



The IOJ's Earth Day 2021 Competition: Call to Action

Kingston, Jamaica. March 10, 2021: - Earth Day should be every day! As we reflect on relevant ways to promote environmental awareness among Jamaicans, here is a competition calling everyone to action! Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 each year to promote the preservation of the earth's natural resources. The annual event—which started in 1970—provides everyone with an opportunity to explore a range of themes surrounding the preservation of earth's natural resources whilst harnessing the creative talents we possess. This year's Earth Day 2021 competition theme: "Restore Our Earth" signals to every individual the responsibility we all share in replenishing the earth, after use of its resources.

Jamaica is prone to several natural hazards such as earthquakes, droughts, floods, landslides, and hurricanes. Jamaicans must also be aware of the important consequences that climate change has on our country. The impacts of climate change will see sea-levels rising, the accelerated erosion and flooding of coastal areas, increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes, coral reef destruction, and the spread of vector-borne diseases. As Earth Day passes its milestone 50th Anniversary in April 2021, nature and the environment will still face enormous challenges including loss of biodiversity, pollution, degradation of our ecosystems, and climate change.

The Natural History Museum of Jamaica (NHMJ), a Division of the Institute of Jamaica (IOJ), is inviting entries to this competition, open to all children and youth aged 12 - 19 years or students in grades 7 - 13. Eligible persons are asked to submit individual entries to the Poetry, Poster, and Photography categories. There will also be an open video category for persons to submit a 1-minute video clip featuring the environment in danger and its attempt to get the attention of humans to cease their actions which result in continued destruction. The open video category is not limited to any age group. The final deadline for submission of entries is Monday, March 26, 2021. Following judging, the winners will be announced during the annual Earth Day Competition Awards Ceremony.

For further information please contact Mrs. Eartha Cole (Education Outreach Officer) or Ms. Kareen Parks (Assistant Education Outreach Officer) at 922-0620-6 extension 352 or 247 respectively or email earthdaysubmissions@gmail.com.

Entries will be judged on the premise that ample research has gone into what is produced. It is

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hoped that our nation's youth can become a voice of change through their creative and expressive ideas on our aim at Jamaica being restored to a healthy natural environment--- Let's *envision* it! Let's *restore* it!

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The Natural History Museum of Jamaica (NHMJ) offers tours, programmes and activities designed to stimulate an interest in the biological sciences and disseminate information on Jamaica's Flora and Fauna. The NHMJ is a Division of the Institute of Jamaica, an Agency of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment & sport.

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