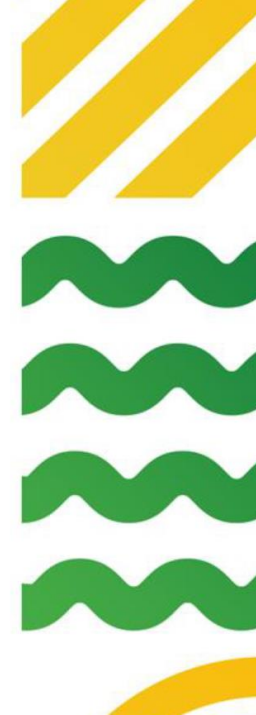


# 11<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL JAMAICA DIASPORA CONFERENCE | 2026

**DIASPORA PARTNERSHIPS:  
RE-BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT JAMAICA**

**JUNE 14-18**



## OVERVIEW

The 11th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference brings together key stakeholders to advance a shared goal, building a more resilient Jamaica.

Recent natural hazards have exposed national vulnerabilities, underscoring the need for stronger and more adaptive systems. The Conference will mobilise diaspora expertise, investment, and innovation to support recovery and long-term resilience, with focus on disaster preparedness, food security, resilient infrastructure, and strengthened social systems.

It will also promote diaspora engagement, investment, and reintegration, aligning contributions with Vision 2030 Jamaica and reinforcing the diaspora's role as a strategic partner in national development.

# PRE-CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, 14 JUNE 2026

10:00

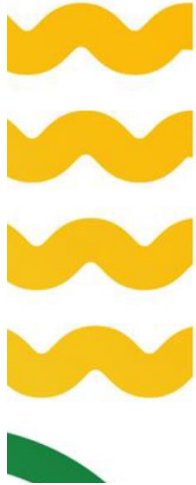
## THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 – 11:30

13:00

## PRE-CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK

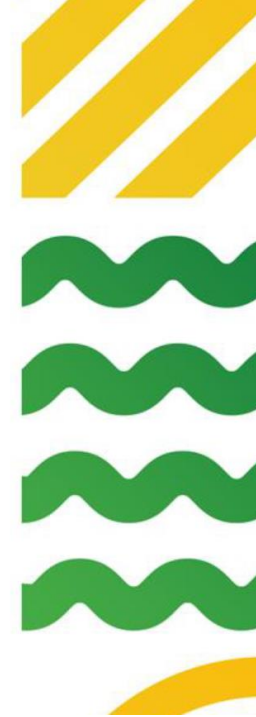
13:00 – 17:00



11<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL  
**JAMAICA**  
**DIASPORA**  
CONFERENCE | 2026

**DIASPORA PARTNERSHIPS:  
RE-BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT JAMAICA**

**JUNE 14-18**



**DAY 1**

**MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2026**

# DAY 1

MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2026

<b>8:00</b>	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; INFORMATION DESK</b> 8:00 – 16:00
<b>8:00</b>	<b>MARKETPLACE AND GOVERNMENT AT-YOUR-SERVICE (GOVAYS)</b> 8:00 – 19:00  One-stop venue where diaspora members can directly engage with government agencies and partners to access services.  Participants will have the opportunity to visit booths and stalls from as public and private sector companies as well as educational institutions.
<b>9:30</b>	<b>CONFERENCE COMMENCEMENT</b> 9:30 – 10:00  Opening segment featuring welcome and remarks from key stakeholder, setting the tone for the Conference and outlining its strategic focus.

# DAY 1

MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2026

<b>10:00</b>	<b>Plenary Session</b>  <b>MOBILISING DIASPORA TRADE AND INVESTMENT FOR A RESILIENT JAMAICA</b> 10:00 – 11:15  This plenary examines how diaspora trade, investment, and partnerships can be strategically mobilised to strengthen Jamaica’s economic resilience, advance climate adaptation, and drive sustainable growth, while showcasing investment opportunities for the diaspora.
<b>11:15</b>	<b>MORNING COFFEE BREAK/SNACK</b> 11:15 – 11:45
<b>11:45</b>	<b>INVESTMENT AND TRADE EXPO INSIDE THE MARKETPLACE/GOVERNMENT-AT-YOUR-SERVICE (GOVAYS)</b> 11:45 – 13:00 One-stop venue where Diaspora members can directly engage with Government Agencies and Partners to access services

