

AIRPORTS NEWS & UPDATES

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2018

Section of the airport apron at the Ian Fleming International / Boscobel.



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JANUARY 2018 | Montego Bay,
Scotia Group President and CEO, David Noel shakes the hand of Dr. Rafael Echevarne (centre), Chief Executive Officer MBJ Airports Limited, after the signing of a \$5billion (US\$40million) loan agreement that will facilitate the expansion of the Sangster International Airport. Sharing in the moment is Minister of Transport and Mining — Hon. Lester 'Mike' Henry.

The seven-year loan will be used to resurface the taxiways and aprons; complete renovation of the ticketing area to include new air conditioning system and renovation to the restrooms in the ticketing and departures areas, plus a number of other projects.

With more visitors arriving on the island this kind of investment by the MBJ Airports Limited will offer improvements to safety and operational efficiency on the air and landside of the airport, improve customer comfort and enhance efficiency in handling throughput in Immigration and Arrival areas.



AIRPORTS NEWS & UPDATES warmly welcomes **DALE DAVIS** back home to Jamaica and to the Airports Authority of Jamaica (AAJ).

Mr. Davis rejoins the AAJ family in his new capacity as **Chief Operations Officer** - effective February 2018. His job description includes being seconded to NMIA Airports Limited to develop systems and procedures commensurate with international best practices in maintaining the highest standards of aviation safety, security and operational readiness.

He is a qualified Engineer, holds a MSc. in Airport Planning and Management from Loughborough University and boasts nearly two decades of airport management experience, both regionally and in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Davis enjoys building and flying remote control airplanes, loves running (to maintain physical fitness) and is an avid collector of art.

ROUTES AMERICAS 2018 | Quito, Ecuador 13 - 15 February 2018

The 11th Routes Americas was recently staged in Quito, Ecuador, on 13-15 February, hosted by Quiport and Quito Turismo.

The prestigious event brought together a range of airlines, airports and tourism authorities, including some of the largest carriers from North, Central and Latin America. Routes Americas offers the unique opportunity of meeting with some of the most influential aviation professionals from across the Americas region.

Each year Routes Americas, which is the annual gathering of air service decision makers for the Americas region, attracts the region's senior decision makers positioning it as the must attend event for all those interested in meeting with the industry's key players.

Routes Americas attracted over 80 airlines, 300 airports and almost 50 tourism authorities along with a number of other industry stakeholders from across the region to discuss air service development.

The 3day event consists of four main elements:
Meetings, Networking, Routes Americas Strategy Summit
and Route Exchange Airline Briefings

Representing Jamaica are (L-R):

Carlos Allende | JTB representative for Latin America, Alfred McDonald | Snr. Dir. Commercial Development & Planning NMIAirport, Francine Carter Henry | Manager JTB, Audley Deidrick | AAJ President & NMIAL CEO and Rafael Echevarne | MBJ, CEO.



Congratulations!

EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR 2017

Ms. Sybil McFarlane

Administrative Assistant | Projects Unit
Engineering Maintenance & Projects Dept.



The Employee of the Year 2017
for Airports Authority of Jamaica
is Ms. Sybil McFarlane.

Sybil is employed to the AAJ as an Administrative Assistant of the Projects Unit within the Engineering Maintenance and Projects Department. She has been employed since 2005 where she encountered the challenging world of engineering, project management, procurement, planning and coordination within the aviation sector. Her dedication, propensity for precision, accuracy and excellence in her work helps to ensure that the organization achieves its rightful place in the international aviation arena.

Her performance as a professional is beneficial to the Projects Unit since she has the ability to multi-task, plan, and deliver high quality work efficiently and timely. Some time ago when the department was reduced to only three members; all had to improve their skill set to become cross-functional to carry the workload. Sybil was equal to the task. She deepened her knowledge to keep the Unit's schedule of activities and to manage its growing portfolio.

In her completely project oriented environment, Sybil functions with minimum direction from her coordinator in various work related activities. Yet, she strives to achieve excellence and demands the same of others. She is dependable and is always punctual, rain or shine.

