



# The Access to Information Unit

*Joins the rest of the world in celebrating*

The 13th International

# Right TO Know DAY

**September 28, 2015**

## Why is Right to Know Day Important to Me?

This day acknowledges access to information as a necessary tool for the realization of other fundamental human rights, for transparency in the operation of the government and for the participation of Jamaicans in national decision making. Access to Information/Freedom of Information Laws empowers citizens to:

- ◆ See official documents held by public documents to authorities to address public issues, scrutinize by government and become active participants in the affairs of the country;
- ◆ Verify government's decisions on matters of social and national interest including health, finance and the environment;
- ◆ Have personal information changed if it is incomplete, misleading, out of date or incorrect.

## When is Right to Know Day Celebrated?

'Right to Know' Day is celebrated every September 28th. It started on September 28, 2002, in Sofia, Bulgaria, at an international meeting of access advocates. They proposed that the date be dedicated to the promotion of access to information worldwide.

## What is Right to Know Day?

'Right to Know' Day celebrates, once a year, the right of individuals to access information held by government bodies and encourages transparent, accessible government. It is marked worldwide each year by over 100 countries including Jamaica by activities that celebrate the public's right to know. The celebration of 'International Right to Know Day' continues to grow globally with the continued growth in the number of countries with access to information laws and public access regimes. The Government of Jamaica guaranteed the right of the public to access official government documents by the passage of the **Access to Information Act in 2002**. Our theme for Right to Know Week this year is '**Access to Information: Empowering a Developing Nation**' focuses on the empowerment that information rights provide to every member of the public in the conduct of their affairs and that of their community.

## Right to Know Week Events September 28–October 2, 2015

**Monday, Sept 28** • Interview with ATI Director, CVM@Sunrise, RTK Day Message from the Honorable Minister, (Jamaica Observer) and (Jamaica Gleaner)  
-ATI TV Ad Campaign Launch (CVM)

**Tuesday, Sept 29** • Access Rights Twitter Q&A 4 p.m.-5 p.m.

**Wednesday, Sept 30** • Access Rights Twitter Q&A 10:00 a.m. - 11 a.m.

**Thursday, Oct 1** • RTK ATI Presentation JCDC-ATI Director

**Friday, Oct 2** • ATI Brochure Inserts in the Daily Gleaner

### For more information contact

The Access to Information Unit: 5-9 South Odeon Avenue, Kingston 10

Phone: 968-8282, 968-3166 Fax: 926-9491 Email: [ati@cwjamaica.com](mailto:ati@cwjamaica.com) Website: [www.ati.gov.jm](http://www.ati.gov.jm)

Social Network : **Twitter:** @atiunitjamaica **Facebook:** Access to Information Unit **YouTube Channel:** ATIUnitJamaica

*Right to Know...Power to Change!*