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# CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENT SCIENCE ADVICE WORKSHOP Technical Report

February 20 – 21, 2018  
Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica

## SUMMARY

This report reviews the design, planning, execution and main outcomes of the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) Caribbean Capacity Building Workshop held in Kingston on February 20 – 21, 2018.

The workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology of the Government of Jamaica. Key partners included the Jamaica National Commission on Science and Technology, Royal Society London, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), University of the West Indies and National Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology.

As an outcome of the establishment of the INGSA Latin America and Caribbean Chapter, this workshop was the inaugural meeting in the Caribbean.

This report was prepared by Aisha Jones, PhD, Director of Research, NCST, [ajones\\_ncst@mset.gov](mailto:ajones_ncst@mset.gov), +1 876 906-8433.

## WORKSHOP PREPERATION

Planning for the workshop commenced in July 2017, after the NCST expressed interest in hosting a regional INGSA workshop in February 2017. After an initial briefing e-meeting between INGSA, UWI and NCST was held and an official request to Cabinet for Jamaica to host the regional conference. Cabinet approved the request in late 2017.

A Programme Committee was established and led the planning, execution and evaluation of the event. The committee members were:

- **Honourable Minister Dr. Andrew Wheatley | Honorary Chair**, Minister, Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology
- **Sir Peter Gluckman | Co-Chair**, Chair and Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, INGSA
- **Professor Terrence Forrester | Co-Chair**, Professor of Experimental Medicine, University of the West Indies
- **Professor the Honourable Errol Morrison | Host**, Director General and Advisor to Prime Minister of Jamaica, NCST
- **Dr. Aisha Jones | Administrative Coordinator**, Director of Research, NCST
- **Lara Cowen | Administrative Coordinator**, Senior Programme Officer, INGSA

- **Dr. Julie Maxton | Partner**, Executive Director, Royal Society of London
- **Guy Broucke | Partner**, Programme Specialist for the Natural Sciences, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean
- **Professor Harold Ramkissoon | Partner**, Chair, CariScience
- **Professor Ishenkumba Kahwa | Partner**, Member, Caricom Science, Technology and Innovation Committee

The following workshop objectives were agreed:

- To enhance the capacities of Caribbean scientists and policy practitioners to embed scientific advice in public policy making process.
- To create a Caribbean network of science advice practitioners that will serve as a platform for sharing best practices, and deliberating on challenges and solutions.
- To develop and share science advice principles and guidelines contextualised to the Caribbean region.

## PARTICIPANTS

The planning committee and partners convened to discuss the selection for participants for the workshop. After a full prospect list was generated and the list was reduced to 40 participants with the best distribution across the region and gender. Prospects were practicing scientists (broadly defined to include natural and applied sciences, social sciences, humanities, engineering, health and medical sciences) and policy professionals in any domain of public policy and are affiliated to institutions of higher learning, academies of science, government/statutory/private research/advisory institutes.

Student observers were also engaged through the deans of science faculties at the University of the West Indies (UWI), University of Technology (UTech) and Northern Caribbean University (NCU).

Participants were then officially invited by the Minister of Science, Energy and Technology on January 25, 2018.

Registration for the event was done by completing a registration form (See Appendix A). Interested participants were given one week to register for the workshop.

There were a total of 55 attendees (See Appendix B). A total of 6 Caribbean Countries were represented. They are Jamaica, Barbados, Bahama, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and St. Lucia. Six (6) participants were student observers from the UWI and NCU. There were a total of 6 facilitators from INGSA, University of Technology, and Royal Society London. Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), UNESCO.

There were a total of 24 women and 31 men present at the workshop.

## AGENDA

The approach of 2-day workshop agenda was focused on plenary sessions demonstrating best practices and applications and interactive and case-studies (See Appendix B). A subcommittee of the planning committee drafted the agenda and cases. These case-studies were drafted with input of local representatives from the planning committee to ensure the nature of the interactive and application sessions aligned with the Caribbean Context. The final case studies were:

- Icebreaker: Obesity
- Implementing a Sugar Tax in Jamaica
- Coastal Considerations around Excrement Weather Events and Climate Change
- Game Set in Orangeria- Mobilizing Social Science Expertise to Reduce Crile
- Cabinet Meeting (Role Play)
- On final day of the workshop and next steps were discussed. Next steps agreed upon were for the Caribbean to have representation in the INGSA-Latin American and Caribbean Chapter. Key representation was requested to participate in the upcoming Meeting of the Commonwealth Scientific Advisors in London in April. The Caribbean delegates also agreed to form a sub-network to discuss next immediate steps on activities to enhance capacity for science advice in the Caribbean.

