



TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS

JICA LENDS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION FOR CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Today, the National Water Commission (NWC), on behalf of the Government of Jamaica and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) representing the Government of Japan signed an agreement for the capacity strengthening of the National Water Commission.

Facilitated by the Planning Institute of Jamaica, this technical assistance programme is designed to develop a cost effective and efficient maintenance system within the National Water Commission geared towards enhancing the reliability of water supply and improved water quality to its customers. The main activities to be undertaken include:

1. Review and assessment of the NWC's existing operation and maintenance procedures and the identification of deficiencies in the procedures
2. Strengthening the operation, maintenance and management systems
3. Training of the NWC's Maintenance and Operation Staff via workshops/seminars and training programmes to be conducted by Japanese Experts in Jamaica as well as Jamaican counterparts who will be going to Japan.

Stage 1 of the Project commenced with the assessment and evaluation of the National Water Commission's operations in the areas of Non-Revenue Water, Water Quality Control/Assurance, and the Operation and Maintenance of water treatment plants by JICA experts over the period March to September, 2007. Work on the other phases will commence shortly and will be delivered over a 3-year period.

This Technical Assistance Programme is just one of several initiatives being implemented to improve the quality of service to our valued customers as the National Water Commission continues to work at being recognized among the best water service providers in the world.

The Programme, was made possible by the continued support of the Japanese Government, who has over the past several years, provided financial and other contributions to the Government of Jamaica. Other projects that have benefited include the Montego Bay Sewerage, the Lucea/Negril Water Supply, the Great River Water Supply and the more recent KMA Rehabilitation Project currently being implemented and funded by Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

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