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### President's message:

It is with great pleasure that I reintroduce to you, the members of the JIP, this special edition of PlanScope. This publication coincides with the grand launch of our Next Generation Planning Framework in an attempt to reframe the profession of planning to be more responsive to the issues of development facing the country. The rejuvenation of PlanScope will help us to fulfil our mission which is "To promote planning as a profession in Jamaica, protect the practice, create opportunities for members and advance the art and science of planning to guide the sustainable development of the country". PlanScope will serve as a communication tool of the JIP and will be used to disseminate information to its members and to inform members of the JIP's activities and functions.

--- Martin Addington

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

Super Hurricane Sandy made landfall in Jamaica on Wednesday October 24, 2012 leaving a devastating trail of destruction over the eastern section of the island.

The destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy is tragic, heart-wrenching and overwhelming. Like so many others in eastern Jamaica, we find it hard to put into words the sincere and deep sorrow we have felt over the personal, emotional and economic toll taken on so many Jamaicans.

Clearly, the climate is changing. While there is no way to definitively say that Hurricane Sandy was caused by climate change, scientists tell us that Sandy is an indication of things to come: that rising seas will make coastal flooding worsen over time, that we can expect more intense storms, and that we also can expect more changes in precipitation that will affect public health, the water supply and quality, agriculture, and our economy. Investing billions of dollars to rebuild our communities distressed by Sandy as is, without bearing in mind even the most conservative predictions of a changing climate, would not only continue to put our citizens in harm's way, but also would be an imprudent outlay of

both foreign aid and taxpayer dollars.

Resilience means not just asking where we build, but also how we build. Hurricane Sandy has given us a rare opportunity to raise a public dialogue of how to best reduce risks to life, property and infrastructure. In some cases, the key to reducing risk may be to avoid major investment in especially vulnerable areas. Instead, target those areas for restoration of green infrastructure that can protect the investments we do make.



In other cases, the key may be to incorporate the latest design practices and technologies into our buildings and communities.

--- Mario Hylton

## Editor's message:

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the JIP's quarterly newsletter, PlanScope.

We are delighted to be launching this new format. In this issue, we will recount the various projects and activities in which the JIP were actively involved since the end of 2011 until the 4th quarter of 2012. Two main points will be the Caribbean Urban Forum 2012 and the Next Generation Planning Framework among other articles and activities throughout the year.

A huge thank you to all the persons who contributed writing the wonderful and inspiring articles, without which there wouldn't have been this newsletter issue. Last but not least, I would like to thank the JIP President, Martin Addington, and the JIP team members for their everlasting support throughout the creation of this edition.

Happy reading!

--- Mario Hylton



## LET'S PLAN! NOW OR NEVER!

In this our fiftieth year of independence, where setting goals and fulfilling past objectives is a constant mission, Jamaica has a far way to go in achieving its Vision 2030. Outside of music and athletics the country has a lot of catching up to do to reposition itself on the international economic and social rankings. The Jamaican Institute of Planners (JIP) believes the current level of economic under-performance and social degradation affecting the country are largely attributed to insufficient and ad hoc physical planning. The Vision 2030-Jamaica-National Development Plan is hailed as the 'roadmap' for making "Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business." The JIP has identified its need to clearly define its role in the process and over the past few months has been paying keen attention to the Urban and Regional Planning Sector Plan of the National Development Plan with great emphasis on achieving several of the National Outcomes. Goal 4, National Outcome 15 of the plan outlines the mission for Jamaica "to achieve sustainable urban and rural development by year 2030". With its unique combination of expertise and skills, the JIP consortium is

*"the need for more comprehensive planning to be undertaken in Jamaica"*

appropriately placed to undertake the tasks required to fulfill these goals and make each community in Jamaica and across the region an ideal place for living. Through the exploits of urban and regional planners, increased public and private ventures within our communities and local areas can target and influence national and parish level policies in Jamaica, and further capitalize on the potential to attract and secure investment opportunities.

