



Message from the Editor



FRANCINE BLACKWOOD
EDITOR



As the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies (DCFS) carries out its regulatory role; we continued to join forces with various stakeholders during 2014 as a means of facilitating institutional strengthening and capacity building to a vast number of Societies registered under various statutes regulated by the Department.

Significant was the establishment of a number of small to medium business enterprises in the form of Co-operatives which are slated to officially commence business in 2015 in a number of key Sectors to include goat rearing and by-products (cheese and leather) and ginger production to name a few. No doubt, these ventures will provide employment which will boost the nation's economic.

It is also important to highlight the immense work being undertaken by the non-profit organisations as they have and continue to contribute significantly in the provision of much needed assistance to the nation. The DCFS in its capacity as regulator of Benevolent Societies and the Charities Authority, looks forward to a continued amicable and supportive relationship with these institution.

The DCFS remains dedicated to its mandate and those initiatives which commenced in the year 2014. We therefore look forward to continued collaboration with various stakeholders in order to make Jamaica a place to live, work and raise a family.

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Supporting Charities with Confident



During the year 2014, the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies was designated the Charities Authority in keeping with the newly enacted Charities Act, 2013. The Act seeks to bring about a more structured regulation to the issuance of Tax Exemption to approved Charitable Organizations. Along with the administration of registration, the Charities Authority is also responsible for the regulation of Registered Charities, thereby ensuring that the public can support these charities with a sense of confidence.

Two other key player are involved in the overall process: the Commissioner General (Tax Administrator of Jamaica) who must provide feedback indicating whether or not they object to the registration of the Charities and Companies Office of Jamaica, the designated Registrar of Charities.

Registration of any organization, whether incorporated or not under the Charities Act, 2013



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must be an entity:

- established exclusively for charitable purpose in keeping with Schedule I of the Act;
- having non of its profit enuring to the governing board members;
- established for public benefit.

Where an entity satisfies the above criteria the following documents must be submitted to facilitated registration under the Act:-

- Application Form
- Fit and Proper Questionnaire (Completed by all Board members)
- Constitution/Rules
- Certificate Incorporation
- Articles of Incorporation

The Department through its educational programme continues to sensitize the public regarding administration of the Charities Act through radio segments, one and one sensitization sessions, workshops and newspapers publication.

Logistic within Jamaica



Courtesy call made with the Jamaican Ambassador to China, Ralph Thomas and his wife in Beijing.

In keeping with the Government's plan of adopting the notion of a Logistic Hub as a means of social and economic development; a training course in Logistics Technology was held during the period November 10 – 29, 2014 in Guangxi, China; in the framework of Chinese Government Aid.

The training course which involved

participants from several Government and non-governmental organizations to include DCFS; was aimed at allowing the Jamaican delegates to have an insight into the Chinese logistic development, the success and challenges experienced in the ASEAN economic trade development and logistic education and training, as it progress in China. With special focus on the infrastructure, methodology and practice (policies) and the application of scientific knowledge in the advancement of China's logistic industry).

International Credit Union Regulator's Network (ICURN)

In an effort to gain a global perspective on regulatory issues and best practices in the Credit Union industry and discuss regulatory policy, the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies was amongst fifty (50) persons who participated in the ICURN Annual Conference held during the period May 14 - 16, 2014 which involved over 23 countries to include Jamaica, Haiti, St. Kitts & Nevis, and Antigua & Barbados.

The Conference which was co-hosted by the International Credit Union Regulator's Network and the Bank of England Prudential Regulatory Authority addressed several critical issues faced amongst regulator of Financial Co-operative Institutions. It is anticipated that the knowledge garnered will assist us in the improvement of our local Sector.



Ainsley Thomas, Senior Co-operative Officer (first person from the right) represented DCFS at ICURN's meeting held in London to discuss Emerging Risks and Effective Supervision within the Credit Union Movement - May 2014

"Begin and expand your Co-operative"



The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Validation Workshop was attended on October 8 - 13, 2014 in Dominica. The object being to develop a standardize set of training manual for Co-operatives across the Caribbean.

Participants were from Jamaica, St. Lucia, Dominica, Bahamas, ILO Geneva, Trinidad and Tobago.

The following documents were reviewed in pursuant of the Workshop's objective:

- Co-operatives Organization and Management
- What is a Co-operative Enterprise?
- Step by step guide in Planning and starting a Co-operative
- Starting a Co-operative Enterprise

Societies Registered/Cancelled in 2014

| TYPE | REGISTERED | CANCELLED |
|------------------------|------------|------------|
| Friendly Societies | 28 | 104 |
| Co-operative Societies | 8 | 9 |
| Industrial & Provident | 9 | 6 |
| Charities | 282 | 3 (expire) |

