



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND**  
**MINING**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Ministry of energy and mining hosts first Carbon Emissions Trading Stakeholder Meeting

Several stakeholders representing a number of environmental interest groups from the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) as well as governmental and non-governmental organisations converged at the PCJ Auditorium on Thursday, August 20, 2009 to discuss the Ministry of Energy and Mining's newest draft policy document dealing with carbon emissions trading.

Carbon emissions consist of gases including carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, which are produced by motor vehicles and industrial processes that consume petroleum fuel. These create harmful pollutants in the atmosphere. Carbon emissions trading, is sometimes referred to as cap and trade. This is an environmental policy device that puts an economic cost on carbon emissions.

The primary goal of the Carbon Emissions Trading (CET) Policy is to maximise Jamaica's position on carbon trading in such a way that the country will benefit economically and socially from investment initiatives which are to be derived from developed countries, private organizations as well as other regional or international institutions.

One of the five major goals of the CET Policy is the development of an emission trading sector that is aligned with public interests and welfare.

Addressing the stakeholders, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Marcia Forbes urged their fullest participation and invited persons with the expertise and experience to participate in the writing of the policy so that it makes sense and serves the interest of the people of Jamaica. She specifically called upon NEPA and invited their representative, on behalf of the organisation, to actively engage in the policy formulation process.

She used the opportunity to recognise the task force members and the work they have put into the policy especially Carol Lue, a Masters student in Planning and Environment Studies at the University of Toronto who is serving an internship with the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry.

Mrs. Forbes acknowledged the debt of gratitude that Jamaica owes for the work that Ms. Lue has put into the preparation of the CET Policy. The Permanent Secretary also commended Mrs. Barrett-Edwards of the Ministry and Ms. Leonie Barnaby of the Office of the Prime Minister for their work on the policy.

The meeting at the PCJ was the first in a series of public consultations on the CET Policy.

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