

JAMAICA/BRAZIL BILATERAL RELATIONS

Diplomatic Relations

- Jamaica and Brazil established diplomatic relations on **14th October 1962**.
- Brazil's Ambassador to Jamaica is His Excellency C ezar Augusto De Souza Lima Amaral.

Establishment of Jamaican Embassy in Brasilia

- The Government of Jamaica is interested in establishing a diplomatic mission in Brasilia which would contribute to strengthening the relations between both countries.

Consular Relations

- Presently Jamaica is represented in Brazil by an Honorary Consul, Mrs. Maria Pia Fauhabar Bastos-Tigre, Attorney-at-Law, located in Sao Paulo, the major business centre of the country.
- The Government of Jamaica is currently giving serious consideration to the appointment of Honorary Consuls in the Brazilian cities of Salvador, (State of Bahia) and Manaus, (State of Amazonas), which are located in the North and Eastern regions of Brazil, respectively. The move is justified by the following reasons:
 1. Jamaican nationals residing in Bahia and Amazonas would benefit from having a Jamaican representative in those regions.
 2. Jamaica is currently developing a strategy to attract investments from Brazil, as well as promoting export opportunities for Jamaican products.
 3. Brazil's strength in the creative industries, specifically in the State of Bahia and its proximity to the Caribbean sea renders it a good air link connection point.
 4. Salvador and Bahia shares a cultural affinity with Jamaica and is regarded as the cultural hub of Brazil.

Jamaica/Brazil Cooperation

Jamaica and Brazil have enjoyed strong relations over the years and the extent of collaboration is evident both at the bilateral and multilateral levels. At the bilateral level, relations have been further enhanced in recent times as a result of the increased number of high and technical level visits, as well as, the active pursuit of technical cooperation programmes in areas such as energy and agriculture.

High Level Visits

Visit of Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller to Brazil, July 2006

- At the invitation of President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva, Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller undertook a visit to Brazil from 11th - 13th July 2006, to participate in the II Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora (II CIAD), and to engage in bilateral talks with the President. The Prime Minister's was accompanied by Senator the Honourable G. Anthony Hylton, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.
- During their bilateral exchange, the heads of government reiterated their commitment to strengthening relations between their respective countries. They agreed to work towards the implementation of cooperation initiatives in the areas of agriculture, energy, health, law enforcement, sport and culture. Regional and multilateral issues, including the situation in Haiti and the pending elections to the UN Security Council, were also discussed.

Visit of PM Patterson to Brazil, November 2005

- Former Prime Minister P.J. Patterson paid an Official Visit to Brazil on 1st November 2005, at the invitation of President Lula. During the visit, discussions were held on a range of subjects including sugar, ethanol, agro-industry, tourism, trade/finance and cooperation in the field of culture.
- In addition, a Protocol of Intent on Technical Cooperation in the Field of Fruit Processing Techniques was concluded.

Visit of Brazilian Foreign Minister to Jamaica, May 2005

- The Foreign Minister of Brazil, H. E. Celso Luiz Amorim, paid an Official Visit to Jamaica over the period 15th - 16th May 2005. During the visit, mention was made of the significant thrust towards strengthening bilateral cooperation between Brazil and Jamaica, particularly in the areas of sugar and ethanol, oil exploration, horticulture and tropical agriculture, education, health, tourism and the development of new economic opportunities.

- With regard to the restructuring and development of Jamaica's sugar industry, a Protocol of Intent on Cooperation in Sugar and Ethanol was concluded within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Agreement signed between Jamaica and Brazil in 1997.

Technical Cooperation

Energy Cooperation

- During Prime Minister Simpson Miller's Official Visit to Brazil in July 2006, she registered the interest of the Government of Jamaica in increased energy cooperation between both countries. Jamaica's interest in collaborating with Petrobras to undertake 'off-shore' prospecting in Jamaica was also expressed.
- Both the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica and Petrobras have , been sharing technical information relating to petroleum product standards and the petroleum refinery.

