

WEB ARTICLE/NEWS RELEASE

JTI ASSERTS ITS RELEVANCE

The Justice Training Institute (JTI) continues to assert its relevance for providing educational programmes for the Justice Sector as the Institute saw a 24% increase in enrolment to 1,455 in the fiscal year 2007/08.

The Institute, along with several local and external partners, also co-ordinated and hosted a number of specialised training sessions during the review period. Among them were a five-day regional Counter-terrorism workshop, Trial Advocacy for Clerks of the Court, offered jointly with the Norman Manley Law School, as well as a three-day training module in Court Management which was held jointly with the U.S.-based National Centre for State Courts. Court Administrators along with Bailiffs were also exposed to workshops aimed at strengthening their operational competence on the job. Training for Court Administrators, which is one of the recommendations from the Jamaica Justice System Review, will be ongoing and will lead to a professional certification in Court Management.

Commenting on the increased enrolment at the Justice Training Institute, Mrs. Audrey Sewell, Director/Principal, said that this was due, in large part, to the strategic partnerships formed with neighbour institutions such as the UWI School of Continuing Studies and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, located on Camp Road, Kingston, where they allowed the Institute to use their facilities to delivery the expanded programme offerings.

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The partnership with the Montego Bay Community College has enabled that institution to offer the JTI's paralegal programmes under a franchising arrangement.

The Institute's aggressive marketing campaign resulted in the formation of some six partnerships in the 2007/08 fiscal year. Mrs. Sewell noted that the HEART Trust/NTA maintained its support of the Court Reporting programme and that the JTI is experiencing an increased demand for this training programme. Some 36 persons are presently enrolled. Three students from other Caribbean countries are enrolled on that programme under sponsorship of their respective Governments.

Another highlight of the JTI's performance during the past financial year was the advances made to secure accreditation from the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ). Mrs. Sewell stressed that the quality assurance systems established are being monitored and refined to ensure compliance with the UCJ's standards, even as staff members attended the relevant workshops organised by the Council.

The JTI Director/Principal also announced that the Government of Bahamas has invited the Institute to assist with the establishment of a similar institution in that island. The invitation came after the successful training interventions provided by the JTI for Notaries Public and Commissioners of Oaths in the British Virgin Island earlier in the year for persons from other Caribbean islands earlier in the year.