The 2 day agenda was launched with an official ceremony by Minister Andrew Wheatley and Sir Peter Gluckman. There was a cocktail reception on February 20 and a Reception Dinner on February 21. Sir Peter Glickman, upon the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and the High Commission of New Zealand also held a seminar at the MFAFT titled Science Diplomacy: The Role of Science in Domestic and Foreign Policy (See Appendix C).



## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Evaluation forms were distributed at the end of the workshop and returned to facilitators. A total of 29 forms were collected. Participant feedback for the workshop was generally positive.

72% rated the workshop as excellent in terms of meeting the participant's needs and expectations. 100% indicated that their skills and knowledge increased as a result of the workshop. 76% rated the overall quality of the workshop as excellent. 100% would recommend the workshop to colleagues.

Some key responses included:

- *Greater awareness of the complexities of science advice in a policy environment and the politics to be managed in the process.*
- *I now realize the importance of policy linked with science and also social science.*

- *As a scientist I am always concerned about the applicability of research and how it can be useful to the average person. As such this workshop showed me ways in which we can bridge the gap between scientists and policy makers.*
- *The workshop was very informative and insightful. It was refreshing being in an environment with experts in the field policy making and science advice. Overall productive and bolstered my understanding of the subject matter.*
- *Before the workshop I had my own ideas of what a science advisor was; however this workshop help to crystalize in my mind that it is much less about the actual policy position and more about the process. Further, the notion that the science sometimes is secondary to the politics, based on the example by Sir Peter, was an excellent one.*

## MEDIA COVERAGE

Official photographs from the event can be found at

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18EF0kmT1ZdYLxQn6XDXZRDlmal07wXWY>.

Local media coverage include:

<http://jis.gov.jm/draft-sti-policy-placed-cabinet/>

<http://jis.gov.jm/cabinet-approves-separate-category-nutraceuticals-food-drug-act/>

<https://www.pressreader.com/jamaica/jamaica-gleaner/20180228/282458529452483>

[http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Cabinet\\_approves\\_separate\\_category\\_for\\_nutraceuticals\\_in\\_Food\\_and\\_Drug\\_Act?profile%3D1228](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Cabinet_approves_separate_category_for_nutraceuticals_in_Food_and_Drug_Act?profile%3D1228)

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20180224/wheatley-hold-talks-venezuela-petrojam-share-buy-back>

## APPENDIX A

(Registration Form)



International Network for Government Science Advice Caribbean Capacity Building Workshop

# REGISTRATION FORM

*The Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology of the Government of Jamaica in partnership with the International Network for Government Science Advice will be hosting the Caribbean Capacity Building Workshop in Kingston, Jamaica on February 20 – 21, 2018. The objective of this workshop is to strengthen the capacity and mechanisms for embedding scientific advice in the public policy-making process in the Commonwealth Caribbean. The event will bring together 40 emerging and established scientists and policy makers from throughout the region for dialogue on the national and regional science-policy interface. To learn more about this global initiative please visit [www.ingsa.org](http://www.ingsa.org).*

**To register as a participant of this workshop, please complete the form below and submit via email to Dr. Aisha Jones, [ajones\\_ncst@mset.gov.jm](mailto:ajones_ncst@mset.gov.jm) Director of Research, National Commission on Science and Technology, Jamaica by Friday February 2, 2018.**

<b>Name:</b>	.....
<b>Job Title:</b>	.....
<b>Organization</b> <b>:</b>	.....
<b>Country:</b>	.....
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	.....
<b>Email Address:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b> .....
<b>Signature:</b>	.....
<b>Date:</b>	.....



## APPENDIX B

(Workshop Agenda)



International Network for Government Science Advice Caribbean Capacity Building Workshop

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

The workshop will be facilitated by expert science advisors that will act as mentors and will lead case studies and general discussion. The workshop will be a mix of plenaries and interactive fictional case studies developed through consultations with local members of the programme committee.

