

## Successful Conference On The Environment

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Minister of Water and Housing and Honorary President of the Caribbean Environmental Forum (CEF), Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, presents a gift package to Regional Project Co-ordinator for the Integrated Water and Coastal Areas Management Project, Vincent Sweeney, on June 24, at the Rose Hall Resort in Montego Bay.

The Fifth Biennial Caribbean Environmental conference, which was held at the Rose Hall Resort in Montego Bay from June 21 to 25, has been described as very successful.

Minister of Water and Housing, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, told JIS News that the conference had "gone very well," with discussions on substantial and critical issues in relation to the environment and waste water management.

"All 500 participants from across the Caribbean region got an opportunity to positively approach discussions on topical areas, such as energy and environmental concerns, among others, and the sharing of experiences and ideas," he said.

"We all looked at some of the things done and how we can expand on these in terms of mitigation and adaptation. As Small Island Development States, we have challenges and problems and so cannot wait on the decisions of others; we must take significant steps to mitigate the effects of climate change in the region," Dr. Chang added.

He pointed out that the interchanging of ideas was excellent and would



benefit participating countries, as each participant would return with renewed levels of motivation to establish sustainable development mechanisms, and never having to face the frightening consequences of inaction.

Minister of Water and Housing and Honorary President of the Caribbean Environmental Forum (CEF), Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, addressing the CEF on June 24, at the Rose Hall Resort in Montego Bay.

Regional Project Co-ordinator for the Integrated Water and Coastal Areas Management Project, Vincent Sweeney, said the conference was a "resounding success in many ways when compared to the previous four."

"Of particular interest this time around was the youth environment forum, where some 10 young persons from across Jamaica were integrally involved in discussions on key environmental issues. The young persons were so very involved during the conference, which made a broad review and assessment of sustainable energy, water supply, water resource management and waste management. The sessions went very well and were well received and I think that everybody is quite satisfied at the overall outcome of this event," Mr. Sweeney told JIS News.



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