

Conference Rationale

The devastating effects of the rapid depletion of our natural resources resulting from over exploitation of unsustainable environmental practices have now come to the attention of all sectors of our economy. Our Caribbean States are faced with startling revelations such as: increase in sea levels, higher land and sea temperatures, more unusual, frequent and extreme weather (flooding, hurricanes, droughts, and heat waves); change in rainfall patterns; 2°C increase in daytime temperature range over the last 10 years and a 3.5% increase in gas emissions between 2000 and 2007.

The threat to food, health and job security is now of major concern to the Region. Green technologies must be implemented if future generations are to enjoy good standards of living resulting from sustainable management of our environment. This will also assist us in achieving **Vision 2030 Jamaica**, "*make Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business*" as set out in the National Development Plan by the Planning Institute of Jamaica.