



July 2024

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I am pleased to present this mid-year report, which highlights the Shipping Association of Jamaica's (SAJ) significant progress and achievements over the first half of 2024.

Our focus has been on strengthening our industry's resilience, enhancing our members' capabilities, and advocating for a conducive operating environment. Key highlights include the initiation of exploratory discussions with the European Union (EU) and European Investment Bank (EIB) for the development of Jamaica as a resilient logistics hub, an exciting prospect for our sector.

Additionally, we have made strides in member empowerment initiatives, while simultaneously addressing critical infrastructure challenges in Newport West.

Our 85th-anniversary celebrations have served as a platform to recognise our members' contributions and strengthen industry camaraderie.



This report also provides updates on our hurricane relief efforts, data protection compliance initiatives, and our ongoing engagement with key stakeholders.

I encourage you to carefully review the report for a comprehensive overview of our accomplishments. Your continued support and engagement are invaluable as we work together to shape the future of the shipping industry in Jamaica.

Sincerely,

Corah Ann Robertson-Sylvester

President, Shipping Association of Jamaica

SAJ TO HOST DISTINGUISHED LECTURE ON JAMAICA AS A LOGISTICS HUB

The Shipping Association of Jamaica (SAJ) will host a Distinguished Lecture themed "*Jamaica as a Logistics Hub in a Changing Global Landscape*" to commemorate its 85th anniversary. The invite-only event will feature renowned industry expert Lars Jensen, CEO of Vespucci Maritime, as the keynote speaker.

The lecture will be held on November 1, 2024, at the AC Marriott Hotel in Kingston.

It will delve into Jamaica's potential as a global logistics hub, exploring the factors that position the island strategically for this role. Mr Jensen will share his insights on the essential steps Jamaica must take to realise this ambition, including identifying opportunities for climate adaptation, infrastructure development, and leveraging international benchmarks.

The event will also feature panel discussions with industry experts to provide attendees with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the global logistics landscape.



Lars Jensen

I will invite members of the shipping industry, government officials, academics, and other stakeholders to join us for this important discussion.

The SAJ has been at the forefront of Jamaica's maritime industry for 85 years, advocating for a competitive and sustainable sector. This event is part of our ongoing commitment to shaping the future of shipping in Jamaica.

SAJ AND EU EXPLORE RESILIENT LOGISTICS HUB DEVELOPMENT

In January 2024, the Shipping Association of Jamaica (SAJ), in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, and key public and private sector partners, held exploratory discussions with the European Union (EU) and European Investment Bank (EIB) on developing Jamaica into a resilient logistics hub.

The focus of these discussions centered on attracting investments to enhance Jamaica's maritime connectivity and global competitiveness. A key proposal involved the EU providing financial support to redevelop Newport West into a world-class logistics facility. This would include addressing chronic flooding issues and developing a comprehensive business model for the area.

The EU expressed interest in supporting the Jamaica Special Economic Zone Authority in creating a logistics hub plan for multiple economic zones. Additionally, the EU highlighted its commitment to Jamaica's digital transition and climate change adaptation.

Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Senator Aubyn Hill, emphasised the potential of a logistics hub to boost Jamaica's exports and create jobs. I shared my enthusiasm for the collaboration and its potential to realise our long-held vision of establishing Jamaica as a competitive logistics hub.



NEWPORT WEST ROAD REHABILITATION

The SAJ has been instrumental in securing much-needed improvements for the Newport West community. Under my leadership, the SAJ has advocated for infrastructure upgrades in the area. These efforts have culminated in the commencement of road rehabilitation works throughout the shipping community, a significant step towards addressing the long-standing challenges posed by poor road conditions. Beyond road infrastructure, I am actively engaged in finding solutions to other pressing problems in Newport West, such as unregulated parking, through cooperative efforts with government agencies and industry stakeholders.

Before



After



SAJ 85TH ANNIVERSARY

ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

To commemorate its 85th anniversary, the SAJ embarked on a year-long celebration. The festivities commenced with a Thanksgiving Service at St Peter's Anglican Church in Port Royal on January 28, where industry stakeholders, members, staff, and well-wishers gathered to give thanks for the Association's enduring legacy. In addition to this observance, I hosted a Valentine's Lyne on February 13 to recognise and show appreciation for the contributions of our dedicated team members. Furthermore, a Members' Mingle on April 26 provided an opportunity to celebrate the collective achievements of the broader SAJ membership and foster stronger industry relationships.

