

CARIBBEAN LOGISTICS

Franklin Johnston has a long standing interest in getting logistics, transport and supply chain training established in the Caribbean. The region, public sector and businesses under perform as employees are not up to speed in key elements of the discipline. Yet, there is a hunger for qualifications by those who have no certificates to affirm their competence.

In the 1980's I visited Corby and discussed establishing a chapter in the Caribbean and was promised assistance to set up the branch. Sadly my job as Partner with KPMG and later Senior Partner with Teape-Johnston saw me working in countries from Canada to Tanzania and the initiative faded for want of attention.

In 2011 after discussions with then President Steve Agg I moved to Jamaica on a multi-year contract and vowed to start a branch.

In 2012 a group of us likeminded folk formed the Caribbean Institute of Logistics and Transport but the company remained dormant as we all were busy. Now I am retired it's top of my list.

I also prompted the University of the West Indies to implement a specialization in Logistics and Supply Chain Management which they did last year and I teach it at the Masters level.

Last year I made contact with Keith Newton to get the branch started and promote the profession especially as the government is implementing the Kingston Logistics Hub and demand for relevant training and certification in logistics, supply chain and transport seems good.

We reassembled our Directors the others being Craig Perue-UWI Lecturer, Project Manager and IT Systems Consultant; Dr Blossom O'Meally-Nelson-Banker, Trainer and Consultant; Xesus Johnston-CEO, Business Strategist and Consultant; Talmage Stokes- Sandhurst trained Major, original Jamaican Bobsledder (about whom the film "Cool Runnings" was made), logistics professional and Consultant; Frances Fulton-Public Sector, NGO, PR and marketing Consultant.

We want to get the entity up and running so we made portfolio assignments to spread the workload and assigned a person your team member might contact. Craig will liaise with your website person and handle any data issues (craig.perue@gmail.com); Blossom the same for training and development (nelbloom@hotmail.com) and Frances will handle Membership and together we will get the administration going including constitution, letterheads etc. (francesfulton@hotmail.com).

For me and my colleagues it's been a long journey and I hope we will go public in time for the 34 members of my MSc class in Logistics at the University of the West Indies to join before they graduate.

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