

30th International Training Program: Utility Regulation and Strategy

A collaboration between the Public Utility Research Center at the University of Florida and the World Bank, June 13 - 24, 2011, Gainesville, Florida

Contributor: Ministry of Energy and Mining, Jamaica – June 2011

The Ministry of Energy and Mining (MEM) has overall responsibility for two portfolios that significantly impact the economic activities of Jamaica. The energy sector in particular, is a dynamic portfolio encompassing both the petroleum and electricity sectors each having unique characteristics governing their operations. Being responsible for both sectors the Ministry is responsible for the following, among other things:

- Enforcing laws;
- Reviewing and advising on the various legislations;
- Developing and implementing policies; and
- Ensuring safety standards are upheld and maintained.

As decision makers, the MEM is well aware of the many challenges that infrastructure development and regulation present for agencies, service providers and investors. As countries place utility operations on a commercial basis and open infrastructure markets to competition, governments are creating new agencies or adapting existing regulatory institutions to a changing operating environment. This changes and creates new rules on how companies position themselves in these markets. To ensure that operators are able to thrive, infrastructures are developed, regulation is sustainable, and benefits are delivered to customers it is essential that both industry and those responsible for implementing regulatory policies understand the strengths and limitations of various incentive regimes, market reforms, and regulatory decision-making processes.

With this in mind, Mr. Douet Stennett – a senior officer in the Ministry, is currently participating in the “**30th International Training Program: Utility Regulation and Strategy**.” The course will be held during the period June 13-24, 2011 in Miami, Florida under the direction of the Public Utility Research Centre (PURC) at the University of Florida in collaboration with the World Bank. The course content is designed to enhance the economic, financial, and strategic skills of a select group of senior utility regulators and regulatory strategists from around the world. About 70 utility regulators and government officials will be in attendance. Approximately 15 mid-to senior-level staff from regulatory strategy groups and private infrastructure companies will also participate in the course, providing additional insights on the implementation of different types of incentive regulation.

This intensive program represents an exciting and significant opportunity to enhance the professional competence senior staff members. Over 140 countries have been represented during the 29 programs held since 1997, during which participants have learned about ongoing infrastructure reform programs, heard from some of the world’s leading authorities, and offered their own insights on regulatory policies. This course offering provides an exciting opportunity to learn problem-solving techniques while facilitating an international exchange of ideas and experiences. It offers an international forum for the dissemination of relevant best practices and research. The course is designed to enhance the economic, technical, and policy skills required for implementing policies and managing sustainable regulatory systems for infrastructure sectors.

With knowledge transfer and applied lessons learnt, this collaboration between PURC and the World Bank will contribute to improved regulatory performance in the Jamaican energy sector and the implementation of the National Energy Policy 2009-2030.