



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PRESS RELEASE

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Eight more Jamaican Schools benefit from EU Funding for Science Laboratories

Eight Primary and Secondary schools in Jamaica now have better equipped science laboratories, thanks to the continued rollout of an EU-funded project to improve academic performance in Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) education. The handover falls under the Improving Innovation Capacities in the Caribbean (INVOCAB) Project. The project was launched in February and hosted its second handover of equipment Monday, June 29, at the Courtleigh Hotel in New Kingston.

The project targets students and teachers at the grades 4-6 and grades 9-11, here in Jamaica, as well as in Trinidad & Tobago. For this handover, various laboratory items were provided for the schools involved, including microscopes, model skeletons, measuring devices, glassware, models of various human organs, science-based games and charts. In addition to improving academic performance of students in different areas of science, the project also enhances teachers' delivery of science subjects; as well as equips science laboratories; establishes science centres; engages teachers in professional development workshops; and organizes science clubs, summer camps and an Innovation Competition for students. INVOCAB will also contribute to the development of a framework to support and foster a vibrant entrepreneurial culture in the Caribbean through science, technology and innovation.

Trade officer in the EU Delegation, Mr. Koenraad Burie in his address to students at the ceremony pointed out that: *"Science, and a better appreciation of it, bears fruit in giving young people greater and wider prospects."* He added: *"It will place great emphasis in improving the competencies of teachers in the transfer of knowledge to their students. It will also focus on developing materials, training, and establishing clubs, which will work simultaneously to improve the student's capacity to understand science."*

The latest beneficiary schools under the project are: Whitfield All-Age and Seaward Primary and Junior High in Kingston; Bull Bay All-Age and Yallahs High School in St. Thomas; Windsor Castle All-Age in Portland; Islington High and Carron Hall High in St. Mary; and Greater Portmore High in St. Catherine.

The ceremony was also attended by Minister of State in the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining, the Honourable Julian Robinson.

For more information, contact:

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