

UPDATES ON JAMAICA/DIASPORA PARTNERSHIP

DIASPORA

JUNE 2016 | ISSUE 03

BEAT

**FIRST FEMALE MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND FOREIGN TRADE**

Updates on

⊕ Project Calico

⊕ Agriculture

⊕ Events

CALLING ALL
FARMERS

FARM UP JAMAICA



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Readers,

The Diaspora and Consular Affairs Department (DCAD) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade seeks to fulfill its mandate of maintaining fluid communication between Jamaica and its Diaspora. This bi-monthly publication of

DIASPORA BEAT is one such medium and we welcome your contributions that will enrich the publication.

Our vision is for a vibrant, diverse global Jamaican community, connected to Jamaica and to each other.

This is an exciting time when our Diaspora is embracing the challenge to deepen their involvement in Jamaica's growth and development.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon J. Saunders".

AMBASSADOR SHARON SAUNDERS
Director, Diaspora & Consular Affairs Department
dca@mfaft.gov.jm

The Diaspora & Consular Affairs Department

The Diaspora and Consular Affairs Department (DCAD) is mandated to develop and strengthen linkages and mechanisms with the Jamaican Diaspora, thereby building relationships and encouraging participation in all aspects of national development.

The Department is engaged in activities, companion programmes and projects which facilitate the integration and contribution of our Diaspora in nation building, in tandem with the development and towards the implementation of a comprehensive National Diaspora Policy. The Biennial Diaspora Conferences are planned and executed by DCAD in partnership with stakeholders in the public and private sector.

DCAD provides numerous essential consular services to a wide range of clients locally and overseas. The Department offers support and guidance on all consular processes, including the supervision and coordination of the delivery of consular services by our Embassies, High Commissions, Consulates General and Honorary Consul network globally.

By way of example, thousands of applications for passports and citizenship, matters relating to visas, authentications and certifications of official documents (birth, marriage, death, divorce, diplomas, degrees) and Police Certificates are dealt with annually by and through DCAD.

We intervene daily on behalf of members of the public in Jamaica and abroad on multiple issues, including child maintenance orders, overseas pensions, repatriation of human remains and the welfare of incarcerated and distressed nationals overseas and facilitate the repatriation of Jamaican and foreign nationals rescued at sea.

"The work of DCAD is truly people-centred and impacts the lives of millions of Jamaicans globally."

JAMAICA WELCOMES FIRST FEMALE FOREIGN MINISTER

On Tuesday, 8th March, International Women's Day, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith assumed duties as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, becoming the first woman in the history of Jamaica to hold this portfolio.

Minister Johnson Smith, who has a first degree in French and International Relations, an LLB degree from the University of the West Indies and a degree in Commercial Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science, is also the first Foreign Minister to be born after Jamaica's Independence in 1962.

The Minister was welcomed by Ambassador Paul Robotham, former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, and Patricia Rodney Evering, Director of Protocol, before being introduced to each department and its staff when she assumed duties.



Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith consults with Ambassador Paul Robotham, former Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade (MFAFT).



Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith with Chairperson of the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force, Leo Gilling (second left), on the first of the two-day 2nd Biennial Advancement in Education Summit at Jamaica College, on Old Hope Road in Kingston, on March 23. Others (from left) are: President of the Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA), Norman Allen; President of the Mico University College, Dr. Ashburn Pinnock; Executive Director of the Jamaica Diaspora Institute, Professor Neville Ying; Education, Youth and Information Minister, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid and Opposition Spokesperson on Education and Training, Rev. Ronald Thwaites



Minister Johnson Smith views a display board alongside students of Mona High School after a Commonwealth Day event held at the Ministry.

FOREIGN MINISTER HAS FIRST MEETING WITH DIASPORA ADVISORY BOARD



From L-R: Tracey Blackwood, Foreign Service Officer and Lincoln Downer, Assistant Director, both of the Diaspora and Consular Affairs Department (DCAD); Trecia Elliot, Under Secretary, Foreign Services Division; Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade and Ambassador Sharon Saunders, Director, DCAD.

Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith met with the members of the Diaspora Advisory Board on 13 April 2016. The Minister declared her commitment to strengthening the existing relationships with the Diaspora and to building on the established foundations with these communities. She reiterated the main goals of Government as being economic growth and job creation. However, she maintained that there would be a continued focus on philanthropic donations from the Diaspora.

Members inclusive of Future Leaders all reported on developments and upcoming events in their regions. In concluding, the Minister encouraged all members to communicate their vision, as there was One Jamaica, One Diaspora; One people with one goal - the betterment of the lives of each and every Jamaican everywhere.

The meeting was facilitated by way of Go to Meeting, an internet based platform, and the following members participated:

Diaspora Advisory Board members

- Mr. Wayne Golding, Southern USA
- Mrs. Joan Pinnock, North East USA
- Miss Kimone Gooden, West/Mid West USA
- Mrs. Valarie Steele, Canada
- Mr. Leo Campbell, Canada
- Professor Cecile Wright, UK (North)
- Mr. Fitzroy Grant, UK (South)

Future Leaders

- Miss Erin Lue-Hing, North East USA
- Ms Taniesha Westcarr, UK



ALERT

JAMAICA HAS ZIK-V!



As at 29th May, the Ministry of Health received reports of 2,166 notifications for Zik V. Some 1,519 of these fit the case definition for Zika and were classified as "suspected Zika fever".

The ministry received the highest number of notifications from Kingston and St. Andrew (653), followed by St Catherine (620). Of the 787 which were tested, 408 results have been received, of which 21 were positive for the Zika virus. Two of the 21 confirmed are pregnant women who will be continuously monitored.

All confirmed cases of the zika virus have fully recovered. There were eight (8) males and eight (8) females; seven (7) of which are from St Catherine, one (1) from St Thomas and eight (8) from Kingston and St Andrew.

The World Health Organization indicates that as much as 70 per cent of the population of a country may be infected over time.

Minister of Health Dr Christopher Tufton has announced in the House of Representatives this week that each member of Parliament (MP) will be given \$1 million for Zika activities within their constituencies through the National Health Fund and channelled through the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development and will be available as at 1st July, 2016.

The funds will be used to: train 1,000 community workers through the HEART Trust/NTA who will be employed for six weeks beginning July; facilitate community and town hall meetings; undertake vector control activities at the community level and to disseminate educational material.

Zika has been linked to two development conditions, microcephaly and Guillain–Barré Syndrome (GBS). Microcephaly is where a child is born with abnormally small head and GBS is a rapid-onset muscle weakness caused by the immune system damaging the peripheral nervous system. The health minister said there have been no confirmed cases of microcephaly.

He noted that a reported case of microcephaly was investigated and found to be negative for Zika.

However, Tufton said there have been seven cases of GBS, and the health ministry is monitoring the cases.

YELLOW FEVER ALERT



The Government of Jamaica requires proof of yellow fever vaccination only if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever.

In light of the ongoing Yellow Fever outbreak in a number of countries, the Ministry of Health is reiterating the requirement for travellers to Jamaica to possess Yellow Fever Vaccination certification if arriving from countries with a risk of Yellow Fever transmission or having transited through a country with risk of Yellow Fever transmission.

Individuals travelling through or from affected countries should take proof of the Yellow Fever vaccination taken at least 10 days prior to travel. If the individual cannot, for medical reasons take the vaccination, then appropriate dated and signed documentation from their medical doctor should be produced.

Yellow Fever is an acute illness which can result in death. It is caused by the yellow fever virus which is found in the tropics of South America and Africa; not endemic to the Caribbean. It affects people of all ages and is spread through the bite of an infected Aedes aegypti mosquito. The only effective medication is the Yellow Fever Vaccine and a single dose would result in immunity for life.

There is currently **no risk of yellow fever** in Jamaica.

Additional information and the list of affected countries may be found on the Ministry of Health website; www.moh.gov.jm.

