



**MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
& FOREIGN TRADE**



JAMAICA 55 DIASPORA CONFERENCE 2017

23 - 26 JULY | KINGSTON

CONFERENCE FACT SHEET

UPDATED FRIDAY 28TH APRIL, 2017



CONFERENCE WEBSITE

www.mfaft.gov.jm/conference

CONFERENCE EMAIL

dca@mfaft.gov.jm

ABOUT CONFERENCE 2017

We look forward to welcoming home all Jamaicans, to the 2017 gathering in the heart of Kingston!

The Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference under the theme “Partnering for Growth” promises to be an informative and rich experience. Since its inauguration in 2004, the Diaspora Conferences have been expanded to emphasize the invaluable contribution of Jamaicans living overseas to include in the Programme, Investment and innovative Business opportunities, Health, Education and Social Enterprise Development, to name several areas of interest. The 2017 programme has been further invigorated to add even greater vitality and relevance to the Conference format and the planned exchanges with participants.

Convened every two years by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, this conference is an important platform in Jamaica’s strategic effort to meaningfully engage with you, Jamaicans dispersed around the globe. The event brings together Jamaicans at home with Jamaicans and persons of Jamaican descent abroad who include Diaspora business interests, philanthropic individuals, organizations and groups, and young people of Jamaican descent.

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) has identified Diaspora involvement as one of the eight priority areas of the country’s strategic plan towards sustained socio-economic growth over the next four years. Within this context, the Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference is of particular significance and is fully aligned with the growth agenda. As Jamaica prepares to commemorate our 55th year of Independence, the Conference is also strategically scheduled to coincide with the planned celebratory activities.

Jamaica is committed to the vision of a mutually beneficial alliance with Jamaicans abroad. Over the scheduled three days of discussion, those in attendance will be afforded an opportunity to have a say in what happens at home, when the activities and plans – such as the Government’s growth agenda, the opportunities in education, health, agriculture, research and innovation and the cultural and creative industries – are presented. Through our discussions and networking, we seek to identify and connect the opportunities for viable Business partnerships and the ways in which we can expand Diaspora involvement and philanthropic investment in key areas. Special emphasis is being placed on engaging with young people of Jamaican descent through a scheduled Youth Forum in an effort to nurture their local involvement and make possible tangible connections with other young people here in Jamaica.

Signature features will include the Marketplace exposition, Government At Your Service – a fast-tracked one-stop shop exclusively at the conference, Church Services, and a range of Hospitality and Cultural Activities in the heart of Kingston. The Diaspora Day of Service, scheduled to culminate the activities, encourages Jamaican organizations and individuals to meaningfully engage with Jamaicans from the Diaspora; and to once again organize themselves to offer their time, skills and resources to community projects of their choosing, anywhere in Jamaica.

This July, the Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference will be an innovative, exciting, educational and uplifting gathering at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston Jamaica.

Join us!



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

A snapshot of the 2017 programme:

SAT, 22 JULY	
Diaspora Church Service	CHURCH TBC
Pre - Conference Registration begins	JAMAICA PEGASUS
SUN, 23 JULY	
Diaspora Church Service	CHURCH TBC
Diaspora Advisory Board Meeting	JAMAICA PEGASUS
Pre - Conference Registration	JAMAICA PEGASUS
Opening Ceremony & Governor-General's Achievement Awards	JAMAICA PEGASUS
Welcome Reception	JAMAICA PEGASUS
MON, 24 JULY	
Conference Opening Session	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
Conference Programme Day 1	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
MarketPlace Exposition	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
Government at Your Service – One Stop Fast Tracked Services	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
Special Diaspora Meetings	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
Evening Diaspora Hospitality & Cultural Event	VENUE TBC
TUE, 25 JULY	
Conference Programme Day 2	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
MarketPlace Exposition	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
Government at Your Service - One Stop Fast Tracked Services	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
Special Diaspora Meetings	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
Evening Diaspora Hospitality and Cultural Event	VENUE TBC
WED, 26 JULY	
Conference Programme Day 3	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
MarketPlace Exposition	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
Government at Your Service - One Stop Fast Tracked Services	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
Special Diaspora Meetings	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
Conference Closing Session	JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE
Major Closing Hospitality Event	VENUE TBC
THU, 27 JULY	
Diaspora Day of Service	PROJECTS ISLANDWIDE
Day of Service Thank You Activity	VENUE TBC

DIASPORA DAY OF SERVICE

This year's Conference will culminate with the **Diaspora Day of Service**. Jamaicans and Jamaican organizations and groups around the globe are again invited, following the conference discussions, to share your skills, time and resources in community projects. Persons and groups can organize your own projects or participate in one of the 2017 projects being proposed. Join us and play a role in the positive change you want to see in the circumstances of your fellow Jamaicans.

