

REMARKS & LAUNCH OF THE JANAAC ACCREDITATION
AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME



HON. ANTHONY HYLTON

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT & COMMERCE

WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY BREAKFAST MEETING FOR
GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS

TERRA NOVA HOTEL

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015 at 8:00AM

Salutations

- Mrs. Sharon-Mae Shirley, Chief Executive Officer, Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation
- Ms. Lleana Martinez, Chair, Inter- American Accreditation Corporation
- Deryck Omar, Chief Executive Officer, CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)
- Mr. Hurley Taylor, Adviser to the Minister of Health
- Representatives of the public sector
- Representatives of the Private sector
- Members of the media
- Specially invited guests

This morning we are here to commemorate World Accreditation Day. The recognition of this day

internationally, highlights the importance of accreditation as a key element of international trade and development.

As the Minister with portfolio responsibility for industrial development, export promotion, small business development, commerce and consumer protection, I am acutely aware of the importance of standards, certification, and accreditation, as Jamaica seeks to become globally competitive.

Ladies and gentlemen, accreditation is the independent assessment of bodies performing activities such as testing, inspection or certification against internationally recognised standards to ensure their competence, and integrity to perform these activities.

However, in the context of the National Growth Agenda, international accreditation is inextricably linked to improving the National Quality Infrastructure, maximizing the competitiveness of Jamaican businesses and therefore is an underpinning success factor in our efforts to create a logistics-centred economy.

Ladies and gentlemen, my Ministry is committed to establishing a National Quality Infrastructure (NQI). This involves a highly integrated network of people, systems and organizations anchored by the following four pillars:

- Standards development;
- Conformity assessment which involves testing, inspection and certification;
- The science of measurement, Metrology; and
- Accreditation.

With an efficient NQI architecture, businesses will become more competitive and consumer rights will be better protected, as they receive value for every dollar spent.

So, while the Government creates the business opportunities for our micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs), we are challenging them to improve their standards, get certified and bring quality products and services to their consumers.

This year's theme "Accreditation: Supporting the delivery of Health and Social Care", is timely as we make strides in promoting medical tourism as an area ripe for investment.

Ladies and gentlemen, Jamaica is well positioned to attract value-added investments in this area, given the availability of quality medical professionals and the island's proximity

to the United States- the world's largest potential market for medical tourism. If we are serious about maximizing on the potential of this industry, obtaining international accreditation, as part of the improved National Quality Infrastructure, for our health and social care organizations is the way forward.

Even as we speak about the importance of the National Quality Infrastructure and the role of accreditation in particular, we must highlight the importance of creating public awareness around the need to get accredited. I am therefore pleased to announce the launch of the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation Ambassadors' Programme.

These ambassadors are prominent Jamaican and Caribbean Nationals from the Business, Trade, Sport, and Scientific Communities that are able to garner support for quality; highlight priority issues; pull attention to activities supporting accreditation in general and JANAAC in particular.

To each of these ambassadors, I commend you for donating your time and effort to engage in public advocacy and in public awareness activities. I look forward to seeing your sensitization campaigns and to learn more of your progress in bringing awareness to accreditation and its ability to improve global trade and provide confidence in all sectors.

I must also commend the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation as the leading force in the coordination and execution of activities to commemorate World Accreditation Day. Indeed, JANAAC as the only internationally recognized accreditation body in the English-speaking Caribbean has stayed true to its vision of being a leading provider of internationally recognized accreditation services that improve consumer confidence, facilitate market access and economic growth.

And so, I hereby declare the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation, Accreditation Ambassadors' Programme officially launched and invite the Accreditation Ambassadors to be pinned.