She has a strict demeanor which is only meant to whip the next individual into shape. This professional holds the view that responsiveness promotes efficiency.

Sybil's independent spirit and work ethics qualify her to be AAJ's Employee of the Year 2017.

Ms. Kemeka Thomas

Accounts Supervisor
Finance Department



The Employee of the Year 2017
for NMIA Airports Ltd is
Ms. Kemeka Thomas.

Kemeka is employed to the NMIAL as an Accounts Supervisor and has been employed since 2006. She is said to display exactly the kind of work ethic, corporate spirit and professionalism that embodies the Employee of the year.

She has managed the difficult, complex and wide-ranging portfolio of procurement and inventory management for the organization. She is the ultimate corporate team player who goes the extra mile to ensure that the organization's operations continue smoothly. Her proactive approach is evidenced by her willingness to follow up tirelessly on key success factors, to remind managers and other team members about critical reporting deadlines and to endorse the professional certification of her immediate reportees.

Kemeka has also been the motivating spirit behind the Company's Netball team. In fact, she "sold" management on the initial idea and has been involved in the simultaneous roles of player and co-manager. Her Commitment moved her to spearhead the team's participation in the Annual Beach Clean-up Day each year for six (6) consecutive years.

She was pivotal in organizing the team's participation to compete internationally which has afforded the organization a level of media exposure and brand recognition that money could not buy.

Unquestionably, Kemeka deserves to be NMIAL's Employee of the Year 2017.

NORMAN MANLEY INTERNATIONAL LOUNGE IS RANKED BEST IN WORLD

Club
KINGSTON



Global airport lounge provider, Priority Pass, has revealed that Club Kingston at Jamaica's Norman Manley International Airport has been rated the world's best lounge by its members.

It says that the lounge has a decidedly Jamaican flair and features artwork and a décor sourced from across the country.

As you would expect, local food and drink including traditional Jamaican patties and peas soup are all on offer, served to a gentle soundtrack of reggae music.

An on-site bartender even creates signature cocktails, including a 'Club Kingston Classic', 'Priority Passion' and 'VIP Splash'. Elsewhere, the Tallinn Airport Business Lounge at the Lennart Meri Airport in Tallinn, Estonia, was crowned Best Lounge in Europe by Priority Pass members, closely followed by La Valette Club in Malta International Airport.

Priority Pass claims that the Tallinn lounge was designed to give travellers the feeling that they are waiting for their flight in the comfort of their own living room, and aims to live up to the airport's customer promise of being "the world's coziest airport". Stand-out features include a massage chair and sleeping pods, a library where travelers can select an in-flight read, a curated selection of local food, beer, wine and spirits, a cosy electric fireplace and even an outdoor terrace.

Shelly-Ann Fung, CEO of VIP attractions, which owns and operates Club Kingston, said: "We believe that during our six years of existence, we have made significant and innovative contributions to the travel experience for guests entering and leaving Jamaica.

"Not only does Club Kingston offer the innovative design and extensive facilities that travelers expect of first-class lounges in the world's finest airports, but they also showcase the best of Jamaica through cultural designs, local brands, and a visual journey through displays, sports and music."

Justin Banon, director of Priority Pass, says: "Travellers increasingly know what they want, and are not willing to settle for less. "They have greater expectations and choice when it comes to airport experiences which delight and surprise. As a result, we're seeing increased investment and recognition of the value of lounges from airports, airlines, financial institutions and other organizations worldwide.

"This can only be great news for both business and leisure travelers as there is a wider choice on offer to meet the different needs of individuals. "During 2017 we've seen this reflected in our member feedback, with lounges in different destinations recognized for their service, food and drink and business facilities."

2017 overall winners are:

Global: Club Kingston at Kingston, Norman Manley International

Europe: Tallinn Airport Business Lounge at Lennart Meri Tallinn Airport

Africa & Middle East: Ahlan Business Class Lounge at Dubai Int'l

Asia Pacific: SATS Premier Lounge at Singapore Changi International

North America: Salon VIP Lounge, Québec Jean Lesage International



MBJ Airport marks concession midpoint with strong growth outlook



CEO of MBJ Airports Limited, Dr. Rafael Echevarne.