For more info on how to participate and to register your projects:

Visit the website or Email us at dca@mfaft.gov.jm



OFFICIAL HOTELS

We are pleased to announce major partnerships with three (3) of Jamaica's premier hotels in Kingston:


MAKING YOUR BOOKINGS AND CONFERENCE CODE

All Bookings must be made with the Hotels' Sales/Reservations Department. Please note that the special conference rate can only be accessed by contacting each hotel directly via email or phone only. The rate is not available via online bookings. Please refer to the Conference Group Booking Code when making your reservation.


MANDATORY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION BY ARRIVAL IN JAMAICA

The special rates are applicable for conference participants only. Kindly note - you must be a registered conference participant by the time you arrive in Jamaica, to ensure that this special rate is received at check-in. We encourage you to book early as rooms are in high demand.


THE KNUTSFORD COURT HOTEL:

	Address: 16 Chelsea Avenue, Kingston 5 Email: sales@knutsfordcourt.com Telephone: 876 929 1000			
	KNUTSFORD'S GROUP BOOKING CODE: 331911			
		Single \$US	Double \$US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For triple or quad occupancy add US\$10.00 per person/night to the double room rate plus 16.5% government tax and 10% Service Charge. A Complimentary Knutsford's Sunrise Breakfast Buffet is served daily.
	Standard	104.00	114.00	
	Superior	124.00	134.00	
	Junior Suite	136.00	146.00	
	1 Bedroom Suite	156.00	166.00	
2 Bedroom Townhouse	280.00	290.00		

THE COURTLEIGH HOTEL AND SUITES:

	Address: 85 Knutsford Boulevard, Kingston 5 Email: salesmgr@courtleigh.com or Email: sales@courtleigh.com Telephone: 876 929 9000			
	COURTLEIGH'S GROUP BOOKING CODE: 329340			
		Single \$US	Double \$US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For triple or quad occupancy add US\$10.00 per person/night to the double room rate plus 16.5% government tax and 10% Service Charge. A Complimentary Alexander's Sunrise Breakfast Buffet is served daily.
	Deluxe room	133.00	143.00	
	One bedroom suite	175.00	185.00	
	Executive Office Suite	185.00	195.00	
	<i>The Penthouse Floor:</i>			
	Deluxe Penthouse	146.00	156.00	
	One Bedroom Suite	228.00	238.00	
Two Bedroom Suite	319.00	329.00		
Presidential Suite	350.00	360.00		

THE JAMAICA PEGASUS HOTEL:

	Address: 81 Knutsford Boulevard, Kingston 5 Email: reservations@jamaicapegusus.com Telephone: 1 (876) 926-3691-9			
	PEGASUS' GROUP BOOKING CODE: 170330JAMA			
		Single \$US	Double \$US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For triple or quad occupancy add US\$20.00 per person/night to the double room rate plus 16.5% Govt. Tax, 10% Service Charge. A Complimentary Breakfast Buffet is served daily in our Blue Window Restaurant
	Deluxe Room	140.00	160.00	
	Royal Deluxe Room	175.00	195.00	
One Bedroom Royal Suite	250.00	270.00		



OFFICIAL HOTELS CONTINUED

ROOM RATES AND TAXES

- Please add Government tax of 16.5%, a 10% service charge, US\$8.00 energy surcharge and US\$4 room occupancy tax.
- All rates and taxes are subject to change without prior notice.

GENERAL CONDITIONS – OFFICIAL HOTELS

- Rates quoted are per room per night
- Rates are subject to availability
- Must be booked via Sales Department.
- Rates are non-commissionable
- Rooms will be booked based on availability
- Rates applicable 6 days before and 6 days after main conference dates
- Check-in Time: 3:00 p.m. | Check-out time: 12:00 noon

AIRLINE PARTNER

Caribbean Airlines

the warmth of the islands



We are pleased to announce details of our partnership with Caribbean Airlines:

SPECIAL DISCOUNT

- Caribbean Airlines is offering a 10% discount to all participants travelling between Kingston and all Caribbean Airline destinations.
- These include **Toronto, New York, Fort Lauderdale, Trinidad, Barbados, St Lucia and Bahamas**
- Discount will be on
 - G type fares and higher in Economy and
 - C type fares and higher in business class.

DISCOUNT PERIOD

- Discount will be applicable three days before and three days after the conference
- Applicable Thursday 20th
- July - Saturday 29th July, 2017.

