

DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVES AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES
Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce

The BUZZzzz

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Message from the Editor

The year 2012 has been a year of adversities, memorable occurrences and tremendous milestones. While there were many adversities to include the state of the Economy; the year still remained one of numerous achievements. The declaration of 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) by the UN has seen various activities being facilitated worldwide to commemorate such an auspicious moment in the history of the Co-operative Movement. Tantamount to the year being celebrated as IYC is the fact that Jamaica in all its glory celebrated its 50th Anniversary of Independence and performed exceptional at the 2012 Olympics Games. These are achievements that will forever resonate in the minds of all.

As we transition into a new year, let us reminisce on the years past and use our experience as a stepping stone towards future successes and endeavors. The pending BOJ /Credit Union Regulations approval and the impending uncertainty as it relates to our economic stability requires us as a Movement and a nation to remember that it is out of similar circumstances when economic stability was uncertain that the Co-operative Movement was born. It is therefore at this point in time when there is a renewed need for the Co-operative Movement that we must collectively seek to devise strategic ways to tackle the challenges we face, so as to bring about a better standard of living for all.

We therefore look forward to a new approach from all the Societies regulated by the Department in an effort to assist with Jamaica's growth and development.

2012 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES (IYC) CELEBRATIONS

Co-operative Link-up!

On July 7, 2012 various cooperators and their families could be found on the grounds of the Cranbrook Estate where a Fun Day event was hosted as part of the IYC celebrations. The day was one well spent and involved several energetic and innovative activities which sparked enthusiasm, team building and co-



Participants at the Fun Day at Cranbrook Estate

operation. All in attendance thoroughly enjoyed themselves and expressed that activities of this nature were phenomenal and highly appreciated, as well as truly depicted the spirit of Co-operatism as a family affair.

Co-operative Symposium

Under the IYC theme "Co-operative Enterprises Build a Better World"; TIP Friendly Society in collaboration with the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies hosted a Two (2) Day



FRANCINE BLACKWOOD
EDITOR

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Symposium and Exhibition during the period July 18-19, 2012 at the Sunset Jamaica Grande, Ocho Rios.



Panel of Symposium and Exhibition.

The forum which was aimed at further exposing personnel within the Friendly and Co-operative Societies Movements on the importance and contribution of Co-operatives Enterprises locally, regionally and internationally and encouraging networking was also complemented by the Youth National Poster Competition Award Ceremony.

Overall the event saw the participation of 102 participants from 42 Societies registered under the Co-operative and Friendly Societies Acts, 11 Exhibitors and various presenters involved in the Co-operative and Friendly Societies Movements, both locally and internationally.

The event being the first of its kind in Jamaica was a success and will not be the last.

Denbigh 2012



Members of Jamaica Creative Co-operative Society displaying items at Denbigh 2012.

Over the years, the Department has participated in the Annual Denbigh

Agricultural & Industrial Showcase as a means of disseminating information on the work of the Movements and the Department to the approximately 80,000 patrons who normally participate in this three (3) days event. As a part of the International Year of Co-operatives celebrations, the Department along with various Co-operative Enterprises during the period August 4-6, 2012 participated in one of the most prestigious exhibition within the Caribbean in a bid to further promote the co-operative concept as a viable sector of the country.



DCSF Representative (Right) and members of Bucknor Concern Citizen Association Benevolent Societies displaying their craft at Denbigh 2012.

A Day at the Beach

As part of IYC a beach clean-up was organized in keeping with the International Coastal Clean-up week.



Beach Clean-up at Rocky Point Fishing Village

This event took place on September 15, 2012 and involved several fishing sites associated with three (3) Co-operative enterprise namely:-

- Rocky Point Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd.

- Old Harbour Bay Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd.
- Rockford CDC Benevolent Society.

The event was a successful one, as garbage of different shape, size and descriptions was removed from our sea shores.



Beach Clean-up activities at Old Harbour Bay Fishing Village

Fuel of Life

“Grow what we eat, eat what we grow” for several years has been the guiding principle on which the Jamaican Society seeks to ensure food security. The need for food security is a worldwide one and consequently “World Food Day” which is celebrated October, 16 of each year is one endorsed by the Nation.



Jamaica 4H Club displays items made from Roots and Tubers.