# DAY 1

MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2026

11:45

Awards Ceremony

## GOVERNOR GENERAL'S DIASPORA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

11:45 – 13:00

The Governor-General's Diaspora Achievement Awards recognise and celebrate outstanding Jamaicans in the diaspora who have made significant contributions to national development and the global advancement of Jamaica. The awards honour excellence across areas such as leadership, business, philanthropy, education, and community service, highlighting individuals who exemplify a strong commitment to giving back and strengthening connections between Jamaica and its global diaspora.



13:00

LUNCH

Visit the Marketplace/Government-at-your-Service (GOVAYS)

13:00 – 14:00

# DAY 1

MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2026

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

14:00

Panel Discussion

### **DIASPORA AND RETURNEE BUSINESS SUCCESS STORIES**

14:00 – 15:00

This session spotlights inspiring journeys of diaspora and returnee entrepreneurs who have successfully built and scaled ventures overseas and Jamaica.

Panel Discussion

### **INVESTING IN JAMAICA'S PROPERTY MARKET: OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DIASPORA**

14:00 – 15:00

This session provides practical guidance for diaspora members interested in investing in Jamaica's property market. It will cover key steps, legal considerations, financing options, and emerging opportunities, helping participants make informed and confident investment decisions.

Panel Discussion

### **EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE JAMAICA STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE JAMAICA SOCIAL STOCK EXCHANGE**

14:00 – 15:00

This plenary session will explore how the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE) and the Jamaica Social Stock Exchange (JSSE) are creating new pathways for entrepreneurs, social enterprises, and community-based organizations to access financing, scale innovation, and drive sustainable development.

# DAY 1

MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2026

<b>15:00</b>	<b>Plenary Session</b> <b>RETURN, REBUILD, THRIVE: UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RETURNING RESIDENTS</b> 15:00 – 16:00 <p>This session explores the opportunities, challenges, and support systems for returning residents, with a focus on successful reintegration and meaningful contribution to Jamaica’s development.</p>
<b>16:00</b>	<b>AFTERNOON COFFEE BREAK / SNACK</b> 16:00 – 16:30
<b>16:30</b>	<b>Plenary Session</b> <b>BUILDING A RESILIENT EDUCATION SYSTEM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DIASPORA</b> 16:30 – 17:30 <p>This plenary examines how education can be strengthened and reimagined to build human capital, enhance national resilience, and support Jamaica’s long-term development. It will also address the reconstruction and recovery of schools impacted by Hurricane Melissa, alongside the role of innovation, digital transformation, and diaspora engagement in improving access, quality and relevance across the education system.</p>

# DAY 1

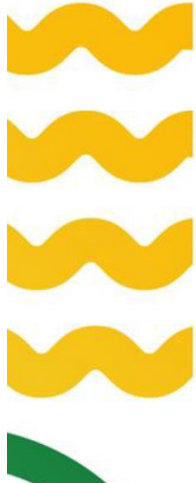
MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2026

	SIDEBAR EVENTS	
17:30	<p><b>Sidebar Event 1</b></p> <p><b>REINTEGRATION OF INVOLUNTARY RETURNED MIGRANTS</b></p> <p>17:30 – 18:30</p> <p>This session will examine the reintegration of Involuntary Returned Migrants (IRMs) as an important national development and social policy issue.</p>	<p><b>Sidebar Event 2</b></p> <p><b>MEETING OF THE GLOBAL JAMAICA DIASPORA COUNCIL AND THE GLOBAL JAMAICA DIASPORA YOUTH COUNCIL</b></p> <p>17:30 – 18:30</p> <p>This interactive session brings together members of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC), Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council (GJDYC) and other interested stakeholders to strengthen networking, collaboration, and engagement across the diaspora.</p>

## Sidebar Events

We are introducing Sidebar events at the Jamaica Diaspora Conference 2026.