As a result, a makeover of sorts is in the offing at the airport that handled 3.2 million passengers in 2003 when it was divested by the Government. Shops and kiosks are being reimaged to add a more authentically Jamaican look and feel, and a request for new concession proposals will go to the public soon as part of the revamp of its retail space.

The addition of the airport depot by coach service Knutsford Express is also part of the upgrade that embraces a

multi-modal transport network with the airport as the hub, Echevarne said during an interview at his office inside the airport on February 8.

The "sense of place" of which he speaks is the soft aspect that is intended to define more planned brick-and-mortar developments at the airport being driven by rapid traffic growth.

These developments include expansion of the runway that started in January 2018 and is scheduled to be completed within three years.

Echevarne did not disclose the total cost of the runway expansion, but its first 12 months costs are included in a US\$40-million capital works programme budgeted for this year, which is being 100 per cent financed through a new loan from Scotiabank.

Other improvements under way include the upgrade of airplane parking aprons and ramps, the addition of new arrival and departure gates, new air conditioning and ticketing area upgrade between March and December this year. Departure and arrival halls are to be expanded and car parks extended and modernised.

A new terminal building is to be built in the medium term beyond 2020, but the budget for it is yet to be finalised and the contract has not yet been advertised for tenders. International project managers LeighFisher have already been engaged. The design for the terminal expansion is expected to be completed this year.

Echevarne said the first 15 years of the Sangster concession was devoted to development of the physical infrastructure with expansion of existing facilities and the construction of a new East Terminal building. Total investments to 2017 stand at just over US\$230 million, including approximately US\$22 million in Government of Jamaica grants.

While opting not to disclose total revenues or average annual income over the period, the CEO said the investors - Mexico's Grupo Aeroportuario Pacifico (GAP) and Canada's Vantage Airport Group - have been able to reap a positive return on their investment to this point.

Sangster was divested on March 1, 2003, by the P.J. Patterson-led Government. In 2015, Albertis sold its 74.5 per cent stake to GAP.

According to Echevarne, the Montego Bay airport is a significant player in the multiple airports in the Latin American and Canadian operations run by its owners, including GAP's 12 airports in Mexico and several in Canada run by dedicated airport managers, Vantage. He said MBJ comes in at number four for revenue contribution and is "a positive investment" for its owners.

Sangster airport derives its main revenues from airline landing charges and passenger fees set by the Government. An airport improvement fee is also part of taxes paid by passengers. Refuelling, in-flight catering and ground handling concession are other revenue streams. Commercial airport business is determined by the airport operators and provides revenues mainly from the leasing of some 67 retail shops and kiosks.

"Retail is doing well," the MBJ CEO said, noting that commercial operations account for some 28 per cent of non-aeronautical revenues.

An annual concession fee is paid to the Government by the airport operators and is calculated based on the flow of passengers and cargo through the airport.

MBJ, multiple-time recipient of the Best Airport in the Caribbean award, already has air links with 65 other airports, with the top destinations being traditional ports such as Toronto, Atlanta, New York Kennedy and Fort Lauderdale.

MBJ is serving as a model for other airports run by its owners in respect of the cordial and productive relationships. Just this past week MBJ Airport representatives were in Quito, Ecuador, promoting Jamaica jointly with the Jamaica Tourist Board at the Routes Americas 2018.

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Published : February 23, 2018

Halfway into its 30 year concession to operate the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay, MBJ Airports Limited is upbeat about projected passenger traffic growth over the next 15 years and looking to improve on its 2017 record for passenger throughput.

The company aims to grow last year's 4.2 million passengers over the years to 6.5 million passengers when the concession runs out in 2033.

Expected future passenger numbers provided by MBJ are nowhere near the 8.3 per cent jump in people passing through the busier of Jamaica's two international airports in 2017 over the previous year, but the operators of the airport are pinning their hopes on a dramatic expansion in hotel rooms in the western region to keep passenger flows growing at a steady clip of 3.2 per cent in 2018 and tapering off to no less than 2.7 per annual growth by 2033.