2012 celebration was a memorable one for the Co-operative Movement as in keeping with the IYC celebration this year's theme for “World Food Day” was “Agricultural Co-operatives - key to feeding the World”. The

event was commemorated with the hosting of a National Ceremony and Exhibition and a Roots and Tuber Fest on October 12 and 16 respectively.



Display of Root and Tubers at the Exhibition.

The Roots & Tuber Fest hosted by Christiana Potato Growers Co-operative was the first of its kind in the Caribbean.

"A Ray Of Hope"



CDA/CDC Joint Donation being made to Homestead Place of Safety

Celebration of the IYC in Jamaica came to an end with "a ray of hope" for the girls at the Homestead Place of Safety and the Manning Boys Home. The girls at the Homestead Place of Safety received a much needed gift in the form of a generator provided through a joint effort of the Child Development Agency (CDA) and the Co-operative Development Committee (CDC). The generator, which valued at some \$318,000, was presented in December, 2013 to the Place of Safety.

A donation to the tune of \$100,000 was also given to the Manning Boys Home.

Term Limit

The Department in collaboration with the Co-operative Movement has sought to introduce the concept of *Term Limit for Volunteers* into the operations of many Co-operative Societies.

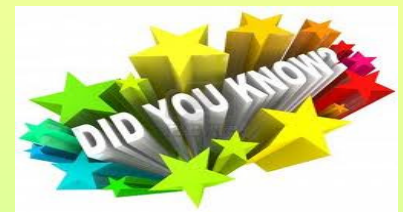
The Credit Union Sector in particular is leading the way in this endeavor as it will not only provide for succession planning but also strengthen good corporate governance practices, and promote prudential and operating standards aimed at developing credible enterprises. The implementation of Term Limits will in essence:-

- ✦ Mitigate the risk associated with the removal of a significant portion of the fundamental knowledgebase amongst the leading decision making bodies of a Society.
- ✦ Promote organizational survival and success which is closely linked to the constant renewal of leadership thinking from time to time; thus recruitment and training of new skilled volunteers must be encouraged and facilitated to ensure replenishing of critical leadership and management skills.



Geared at promoting energy conservation and efficiency, Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining in collaboration with UNDP hosted several Energy Conservation and efficiency Management Courses primarily for the Public Sector. Government and non-government enterprises were

targeted to ensure the widest impact and dissemination of information. Various elements involved in energy consumption and efficiency were evaluated and practical experience garnered. It is anticipated that with the exposure to this concept, the knowledge acquired will be applied to all areas of life both within the workplace and at home thereby contributing to a reduction in the Country's energy bill.



- ✦ 6-10% of electrical bills are usually lighting cost.
- ✦ 30% of electricity transmitted by JPS is supplied by Independent Power Producers.
- ✦ Under the existing Tariff Regime, JPS is allowed an annual adjustment to the non-fuel rates to reflect the impact of inflation as well as expected improvements in the Company's efficiency.
- ✦ Many appliances draw small amounts of power when they are turned off, but still connected to power source.
- ✦ Reducing the number of lights to a switch in large rooms, so that lighting can be turned off when certain areas are not in use, can help to save energy.
- ✦ Usage of ceiling or room fans along with air conditioning unit (A/C) helps in energy efficiency.
- ✦ Laptops consume 90% less energy than regular work-station.



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“Competition has been shown
to be useful up to a certain
point and no further, but
cooperation, which is the
thing we must strive for
today, begins where
competition leaves off.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

July - December 2012 Societies Registered/Cancelled

TYPE	REGISTERED	CANCELLED
Friendly Societies	8	5
Co-operative Societies	5	3
Industrial & Provident	2	3

Anniversary Corner

100 Years

- Agricultural Credit Board

70 Years

- Jamaica Co-operative Credit Union League

40 Years

- St Elizabeth Co-operative Credit Union

50 Years

- National Water Commission Co-operative Credit Union Ltd.

OBITUARY



John Martin Lamont

Having contributed nine years (9) of dedicated service to the Department of Co-operatives & Friendly Societies; the passing of Mr. Lamont know to all as “John or Martin”, on October 22, 2012 is an occurrence that sadly impacted family, friends and co-workers. His jovial personality, entertaining and humble demeanor along with the dedication which was exhibited in carrying out his task as the Department’s Watchman will be sadly missed by all.. *Gone but not forgotten...*

Fun Corner

Spot the 15 Differences

