

Speaking Notes

For

Mr. Omar Sweeney

Managing Director of the  
Jamaica Social Investment Fund

At

Virtual Handing Over and Training Launch for  
Integrated Community Development Project's  
STEM Learning Resources and Training.

On

Friday, April 30, 2021

## **Salutation**

Hon. Fayval Williams, Minister of Education Youth and Information

Officials from the Ministry of Education

Teachers and Principals for the various beneficiary schools

Members of the JSIF Team

Jamaica Social Investment Fund has always invested in projects geared towards improving education. Over the span of our almost 25 years of existence hundreds of projects formulated to improve infrastructure, equipment accessibility or teacher training have always been our pleasure to implement.

We take pride in the fact that our organization can make a tangible contribution to improving schools, teacher student engagement and the overall education sector.

This handing over today is one of many that we have done, we understand the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, STEM training and how it aids in developing students who are critical thinkers, good at solving complex problems and drivers in advancing technology.

Acknowledging the importance of STEM education and its effectiveness we chose to partner with the Ministry of Education Youth and Information to implement this project at a cost of 15 million Jamaican dollars. The project which will be implemented at

schools in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Ann, Clarendon, St. Catherine, St. James, and Westmoreland aims to facilitate improvements in quality educational outcomes in the sciences.

The aim is not necessarily to introduce new scientific concepts but to support the initiatives that the Ministry has already developed.

As we strive towards more inclusive learning environments and a student-centered approach, we are aware of the various types of learners and aim to create a holistic classroom.

This project supports the policy of the Government to provide world class education and training to its citizens by strengthening the capacity of schools to deliver educational and support services of the highest quality through formalized and standardized training to the Science Staff as well as the provision of instructional teaching aides.

The project builds on the success of a previous ICDP project to improve Numeracy & Literacy in schools across Jamaica.

31 schools will participate, with 62 teachers being trained and some 4,300 students benefiting from its implementation.

We hope that through using this equipment and the application of the strategies that you will be exposed to by the training, the lives of your students will be improved and they can apply themselves in a world that has rapidly changing technology.

We here at JSIF are happy we could facilitate this training and wish you success in your pursuit of an improved education sector.

Thank you.