CALLING ALL JAMAICANS

Calling All Foreign Farmers to join the Jamaica Diaspora Agriculture Task Force

Do you have a passion for Agriculture? The **Diaspora Agriculture Task Force** (JDAT) was established after the Diaspora Conference last year to organize individuals and organizations to combine forces and make a positive impact on Jamaica's Agriculture Sector. The Agricultural Task Force wishes to add a new, proactive dynamic to Diaspora engagement, by playing a more direct role and is committed to: promoting and accelerating Organic and Sustainable Farming practices, Food Security and creating new Markets for Jamaican farmers. The Task Force is working on the following projects:

Education, Outreach and Awareness

The Task Force has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) and will be:

► **Hosting the Diaspora Symposium at Denbigh- 30th July - 1st August**

Denbigh is held in Clarendon every year and is the oldest and largest Agricultural show in the Caribbean. At the symposium we will deliver Organic and sustainable farming workshops and programs for Farmers.

► JDAT will also sponsor the first ever Champion Organic Farmer prize, three winners will be selected.

► We are also partnering with Delaware State University's College of Agriculture to host the National Farm Queen in their summer exchange program. The exchange will be a prize for the National Farm Queen every year, starting with the existing Farm Queen.

► We recently joined the JAS Climate Smart Summit, where we presented to Leaders of key agencies and organisations in Jamaica on the case for Organic farming as an answer to Climate Change and the core of Climate Smart agriculture.

Training and Certification

► The Task Force is partnering with Jamaica Organic and Agriculture Movement (JOAM) and the SOURCE farm eco village in St. Thomas to train and certify Organic Farmers.

► The current number of Certified organic farmers in Jamaica is 5, the goal is to increase that number to 24 this year.

► The new certified Organic farmers will also be connected to Markets.

Food Security

► JDAT will be partnering with Farm Up Jamaica to farm organic onions, one of the highest imported items in Jamaica.

► Do you own farm land in Jamaica that is not in production? We are recruiting Diaspora members with fallow land to participate in this Organic onion project.



THE NEW JAMAICA DIASPORA TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE CHOOSES 12 STUDENTS FOR PROJECT CALICO

Project Calico aims to support Jamaica as a hub for virtual software development talent. It will provide students residing in Jamaica with a stipend for the summer to participate in international open source software projects under the guidance of a Diaspora mentor.

This novel approach of partnering highly motivated computer science students with volunteer Diaspora tech professionals and IT companies will help to build the software development Industry in Jamaica. Calico is also similar to a summer work study scholarship and will serve as a feeder programme for the international Google Summer of Code.

Applications opened on 14th March and are now closed. Twelve students were selected and will begin working on projects this summer. Each student will receive a US\$500 stipend for the summer.

Additionally, the most successful students will be provided an internship which involves working remotely at Diaspora-owned technology firms.



Nicola Shirley Phillips, Director of SOURCE Farms, makes a presentation while Neil Curtis, CEO Farm Up Jamaica; Raymond Martin - Chairman, Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement and Kimone Gooden, Diaspora Advisory Board Member, US West & Mid-West, listen in at the Jamaica Agriculture Society Climate Smart Summit on the Business case for Organic farming on 2nd April at the Jamaica Conference Centre.

Information & Contact

To read more about project Calico visit:

- <http://www.palisadoes.org/calico/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/palisadoesproject>

For questions or additional information contact: Peter Harrison, President of the Palisadoes Foundation and Co-Lead of the Diaspora Technology Task Force at peter@palisadoes.org

If you have a passion for Agriculture and would like to participate in any of these projects please contact:

Kimone Gooden
Diaspora Advisory Board Member US West-Mid-West
kimonegooden@gmail.com

FLASHBACK

Farm-Up Jamaica doTERRA Co-Impact Sourcing



In 2015, Farm Up Jamaica Ltd (FUJ), a Diaspora charity, invited over 600 international tourists to take part in a ginger planting day of service. The objective was to help revitalize a farming community in Haddo, Westmoreland and get local agriculture students engaged in an opportunity to profit share in the crops produced for the first time ever.

