



WHAT'S NEWS... WHAT'S NEWS... WHAT'S NEWS... WHAT'S NEWS... WHAT'S NEWS... WHAT'S NEWS

Special Economic Zones Stakeholders Consultation

The Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce (MIIC) held a Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Stakeholder meeting on February 10, 2015. The primary objective was to inform stakeholders about the SEZ policy regime that is being contemplated by the government of Jamaica and to solicit feedback particularly in relation to those areas of the policy framework that require improvement in order to better meet the demands of existing players in the logistics and supply chain industry.

The MIIC is seeking to ensure that they adequately capture any concerns and views regarding the SEZ policy regime, and are encouraging interested companies to send their feedback by no later than **Friday, February 20, 2015**.

Any questions should be directed to Latoya Richards Franklin, Senior Economist, MIIC at Tel: (876) 968-8578, 968-8500 or 968-8301, and your comments should be emailed to Latoya at lrichards@miic.gov.jm. For the full information please open the link: <http://jamaicachamber.org.jm/special-economic-zones-stakeholder-consultations/>

7TH INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE 2015

Hosted by the Food Hygiene Bureau, Jamaica, the 7th International Food Safety Conference 2015 will take place on the **17th - 18th March 2015 at the Hyatt Ziva Rose Hall Resort, Montego Bay, Jamaica**. The Conference will be of value to JCC Members who are in the food industry and readying their products for export. The Conference will feature an Exhibition, Networking, Workshops, Certificates, Experts, Forum and Exposure, and highlights will include:

- ◆ The Walmart Experience....
- ◆ Best practices with humour....
- ◆ Just in hotel & tourism regs...
- ◆ Benchmarking EU food control...
- ◆ Face to Face workshops....
- ◆ The cost of food safety profits...
- ◆ Genetically modified foods...

For more information please open the link: <http://jamaicachamber.org.jm/?p=2063>

You may also visit their website: www.foodsafetyconference-jamaica.org or call: 1 (876) 665 3908 / 1 (876) 373 8195, or Email: enquiries@foodsafetyconference-jamaica.org



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SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS: CIVIL SOCIETY APPLICATION PROCESS for the pre-Summit forums

Attention: Civil society representatives and social actors: The Seventh Summit of the Americas, **"Prosperity with Equity: the Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas"**, will take place in Panama City, Panama, on April 10 and 11, 2015.

On the occasion of the Summit, a series of activities with civil society representatives and social actors will be organized to promote a dialogue and present recommendations on joint collaborative strategies with Governments to follow-up on the mandates of the Summit. For information on the theme of the Seventh Summit, you may consult the draft document **"Mandates for Action"** which the participating States will be negotiating.

For the full information and to access the procedures to apply for participation, please open the link:
<http://jamaicachamber.org.jm/?p=2067>

The deadline for application is February 28, 2015. For additional information, please visit the web page of the Seventh Summit of the Americas <http://www.summit-americas.org/seventhsummit.htm>, or contact the Department of International Affairs at civilsociety@oas.org.

KPMG REMINDER: INCOME TAX FILING & DEADLINES

For KPMG to assist clients in meeting the filing deadline of March 15, you must send us all relevant information now. Possible automatic late filing penalties under new RAiS software implemented by Tax Administration Jamaica. KPMG has implemented the following specific deadlines to assist our clients with meeting the March 15 tax filing date:

By January 23, 2015 - Clients whose financial information was received by KPMG by this date, have KPMG's commitment to take all reasonable steps to assist in filing the relevant tax returns by March 15. This deadline was communicated in our earlier tax reminder bulletins distributed on December 19, 2014 and January 21, 2015.

By March 2, 2015 - For clients who have not yet submitted their financial information to KPMG, we urge you to do so as soon as possible and no later than March 2, 2015. KPMG will make its best effort to meet the March 15 deadline but there can be no guarantee in this regard.

Late submission after March 2, 2015 - Unless specific arrangements are made otherwise, KPMG will be unable to meet the filing deadline for clients who submit financial information after March 2, 2015.

For more information and to view the KPMG Bulletin containing more information, please open the link:
<http://jamaicachamber.org.jm/?p=2071>



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CARICOM/Canada: Draft Summary Report of 15th Technical Working Group on Market Access and Agriculture, January 2015

The CARICOM Secretariat Office of Trade Negotiations (OTN) has circulated a Draft Summary Report of the 15th Technical Working Group (TWG) on Market Access and Agriculture which was held from 22nd to 23rd January 2015. The report provides a preliminary assessment of the CARICOM revised tariff offer with respect to the flexibilities which have been agreed in Annex A.

Your attention is directed in particular, to the OTN's preliminary assessment of the Annex A offer to Canada vis-a-vis the treatment given to the EU under the EPA. Kindly note that Member States are being requested to undertake their own assessments and are invited to provide inputs, as appropriate, to finalize the assessment of the offer which would be submitted to the CARICOM Secretary General.

Please note that the version of the CARICOM PSROs (Product-Specific Rules Of Origin) which was circulated following the TWG has been revised to correctly reflect the outcome of the TWG, including follow-up comments from Jamaica. For more information please open the link: <http://jamaicachamber.org.jm/?p=2075>

Caribe Hospitality Video

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has asked the JCC to assist in the distribution of the Caribe Hospitality Video. The video shows the results of their Shared Value Appraisal, where they brought together Caribe Hospitality, Pan Jam, Prime Construction and Marriott Corporation to provide a unique internship opportunity to five youth-at-risk, who received foundation training through the Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP), another IDB sponsored programme.

The interns have benefitted immeasurably from this programme and the IDB is motivated to showcase the transformation that can take place when private sector interests combine with the local community for Shared Value. They believe this video can serve as an inspiration for other private sector companies as they seek to become more integrated with the communities they operate in.

Please find attached the link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2YlrXglQgc>

For more information on upcoming JCC events please contact:



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