



HEART TRUST/NTA UNEVOC CENTRE PROMOTES GREENING IN TVET

The HEART Trust/NTA UNEVOC Centre on Tuesday (April 19, 2016) held its inaugural Greening in TVET Seminar to promote green skills and its alignment with Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for sustainable development. The event, hosted under the theme 'Green Building Technology for a Sustainable Future' focused on new green technologies and initiatives in the building/construction industry, including 'smart buildings' sustainable building materials and the contemplation of green building codes. The seminar provided the platform to mobilize stakeholders to work, play and live 'Green'; and featured exhibits, presentations and discussions. The target audience included teachers, students, building administrators and the senior members of the HEART Trust/NTA and the Ministries of: Education, Youth & Information.



Executive Director of the HEART Trust/NTA, Dr. Wayne Wesley (left), listens to Advisor to the Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Sharon Hay Webster, at the Agency's Greening in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) forum, held at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Tuesday, April, 19, 2016).

Executive Director of the HEART Trust/NTA, Dr Wayne Wesley, in his opening remarks noted that the agency is committed to integrating sustainable development principles in its training programmes and policies. He stated, "We are committed to equipping learners and workers with the technique, knowledge, skill and attitude to ensure sustainable development through conservation, recycling initiatives and renewable energy".

Keynote speaker, Mrs Sharon Hay Webster, Advisor to the Minister of Education, Youth and Information noted that the forum provided the opportunity to share knowledge about sustainable development. She further declared that, "There needs to be a promotion of green culture for sustainability and we really need the local cooperation between HEART and the Ministry of Education to look at how we move towards the development of this green economy and society".



Also, representing the Government of Jamaica from the Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation, Mr Rollin Alveranga, alluded to the timeliness of the forum as the ministry has embarked on a number of activities in this regard. He stated that Green Public Investment Projects were ongoing and elements to be implemented soon include the adoption of new codes and standards that mandate green construction practices. He further stated that there will be an expansion of training programmes in sustainable related fields and a provision of incentives for the use of green building solutions.

The main discussion topics were explored by Industry experts who presented on the following key areas:

1. **Sustainable Development in Jamaica: towards a Green Economy -**
Presenter: Ms Heather Pinnock – Consultant: Sustainability & Project Management
2. **LEED Principles & Green Skills for Building Green Communities**
Presenter: Mr Paul Soegaard – Consultant: Project Management, & LEED
3. **Green Building Technologies for Sustainable Development**
Presenter: Mr Andre Quallo - Project Management Consultant
4. **Water Conservation & Sustainable Solutions**
Ms Leanne Spence - Director, Instant Save Water Solutions
5. **The Pros & Cons of a Green Culture for Sustainability in Jamaica's Building Industry**
Presenter: Mr Carvel Stewart - President, Incorporated Master Builders Association



In closing, **Cluster Coordinator for the Caribbean and Latin American Region- Dr Marcia Rowe-Amonde** in presenting the way forward for the greening agenda charged the audience to 'situate' themselves for their respective roles in embracing greening in TVET.

She outlined a menu of strategies in advancing the green agenda, which will serve to:

- Promote skills for transition to a greener economy.
- Train teachers and instructors in fast growing green sectors such as energy saving and sustainable agriculture.
- Align the classroom setting with what happens at the workplace.
- Engage key players in the construction industry in integrating green skills in the curricula and programmes.
- Provide entrepreneurial training and business coaching so that young people and adults can start up green businesses.

For more on this symposium, see link below:

http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/HEART-pledges-commitment-to-sustainable-development_58330