



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

Invitation to the 2015 US - China Startup Investment Forum In China May 29th - 30th, 2015 (Registration Extension)

The University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech), through the Scotiabank Chair in Entrepreneurship and Development, has been invited by Sias International University (Sias), their partner University in China, to attend the annual **US-China Startup Investment Forum** in China, hosted by the **Sias-Amidi Incubation Center** in partnership with the People's Government of Henan Province and Zhengzhou Government.

The **Sias-Amidi Incubation Center**, established jointly by Sias International University (Sias) and the Amidi Group, specializes in growing local tech startups as well as helping cutting edge global companies enter into and expand their businesses in the Chinese market. **For more information on the Incubation Centre see:** <http://www.siasincubator.com/a/English/#navbar>

They have extended an invitation to Jamaican companies to join a team of business owners and other stakeholders who are interested in doing business in China. They especially invite **startups** to connect with top Chinese venture capital firms in attendance, including: IDG Capital, Legend Capital, Future Capital, and many more. Note that startups will have an opportunity to do live pitches in a demo day with top Chinese and Silicon Valley investors (invitees include Sequoia Capital, NEA, Andreessen Horowitz, and Sand Hill Angels). The winner of the competition will receive up to **US\$1 million** in funding from participating investors...**If you want to participate, and for more information please open the link:** <http://jamaicachamber.org.jm/invitation-to-the-2015-us-china-startup-investment-forum-in-china-may-29th-30th-2015-registration-extension/>

GOJ GROWTH AGENDA POLICY PAPER

Economic growth contributes to ongoing improvement of living standards and national wellbeing. However, over the period since its independence, Jamaica has produced disappointingly low rates of economic growth, averaging 1.6 per cent in annual real GDP growth over the period 1962-2013, compared with average annual growth of 3.1 per cent for the global economy over the same period.

In response to this disappointing economic performance, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) has developed a comprehensive strategy to address the underlying factors and generate higher levels of economic growth in the medium term.

The foundations of the Government's growth agenda are elaborated in the Growth-Inducement Strategy (GIS), developed by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) with wide stakeholder consultation over the period 2010-2011. This strategy addresses the binding constraints that the economy faces, and provides a framework to mobilize potentially productive assets and unleash entrepreneurial dynamism to generate inclusive and sustainable growth....**To Read a Full Copy of the Growth Agenda Policy Paper open this link:** <http://jamaicachamber.org.jm/goj-growth-agenda-policy-paper/>



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Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) Advisory

The Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) has advised that as they seek to improve the trade environment, a notable operation for enhancement is the submission of cargo manifest electronically.

The JCA will be enforcing new requirements for cargo manifest reporting, by phasing out the current formats required by the e-Manifest System and introducing a new cargo manifest XML format required by ASYCUDA World.

It is the intention to only have a single submission to ASYCUDA World. Some changes have been made to the required format and the JCA has communicated the final format for the cargo manifest to be used to its respective stakeholders.

They will be starting testing submissions from April 1, 2015 and effective May 4, 2015, there will be a one (1) month period, where both ASYCUDA World and the existing e-Manifest System will require manifest submissions. Upon completing the necessary checks and meeting expected performance criteria, they will phase out the use of e-Manifest.

JCA has been in dialogue with the Shipping Association of Jamaica and the shipping community to ensure that the respective principals are notified in order to commence the process for the required adjustments.

The JCA stands ready to provide clarification for any concerns pertaining to the potential impact of these activities as they seek to bring positive changes to our shipping and trading environment.

The JCA is located at Myers' Wharf, Newport East, Kingston 15 and can be contacted at Tel: (876) 922-5140-8

Tenure for Ambassador of Japan comes to an end

The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce (JCC) wishes to advise the tour of duty of the Ambassador of Japan, Yasuo Takase, will come to an end on March 27, 2015.