DAY ONE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018	
8:30 am - 8:45 am	REGISTRATION
	<p><b>WELCOME AND GREETINGS</b>  <b>Dr. Aisha Jones</b>  <i>Director of Research, National Commission on Science and Technology</i></p>
8:45 am – 9:00 am	<p><b>Professor Sir Peter Gluckman</b>  <i>Chair of INGSA / Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand</i></p> <p><b>Honourable Dr. Andrew Wheatley</b>  <i>Minister of Science, Energy and Technology</i></p>
9:00 am – 9:15 am	GROUP PHOTOGRAPH
9:15 am – 10:00 am	<p><b>Principles &amp; Structures of Science Advice</b>  <i>Sir Peter Gluckman, Chair of INGSA / Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand</i></p>
10:00 am – 10:30 am	<p><b>Taking Stock: Roundtable Group Discussion</b>                      What's happening in the region?                      How is evidence gathered in the region?  <i>Professor Terrence Forrester, Professor and Chief Scientist, University of the West Indies</i></p>
10:30 am – 10:45 am	MORNING BREAK
10:45 am – 11:45 pm	<p><b>Icebreaker: Obesity</b>  <i>Sir Peter Gluckman, Chair of INGSA / Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand</i></p>
11:45 am – 12:30 am	<p><b>Case Study One: Implementing a Sugar Tax in Jamaica</b>  <i>Professor Fitzroy Henry, University of Technology</i></p>
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	LUNCH

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Case Study Two: Coastal Considerations Around Extreme Weather Events and Climate Change</b> <i>Sir Peter Gluckman, Chair of INGSA / Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand</i>
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	<b>The Role of Science in Emergency Response and Management in the Caribbean</b> <i>Mr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency</i>
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>AFTERNOON BREAK</b>
4:00 pm – 4:20 pm	<b>Aligning Science and Policy Development with the Sustainable Development Goals</b> <i>Dr. Lidia Brito, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau of Sciences for Latin America and the Caribbean</i>
4:20 pm – 4:40 pm	<b>Open Discussion</b>
4:40 pm – 5:00 pm	<b>Wrap Up and Closing Remarks</b> <i>Sir Peter Gluckman, Chair of INGSA / Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand</i>
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	<b>NETWORKING COCKTAIL RECEPTION (Jamaica Pegasus - The Terrace)</b>
<b>DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017</b>	
9:00 am – 9:10 am	<b>Recap and Summary for Day Two</b>
9:10 am – 9:50 am	<b>Science Advice in the Broader Context – Interactions with Public, Law and Parliament</b> <i>Dr. Julie Maxton, The Royal Society</i>
9:50 am – 10:00 am	<b>Introducing the Game &amp; Learning Modules</b> <i>Peter Gluckman, Lidia Brito, Terrence Forrester and Julie Maxton</i>
10:00 am – 11:00 am	<b>Game Set in Orangeria – Mobilizing Social Science Expertise to Reduce Crime</b> Game: Case Overview, Assigning Roles and the Game Begins Module: The practice of science advice Module: Understanding and communicating risk and uncertainty
11:00 am – 11:15 am	<b>MORNING BREAK</b>
11:15 am – 1:00 pm	<b>Game: Cabinet Meeting</b> Module: Policy briefings & data visualisation <i>Peter Gluckman, Lidia Brito, Terrence Forrester and Julie Maxton</i>
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Game and Modules Continue</b>
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Next Steps in the Region: Roundtable Group discussion</b> What structures would help Small Island Developing States incorporate evidence informed policy making? <i>Dr. Aisha Jones, Director of Research, National Commission on Science and Technology</i>

<b>4:00 pm – 4:45 pm</b>	<b>Summary, Lessons &amp; INGSALAC: Caribbean Sub-committee</b> <i>Sir Peter Gluckman, Chair of INGSAL / Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand</i>
<b>4:45 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <i>Professor the Honourable Errol Morrison, Director General and Advisor to the Prime Minister, National Commission on Science and Technology</i>
<b>6:30 PM – 9:30 PM</b>	<b>HONOURABLE MINISTER DR. ANDREW WHEATLEY'S OFFICIAL DINNER</b> <b>(Jamaica Pegasus -The Legacy Suite)</b>

## APPENDIX C

(Diplomacy Seminar Agenda)

## AGENDA

### SCIENCE DIPLOMACY: THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY

Friday, February 23, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m.

#### Hosted by

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
21 Dominica Drive, Kingston 5

#### In Partnership with

Government of New Zealand  
International Network for Government Science Advice  
National Commission on Science and Technology

<b>Opening Remarks</b>	MC
<b>Welcome</b>	Ambassador Marcia Gilbert-Roberts Permanent Secretary, MFAFT
<b>Greetings</b>	High Commissioner Daniel Mellsop New Zealand High Commission Ottawa
<b>Greetings</b>	Dr. Aisha Jones Director of Research, National Commission on Science and Technology
<b>Key Note Address</b>	Sir Peter Gluckman Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand Chair of the International Network for Government Science Advice
<b>Questions</b>	All in Attendance
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	MC