

JAMAICA

Contact:

Emily Dunn
Fever Pitch Marketing Communications
416.828.4188
emily@feverpitchcommunications.com

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WORLD FREE ZONE CONFERENCE TO HIGHLIGHT HOW TO HELP ALLEVIATE SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES

*World Free Zones Organization's 8th Annual International Conference & Exhibition (AICE)
to be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, June 13 to 17*

KINGSTON, JAMAICA; June 10, 2022 — With supply chain issues dominating news headlines around the world, an upcoming conference in Jamaica aims to highlight how World Free Zones can help ease the issue as unique instruments in global trade. Centred around the theme “Zones: Your Partner for Resilience, Sustainability and Prosperity,” the World Free Zones Organization’s 8th Annual International Conference & Exhibition (AICE) will be held in Montego Bay from June 13 through 17.

Free zones, also known as free economic zones or free economic territories, are a type of “Special Economic Zone” designated by governments to foster economic activity through favourable approaches to taxation and duties. Because free zones often make it easy to get a company up and running in a new country, they can [facilitate the development of strong new supply chains](#).

“Tourism’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has been very optimistic with record arrivals and earnings but it has not been linear as other issues have surfaced. The sector has been experiencing supply chain issues that can negatively impact our service delivery

and overall recovery and must be addressed. This conference will not only put Jamaica in the spotlight again but provide global minds who will present best practices and strategies on the way forward,” said Minister of Tourism, Hon Edmund Bartlett.

Panels Tackle Current and Emergent Issues

AICE will feature a respected list of speakers from around the globe, including free zone practitioners, government representatives, business experts, policymakers, media and research specialists. The topics that will be explored through [panel discussions](#) during the AICE are:

- Shaping the Future for Supply Chain Resilience
- Charting the Future of an Inclusive E-Commerce
- Building a New Generation of SDG/ESG Entities
- Reforming the Global Tax System
- How “Ecosystems of Trust” Drive Prosperity

This year’s staging of AICE is intended to highlight and advance work that will ensure that free zones around the world, and especially in the Caribbean and the Latin American region, transition as quickly as possible to a green economy. Jamaica, which has been chosen as the destination, is expected to “revive the spirit, excitement and optimism which the AICE has missed in the last two pandemic years”. Expected to attract upwards of 750 international visitors, the conference is also being closely watched as the first major post-pandemic conference to be held in Jamaica.

According to Jamaica’s Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Senator the Honourable Aubyn Hill, conference attendees will leave with practical solutions that can bolster their free zone and other business operations through the current uncertain times. “The conference will provide a total experience – business and pleasure – with expert panel presentations, site visits to explore investment opportunities, an exhibition, and the chance to enjoy Jamaica’s world-renowned hospitality and culture.”

“As we near the opening of our 8th annual conference, we remain optimistic that the Free Zone industry is poised to come out of the pandemic stronger, wiser, more agile and better prepared for future disruptions. It’s a promising sign that so many of our colleagues will be traveling to Jamaica after two years of virtual events. We are grateful to our Jamaica partners who have taken this journey with us to bring our community back together. I firmly believe that the AICE is the perfect platform for bringing together key international decision makers, service providers and consultants to exchange knowledge, experiences, and best practices to drive our industry into the future,” said Dr. Samir Hamrouni, Chief Executive Officer, World Free Zones Organizations.

About The Jamaica Tourist Board

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), founded in 1955, is Jamaica’s national tourism agency based in the capital city of Kingston. JTB offices are also located in Montego Bay, Miami, Toronto and London. Representative offices are located in Berlin, Barcelona, Rome, Amsterdam, Mumbai, Tokyo and Paris.

In 2021, the JTB was declared ‘World’s Leading Cruise Destination,’ ‘World’s Leading Family Destination’ and ‘World’s Leading Wedding Destination’ for the second consecutive year by the World Travel Awards, which also named it the ‘Caribbean’s Leading Tourist Board’ for the 14th consecutive year; and the ‘Caribbean’s Leading Destination’ for the 16th consecutive year; as well as the ‘Caribbean’s Best Nature Destination’ and the ‘Caribbean’s Best Adventure Tourism Destination.’ In addition, Jamaica was awarded four gold 2021 Travvy Awards, including ‘Best Destination, Caribbean/Bahamas,’ ‘Best Culinary Destination –Caribbean,’ Best Travel Agent Academy Program,; as well as a *TravelAge West* WAVE award for ‘International Tourism Board Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support’ for a record-setting 10th time. In 2020, the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA) named Jamaica the 2020 ‘Destination of the Year for Sustainable Tourism’. In 2019, TripAdvisor® ranked Jamaica as the #1 Caribbean Destination and #14 Best Destination in the World. Jamaica is home to some of the world’s best accommodations, attractions and service providers that continue to receive prominent global recognition.

For details on upcoming special events, attractions and accommodations in Jamaica go to the JTB’s Website at www.visitjamaica.com or call the Jamaica Tourist Board at 1-800-JAMAICA (1-800-526-2422). Follow the JTB on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [YouTube](#). View the JTB blog at www.islandbuzzjamaica.com.

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