Don Wehby, CEO of GraceKennedy, expressed his dream for Jamaica's heartbeat; Downtown Kingston and has identified the need for more comprehensive

planning to be undertaken in Jamaica. An article published in the Gleaner on Sept. 11, 2012 articulated an ambitious dream that even this CEO, with over 20 years experience in business and corporate management understands is unattainable without a comprehensive master plan. Wehby envisions the return of cruise shipping to downtown Kingston, "with duty-free shopping areas built for tourists to take advantage of". According to Wehby, there are some essential elements that are to be included in this master plan, "that master plan should



also include timelines on the project's completion and how it will be funded. It should form a critical part of our Vision 2030."

The vision of the Grace CEO aligns with a project, duly dubbed the Next Generation Planning Framework, to be launched later this year by the JIP which is geared to undertake several comprehensive local area master plans for community development across the island.

The Institute has earmarked an early December date to unveil the details of the project proposal for local area development plans across

Jamaica. Several ministers and ministry officials involved in the development process are to be invited to the launch.

--- Yanique Brent-Harris, Geronimo Tuzo



Merry Christmas!

## Christmas message:

The Christmas holidays marks a number of milestones which we acknowledge and celebrate as a nation. There are those of us who mark it as the nearing of the end of another calendar year, while there are others who mark it as a grand celebration after a hard year's work on a job. One thing is certain, this year's celebration is a special one as we are in our 50th year of independence.

The Christmas season is the most important Christian party, which we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

On this date, we have to take the opportunity and transmit our good feelings of tenderness not only to our family and friends but to those people who made our achievements and our goals possible.

As the Planners who will drive this nation forward onto great heights of sustainability and success, we take this opportunity to wish the wider Jamaican society a prosperous Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

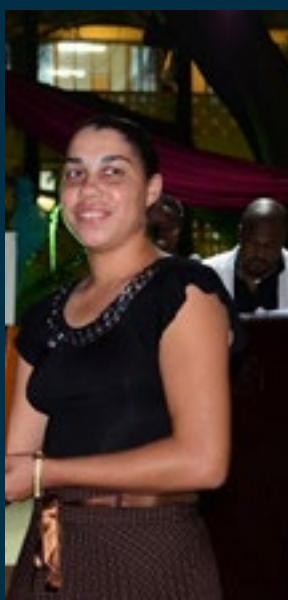
--- Martin Addington

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## Awards

For the past 6 years, the JIP has given an annual award to the most outstanding final year student of the University of Technology Jamaica's Urban and Regional Planning programme. This student is selected based on his/her's overall academic performance for that academic year. The award is handed out at the Faculty of the Built Environment's Annual Awards Ceremony. The award for the 2010/11 Academic Year was presented to Miss Shanika Binns.

Congratulations Shanika!



## PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT- THE NEXT 50 YEARS

I'm on a mission, today's the day. (Excerpt from "On a Mission").

There is greatness in each and every one of us Jamaicans. The recent exploits of Team Jamaica in London as a most immediate example and the efforts of those who have gone before attest to this. Now before I even commence with the issue at hand, I want to say that the significance of Jamaica 50 for me as a young professional is a re-energized commitment 'to play [my] part in the advancement of the entire human race.' This is especially pivotal as three years ago I returned home from graduate studies 'up north' with a 'burning desire' to 'make a difference,' but was not clear in what way this could be achieved.

Now I am a little bit clearer and am 'on a mission.' My mission, which I have chosen to accept (a reference to Mission Impossible), is to work with like-minded development planners, public administrators and environmental enthusiast, to advance the aims of sustainable development. In the mental exercise preceding this conclusion, the main variable was the concept of 'leaving something for the future generations.' The idea

being, that our forefathers fought to preserve a Jamaica for us that we can have an independent island 50 years strong with an associated expectation, that we in turn will be stewards for the next 50 years and beyond. Hence, I reflect on the issue of development planning and how this can be a tool to propel the nation to a sustained level of growth commensurate with the expectations of a Vision 2030. This kind of growth will fulfill the mandate to make 'Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise

families and do business.' Spatially, as we traverse Jamaica we observe development of all types but remain concern at the location and /or aesthetic synergies of these to the existing natural environment. We also remain concern about the use of the natural resources for which we are 'bountifully blessed' yet don't seem to utilize and/or manage in an efficient manner. For example, we continue to pollute our harbours and waterways without having a sustained approach to the use of our coastline (despite its significance to the tourism product). Similarly we embrace building housing developments (at astronomical sale prices to the consumers), in a manner that utilizes

large tracts of land. This in particular against the practices of several countries to provide multi-level housing on smaller space but with emphasis on landscape planning and other amenities more synergistic to nature such as urban green spaces, terrace and roof gardens. Further the use of land and its resources today is undertaken without regard to the provisions of land for agriculture. Misuse of land creates food insecurities and increases the import bill for food on the island. This short-sightedness and flippant approach to the agricultural sector (by limiting this land use) is contradictory to our 'eat what you grow' campaign. Therefore planning for development...the next 50 years needs to see us development planning practitioners, public administrators and



environmentalists embracing and advocating for a more sustained use of land and other resources. One way is to administer our planning and land management duties in a more efficient manner while also agitating for revisions to the relevant planning and environmental laws. Indeed here we are at 50 years independent with a Town and Country Planning Act dated 1957, and other such laws, remnant of a colonial past. What therefore will be the impact of planning and development in Jamaica on the next fifty years?

--- Hilary F. Smith



## EYE ON IT The National BEST Community Competition and Programme

The NBCCP, which was launched in 2006 for the purpose of promoting nation building at the community level, encourages communities islandwide to engage in sustainable development in a wide number of areas, including projects which create jobs and generate income. The JIP partnered with the NBCCP in 2012 by sponsoring a sectional award for this year's competition. This year's competition saw 248 entries with the community of Treasure Beach in St. Elizabeth coming out on top. Sectional awards were also given to selected communities in each parish, based on their work in the following areas: culture and heritage; youth development; community spirit and self-reliance; most beautiful; most improved agricultural practices; best kept facilities; best kept educational institution and best visitor's experience.

--- Khan Walters

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## WHERE SHOULD WE WALK? SIDEWALK OR ROAD?

The major pedestrian ways of our urban centres have evolved into dual purpose carriage-ways in recent years. Sidewalks, as they are known to us, are hard-surfaced paths for pedestrians alongside and a little higher than the roadway. More and more, however, our sidewalks are being used by vendors and other 'professionals' to ply their goods and services. This practice has resulted in a number of unwanted problems, including littering, increased traffic congestion and jaywalking, the last of which increases the possibility of accidents.

Jaywalking occurs when a pedestrian crosses or walks into the street unlawfully or without regard to approaching traffic. This practice is seen in the main town centres across the island. This very dangerous practice, which is engaged in by people of all social backgrounds, has become way too common and can result in serious injury and even loss of life. But why do people jaywalk, even though they are generally aware of the dangers of the practice? The answer is multifaceted. First, there is a severe shortage of available sidewalk spaces in most of our urban centres. This is in part the result of poor physical planning and a lack of comprehensive plans. Adequate projections of population growth

and increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic seemed not to have been made to meet current needs. But this problem is compounded by vendors who crowd sidewalks with their goods, often occupying up to half or more of the setback distance between a property boundary and the road. Another problem which continues to be lamented is the poor physical state of sidewalks, which, like many of our roadways, are unsuitable for their designated purpose.

*"The most pressing issue in my opinion is that of the overcrowding of the sidewalks by vendors."*

The most pressing issue in my opinion is that of the overcrowding of the sidewalks by vendors. This results not only from the fact that there are a few suitable market spaces for people to sell their goods but also from the fact that consumers have become accustomed to goods and services being available at their 'fingertips'. Why walk from your office to the convenience store to get a phone card when you can get it right outside your office? Vendors capitalise on this desire by their customers and potential customers to have goods within easy reach. This practice comes at a cost, however, as the selling of goods in areas designated for other purposes often generates high volumes of garbage that cannot be properly disposed of. The inevitable result is the pileup of gar-



bage in these areas. In instances where such garbage is left on the sidewalks and streets, cleaning by local authorities is made that more difficult, which, apart from the safety issues raised, creates the ideal conditions for vermin infestation and the spread of disease.