Ambassador Takase in a letter to the Chamber expressed that *“Over the years, I have been privileged to make numerous friends from so many diversified backgrounds live together in peace in Jamaica. This for me, forms some of my fondest memories that I will continue to cherish. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for the friendly and excellent relations which I have enjoyed and that have happily existed between our Embassy and your organization during my term in office...”*

The JCC has enjoyed an amicable relationship with the Ambassador during his tenure in Jamaica, and we extend to him our highest regard and respect.



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BUREAU OF STANDARDS CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT CARICOM STANDARDS AND DRAFT JAMAICAN STANDARDS

The Bureau of Standards Jamaica provides the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce (JCC) copies of Draft Jamaican Standards and Draft CARICOM Regional Standards, to be made available to its members for their comments and feedback.

The JCC makes these drafts available for interested companies who wish to review them and submit their comments.

In the case of the **Draft CARICOM Standard**, these documents were developed by the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and have been issued to member countries (including Jamaica) for public comments, in keeping with the procedure for the development of regional standards.

In the case of the **Draft Jamaican Standard**, they are prepared by a Technical Committee comprising a wide cross section of stakeholders and is issued for public comment, in keeping with the procedure for the promulgation of national standards.

In each case there is a specified period for public comment with a deadline date.

1. *The JCC wishes to advise that the following Draft CARICOM Regional Standard has been made available for review:*

- *DCRS 11 Part 3: 201X Draft CARICOM Regional Standard: Specification for Tourist Accommodation Part 3 - Particular Requirements for Guesthouses*

2. *The JCC wishes to advise that the following Draft Jamaican Standard (DJS) has been made available for review:*

- *FDJS 336: 2015 - Tourism Services - Hotels and other types of Tourism Accommodation - Terminology.*

IMPORTANT: The period for public comments will end on 08 May 2015.

All comments regarding the Draft CARICOM Standard are to be directed to The Executive Director, c/o Miss Ester Williams, and all comments regarding the Draft Jamaican Standard are to be directed to The Executive Director, c/o Miss Vonetta Nurse-Gayle. Both should be addressed to Standards Development and Certification Department, Bureau of Standards Jamaica, 6 Winchester Road, Kingston 10 or email: info@bsj.org.jm.

Companies wishing to receive a copy of the standards listed above may contact Melisha Douglas at the JCC Secretariat Tel: (876) 922-0150 or email: pa@jamaicachamber.org.jm to request a soft copy. Hard copies will also be made available for a small fee.



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THE JCC PRESENTS IT'S

THURSDAY
MAY 14, 2015

33RD ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

VENUE:
THE JAMAICA PEGASUS,
GRAND JAMAICA SUITE

"RELEASING THE GROWTH WITHIN"

COCKTAILS: 6:30PM
DRESSCODE: BLACK TIE



Do you have an interest in survey results that could impact your business and the future of the economy? If so, please join us for the Release of the 1st Quarter 2015 Business & Consumer Confidence Indices - Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. - Venue T.B.A. Registration is required. Call (876) 922-0150



THE CONFERENCE BOARD



Total Energy Management Solutions Services

La Maison Property Services Ltd. has recently launched a new service as part of its property services portfolio. Reducing energy usage is now a global trend and has been accepted as an effective means of contributing to national Climate Change goals. They are introducing Total Energy Management Solutions (TEMS), a turnkey energy conservation and efficiency programme that seeks to save electricity costs by reducing energy consumption and dependence on traditional sources of energy where appropriate.

Their aim is to develop the optimal mix of energy sources, equipment and usage procedures that will provide long term benefits to operating costs, building systems and users' comfort.

They develop bespoke solutions in consultation with your company, which is aimed at developing a detailed action plan that we implement and monitor according to an agreed timeframe.

For more information, and if you have an interest to discuss the TEMS programme please contact Kevin M. Rodriguez, Senior Manager - Engineering & Project Management, La Maison Property Services Ltd. at Tel: (876) 906-0856 - 60 or Email:

For information on upcoming JCC events please contact:

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