MAKING YOUR BOOKINGS AND CONFERENCE CODE

- The following Conference Group Airline code **must** be used when making your bookings
 - **Conference Code (PRO13)**
- All bookings **must be made with Caribbean Airlines through their ticketing offices and reservations dept.**
- Please note – the discount is not applicable on internet bookings.
- Contact Numbers for Caribbean Airlines to make your bookings:
 - USA + Canada (1-800-523-5585)
 - Caribbean (1-800-744-2225)

CHANGE PENALTY

- Changes made after ticketing will incur a penalty to be paid by the passenger



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

EARLY AND LATE REGISTRATION:

- Early Bird rate will end on Midnight on Thursday 22nd June, 2017
- Late Registration Rate begins Friday 23rd June, 2017

REGISTRATION RATES:

EARLY REGISTRATION 2017	UNITED STATES DOLLARS	POUND STERLING	CANADIAN DOLLARS	RESIDENT RATE
DAILY CONFERENCE RATE	75	60	100	9,000
FULL CONFERENCE RATE	145	116	195	18,000

LATE REGISTRATION 2017	UNITED STATES DOLLARS	POUND STERLING	CANADIAN DOLLARS	RESIDENT RATE
DAILY CONFERENCE RATE	90	72	120	11,000
FULL CONFERENCE RATE	180	144	240	22,000

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OPTIONS:

All Attendees must complete a Registration form. Registration is complete when fees are paid.

1. You can complete the Registration Form **Online** on the conference website www.mfaft.gov.jm/conference and follow the link to pay your registration fee **Online** via the GraceKennedy Bill Express Payment portal.
2. You can complete the Registration Form **Online** on the conference website www.mfaft.gov.jm/conference and then pay your registration fee via Direct Deposit to the Conference Account.
3. You can complete the Registration Form **Online** on the conference website www.mfaft.gov.jm/conference and pay your Registration Fee **in person** at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
4. You can **Download** the Registration Form from the conference website www.mfaft.gov.jm/conference. Email your completed form to dca@mfaft.gov.jm and then pay your registration fee via Direct Deposit to the Conference Account.
5. You can **Download** the Registration Form from the conference website www.mfaft.gov.jm/conference and then pay your registration fee in person at any of the following six (6) Jamaican Missions overseas. Please carry a copy of your completed registration form with you, when making your payment:
 - **CANADA (2)** - JAMAICAN HIGH COMMISSION, OTTAWA | JAMAICAN CONSULATE - GENERAL, TORONTO
 - **UNITED KINGDOM (1)** - JAMAICAN HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON
 - **UNITED STATES (3)** - JAMAICAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON D.C. | JAMAICAN CONSULATE - GENERAL, NEW YORK | JAMAICAN CONSULATE - GENERAL, MIAMI

FURTHER INFORMATION - PAYING YOUR REGISTRATION FEES:

- **IF PAYING ONLINE** - You will need a Visa or Master Card credit card to pay online.
- **IF PAYING BY DIRECT DEPOSIT** - Please contact the Conference Secretariat for the Conference account number and deposit instructions. (876) 926 4220 to 8 / dca@mfaft.gov.jm,
- **IF PAYING AT MISSIONS** – Payment will be accepted in cash only.
- **IF PAYING AT THE MINISTRY** – Payment will be accepted in cash only.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE:

- Daily Shuttle between the Official Hotels and the Jamaica Conference Centre.
 - *Please note Airport transfers are not included.*
- Daily Lunch and Coffee Breaks
- Conference Tote for full three day registrations (ONLY).
- Conference Folder for persons registered for less than the three day period



CONFERENCE PARTNERS

Major partners to date include the following private and public sector organizations:



AN OFFICIAL EVENT:



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Conference Secretariat | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade | 21 Dominica Drive, Kingston 5
Tel: (876) 926-4220 to 9 | Fax: (876) 929-2260 | Email: dca@mfaft.gov.jm

KEY CONTACTS:

SECRETARIAT

- Amb. Sharon Saunders, Under-Secretary (Actg), Diaspora, Protocol and Consular Division
sharon.saunders@mfaft.gov.jm
- Mr. Lincoln Downer, Director (Actg), Diaspora Affairs Department
lincoln.downer@mfaft.gov.jm

CONFERENCE PROJECT MANAGER

- Ms. Lisa-Ann OGilvie
lisa.ogilvie@caribbeaneventsgroup.com

MEDIA QUERIES

- Ms. Danille Gordon, Co-Chair, Marketing and PR Subcommittee
danille.gordon@mfaft.gov.jm

