

Greetings by
Wayne Henry, PhD
Director General, PIOJ
Presented at the
Launch of
*Let's make a difference: A Caribbean Primer on Climate Change for
Primary Schools*
Tuesday February 22, 2022
Jamaica Pegasus Hotel

Salutations:

Mr Evan Thompson, Moderator

Hon. Fayval Williams, Minister of Education, Youth & Information

Prof. Dale Webber, Principal, The UWI, Mona

Mrs Denise E. Antonio, Resident Representative, UNDP Multi-country Office in Jamaica

Prof. Michael Taylor, Dean, Faculty of Science & Technology, UWI, Mona

Authors

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Ladies and Gentlemen

I am excited to be here this morning! Let me start by congratulating the authors and all involved in this worthwhile project, another indication that knowledge creation is alive and well in Jamaica.

This marks the second book launch on the subject of **climate change** in which I am participating over a four-day period (since last Saturday). To me, it counts for much that the book launched on Saturday focussed on the Church while today we launch a textbook targeted at children and the primary education system. These two events reinforce the fact that here in Jamaica, we are serious about increasing awareness of climate change and its impact, and are tackling this issue on many fronts.

The PIOJ's involvement in the preparation of this primer comes by way of the Improving Climate Data and Information Management (ICDIMP) Project under the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience. The objective of the textbook aligns with that of component 3 and the "Smart and Steady, Climate Ready Campaign" of the project which aims to **improve the knowledge, attitudes and behavioural practices of Jamaicans toward climate change**.

Let me use the opportunity of this launch to share the headline results of the latest Knowledge, Attitudes and Behavioural Practice Survey conducted last year under the ICDIMP. The results indicate that **91.6% of respondents are knowledgeable of the term climate change**. Importantly, the findings highlight the need for a **deeper understanding** of the concept of climate change in relation to its causes and impacts. The results also point to inadequate knowledge of adaptation and mitigation measures that can and must be employed, to transform Jamaica to that climate resilient economy aspired towards in Vision 2030 Jamaica.

The production of this textbook at this time is responsive to a major gap identified in the KABP survey and will, we expect, complement and amplify the impact of some earlier work by the Climate Studies Group, Mona (CSGM) which the PIOJ sponsored and which involved developing teaching and learning resource material for the primary level. The book also adds to a number of climate change knowledge products published in the last decade, including the various editions of the State of Jamaican Climate Report. Its production further recognizes that realizing our resilience goal, is dependent on building a solid foundation of knowledge through our children.

This textbook explains some challenging scientific concepts in a simple, fun and practical manner with activities that reinforce them by utilizing real-life local, regional, and international examples. We expect that this textbook will be a useful resource for children in and outside of Jamaica.

The PIOJ is pleased to be a part of this activity and wholeheartedly congratulates the writers, the School of Education, CSGM and UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme for the vision and drive to implement this project. Partners, let us continue to work together, make a difference and make "Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business".