Students led the excursion, teaching the foreign farmers cultivation techniques they had learned while studying at the Knocalva Agriculture School in Hanover.

Since then, doTERRA International, the company that sponsored these tourists, and the largest distributor of essential oils, has donated J\$5,000,000 to build a facility to distill ginger oil. This investment will help expand the ginger sector and increase employment exponentially.

The company has now promised to help grow the industry by funding FUJ's Farmer Assistance Programme to help more farmers in other parishes expand Jamaican Ginger production. Ginger oil is low yielding so it will require massive cultivation to supply the market. This type of impact investment should be happening islandwide in other sectors.

The Diaspora has so much to offer Jamaica. The use of these connections and resources are essential to the growth of the country.



Watch the video:
<https://youtu.be/ySVujjwaLMQ>

Contact Neil Curtis for further information and get involved.

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Farm Up Jamaica Ltd
891 Nassau Rd,
Uniondale NY 11553

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10 South Ave
Kgn 4; Jamaica, W.I.

U.S. 516-376-1626
JA. 876-592-5992

Neil@farmupjamaica.org
www.farmupjamaica.org

EVENT CALENDAR

Jamaica Diaspora Advisory Board Members NE
 Joan O. Pinnock, Esq. (ABM)
 &
 Erin Lue-Hing (Future Leader)

in conjunction with the JDNEUSA Committee
 Presents

The Jamaica Diaspora NE USA Regional Conference & Awards Dinner June 10-11th, 2016

"Building a United Diaspora for Growth and Prosperity in Jamaica"




JDNE USA Awards Gala
Featuring: Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Oliver Samuels, OD
Conference is Free!

JFK Hilton Hotel 144-02 135th Avenue, Jamaica New York 11436

Panel Sessions: June 10th & 11
 Friday, 10:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday, 10:00am-3:00pm
 Health Care
 Education
 Future Leaders
 Trade & Investment
 The Role of the Church
 Immigration Deportation
 Social Work Panel

JDNE Awards Gala: Saturday June 11
 Cocktails 8:00pm
 Dinner 9:00pm
 Donation: \$100 per person

For Info call: (718) 710-4697
Register online @ www.jdusa.org

Jamaica Diaspora 2016
Summit & Gala
 Hosted by
 Jamaica Diaspora Southern United States & Advance Jamaica Inc.
 Under the Theme
 "PROVIDING A ROAD MAP TO POWER AND INFLUENCE"



Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith
 Minister Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade



Wayne C. Golding Sr. Esq.
 Jamaica Diaspora Advisory Board Member Southern USA



Mr. Peter Bunting MP
 Former Minister of National Security



Mr. Franz Hall
 Consul General of Jamaica-Miami

Join us in Orlando
 June 24th - 26th
Summit \$75.00 . Gala \$125.00
Summit & Gala \$175.00
CAHM Festival Free

MC Lady D Caribbean Affairs Connection & Moderator
 Dervon Malcolm
 Power 106 FM & 99.1FM

EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON ORLANDO
4955 KYNGS HEATH ROAD . KISSIMMEE . FL. 34746.
 June 24th 4:00pm - 9:00pm Registration & Cocktail
 Reception 7:30am - 4:00pm Summit
 June 25th 7:00pm - 12:00am Gala Reception
 June 26th 1:00pm - 8:00pm CAHM Festival At
 Orlando Fashion Square Mall

WWW.JAMAICADIASPORA SUMMIT.COM
Telephone: 407-443-3317 or 407-900-8137



Save THE Date

JAMAICA CHRISTIAN DIASPORA CONFERENCE
 [Collaborating for nation building]

OCTOBER 13-14th, 2016
IBEROSTAR ROSE HALL

INVITING ALL
 Christians, Concerned Citizens, Churches, Para-church Organizations, Professionals, Development Practitioners & Agencies, Educators, Public Officials, Members of the Private Sector, All Organizations and Friends of Jamaica to participate.