CEO Dr Rafael Echevarne - whose track record includes postings in his native Spain, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Denmark and the United Arab Emirates - is of the view that compared to other main tourism destinations, Jamaica has not begun to scratch the surface of its beach tourism potential, yet alone its possibilities for developing, marketing and making more accessible, its natural attractions such as its countryside, other geographical features and cultural offerings.

Two years into his assignment in Jamaica, the Spanish economist, who specialises in aviation business, is leading the next era of the airport's development that is intended to transform the facility into being an integral part of destination Jamaica itself.



All set for 6th staging of Kingston City Run

The sixth staging of the annual Kingston City Run (KCR), which comprises a half marathon, 10k and 5k run/walk, will take place on **March 18**.

For this renewal, the top running clubs and fitness experts in Jamaica have joined forces with the Jamaica Hotel & Tourist Association (JHTA) to promote the event, which is included in a weekend of activities set to start on March 16.

NMIA, Your Kingston Gateway is once again thrilled to be the main sponsor of this event that is geared to showcase the Capital City while benefiting some really important charities that look after some of the most vulnerable persons in our communities; the homeless.

According to organizers, the Kingston City Run is the perfect event to experience the vibe of Kingston, by running through its major business district, attractions and entertainment sites.

The organizers stated that "this run has all the elements to create a world-class event in a city recently designated by UNESCO as a creative city for music, being the birthplace of such musical genres as Ska, Rocksteady, Reggae and Dancehall."

The Kingston City Run's race route is both scenic and challenging and showcases Kingston's iconic attractions such as Devon House, Emancipation Park, Kings House, Hope Zoo & Gardens and the Bob Marley Museum.

Kingston City Run kicks off with a big welcome party at FRIDAYS | Devon House on March 16, followed

by a lifestyle and fitness expo and pre-race party on March 17 and then the race day and an awards ceremony on March 18.

The event was conceptualized for two main purposes: to help raise funds to support projects for the homeless in Kingston, and to raise the awareness of Kingston as a travel destination, thereby increasing the number of visitors to the city.

The event, which first took place in 2013, has raised over \$12 million for charities.

This year's event will include over 70 prize categories including a special prize for the best "hero" themed outfit.

Other categories will include largest corporate team and best t-shirt.

Special fan zones will be created along the route for family and friends.

In addition, this year will see a special kids race "Give Kids a Running Chance", geared at giving under-privileged children an exciting experience to participate free of cost.

The event has once again partnered with a number of local charities in a bid to help the country's homeless population. As a result of its various fundraising initiatives, Kingston City Run will be making contributions to the Marie Atkins Night Shelter, Open Arms Drop In Centre, Food for the Poor, Missionaries of the Poor and the Alpha Institute (formerly Alpha Boys Home).

Direct donations can be made to the charities at www.kingstoncityrun.com/charities or to any NCB branch to Account number 351-122-846 in the name of JHTA/Kingston City Run. The JHTA office at 2 Ardenne Road will also collect donations.

FRIDAYS
AT THE DEVON

WILL BE HOSTING THE

KINGSTON CITY RUN

1/2 MARATHON, 10K AND 5K

WELCOME PARTY

ADMISSION: \$1000 | TIME: 10 PM - 2 AM
MARCH 16, 2018 @ DEVON HOUSE

FULL KINGSTON CITY RUN PACKAGE
INCLUDES WELCOMING PARTY



KINGSTON ATTRACTION | Holywell Recreational Park



One of the finest eco-tourist experiences in Jamaica can be found in Holywell Park. Its 300 acres serve as the gateway to the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (BJCMNP). Functioning as a “park inside a park,” Holywell is located at 3,500 feet above sea level, and features lush vegetation that is often shrouded in a tropical mist. It is possible to see Kingston, Portmore, and PortRoyal from the park.