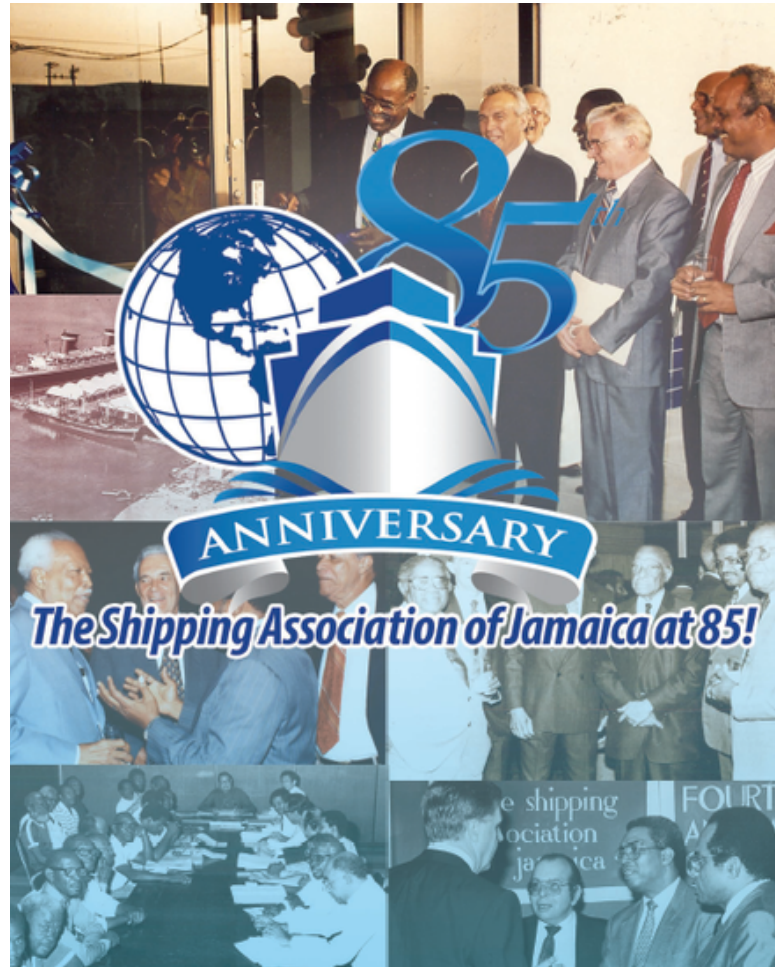


SAJ 85TH ANNIVERSARY (cont'd)

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY FEATURE

We published a special 24-page supplement in the Sunday Gleaner and Sunday Observer on February 11, 2024. This publication showcased our rich history, significant achievements, and contributions to Jamaica's nation-building.

The supplement was widely supported and well-received by industry members and stakeholders, highlighting the SAJ's integral role in fostering trade and driving the expansion of the maritime sector. It included special messages from the Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness, Transport Minister Daryl Vaz and key figures in the regional maritime sector.



CELEBRATING



THE SHIPPING
ASSOCIATION
OF JAMAICA

85th
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

THE EVOLUTION OF THE SHIPPING ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA



to the mistreatment of a union official in Montego Bay in December 1938.

The SAJ's genesis in 1938 marked a watershed moment within the intense activities of the time. Alongside the formation of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU) in May and the Peoples National Party (PNP) in September, the SAJ

represented the first joint response of business interests to the changes in the Jamaican industrial climate.

As the unions and workers adapted to

this new landscape, the SAJ spearheaded a rational and joint approach that would culminate in a model partnership on the Kingston waterfront. By the close of the century, the industrial climate at Kingston's waterfront was hailed as among the best globally, with port workers enjoying wages and benefits at the upper end of the local workforce. Beyond its role as a bargaining agent, the SAJ assumed multiple roles, becoming the sole employer of waterfront labour, operator of security services, provider of computer services for the wharves, a port development planner, landlord for support service firms, and a representative of agents, stevedoring companies, and other interests.