Digicel has in recent years sought to formalise sidewalk vending operations in Half Way Tree in particular which has been of great benefit to the vendors and pedestrians alike but more needs to be done. Notwithstanding, stakeholders such as the parish councils and the KSAC, along with the NSWMA, can and should do more to either remove vendors from our sidewalks or facilitate them in a sustainable manner where possible through collaborative efforts with private entities, many of whose storefronts have become unsightly as a result of vending activities.

Much of Jamaica's urban centres have developed organically with the exception of a handful of deliberately planned spaces which include Spanish Town and Downtown Kingston. This organic growth over the years has resulted in the problems previously pointed out. People will say that plans have been created and implemented over the years but none seem to have properly addressed this problem. These plans, however, have been done in a sector by sector manner which really has had little effect on our overcrowded sidewalks.

In moving forward, one solution that can be

used to alleviate this problem is the promulgation of comprehensive local area master plans (CLAMP). The Jamaican Institute of Planners (JIP) sees this planning instrument as the way forward for our nation. This forms part of the institute's Next Generation Planning framework project which is geared towards addressing these issues and their additional social problems along with a wider scope of problems which stems from a lack of comprehensive physical planning.

--- Mario Hylton



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Message to the URP Class of 2012:

On Saturday November 3 2012, the University of Technology, Jamaica held its annual graduation ceremony for its Papine campus at the National Arena. Of greater significance however, was the Faculty of the Built Environment's batch of graduates from the Urban and Regional Planning Department. This department is the only undergraduate planning program in the English speaking Caribbean and a host of JIP members and prominent Planners are graduates of this program. The JIP salutes the program from its administrators to its lecturers for their delivery of another batch of highly trained individuals to the profession. Graduates, you have passed one of the many road marks which are set before you in this life. But as with anything in life, the end of one season is really just the beginning of another. Congratulations URP Class of 2012! All the best!

--- JIP



# HIGHLIGHTS OF CUF2012

With the mandate of advancing a Caribbean Urban Agenda and best practices among planning professionals, the Jamaica Institute of Planners (JIP) hosted the 2nd annual Caribbean Urban Forum 2012: Planning to Achieve the Vision... Towards a Green Urban Economy (CUF 2012) from the 14th – 17th March, 2012 at the Jamaica Conference Centre, Kingston, Jamaica.

The argument in favour of a Caribbean Urban Agenda is the need for more attention in Caribbean policy making. Therefore, in order to adequately address issues relevant to the urban sector or urban development, a holistic approach is required instead of a sectoral approach. Addressing the urban

context, whether in academic studies, policy making, or urban planning however, requires a concerted effort from various academic disciplines or policy sectors.

The Forum was one in a series of regional events organized by the Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM), in association with the CARICOM Secretariat. It was also organized in conjunction with the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) and American Planning Association (APA). It showcased examples of good planning and urban management practices from across the Caribbean. Moreover, the Forum served as the launching pad for the Caribbean Planners Association (CPA).

Special Thanks to our partners and sponsors:



More CUF 2012 Highlights!



# THE NEXT GENERATION PLANNING FRAMEWORK



The Next Generation Planning Framework (NGPF) is the initiative being put forward by the JIP as a new and innovative approach to planning in Jamaica. The project is ambitious, as it seeks to apply planning skills to address some core issues that affect our local communities including affordable housing. Its primary goal is to establish a new framework for the professional practice of urban planning in both the public and private sector of Jamaica.