Operation Save Jamaica, a Christian charity based in Jamaica, in collaboration with Christian leaders in the Diaspora (Bishop Wilton Powell OBE, Overseer of the Church of God of Prophecy in the UK and France, Mr. Rudi Page, Past President of RAFFA International Development Agency, Mrs. Beverley Johnson, CEO of JLB International Limited and Bishop Les Isaac OBE, CEO of Ascension Trust UK and founder of Street Pastors) will be hosting the Jamaica Christian Diaspora Conference under the theme "Collaboration for Nation Building". The Conference will be held at the Iberostar Hotel & Suites, Montego Bay on the 13th - 14th October 2016.

The Conference objectives are:

- To identify immediate solutions and actions that the church can engage in, to bring transformation to parishes and communities across Jamaica.
- To craft strategies and implement solutions that will bring about change in key areas for nation building (Health, Education, Security & Economic Growth)
- To identify and support improvements that can be made to key existing initiatives
- To establish and implement mechanisms of accountability which engender trust between Diaspora partners and local organizations at home in Jamaica to facilitate long term support of local development ventures.
- To create an avenue for ideas and knowledge sharing between specialized groups in the Diaspora and Jamaica.
- To build linkages with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd generation of Jamaicans in the Diaspora.
- To identify ways in which the Church can rebuild spiritual values and attitudes in the nation.

The target audience for this Christian Diaspora Conference include churches and para-church organizations, agencies, concerned citizens, professionals, development practitioners, educators, public officials, members of the private sector and friends of Jamaica. The Conference will accommodate between 250 and 350 persons.

EVENT CALENDAR (CONT'D)

Jamaica Diaspora Advisory Board Members NE
 Joan O. Pinnock, Esq. (ABM)
 &
 Erin Lue-Hing (Future Leader)

*in conjunction with the JDNEUSA Committee
 Presents*

The Jamaica Diaspora NE USA Regional Conference & Awards Dinner June 10-11th, 2016

"Building a United Diaspora for Growth and Prosperity in Jamaica"




JDNE USA Awards Gala
 Featuring: Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Oliver Samuels, OD
 Conference is Free!

JFK Hilton Hotel 144-02 135th Avenue, Jamaica New York 11436

Panel Sessions: June 10th & 11
 Friday, 10:00am-5:00pm
 Saturday, 10:00am-3:00pm
 Health Care
 Education
 Future Leaders
 Trade & Investment
 The Role of the Church
 Immigration Deportation
 Social Work Panel

JDNE Awards Gala: Saturday June 11
 Cocktails 8:00pm
 Dinner 9:00pm
 Donation: \$100 per person

For Info call: (718) 710-4697
 Register online at www.jdusa.org

BUILDING A UNITED DIASPORA FOR GROWTH AND PROSPERITY IN JAMAICA

JDNE TALAWAH AWARDS GALA

MUSIC BY SOUL TONE DISCO + DJ PRENTICE
ENTERTAINMENT BY BRAATA PRODUCTIONS

KAMINA JOHNSON SMITH
 SENATOR THE HONOURABLE
 MINISTER OF
 FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE

JUNE 11TH 8:00 PM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: OLIVER SAMUELS

HONOREES

POLITICS	FAITH BASED	LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
Congresswoman Yvette Clarke	Rev. Dr. Jacqueline McCullough	Rev. Calvin McIntyre
IQES	FUTURE LEADERS	ARTS
Devon Harris	Michael Seaton	Raxann Chin
Fly Jamaica Airways		Ed Robinson

PURCHASE TICKETS FOR \$100 AT JDNEUSA.ORG OR VP RECORDS LOCATIONS OR CALL 718-710497

JFK HILTON HOTEL - 144-02 135TH AVE. JAMAICA, NY 11436

JAMAICA DIASPORA NE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

FRIDAY - JUNE 10, 2016 | 8AM - 6PM
SATURDAY - JUNE 11, 2016 | 9AM - 3PM

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

COME HEAR THE EXPERTS SPEAK ON: DIASPORA VOTING
 TRADE & INVESTMENT | PUBLIC SAFETY | IMMIGRATION & DEPORTATION
 ROLE OF THE YOUTH | HEALTH CARE | THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH
 EDUCATION | MAKING TRANSITION FROM JA TO THE USA