This organisational development turned the SAJ into a energetic operational and commercial entity, strongly advocating for its members and developing considerable influence in the management of the port of Kingston. The effectiveness of this model contributed significantly to the growth of the port and served as a blueprint for other ports facing similar challenges.

The SAJ, with its roots in uncertainty and upheaval, is proof of adaptation and visionary leadership. Its journey from a response to industrial challenges to a means for positive change remains a source of inspiration for the ever-changing maritime industry.

SAJ 85TH ANNIVERSARY (cont'd)

SHIPPING INDUSTRY PAGE

The weekly **Shipping Industry** page in the Jamaica Gleaner provided coverage of pivotal moments of the Association's history, chronicling its development as a key figure in the local and regional maritime sector. Additionally, as part of this dedication, I introduced a valuable retirement planning series which provided essential guidance on navigating retirement. This initiative addressed the needs of industry professionals at all career stages, from early entrants to seasoned veterans, ensuring that they are well-informed about their retirement options and entitlements.

The retirement journey: The starting point

THE SHIPPING Association of Jamaica (SAJ) celebrates its 85th anniversary this year. To empower its members, **Shipping Industry** will publish a retirement planning series focusing on savings, from early career stages to retirement, as an invaluable member benefit.

Maritime employees dedicate their careers to keeping Jamaica's shipping and logistics sector moving. But planning for a smooth transition into retirement is equally important. This article outlines key retirement options for those working within the shipping industry.

Many Jamaicans know 18 marks adulthood, but did you know it's also the prime time to start planning for your golden years? There has been a widely held view that retirement financial planning starts when one starts to work. However, this thinking contributes to retirement poverty for many upon a retirement event, whether old age, disability or death, said Magdalena Cooper-de Neuze, a licensed life insurance sales representative and pensions consultant at Solid Life and General Insurance Brokers Limited.

She added that there are two categories of retirement savings plans which are based on legislation: National savings plans - National Insurance Scheme (NIS) and National Housing Trust (NHT). These



Magdalena Cooper-de Neuze, licensed life insurance sales representative and pensions consultant. CONTRIBUTED



Well-wishers of the Shipping Association of Jamaica attended a service of thanksgiving at the St Peter's Anglican Church in Port Royal on Sunday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Shipping Association of Jamaica is 85!

OFFICIALS FROM the maritime and transport sectors joined the members, staff and well-wishers of the Shipping Association of Jamaica (SAJ) to celebrate 85 years of existence at the St Peter's Anglican Church in Port Royal on Sunday, January 28. The occasion marked the first of a series of year-long activities to commemorate the association's anniversary.

SAJ President Corah Ann Robertson-Sylvester, in remarks to attendees, said the day was one for reflection and to share the association's gratitude with those who have contributed to its growth.

"From its humble origins as a response to uncertainties and disruptions on the Kingston waterfront, the SAJ has emerged as a driving force for change," Robertson-Sylvester said, adding "Our journey has been one of evolution that saw



President of the Shipping Association of Jamaica (SAJ) Corah Ann Robertson-Sylvester (left) exchanges greetings with consultant Patricia Francis during the Shipping Association of Jamaica's anniversary service of thanksgiving. Photo: Sacha Vaccanna-Riley, executive director of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, as well as



President of the Shipping Association of Jamaica (SAJ) Corah Ann Robertson-Sylvester shares a light moment with retired SAJ port workers at a brunch following the association's church service.



Flashback: The SAJ at 85



Flashback



A meeting of the Joint Industrial Council in full swing in the 1990s. The Port of Kingston was the first industrial unit to install such a council in 1952.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

I remain committed to advancing the industry through training and upskilling. In recent months, the Association has successfully executed a series of capacity-building workshops. A fully subscribed Advanced Industrial Safety workshop, facilitated and certified by the Caribbean Maritime University (CMU), was conducted in March. Building on this success, the SAJ hosted two oversubscribed Introduction to Logistics Management workshops in June and July, also facilitated and certified by the CMU.

Recognising the critical role of inventory management in efficient operations, the SAJ will host a dedicated workshop on this topic in September. Members are encouraged to participate in this upcoming training to gain valuable insights and strategies for optimising inventory management practices.