The objectives of the project are:

- To introduce new planning instruments which will present a modern and sophisticated approach to identifying development solutions for the country. These instruments include Comprehensive Local Area Master Plans (CLAMP) which are investment focused planning documents for local areas to stimulate and maximize the development potential of resources and opportunities within each area; and Development Assistance Management and Planning Portal (DAMPP) which is an online interactive application which will ensure the fullest utilization of development plans and create unprecedented opportunities for community participation from conceptualization through to implementation of development projects.
- To develop recommended modifications to the existing planning instruments

(such as: the parish sustainable development plans, development orders as well as the development control mechanism) in order to make them more proactive, efficient and responsive to the demands and needs of the development process.

- To create a management and quality control structure that will oversee the full implementation and continued administration of the programme. The development of standards, procedures, a mechanism for continuous appraisal and public participation will form the essential parts of the structure. The project will also create a continuous professional training programme for the establishment of certified planners to ensure the attainment of the highest possible proficiency in the practice of urban planning.

Our project will serve to increase the role of the planner in the development process way beyond our current development approval focus where most planners seem to be concentrated. This initiative will open the door for private sector planning to become more mainstream as through our certification and standards programme, private planning firms can be contracted to formulate CLAMPS for localities and increase their involvement in the other stages of the planning process. As part of our standards programme, we will adopt elements of existing legislation that governs various professions and planning as

## PLANNING TO ACHIEVE THE VISION ... TOWARDS A GREEN URBAN ECONOMY



a profession in some countries. This will help us to formulate a Planner's Act which will promulgate the skillsets of planners through certification and accreditation and also a code of ethics by which planners will engage in practice.

Our project will seek to incorporate Parish Level Planning which will include the creation of Action Plans by incorporating National strategic goals with local area research, analysis and design ideas to produce:

- Annual Implementation Proposals with data provided from CLAMPS.
- Special Revitalization/Urban Renewal Projects.
- Improved Planning Approval Process.

Also, the plans that will be created from our CLAMPS will inform plans that are created at the National Level. The agencies responsible for developing National Strategic Plans will be better able to conduct thorough analysis that will inform their decision making and the allocation of their resources on a year to year basis. They will be better able to prioritize the wants and needs of parishes and localities as it relates to their mandated goals and objectives. With greater access to more timely and comprehensive analysis of primary data and design proposals, agencies and ministries will be equipped to make more effective Strategic Plans by:

- Using comparative analysis of all proposals and generating scenario planning analy-

sis of alternative implementation strategies.

- An assessment of detailed local level opportunities would give the central government more information to make better:
  - o macro level projections and plans;
  - o financial planning strategies;
  - o urban growth and management policies.

In summarising our proposal, the benefits to be gained from the NGPF will include: stimulated investment; the realization of the objectives of the nation's sustainable development initiatives; improved spatial organization; efficient development practices; improved and effective urban design practices; enhancement of the development process through increased planner involvement; multi-faceted approach to development activities; Increased accessibility to development projects and opportunities for both investors and citizens; increased awareness of the need for urban and regional planning.

--- Martin Addington



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# PLANSCOPE PROFILES

## Who's Dr. Carol Archer?

Dr Carol Archer was born in the parish of St Mary but spent much of her formative years in Kingston where she attended the Wolmer's Girls School until she migrated to the United States. She is the Dean of the Faculty of the Built Environment at the University of Technology, Jamaica. Dr Archer holds Masters Degrees in Geography, Urban and Regional Planning as well as in Philosophy in Public Policy. She also has a Masters Certificate in Latin American Studies and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the City University of New York. In addition to her role at the university, she is the deputy-chairman of the board of the Town and Country Planning Authority.

Dr Archer got involved with Urban and Regional Planning through what she describes as her early passion for Geography and Social Studies from as early as primary school. This passion encouraged her to select Geography as her major when she enrolled for her first degree at the State University of New York where she was the only student of African descent enrolled in the program. Her academic performance at the undergraduate level earned her a scholarship to pursue graduate studies at the same university where she did a double major in Geography and Urban and Regional Planning.