Ethanol production

- Jamaica and Brazil are currently seeking to forge a stronger partnership in a number of areas, particularly with respect to the ethanol industry. In terms of technical assistance, in March 2006, the Government of Brazil sent a team of three technical experts to Jamaica for a two-week period to assist in the preparation of a draft plan for the introduction of ethanol into the Jamaican energy mix.
- Brazil has provided invaluable assistance to the development of Jamaica's ethanol industry. The joint venture partnership between Petrojam Ethanol and Coimex of Brazil has resulted in modernization and improved efficiency of the plant. As of July 2007, Jamaica added an additional 60 million gallons of ethanol production capacity which increased to 160 million gallons Jamaica's ethanol production capacity. This additional production capacity resulted from the commissioning of a private ethanol production plant by the Jamaica Broiler's Group Ltd in August. The plant is projected to export 40 million gallons of dehydrated ethanol in its first year of operation.
- Continued cooperation with Brazil in the area of ethanol production will make it possible for Jamaica to replace MTBE in local gasoline, with the less expensive Ethanol (E-10), by the end of the current year (10% ethanol is slated to be added to the domestic fuel mix).

Sugar Cane Industry

- The assistance which the Government of Brazil had provided to the Jamaican sugar cane industry has been invaluable.
- In October 2006, the Brazilian government through the Rural Federal University of Pernambuco donated 40 different varieties of sugar cane for adaptability tests in Jamaica by Sugar Research Institute, under the Ministry of Agriculture's Emergency Agricultural Project. Brazil also offered training courses for Jamaican personnel to be trained in the management of sugar cane plantations.
- During the visit of the HMFA&FT to Brazil on 15th February 2007, a complementary arrangement to the Agreement on Technical Cooperation between Jamaica and Brazil for the Implementation of the Project "*Human Resources Training and Technical Transfer to Support the Jamaican Programme to Modernize the Sugar and Ethanol Sectors*" and the Project "*Technical Training Programme in Production and Processing to Diversify and Enhance Tropical Fruit and Culture in Jamaica*, were signed. One of the provisions of the former agreement is that a leading specialist in the area of biodiesel would visit to Jamaica to conduct a two or three day workshop for government technicians in the area of biodiesel.

Tropical Agriculture and Fruit Processing

- There is ongoing collaboration between Jamaica and Brazil in this field. Subsequent to the visit of former Prime Minister Patterson and Hon Minister Phillip Paulwell in 2005, a Brazilian specialist in fruit tree production visited Jamaica on a fact finding mission. Based on the findings, areas identified for technical assistance include the upgrading of the Genebank of the Scientific Research Council and the sharing of plant material under the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- As a follow-up two experts visited Jamaica in 2006 to provide technical assistance.

Health

- An offer of assistance in the area of tropical medicine, specifically sickle cell research, through the Tropical Metabolism Research Institute (TMRI) of the University of the West Indies was made during the visit of the HPM to Brazil in July 2006. Areas for collaboration include the training of Brazilian health professionals at the TMRI's Sickle Cell Unit, institutional development through exchange visits and the development of research programmes.

Security

- Several areas for cooperation with Brazil in the area of security were discussed during the HPM's visit in July 2006. Dr. the Honourable Peter Phillips, Minister of National Security and President of the Sub-Committee of Resources for Mobilization and Security of CARICOM, undertook a follow up visit to Brazil from 25th to 28th February, 2007. As a result of a discussion between Minister Phillips and Minister Waldir Pires, Minister of Defense of Brazil, the Government of Brazil agreed to provide an Airlift service for police and military personnel during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007.

Sports

- Jamaica is interested in increasing technical cooperation with Brazil in the field of sports, in particular sharing of expertise in track and field athletics and football, given Jamaica's prowess in the former and Brazil's in the latter.

Culture

- Jamaica and Brazil share a deep cultural identity. In the light of this, there is an interest in collaboration between both countries in the development of their cultural industries.

Air Services

- In late August 2006, an Air Services Agreement was concluded between the two countries. It was agreed that pending the completion of the necessary constitutional requirements, both countries would provisionally apply the Agreement as of 31st August 2006. The Agreement will enter into force fully upon the exchange of diplomatic notes signaling that both countries have completed all the internal procedures that are required for its entry into force.
- Air Jamaica is interested in examining with Brazilian airlines the feasibility of commercial air links between Jamaica, Brazil and South Africa.

Cooperation in Language Training

- The Brazilian Government has reaffirmed its desire to establish a Portuguese Language Training Programme at the University of the West Indies (Mona Campus). A lecturer in the Portuguese Language in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at the UWI is expected to be appointed.
- The Brazilian Government has offered scholarships to Jamaican students interested in pursuing studies in Brazil. Two Jamaicans were awarded scholarships for the 2004 academic year and six were awarded for 2005, all at the under-graduate level. The scholarships cover only tuition and do not

include airfare and living expenses, which pose some difficulties for the awardees.