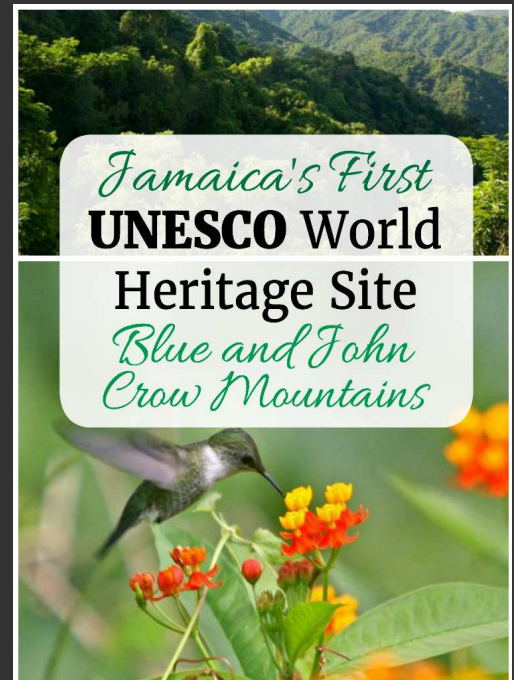
Just a 90-minute drive from Kingston, the BJCMNP spans three parishes (St. Andrew, St. Thomas & Kingston) and is the country’s only terrestrial national park. Fully one-third of the island’s national forests are protected within this area. Many unique plants and animals make their homes in the park, including the smallest orchids in the world and a bamboo plant that flowers only once in every 33 years. One of the largest snakes on the island, the Jamaican Boa, can be found there, as can the Giant Swallowtail Butterfly, the largest butterfly in the Western Hemisphere. Holywell also contains ten major rivers.

Hikers can enjoy four well-manicured trails, with the waterfall trail especially popular as it leads to an unspoiled waterfall and river that features several great swimming holes. The park offers several covered gazebos and picnic tables that are perfect for group outings and cook-outs.

For those who wish to stay overnight, there are three self-contained cabins and camping tents in Holywell, linked by convenient nature trails to the ranger station and picnic area. These rustic accommodations can sleep four to eight people; all outfitted with kitchenettes and hot and cold water. The cabins have balconies that provide a spectacular view of Kingston. The park includes a special area for children known as the *Kids Discovery Zone*.

On 26 February 2018 the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park will mark the quarter century milestone since the park was so designated and gazetted.

For more information : <http://jamaicans.com/holywell-recreational-park-jamaica/#ixzz58F4Cty4R>



⇒ TRAVEL SAVVY TIPS

- ⇒ Make extra copies of your passport and important documents. Don't forget to e-mail a copy to yourself so you'll almost always have access to them, one way or another.
- ⇒ Don't be afraid to get purposefully lost. Wandering aimlessly through a new city is a good way to get to know it. You might be surprised by the hidden gems you find. Look both ways when you cross the street, especially in countries whose traffic flow is different than you're used to.
- ⇒ Read a history book! You can't understand a place's present if you don't know anything about its past. Read up on the destinations you are visiting.
- ⇒ Get vaccinated, because falling prey to an illness in a foreign country is not fun.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THINKING DEVELOPMENT... MOVING AHEAD

THE MISSION

"To develop a modern, safe and profitable airport system that is environmentally responsible, provides world-class service and contributes substantially to the national economy while promoting the expansion of air transportation and its related industries"



NORMAN MANLEY INT'L AIRPORT

KINGSTON

MKJP (KIN)



SANGSTER INT'L AIRPORT

MONTEGO BAY

MKJS (MBJ)

IAN FLEMING
Int'l Airport



IAN FLEMING INT'L AIRPORT

BOSCobel

MKBS-(OCJ)

DOMESTIC AERODROMES

Tinson Pen - MKTP (KTP)

Commuter airport located in the Capital City, Kingston.

Ken Jones - MKKJ (POT)

Located in Portland, east of the island

Negril - MKNG (NEG)

Located in the tourist mecca, west end of the island



A subsidiary of the Airports Authority of Jamaica



FEBRUARY | HAPPY REGGAE MONTH

REGISTER TODAY AT
kingstoncityrun.com



**KINGSTON
CITY RUN**
1/2 MARATHON, 10K AND 5K

MARCH 18, 2018
EMANCIPATION PARK
#heroesruncity



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