

OUR participates in forum on building sustainable energy economy



OUR Director General Ahmad Zia Mian addressing the UTECH German Embassy roundtable discussion on May 17, 2012 on building a sustainable energy economy. At the round table the Director General used the opportunity to dispel the notion that the monopoly on transmission and distribution of electricity is the cause of the high cost of the product. He also spoke about energy sustainability and grid reliability. The full text of his presentation will be made available on the OUR's website at www.our.org.jm



OUR Deputy Director General Hopeton Heron addressing a forum at the Alfred Sangster Auditorium at University of Technology on May 18, 2012. Mr Heron used the opportunity to speak about Net Billing and how customers of the JPS can get access to the electricity grid to sell excess power generated from their renewable energy facility by way of the Standard Offer Contract (SOC) which is available from the OUR and posted on its website at www.our.org.jm. The first eleven (11) licences under the SOC Net Billing programme were issued on May 18, 2012.

STAKEHOLDERS' MEETINGS



GraceKennedy Executives Michael Ranglin CEO of GraceKennedy Foods and Simon Roberts CEO of Hardware and Lumber were guests of the OUR at a recent stakeholders meeting. Here Mr Ranglin (centre) makes some additional points at the end of the discussion to Secretary to the Office Ambassador Peter Black at left and beside him Deputy Director General Hopeton Heron. To Mr Ranglin's right is Mr Roberts while OUR General Counsel George Wilson is at extreme right.



Deputy Governor of the Bank of Jamaica Livingstone Morrison is joined by fellow bankers Scotiabank Vice President Government Affairs Dr Wayne Henry and Resident Vice President of Citi Jamaica Andrew Simpson at the OUR's stakeholder meeting series. To their left is OUR Deputy Director General Maurice Charvis and to the Group's right is Deputy Director General Hopeton Heron.

JPS' new CEO visits the regulator



President & CEO of Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd Kelly Tomblin (centre) flanked by two of her board members is welcomed to the OUR by Director General Ahmad Zia Mian. The welcoming team included General Counsel George Wilson at left and Deputy Directors General Hopeton Heron and Maurice Charvis at right. Ms Tomblin paid a courtesy call on the regulator two weeks after assuming the top job at the power company.

A labour of love at the Faith Centre Home

Members of the OUR team put in a labour of love on May 23, 2012 with a visit to the Faith Centre Home at 7 Laws Street in Downtown Kingston which is operated by Missionaries of the Poor. The opportunity was used to paint as much of the external walls and inside the dorms as was possible. Here are the highlights.



Director General Zia Mian liberally applies a coat of paint to a door at the Faith Centre Home.



Granville McKoy about to "brush up" a door



Clara Johnson ensuring that a curb wall at the Faith Centre Home will now be brown.



Lorraine Baker tries to preserve a door with paint while in the background Ingrid Brown (in red cap) sweeps with her makeshift broom as Andre Lindsay who had earlier completed painting the curb wall in the background prepares to move on to another task.

OUR holds Public Consultations with customers of DEML

The Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) held two public consultations with customers of Dynamic Environmental Management Limited (DEML) following the company's appeal of a tariff determination issued by the OUR on January 05, 2012. DEML is the water and sewerage services provider for Vineyards Estate in Bushy Park St. Catherine as well as Caribbean Estates, Portmore Country Club and Morris Meadows all in Portmore St. Catherine.

As part of the appeals process, the regulator went back to the consumers to hear their views on the matter. The first consultation was conducted on Saturday May 26, 2012 at the Portmore HEART Academy for customers served in that area while the second was held on Sunday May 27 at FiWi Place in Gutters, Old Harbour St. Catherine for customers of Vineyards Estates.

Following the presentation by the management team of DEML, customers raised several queries and concerns and were also advised by the regulator that they may submit same in writing to the OUR no later than Friday June 08, 2012.



A DEML customer of Vineyards Estates speaks during the consultation held at FiWi Place in Gutters near Old Harbour on Sunday May 27. OUR Director of Consumer and Public Affairs Michael Bryce is at the lectern.



Participants at the DEML consultation on Sunday May 27.



OUR Director of Consumer and Public Affairs Michael Bryce listens as a customer of DEML in Portmore (left) raises a point during the consultation held at the Portmore HEART Academy. At right is DEML General Manager Tanisha Shuttleworth.