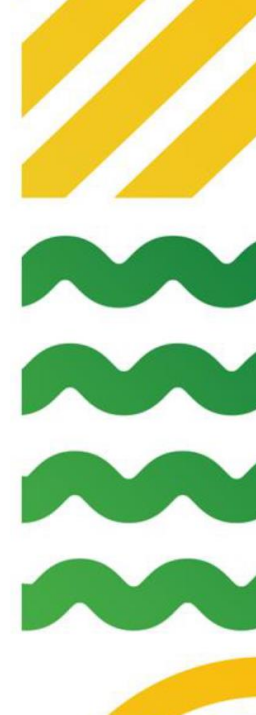
Sidebars will consist of focused, small group discussions scheduled in the evenings after the main conference programme to enhance networking, learning, and collaboration. They typically will offer a more intimate setting for deeper discussions than the main programme.



<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL  
**11** JAMAICA  
DIASPORA  
CONFERENCE | 2026

DIASPORA PARTNERSHIPS:  
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**JUNE 14-18**



**DAY 2 – DIASPORA DAY**  
**TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026**

# DAY 2 – DIASPORA DAY

TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026

8:00	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; INFORMATION DESK</b> 8:00 – 16:00
8:00	<b>MARKETPLACE AND GOVERNMENT AT-YOUR-SERVICE (GOVAYS)</b> 8:00 – 19:00
9:00	<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b> 9:00 – 10:30  <b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> The Most Hon Dr Andrew Holness, ON, PC, MP, Prime Minister of Jamaica
10:30	<b>MORNING COFFEE BREAK/SNACK</b> 10:30 – 11:00



# DAY 2

TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026

11:00

Plenary Session

## **SECURING JAMAICA'S FUTURE: BUILDING NATIONAL CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE**

11:00 – 12:00

This plenary examines strategies to strengthen Jamaica's preparedness, response, and recovery systems in the face of climate and disaster risks. It will explore the role of policy, infrastructure, technology, and diaspora engagement in enhancing national resilience and protecting communities and livelihoods.

12:00

Plenary Session

## **SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY: WORKING TOGETHER AS WE CONTINUE TO BUILD A SAFER JAMAICA**

12:00 – 13:00

This plenary explores Jamaica's progress in reducing crime, including the significant decline in homicides, and examines ongoing police transformation efforts and government investment in national security as outlined in the budget. It will highlight how modernisation, technology, and strategic reforms are strengthening public safety, while exploring the role of diaspora engagement in supporting safer, more secure communities.

# DAY 2

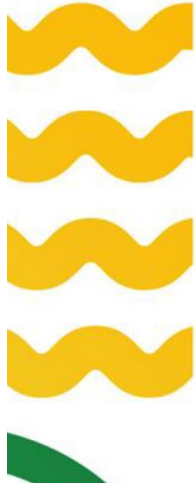
TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026

13:00	<b>LUNCH – VISIT MARKETPLACE AND GOVERNMENT AT-YOUR-SERVICE (GOVAYS)</b> 13:00 – 14:00
14:00	<b>Plenary Session</b>  <b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY THROUGH DIASPORA PARTNERSHIP</b> 14:00 – 15:00  This plenary explores how diaspora partnerships can strengthen agriculture and food security in Jamaica by promoting sustainable practices, increasing local production, and supporting innovation across the agricultural value chain.
	<b>Plenary Session</b>  <b>CONNECTING, ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING THE YOUTH DIASPORA FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b> 15:00 – 16:00  This session explores how young members of the Jamaican diaspora can be mobilised as drivers of innovation, entrepreneurship, and national development, strengthening Jamaica’s future through global talent and local impact.