So far, approximately 100 people, representing 34 companies from nine countries across the region, have benefitted from our training interventions. These initiatives are the beginning of the SAJ's expanded training and development agenda. By providing access to high-quality, industry-relevant workshops, the Association aims to empower its members, and the wider community, with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in an evolving maritime landscape.

SAJ PRESIDENT AT CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK'S ANNUAL MEETING

I was invited to participate in the Caribbean Development Bank's (CDB) Annual Meeting in Ottawa, Canada on June 20, 2024. The event focused on the critical theme of *"Accelerating Development: Optimising Trade Connectivity and Logistics for Growth."*

The opportunity to share the SAJ's insights and perspectives on improving trade connectivity and logistics is indicative of the SAJ's expertise and influence within the industry.

The forum provided a platform for in-depth discussions on the challenges and opportunities facing the region in terms of trade facilitation and logistics. President Robertson-Sylvester's address contributed to the dialogue by highlighting key stressors affecting the sector and proposing potential solutions aligned with the CDB's development objectives.



SAJ'S STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Women in Maritime Association Caribbean (WiMAC): The SAJ has deepened its relationship with WiMAC, aligning with the organisation's vision for empowering women in the maritime industry. During a courtesy call in January, WiMAC President Dr Evette Smith Johnson, shared her vision for the body and urged for a stronger collaborative relationship with the SAJ.



Kingston and St Andrew Municipal Corporation (KSAMC): Addressing the critical issues affecting the Newport West shipping community, the SAJ met with Mayor of Kingston, Andrew Swaby, to advocate for improvements in infrastructure, traffic management, and public safety. These efforts are essential for maintaining Newport West's status as a vital commercial hub and supporting Jamaica's logistics ambitions. Following these discussions, the debushing of the community's perimeter along Marcus Garvey Drive was undertaken – improving drainage, the general appearance and safety – as a promising start to the renewed partnership.



SAJ'S STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT (cont'd)

Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO): Also in June, the SAJ met with JAMPRO, led by President Shulette Cox, to explore opportunities for collaboration and mutual benefit. The meeting facilitated a better understanding of each organisation's role and focus and how these can inform cooperative efforts.



Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association of Jamaica (CBFFAJ): The SAJ engaged with the newly elected CBFFAJ leadership, led by President Marcia Bent, in May to address common challenges and explore prospects for support. The meeting explored challenges faced by both entities and solutions to address them collectively. This partnership is essential for improving efficiency and facilitating trade within the supply chain.



SAJ'S HURRICANE BERYL RELIEF EFFORTS

The aftermath of Hurricane Beryl has left our communities reeling from the devastating impact. Homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods have been severely compromised, necessitating urgent humanitarian aid.

In response to this crisis, I initiated a partnership with Food For the Poor to launch a hurricane relief effort. The SAJ appealed to its members for donations of non-perishable food items, essential hygiene products, and financial contributions to support those affected by the hurricane.

Prior to the storm, the SAJ played an active role in disseminating information and guidelines on hurricane preparedness, aiming to mitigate potential damage and losses within the shipping industry. It is heartening to report that, overall, SAJ members weathered the storm relatively unscathed, with minimal reported damages.

I am committed to supporting our communities during this challenging period and urge the public to contribute generously to relief efforts.

SAJ PROMOTES DATA PROTECTION ACT COMPLIANCE

The Association is actively advocates for its members' compliance with the Data Protection Act, 2020 which outlines stringent regulations for handling personal data. Adhering to the Act requires a comprehensive approach, including developing robust privacy policies, thorough data audits, and implementing data protection measures.

I cannot stress enough that data protection is not solely a concern for large organisations and that by investing in data protection, businesses not only fulfill regulatory obligations but also enhance their overall brand and customer trust.

The SAJ offers comprehensive support services to assist members in achieving and maintaining Data Protection Act compliance. Our dedicated team provides guidance, resources, and practical tools to navigate the complexities of the Act. For more information, you may contact jhinds@jamports.com

GOING FORWARD

I will continue to prioritise members' empowerment, industry development, and advocacy in the coming months. Building upon the successes outlined in this report, I will focus on deepening collaborations, expanding training initiatives, and advocating for a favourable operating environment.

By focusing on these areas, the SAJ will strengthen its position as a leading voice in the maritime industry and deliver tangible benefits to its members.

