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Opportunities Abound in Canada: Number one Exchange Visits to Canada

Jamaica Stock Exchange, the Number One Stock Exchange for 2015, in partnership with IDB/MIF, Mayberry Investments Limited and JN Fund Managers, returned from a very successful trip to Toronto Canada. The Stock Exchange's tour of Toronto took the form of Town Hall meetings and privately-held meetings with brokerage houses and business leaders, where business and investment opportunities that exist in Jamaica were shared and new ideas for collaboration explored.

The JSE team arrived on May 24 at the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) and opened the market. This was beamed live across Canada and the United States and of signaled the start of a relationship that was forged within the two day visit to the TSX.

Arising out of the tour, the team was able to:

- ✓ Interest companies to consider cross listing on the JSE
- ✓ Inform companies on how to access equity capital through the JSE to expand their businesses, retire debt and or retool
- ✓ Interest investors to invest in Jamaica' capital markets and
- ✓ Sensitize Jamaicans in Toronto about the Stock Exchange's products and services

According to the General Manager of the JSE, Mrs. Marlene Street Forrest, the JSE was well received in Canada. She stated that "We were able to meet with diverse business interests and with the Toronto Stock Exchange where we discussed issues of common interest including products and services offerings and the cross listing of companies on the JSE. Meetings were held with companies that have expressed interest establishing business arrangements in Jamaica and in raising capital in our markets. Investors and potential investors showed keen interest in the investment opportunities in our markets. The prospect looks very good and we intend to continue the dialogue. "

The President of the Toronto Stock Exchange Group Limited, Mr. Ungad Chadda summed up the JSE's tour in this manner, "It was our distinct pleasure to have hosted the number one Stock Exchange in the World and to have had such interesting dialogue with the JSE. The discussions were fruitful and centred on future collaboration and opportunities that can be exploited between both exchanges."

Mr. Vivion Scully, Regional Manager/Consul: Trade & Investments, North America Regional Office for Jampro stated, "The Jamaica Stock Exchange tour's was an excellent idea and timely. The feedback from persons in the Diaspora has been positive. We have always supported the Exchange as a means by which Jamaicans living overseas can invest in businesses in Jamaica and your presence here helps to demonstrate and explain ways in which they may do so. The next step now is to develop a longer term strategy of communication to keep persons engaged and abreast of the progress of the Exchange and the opportunities available.

Mr. Earl Chapman, lead organizer of the Toronto Tour believes that the Canadian financial market was impressed with what the Jamaican Capital market has to offer and wants to be further informed on how both markets can benefit from partnerships. He stated that he was very pleased to witness the great response from the Canadian financial sector towards the *Number 1 Performing Stock Exchange in the World*.

The JSE thanks the Consular General, Lloyd Wilks for his tremendous support, along with Jampro and the Tourist Board. This particular trip shows that when Jamaicans collaborate great things can happen.

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