

GSJ GeoSciences for Development Week 2007

GeoSciences for Development Week 2007 is themed 'GeoHazards – Planning, Management and Insurance,' and will feature a major workshop held at the Jamaica Conference Centre on November 27, as well as a field trip to the devastated communities on the south coast affected by the passage of Hurricane Dean.

The official proclamation of GeoSciences for Development Week by the Governor-General was held at King's House on November 21, and was attended by members of the GSJ Executive Council. The Governor-General read out the proclamation, and recognized the important role geoscientists play in the advancement and development of Jamaica.

In his response, GSJ President, Parris A. Lyew-Ayee, remarked that the history and development of Jamaica and the role of geology are intertwined, and noted the prominent role of the GSJ in facilitating this through scholarly articles, workshops and symposia, and exhibitions. The theme for GSDW 2007 is particularly relevant, with the impacts natural hazards have on the national economy and growth targets.



Governor-General H.E. Prof Sir Kenneth Hall presenting GSJ President Parris A. Lyew-Ayee with the Proclamation for GeoSciences for Development Week 2007



Members of the GSJ Executive Council – from left, Rafi Ahmad, Michael White, Richard Coutou, Shanti Persad-Levy, GSJ President Parris A. Lyew-Ayee, Prof Simon Mitchell, and Dr Gavin Gunter



A PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency the Most Honourable
Professor Sir KENNETH OCTAVIUS HALL,
Member of the Order of the Nation, Knight
Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished
Order of Saint Michael and Saint George,
Member of the Order of Jamaica,
Governor-General of Jamaica.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL

WHEREAS the hills and valleys, rocks and soils, inland and coastal waters form part of our island paradise and provide the physical, environmental and economic backdrop that we have enjoyed as a nation over the years:

AND WHEREAS we have benefited from the richness of the soils for agriculture, the minerals from the rocks for development, the waters of the land to slake our thirst, the lands for our homes and facilities, and in so doing have formed our unique homescape:

AND WHEREAS it is appreciated that as a people we should be grateful for these treasures given to us by our Almighty Father, and with them the real responsibility to take care of this landscape which was prepared for us over millions of years, and to prepare the younger generation to carry on this legacy.

NOW THEREFORE, I, KENNETH OCTAVIUS HALL, Member of the Order of the Nation, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Member of the Order of Jamaica, Governor-General of Jamaica, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the last week of November 2007, as Geo-Science Week for Development and encourage all citizens of Jamaica to join the Geological Society of Jamaica and the geo-scientific community in the many and varied activities, to better understand and more responsibly use the abundant natural resources with which we have been blessed, for the sustained and harmonious development of our beloved Jamaica.

Given under my hand at King's House this 21st day of November 2007.

Official Proclamation for GSDW 2007