

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



Pictured L-R: Ainsley Powell, Commissioner General of Tax Administration Jamaica; Marlene Parker, Chief Legal Counsel - Legislation and Treaty, TAJ; and Joan Dallas, Managing Director, ABTAX Limited.

YOUR TAX QUESTIONS ADDRESSED BY TAX ADMINISTRATION JA

The JCC hosted a Tax Forum on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at the New Kingston Conference Center. Mr. Ainsley Powell, Commissioner General of Tax Administration Jamaica and his team made themselves available to JCC member companies who were given the opportunity to pose their tax questions and get answers from the Tax team.



The TAJ Team with JCC President. Pictured back row L-R: Richard Palmer, Senior Technical Specialist; Yasmin Jackson, Technical Assistant to DCG Operations; Warren McDonald JCC President; Ainsley Powell, Commissioner General; and Bevon Sinclair, Chief Technical Advisor. Pictured front row L-R: Meris Haughton, Chief Corporate Communications Officer; Marlene Parker, Chief Legal Counsel – Legislation and Treaty; and Dave Jeffery, Deputy Commissioner General - Operations.



Member companies used the opportunity to ask the TAJ team pertinent and direct questions. It was felt that this Forum was useful to addressing many of the tax issues member companies face from time to time.



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Special Economic Zone Act Passed

In a Press Release yesterday, the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce welcomed the passing of the Special Economic Zone Act in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. "The legislation represents a milestone achievement as part of the Global Logistics Hub Initiative and facilitation of investments into Jamaica" the Release noted.

It further noted: 'Special Economic Zones represent a wide variety of geographically-demarcated areas that offer simple and efficient business regulations and procedures to investors. The Special Economic Zone Act has effectively repealed the Jamaica Export Free Zones Act, making way for the designation, promotion, development, operation and management of Special Economic Zones; the establishment of a Special Economic Zone Authority and the granting of benefits and other measures in order to attract domestic and foreign investments.

'Minister Hylton in commenting on the legislation stated, "We envision that the zones will attract new economic activities, supported by the provisioning of new infrastructure. It will also allow domestic suppliers to sell to companies located in the SEZs and potentially become part of global supply chains. Importantly, incubators will be a key feature to ensure our MSME sector has an opportunity to be part of this growth initiative."

'In preparation for the transition from the Freezone regime to the SEZ regime, the Ministry has conducted consultations with existing Free Zone entities to allow for a smooth process. Existing Freezone operators such as Gulfray Americas Limited, which recently announced a US\$350 million investment in the build out of the Spanish Town Free Zone and Kingston Wharves Limited, which is investing \$J 1.8 billion in the build out of its Total Logistics Facility are among investors that will transition to the Special Economic Zone regime.'

For more information contact: Latoya Richards Franklin, Senior Economist, Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce - Email: lrichards@miic.gov.jm Telephone: (876)968-8578/968-8500/968-8301

Release of the 4th Quarter 2015 Business & Consumer Confidence Indices

Wed., January 20, 2016 - Registration 8:30a.m./ Release 9:00a.m.
NCB Wellness Centre, 9-15 Phoenix Ave., Kingston 10. For more info call 922-0150 or email: secretariat@jamaicachamber.org.jm



OPEN THIS LINK FOR A COPY OF THE [Registration-Form-4th-Qtr-2015-1](#) - COMPLETE THE FORM AND RETURN VIA FAX TO 924-9056 OR EMAIL TO: secretariat@jamaicachamber.org.jm. Tel: 922-0150-1.



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WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE MOST INNOVATIVE STARTUPS IN LATIN AMERICA

AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE CREATIVE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

The contest will be open from November 12, 2015 until February 1, 2016

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If you have a startup in any of the following areas - festivals, arts (painting, sculptures, handicrafts and others), multimedia, illustration, cinema, radio, videogames, wearables, robotics, design, editorial – or something similar, this contest is for you.

Winning startups will receive an invitation to participate in **Demand Solutions 2016**, where they can compete for different prizes, including \$30,000 USD for first place, and \$15,000 USD and \$7,000 USD for the next two best startups. Other prizes will be awarded from our partners.

Deadline: **Deadline: February 1, 2016.** Open this link to [Apply here](#)

For more information contact **Dorothea P. Less** at Tel: 764-0815

For more information on upcoming JCC events please contact:



The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce

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