



NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL JAMAICA

GENERAL INFORMATION

Experience: National Competitiveness Council

Country: Jamaica

Coordinating Institution: National Competitiveness Council

Other institutions involved: An Initiative of the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce – Managed by the Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO)

Duration of the experience: June 2009 to Present

Area of the successful experience: Effective mechanisms to monitor results

DETAILED INFORMATION

1) Description



The National Competitiveness Council (NCC) was established in 2010 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce. The main objective of the NCC is to identify and implement policy reforms to facilitate growth of MSMEs in Jamaica. The establishment of the Council was timely as it was also able to absorb oversight of the policy initiatives advanced by the National Export Strategy which was also launched in 2010.

Since then the scope and mandate of the Council has expanded to where it now:

- Develops and monitors the country's Business Environment Reform Agenda (BERA)
- Drives the implementation of reforms by consistent interface with implementing agencies

- Escalates issues being faced by implementing agencies through a structured framework established by the Government
- Reports to key international agencies as well as the general public on the progress of reforms
- Supports implementing agencies by identifying external funding for the implementation

2) Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the coordination efforts of the NCC are the implementing agencies of Government reforms. Indirectly, business enterprises in the country benefit from the enhanced business environment resulting from the implementation of reforms. Other entities include:

- GoJ/JAMPRO/Private Investors: the BERA demonstrates the commitment of the Government to both local and foreign investors and increases investor confidence
- External Partners:
 - Authors of Key Indices: the NCC reports on the reforms to the developers of three main Indices i.e. Global Competitiveness , Doing Business , Logistics Performance.
 - Development Partners: the NCC offers a single source for a comprehensive update on reforms to entities that monitor Jamaica’s development/policy initiatives

3) Implementation

The NCC is a public-private sector body that meets on a quarterly basis to discuss reforms being implemented, the business environments needs of the private sector and generally, how best to improve the business environment from a policy perspective. On an ongoing basis however, the NCC Secretariat, housed at JAMPRO, uses a number of methodologies to monitor the BERA and push the implementing agencies to meet the various milestones for the implementation of business reforms.



Using the Doing Business Report as its base, but also taking the Global Competitiveness Report and the Logistics Performance Report into consideration, the Council develops an annual agenda of reforms for implementation and to gain priority recognition by Cabinet (the Executive arm of the Government).

The Secretariat establishes Technical Working Groups for each reform and systematically implements initiatives to achieve milestones and remove roadblocks (including the identification of funding),

reporting back to the Council as necessary. In 2014, Cabinet established the Growth Agenda Sub-Committee, chaired by the Minister of Finance and Planning to whom issues with the implementation of reforms are escalated.

Each year the Council hosts a Roundtable to update key stakeholders and the wider public on reforms. At the same time, reports are developed and submitted to the World Bank (and soon the World Economic Forum) by the Secretariat advising on reforms implemented.

4) Accomplishments and Results.

Over the last five years, the NCC has successfully driven, monitored and/or reported on the implementation of over 20 reforms in Jamaica. These include:

-Enactment of business enhancing legislation, such as:

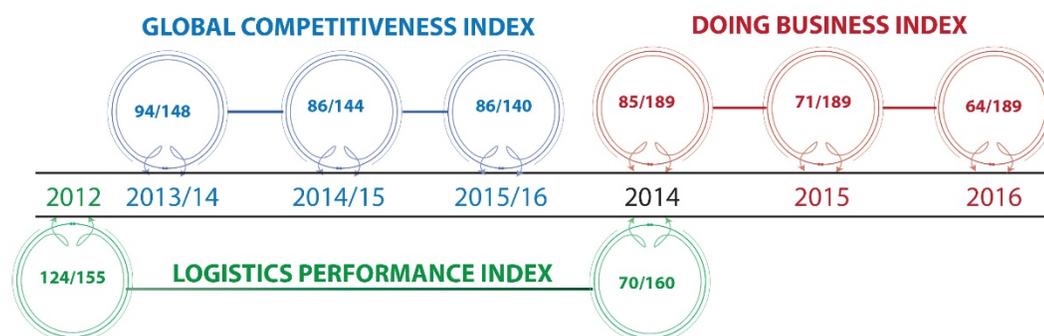
- O The Credit Reporting Act
- O The Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act
- O The Security Interest in Personal Property Act
- O The Fiscal Incentives Act
- O Other amendments, such as those that allowed for compulsory e-filing of taxes for certain business categories, changes to the Customs Act, Stamp Duty Act and others.

-The establishment and operationalisation of :

- O Credit Bureaus
- O National Collateral Registry
- O Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency

-The amalgamation of business registration processes to a single 3-day process

-Implementation of an electronic platform to track applications for development and construction permits.



This can be directly linked to the work of the NCC to: drive and monitor the reforms that have been implemented; communicate with entities such as the World Bank on the progress of reforms for consideration; and ensuring that the business public – who comprise the respondents for these surveys – are aware of the reforms and can respond to the surveys accordingly.

5) Offers of cooperation with the region to exchange good practices

Anytime, based on availability:

Technical tours and visits of experts (minimum 2 months advance scheduling preferred)

Sharing of information via e-mail (As necessary)

Teleconferences

Videoconferences

6) Main contact information:

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The collection of experiences showcasing successful projects implemented by stakeholders in countries of the Americas is one of the most important tasks of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC). There are more than 200 experiences available in the Signs of Competitiveness in the Americas Reports 2012 -2015: www.riacreport.org.

The Organization of American States (OAS) serves as the RIAC Technical Secretariat to facilitate the knowledge sharing between countries, multilateral and academic institutions. The experiences and intellectual contributions presented by RIAC members for the 2015 Signs of Competitiveness in the Americas Report will provide valuable input for the RIAC Annual Meetings and the panel discussions during the IX Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) to be held in Guatemala City, on November 16-18, 2015.

For the latest information about the RIAC and the 2015 Signs Report follow us on Twitter @riacnet.org
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