ENTERTAINMENT BY MATTY LOU
 (LOUISE BENNETT IMPERSONATOR)

LIVE COVERAGE BY POWER 106 FM KINGSTON, JAMAICA
 SPONSORED BY TOWER ISLES

MUST REGISTER @ JDNEUSA.ORG OR CALL 718-710-4697

TOWER ISLES

JFK HILTON HOTEL - 144-02 135TH AVE. JAMAICA, NY 11436

The Jamaica Diaspora Northeast Regional Conference is being held on Friday, 10th June, 2016, 8am – 6pm and 11th June, 2016, 9am – 3pm at the JFK Hilton Hotel 144-02 135th Avenue Jamaica New York 11436. The theme of the conference is "Building a United Diaspora for Growth and Prosperity in Jamaica."

Panel Experts at the conference will speak on Diaspora Voting, Trade & Investment, Immigration & Deportation, Role of the Church, Future Leaders, Health Care, Education, Public Safety, Social Work Panel, and Making the Transition from Jamaica to the USA.

The Minister of Health, the Honourable Dr. Christopher Tufton will be speaking at the conference on Saturday, 11th June, 2016 at 9:30am. Minister Tufton will take the opportunity to discuss the 10-point plan for the Ministry of Health, Charities, and the Adopt-a-clinic programme. Attendance at the conference is FREE to the Public.

On Saturday evening 11th June, 2016 at 8pm the JDNE Talawah Awards will also be held at the JFK Hilton Hotel. Senator The Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade will be the Keynote Speaker for the event.

Jamaican Diaspora NE "Unleashing the Potential"



THE FIFTH BIENNIAL JAMAICAN DIASPORA CONFERENCE
 The Diaspora-Parish Council Partnership
 Date: Saturday 25th June 2016

Venue: The Birmingham City Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB

Registration time: 8am onwards
 Conference start 09:30am finish at 5:30pm

Website address:
 Eventbrite: <http://jduk.eventbrite.co.uk>
 Email addresses: gmndez@jamaicandiasporauk.org or djaddoo@jamaicandiasporauk.org
<https://twitter.com/OfficialJDUK> | <https://www.facebook.com/jamaicandiasporauk>
 Telephone numbers: 07817 97742 or 07946 374577

Conference fee £10 to Members, £15 to non Members
 To avoid disappointment please book tickets on eventbrite, first come first served

SESSIONS WITH TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSENSUS BY PARTICIPANTS AT CONFERENCE

SESSION 1 DIASPORA-PARISH COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP
 This session will discuss what measures parish councils can put in place to improve services to Jamaicans already impeded by the tyranny of distance and what reciprocal support Diaspora Communities in the UK can organise to support the Poor Relief and Infirmary services of parish councils.

SESSION 2 CHURCH RESPONSE TO THE PERCEIVED DETERIORATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN JAMAICA
 This session will discuss reported evictives in Jamaica by joint-church ventures and how the organisation called Operation Save Jamaica (OSJ), is mobilising a Christian response and pro-activity to crime and violence in Jamaica.

SESSION 3 A PRESCRIPTIVE SOLUTION TO THE CULTURAL DISCONNECT AMONG YOUNG JAMAICANS IN THE UK
 This session will discuss the second to the fourth generations of estimated Jamaicans in the United Kingdom that are demographically over two-third of the Jamaican population and the decline and eventual loss of their affinity and endearment to Jamaica.

SESSION 4 NOTIONS, POLICY, AND ACTIVITIES FOR BETTER REPRESENTATION OF (JAMAICA AND) JAMAICANS IN DIASPORA
 This session will discuss to what extent can the present or alternative operational framework/structure improve the representation of Diaspora issues.

