where we did not achieve target.

The year 2012 is welcomed with great excitement and expectation as it is the year of Co-operatives core areas of focus of the Department and Jamaica’s 50th year of Independence our Jubilee Celebrations. To this end, I urge all to embrace the activities slated for celebrating the International Year of Co-operatives in a collaborative and cooperative manner thereby contributing to the success of 2012 which will truly be a year to remember.

2012 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES

In recognition of the positive contribution made by the Co-operative Movement towards social development all over the world; the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution declaring 2012 as the UN International Year of Co-operative.

This serves to highlight to Governments, the business Community and most importantly the general public the advantages to be garnered from the adoption of the Co-operative Business model.

The Co-operative Development Committee consisting of persons from the Jamaica Co-operative Movement and the Department of Co-operatives & Friendly Societies have sought to facilitate the coordination and execution of various activities within Jamaica to commemorate this historical moment.

It is anticipated that all will make the most of the International Year of Co-operatives and embrace the theme “Co-operative Enterprises, Build a Better World.”

Look out for these upcoming activities

- June 23 & 24: 2 days symposium & Exhibitions at the Ritz Carton
- July: Fun Day
- August 4 – 6: Co-operative Exhibition at the Denbigh Agriculture Show
- August 6: Float in the Independence Day Parade
- September: International Beach Clean UP
- November: Forum discussion on television
- August: Fisherman’s Regatta

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Youth Employment

The Department worked with the Ministry of Industry, Investments & Commerce, National Youth Service, Youth Opportunity Unlimited & Excelsior Community College to facilitate the employment of approximately twenty (20) young persons ranging from ages 16-19 during July-December, 2011. An ongoing occurrence which seeks to play a role in providing the students with skills sets that can be used in their chosen field, making them more marketable when they finally step into the work world. Two out of those students are still with the Department in a Temporary capacity.

World HIV /AIDS Day

December 1, 2011 being world HIV Day the Department participated in the celebrations and promotion by the Ministry of Industry, Investment & Commerce by mounting a Display Area to educate its staff and visitors to the Department about HIV, methods of prevention, and work place policy.

Training of Staff / Movement

Capacity building of the Department’s Staff and personnel within the Movements was a focus of the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies during the period July - December 2011; as such various trainings sessions were facilitated in the following areas:-

**DCFS - Staff**

- Deferred Shares
- Energy Conservation
- Industrial & Provident Societies Act & Regulations
- Effective Supervision
- International Financial Reporting Standard update
- Supervisory Management
- Government Accounting

**MOVEMENTS - Personnel**

- Accounting & Basic Book- Keeping.
- Audit Committee
- Proceeds of Crime Act

Common Fund Commodities (CFC) Project

Through a collaborative approach between Jamaica and Guatemala, the launch of the CFC Project entitled “Competitive Coffee Enterprises Programme” was made possible in July 2010. This was in an attempt to improve the production of Low Land coffee produced by three (3) Coffee Co-operatives: Frankfield JAS Coffee/Cocoa Growers Co-operative, Cave Valley Multipurpose Co-operative and Central St. Catherine Coffee Growers Co-operative.

The project has a three (3) year life span and will assist approximately three hundred (300) coffee farmers through the provision of coffee beans, tools, equipment, assistance in land preparation and capacity building training.

Additionally, the promotion of local consumption of coffee is another important aspect of this project. To this end, the facilitation of Coffee Fests by the sponsored Co-operatives to promote coffee consumption was undertaken with Frankfield JAS Coffee/Cocoa Growers Co-operative and Central St. Catherine Coffee Growers Co-operative hosting their Fests on October 14 & November 18, 2011 respectively.

Cave Valley Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Coffee Fest is scheduled for February 25, 2012.
International Co-operative Alliance Conference 2011

During the period November 15-13, 2011 Mr. Errol Gallimore, Registrar of Co-operatives & Friendly Societies, and Mrs. Wentt –Hyman, Senior Research and Development Officer attended and participated in the conference on Co-operatives hosted by the International Co-operative Alliance in Cancun, Mexico. This involvement facilitated the exchange of critical information needed to ensure the sustainable development of the Co-operative Movement World-wide. The presentations focused on areas stated below:-

- Global Co-operative Legislations
- The role of the State in the African Experience
- Mexico’s Experience
- Canadian Financial Services Cooperatives
- India’s success story on Co-operative Fertilization
- International Year of Co-operatives 2012
- The Co-operative Business Model
- Co-operatives in Japan that are operated by Youths
- The Malaysia Experience regarding School Co-operative
- The Canadian Youth Co-operative Association
- Research Methodology
- Opportunities for Co-operative
- Funding for Co-operative Development

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Tributes were in the form of songs, poems and skits to the Lady of the Moment and while she will be missed by all, her legacy of being the Mother of the Department with her kind, gentle words and a tender and caring heart, will forever be remembered. Mrs. Urcella Russell officially retires on February 24, 2012.

Mrs. Urcella Russell or “Mada Russell” as she lovingly called within the Department, having served the Government of Jamaica for a total of 40 years in various capacities as Personnel Officer and Administrator within five (5) different Ministries; was honoured for her significant contribution on November 14, 2011. The event saw the staff from the Department, the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, other close friends and well wishers in attendance.
All minutes of Meetings should be signed by presiding Secretary and Chairman subsequent to its approval.

Co-operative is a business owned collectively by all its members.

Societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act must file their Annual Return by May 31, for each year.

All regulated Societies must keep proper Accounting records.

**ACROSS**

1. A group of people officially delegated to perform a function.

6. A requirement to take some course of action, whether legal or moral.

7. An examination of records or financial accounts to check their accuracy.

9. Considered as a "Statement of Intent" or a "Commitment".

10. Assumption of responsibility for actions, decisions including the administration and governance of resulting consequences

12. A series of actions, acts or operations which have to be executed in the same manner in order to obtain the same result in the same circumstances

13. Regulation governing a particular Society

**DOWN**

2. Organization and coordination of the activities of a Society in accordance with certain policies and in achievement of clearly defined objectives.

3. The education or instruction of a person being taught.

4. The process of working or acting together.

5. A precise list or enumeration of financial transactions.

7. A request for a new hearing or the transfer of a case from a lower to a higher authority for a new hearing.

8. It is the portion of the Societies profits paid out to shareholders.

11. A legally recognized organization engaged in the trade of goods, services, or both to consumers.

12. A financial benefit that is realized when the amount of revenue gained, exceeds the expenses

14. Any written rule prescribed under the authority of the state or nation, as by the people in its constitution.

**Fun Corner**

All regulated Societies must keep proper Accounting records.

“Food for thought”

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