



US Ambassador pays courtesy call on HLSTUEI

The United States of America, Ambassador to Jamaica Ms. Pamela E. Bridgewater made a courtesy call on Mr. Danny Roberts, head of the Hugh Lawson Shearer Trade Union Education Institute, (HLSTUEI). Ms. Bridgewater was accompanied by Mr. Sean Osner, Supervisory Program Officer at the USAID. The ambassador's visit was primarily to familiarize herself with the work of the Institute and to emphasize the work of the Embassy, particularly through the USAID as well as possible areas of collaboration and co-operation between the AID Agency and the Institute.

Ms. Bridgewater spoke of her experience as a student at Harvard University and indicated that she could offer some assistance in the development of appropriate labour modules. Mr. Roberts also took the opportunity to commend the US Ambassador on her work in mentorship and mediation over the course of her career, Ms. Bridgewater gracefully accepted the commendations

Mr. Roberts informed the ambassador of the programmes the HLSTUEI currently offers, namely the Introduction to Labour Studies and the Certificate in Labour Studies courses. Mr. Roberts also spoke to the institutes thrust; going forward in terms of meeting the needs of today's labour force. To this end, Mr. Roberts spoke about the development of a bachelors and a masters programme in labour studies, to which the ambassadors response was an overwhelming endorsement. Mr. Roberts also alluded to the fact that the institute needs to re-train workers practically and also in theory.

The Ambassador mentioned her upcoming engagements in the near future, namely addressing the Master Builders Association on the issue of renewable energy.



US Ambassador Pamela Bridgewater in discussion with Danny Roberts, Head of the HLSTUEI

She also mentioned that the US ship **The Comfort** will be visiting Jamaica to assist Jamaicans most in need of medical care and that the Embassy would be facilitating a programme to send some Jamaican students to the United States on an exchange programme.



Mr. Sean Osner from USAID makes a point while Lauren Marsh, Junior Research Fellow takes notes

89th Introduction to Labour Studies Course starts in April

The 89th Introduction of Labour Studies course will commence on Monday April 4, 2011 and run for four weeks, ending on April 29, 2011. The ILS course, which was formally called the one-month Trade Union Delegates Course, has been the flagship academic training course at the Institute since 1963.

Trade union leaders, as well as hundreds of delegates have benefitted from this training programme over the years. The programme, in recent times, has been revised so as to remain relevant to contemporary industrial relations environment. In addition to such topics as the **history and development of trade unions, collective bargaining and grievance procedures**, other topics will include **how to read a balance sheet, how the economy works, understanding economic data, communications and productivity bargaining**.

At the end of the Introduction to labour Studies course the students should be better able to understand the issues of the labour movement and how they relate to the Jamaican economy. Also, the course will serve as a self development tool for the participants as they will be exposed to several self development initiatives. The programme will involve each student developing a portfolio which would be used as the main tool of assessment over the period.

Delegates Development Initiative Course held in Montego Bay

The Hugh Lawson Shearer Trade Union Education Institute HLSTUEI, held the first in the series of quarterly delegates development workshops. This first workshop was held at the Verney House hotel and resort in Montego Bay, St. James on Wednesday and Thursday March 16 and 17, 2011.

The presenters for the workshop were Messrs. Lauren Marsh, Junior Research Fellow and Dillon Doyle, Support Staff at the HLSTUEI as well as Ms. Brenda Taylor of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union. The workshop was well attended over the two days with forty (40) persons attending on both days. The delegates from the western end of the island were very appreciative of the training programme and commented that the information presented was relevant to their development as delegates and will be helpful in the dispensation of their duties as well.

The topics addressed at the workshop were the History and Development of the Caribbean Trade Union movement, Globalization and the trade union movement, Collective bargaining trade union structure & grievance handling. The workshop also looked at Decent work, and knowing and understanding Jamaican's labour laws.



Pension and Social Protection Benefits in an Era of Crisis Workshop

The HLSTUEI recognizes that the subjects of pension and social protection are essentially important to the Jamaican workforce. For the following reasons

1. Less than thirty percent 30% of the Workforce is part of a pension scheme
2. The Jamaican worker does not know and understand the importance of a proper pension plan
3. Unionized workers do not readily know of the pension options which are available to them

The Institute organized the workshop on pension and social protection February 23 and 24, 2011 to sensitize and inform members of the labour force of the importance of the above mentioned matters. The Presenters for the workshop were Mr. St. Elmo Whyte, who is a pension and insurance expert. Mr. Lloyd Goodleigh an experienced trade unionist and President of the Jamaican Confederation of Trade Unions, as well as representatives from Jamaica Money Market Brokers and Barita Investments.

The realities that arose out of the workshop were alarming to say the least, case in point, the Jamaican population is expected to age over the next twenty (20) years and the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) is in danger of collapsing due to insufficient funds in the scheme. Also the amount of money a pensioner gets from the NIS scheme after contributing for 20-30 years is woefully insufficient to take care of their



financial needs when they retire.

A participant of the Pension Workshop receives her certificate from the Head of the HLSTUEI

Calendar Events

- Introduction to Labour Studies course– April 4 - 29, 2011 @ HLSTUEI Classroom
- Seminar on Public Sector Transformation looking at Entrepreneurship March 30, 2011
- Open Campus Forum 'Health and Productivity Protecting the Mind and Body' 'With Social Welfare Training Centre (SWTC), Thursday, March 31, 2011
- 'Whither the trade union movement Conference' in association with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) May 26 and 27, 2011.