

Powerful Partnerships



NEPA and UWI signs MOU

Building New Alliances

In 2010/2011, the UWI, Mona Campus and the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) signed an MOU aimed at fostering greater collaboration between both institutions. The MOU seeks to have Mona target much of its extensive research on the environment, along with its human and physical resources in support of the effective fulfilment of NEPA's mandate to manage Jamaica's environment while facilitating sustainable development.

Among the areas covered under the MOU are the management of natural resources, including economic valuation; biodiversity, including genetic resources; ecosystems: terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine; ecosystem classification & profiling; protected areas; environmental models and simulations; policy and action plan development; ecological assessments; pollution assessment; hazard mapping and GIS; and data management within the UWI research agenda.



Collaboration with China

Under an agreement with the Government of Jamaica and the Ministry of Education, China, UWI, Mona hosted four Chinese students between May 31st and July 1st. They were given full scholarships to pursue the programme – English for Speakers of Other Languages. The class also included a full fee-paying Colombian student. Based on the positive evaluation from the participants we intend to expand this programme in summer 2011.

UWI/JBDC Business Advisory Services Centre

On January 26, 2011, the UWI/JBDC Business Advisory Services Centre officially opened its doors on the Mona Campus. The partnership seeks to draw on the expertise of the Jamaica Business Development Centre (JBDC) to help transform business plans and ideas generated through entrepreneurship programmes at Mona, into business ventures.

The Centre provides a full suite of services including business advice and consultancy, market research and guidance, export information services, business plan assessment, loan proposal and financial statements preparation. The Centre is also overseeing the development of an ideas/knowledge data bank, the E-Biz Ideas Bank, which will facilitate the brokering of business ideas between potential entrepreneurs and investors.



3-M Library Security System Launched

The Main Library officially commissioned into use its new state-of-the-art 3M Library Security System on January 18, 2011. Acquired under an MOU between 3M Inter-America Inc. (Jamaica Division), the UWI Development and Endowment Fund UWIDEF, and UWI, Mona Campus, the system offers improved security for the Main Library's significant collection and paves the way for the introduction of self-check machines, which will help to transform the Library's operations.

Under the MOU, 3M gave a 30% discount on the price of the System and awarded the 3M/Kenneth Ingram/



UWIDEF scholarship valued at \$720,000 over three (3) years, tenable at the Department of Library and Information Studies. Through its local agent, TELICON Group, 3M also provided technical oversight for the installation and testing of the system, while Mona completed the infrastructure works to facilitate installation.

MOU between UWI and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The MOU signed between the UWI and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will see the Government of Japan, through the IDB providing US\$500,000 to fund a comprehensive study of child health and disease in Jamaica. Support JAKids; Jamaica Child Cohort study to be led by Dr. Maureen Samms-Vaughn.

Botswana Delegation

In January 2011, a delegation from the Botswana Embassy in Washington DC visited the UWI, Mona Campus. While discussions with Campus representatives centred on the welfare of the 54 Botswana students studying at Mona, the meeting also explored the possibility of expanding collaboration between the UWI and the Government of Botswana to include training of doctors at the graduate level.

That visit was quickly followed by a two-day tour of the Campus in February by a delegation from Botswana's Ministry of Education.



Collaboration with University of New England

The University of New England (UNE) has made a proposal to the Department of Life Sciences for collaborative research in the area of terrestrial plant life. Following a presentation by the head of the ISO to the Association for International Education Conference held in Kansas City, Missouri, in July 2010, UNE approached the ISO to seek a meeting with Faculty doing research in Marine and Environmental Sciences. In a bid to activate this initiative, a UNE representative visited the Mona Campus and held discussions with Professor Dale Webber, Head, Centre for Marine Sciences.

University Visits

In its quest to build partnerships, collaborating on research, engaging in student and Faculty exchange, and developing opportunities to benchmark against best practices, the UWI, Mona Campus hosted delegations from the following universities during the academic year 2010/2011:

- University of Richmond, Virginia, USA
- Grand Valley State University, Michigan, USA
- North Carolina Central University, North Carolina, USA
- University of Vermont, USA
- Dokkyo University, Japan



The Confucius Institute

In January 2011, His Excellency Chen Jinghua, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Jamaica, donated some 3,000 books and 200 DVDs to Mona, on behalf of the Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), Beijing. The collection which included teaching materials and literature will boost the resources of the recently established Confucius Institute. The Institute, which seeks to deepen educational cooperation between China and Jamaica, is the result of a partnership between the UWI, Mona Campus and Taiyuan University of Technology, China.



Visit by the President of Colombia

On Friday, November 19, 2010, the Hon. Dr. Juan Manuel Santos Calderon, President of Colombia, visited the UWI, Mona Campus while on an official visit to Jamaica. President Calderon gave a public address on the topic: "Latin America and the Caribbean in the Next Decade" to a campus audience.

The UWI, Mona Campus has a fruitful relationship with universities in Colombia including an annual student/faculty exchange programme.



Alumni

The Office of the Principal continues to play a vital role in liaising with the alumni community. Its mandate is to devise creative ways to ensure that more alumni are connected with Mona's social and academic life, and with each other.

Understanding that communication is essential to keep alumni informed and stimulated the Office of the Principal developed an exclusive on-line community of UWI graduates via a quarterly newsletter branded Mona e-Connections.

When it was launched in 2010 there were fewer than 4,000 readers. Now as the newsletter continues to foster strong alumni interaction with its compelling content and interesting news, the readership has grown to more than 18,000.

Fresh in our minds is the festive week in August dedicated to the alumni community which was dubbed Reunion Week 2011. Scores of alumni who have savoured the rich and rewarding experience of UWI returned to Mona to celebrate in a variety of ways thereby strengthening the bonds with their alma mater.

The alumni celebrated with Roy Bailey who was recognised as the first graduate of the then University College of the West Indies (UCWI), Mona. We hope to sustain the momentum experienced during Reunion Week throughout the year.

Scenes from Alumni Reunion Week 2011



