



Jamaica Appointed President of PROMECAFE

On July 6, 2016, Jamaica was appointed President of PROMECAFE (Regional Cooperative Programme for the Technological Development and Modernization of the Coffee Industry of the countries involved). An estimated 16-member contingency that makes up the Executive Council of PROMECAFE arrived in Jamaica on July 5, 2016 for a three day visit to formally convey the Presidency to Acting Director General of the Coffee Industry Board (CIB), Mr. Steve Robinson. The newly appointed Chairman of the CIB, Mr. Sylburn Thomas was also in attendance at the Inauguration Ceremony as a guest speaker.

PROMECAFE is a network of research and technical cooperation formed by the coffee institutions of Jamaica, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Peru and Nicaragua along with IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture) and CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center). The CIB has been a member of PROMECAFE, since 1992.

PROMECAFE, which is managed by a President/Chairman and a Secretariat, has been working for over 36 years to improve the coffee sector of these countries through the efforts of research, training and technical support.

Mr. Robinson chaired his first Executive Council Meeting for year 2016 at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Kingston Jamaica. A number of initiatives were discussed and decisions taken, which would result in the Coffee Industry of Jamaica benefiting from the Regional Plan to fight the Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) Epidemic and the FONTAGRO/PROMECAFE Programme for the creation of an Integral Regional Early Warning System, to minimize the risks of the CLR Epidemic and the environmental, economic and social impact.

The Executive Council Members were welcomed to Jamaica with a cocktail dinner at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel on July 5, 2016. The Executive Council Meeting was held on July 6, 2016 and culminated the following day with a field tour to the Blue Mountains, the most representative coffee zone of the country where different scenarios in the Jamaican coffee sector were observed. The Council Members were hosted at Clifton Mount by Mr. Jason Sharp, President of the Jamaica Coffee Exporters Association and Mr. Richard Sharp, Managing Director of Blue Mountain Coffee Processors.

Date: July 15, 2016