Upon completion of her graduate studies,

she was a successful in her application for an Internship with the prestigious Ford Foundation where she worked in the Urban Poverty program at the foundation's New York office where she worked specifically on economic development initiatives for blighted communities throughout the United States. She subsequently worked in the New York City Department of Housing where she was exposed to and developed an understanding of extreme levels of urban poverty before she moved on to the City Planning Department where she worked on a number of initiatives which would later impact on how the city was planned to accommodate the huge influx of immigrants at the time. She moved on to the Mayor's Office where she worked as a Budget and Policy analyst and during that time which she was awarded a scholarship to pursue a PhD in Public Policy at the City University of New York.

At the turn of the century, Dr Archer packed her bags and decided it was time for her to return home and begin to make her mark on Jamaica. This move was purely out of her passion for her country as she had no job offers lined up but she was still determined to succeed and make her mark on the land of her birth through her background in public policy, governance, urban and regional planning, and academia as she also taught at Medgar Evers College and Long Island



University. Dr Archer became the program director of the Urban and Regional Planning program at the University of Technology where she set about restructuring the program to include an Internship program which has become arguably one of the best Internship programs at the university, and also incorporating additional elements to the program curriculum to make it what it is today.

When quizzed about what other career path she may have chosen had she not become an Urban Planner and Lecturer at the university, she responded with three words "an active politician". Her activity in politics also began while she was pursuing her undergraduate studies as she was the president of the Caribbean Students Association on the university campus. Afterwards, she subsequently became a member of the Jamaican Progressive League during her time in New York and this would inevitably result in her becoming an active member of the Peoples National Party upon her return to Jamaica.

Dr Archer drew inspiration in planning and public policy from Robert Moses and the way he shaped New York City, but more personally, she is also inspired by other outstanding Jamaicans who, despite the brain drain of the 1970's, decided to stay and help to develop Jamaica in whatever capacity they could, individuals such as Douglas Orane, Blossom O'Meally-Nelson, and Donna Duncan-Scott are a few.

People describe Dr Carol Archer as "passionate and committed" to the growth of Jamaica. This has been borne out of her selfless commitment to her country through her capacity at the university and also the various boards and committees on which she serves. On a lighter note however, she considers Ghana her adopted home and has great affinity for the country and its culture. People might be surprised to know that Dr Archer is an avid runner and participates in various marathons throughout Jamaica. During her spare time, she collects and tends to her vast collection of plants which is another of her passions.

Dr Archer hopes that within the next five years, our society will develop an understanding and appreciation for planning and the impact that it will have on the wider society and the benefits that sustainable development will have for future generations.

--- Mario Hylton



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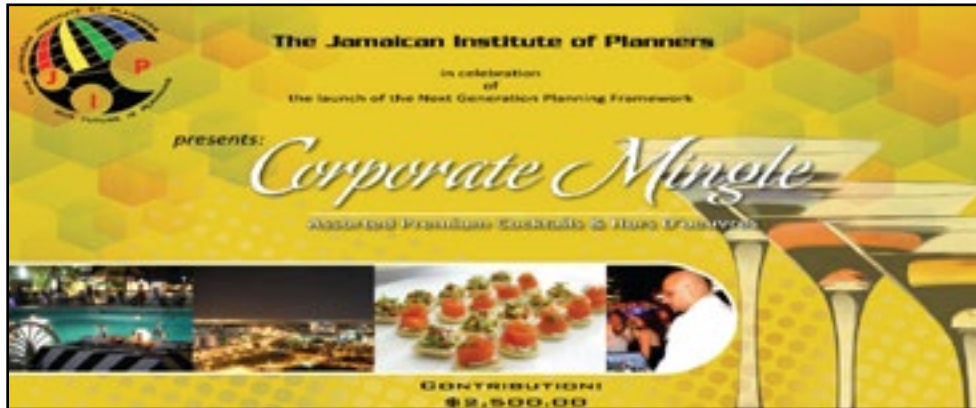




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## Upcoming Events



- **World Wetlands Day 2013.**

The 2nd February each year is World Wetlands Day. It marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

- **Caribbean Urban Forum 2013, Trinidad & Tobago.**

CUF 2013 is designed to address specific policy issues within the Caribbean Urban Sector as well as to support the collaborative efforts of Planners in the Caribbean and the wider Americas.



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