



Disaster Management Alliance

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Upcoming Events

- **Sept. 28 - Oct. 1** - 2009 Regional Integration Conference, Guatemala

Special Announcements

The **AskDMA Hotline** is ready to take your questions. To make it easier for visitors to find information and tools related to disaster preparedness and business continuity topics, this service will be available to anyone who visits the DMA website. The purpose of the hotline is to facilitate knowledge transfer by linking people with information in a timely manner. The hotline will also answer questions regarding the DMA website, upcoming events, and the blogs and forums that will be starting up soon. To reach **AskDMA**, email us at info@planfordisasters.org or call (202-458-6351).

Jamaica Roundtable Summary: New Alliances Safeguard the Sustainability of Critical Services in Jamaica

By Gabriela Pena

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Kingston, Jamaica - April 21, 2009. PADF and ODPEM hosted a multi-sector roundtable that brought together 23 participants from 17 businesses and organizations working locally. The goal of the meeting was to establish an initial agenda for collaboration in support of disaster management. Mr. Ronald Jackson, Director of ODPEM, presented the strategic plan guiding ODPEM'S activities through 2013 as well as a matrix of priorities for Jamaica. These priorities were classified under three main areas:

- Preparedness and emergency operations
- Mitigation planning and research program
- Growing the National Disaster Fund (NDF)

ODPEM invited the companies and organizations to work in groups that brainstormed

ways in which to address and conduct work in a number of areas such as damage assessment, risk reduction, response and recovery operations, land surveying, training, awareness building, and fundraising. To facilitate the establishment of permanent committees, ODPEM also provided copies of its Matrix of Priorities and Revised Strategic Plan 2008-2011. As a result, Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS), Jamaica's electric utility company, joined the Disaster Planning and Preparedness Committee.



A key player in the utility sector, JPS has a great interest in multi-sector collaboration because the company has offices at each parish in Jamaica. As Ms. Claudia Davis of JPS informed us, JPS has emergency preparedness plans for their headquarters and each of their offices but they understand the importance of working in collaboration with the public sector at the national level to ensure quick recovery and continuity of services. At a follow-up meeting between ODPEM and JPS on July 22, 2009, the two parties met to discuss their expectations and roles going forward.

The short-term strategy will be to build up the Disaster Planning and Preparedness Committee with representatives from other utility sector companies in telecommunications, oil, and gas. ODPEM agreed to drive this process by reaching out to motivated companies. ODPEM and JPS are clear that they want to invite companies that are a part of the critical infrastructure but more importantly, companies that have great interest in making strides in disaster planning and preparedness. The committee is expected to convene for its first meeting later on this year, once all the members have been identified.

Copies of ODPEM's Strategic Plan and Matrix of Priorities are available on the [DMA website's Jamaica page](#).

For more information about these organizations, visit the [ODPEM](#) and [JPS](#) websites.

The Disaster Management Alliance

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