# DAY 2

TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026

16:00	<b>AFTERNOON COFFEE BREAK/SNACK</b> 16:00 – 16:30
16:30	Afternoon Plenary <b>DIASPORA ROLE IN TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE FOR IMPROVED NATIONAL WELLBEING</b> 16:30 – 17:30 This plenary examines how Jamaica’s healthcare system can be strengthened to improve resilience, access, and quality of care, focusing on innovation, infrastructure, workforce development, and diaspora engagement.
17:30	<b>MARKETPLACE AND GOVERNMENT AT-YOUR-SERVICE (GOVAYS)</b> 17:30 – 18:30
18:30	<b>CONFERENCE EVENING EVENT</b> 18:30



11<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL  
**JAMAICA**  
**DIASPORA**  
CONFERENCE | 2026

**DIASPORA PARTNERSHIPS:  
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**JUNE 14-18**



**DAY 3**

**WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2026**

# DAY 3

WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2026

8:00	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; INFORMATION DESK</b> 8:00 – 12:00
8:00	<b>MARKETPLACE AND GOVERNMENT AT-YOUR-SERVICE (GOVAYS)</b> 8:00 – 15:00
9:00	<b>Plenary Session</b> <b>HARNESSING DIASPORA TALENT TO BUILD JAMAICA'S AI AND DIGITAL FUTURE</b> 9:00 – 10:00 <p>This plenary examines how Jamaica can leverage diaspora expertise, networks, and experience to advance AI and digital innovation. It will highlight opportunities for talent exchange, mentorship, research collaboration, and investment to strengthen local capacity, build a robust digital ecosystem, and enhance Jamaica's global competitiveness.</p>

# DAY 3

WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2026

<b>10:00</b>	<p>Plenary Session</p> <p><b>LEVERAGING THE CREATIVE ECONOMY TO BUILD STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT CULTURAL AND ART INDUSTRIES</b></p> <p>10:00 – 11:00</p> <p>This plenary explores how Jamaica’s Creative Economy can be leveraged to drive economic resilience, innovation, and sustainable growth. It will highlight opportunities for diaspora engagement, investment, and global market access to strengthen the country’s creative industries.</p>
<b>11:00</b>	<p><b>COFFEE BREAK</b></p> <p>11:00 – 11:30</p>
<b>11:30</b>	<p>Plenary Session</p> <p><b>EXPANDING DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT ACROSS BORDERS: GLOBAL MARKET ACCESS, GLOBAL NETWORKS AND FOREIGN TRADE</b></p> <p>11:30 – 12:30</p> <p>This session explores strategies to deepen and expand diaspora engagement across regions, including Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe.</p>

# DAY 3

WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2026

12:30	<p><b>Plenary Session</b></p> <p><b>MOBILISING DIASPORA VOLUNTEERISM FOR SOCIAL IMPACT AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p>12:30 – 13:30</p> <p>This plenary explores how volunteerism and social impact initiatives can be mobilised to strengthen communities and support national development, particularly in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa. It will highlight the role of the diaspora in contributing time, skills, and resources to recovery efforts, community building, and long-term resilience across Jamaica.</p>
13:30	<p><b>CLOSING CEREMONY</b></p> <p>13:30 – 14:00</p> <p>Conference Declaration</p>
14:00	<p><b>LUNCH – VISIT MARKETPLACE AND GOVERNMENT AT-YOUR-SERVICE (GOVAYS)</b></p> <p>14:00 – 15:00</p>

# DAY 3

WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2026

15:00

Off-site Trip

## **DAY OF EMPOWERMENT**

15:00 – 18:00

The Day of Economic Empowerment is a curated day trip designed to directly support and showcase local Jamaican businesses. Participants will visit and engage with a range of enterprises across key sectors, providing opportunities to purchase local products, experience services, and build meaningful connections with entrepreneurs.

The Day of Economic Empowerment offers a practical and impactful way for participants to contribute to Jamaica's economic resilience by supporting local enterprises and fostering sustainable development.



11<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL  
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**SAVE THE DATE**

**JUNE 14-18**  
MONTEGO BAY, ST. JAMES

**REGISTER NOW**



**DAY 4**

**THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2026**

# DAY 4

THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2026

8:00

Field Trips

## **DAY OF SERVICE**

8:00 – 17:00

The Day of Service is a key component of the Jamaica Diaspora Conference, turning dialogue into action by engaging diaspora members, partners, and volunteers in community-based initiatives in Western Jamaica. Focused on areas such as education, healthcare, and sustainability, it mobilises skills and resources to strengthen communities and improve well-being across Jamaica.