



**MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND JOB CREATION**

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NEWS RELEASE

**Meteorologists and Hurricane Specialists to visit Jamaica on Friday April 27, 2018,
as part of a Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour (CHAT)**



L-R Dr Lixion Avila Hurricane Specialist at the National Hurricane Centre (NHC) in Miami; Mr. Kenneth Graham, Director of the NHC; Mr. Evan Thompson, Director of the Meteorological Service Division (Jamaica); and Mr. Daniel Browne, Hurricane Specialist at the NHC.

Top Meteorologists from the United States and the Caribbean met recently in Martinique ahead of the 2018 Hurricane Season which begins on June 1, to discuss the past Season as well as plans and projections for what is shaping up to be another above average year for activity. Jamaica was represented at the meeting by Mr. Evan Thompson, Director of the Meteorological Services Division.

The Meteorologists and Hurricane Specialists will also visit Jamaica on Friday April 27, 2018, as part of a Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour (CHAT) by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The tour is a public awareness, education and outreach campaign implemented by NOAA in partnership with the United States Air Force Reserve. The Campaign is geared at improving the preparedness and resilience of communities within the Caribbean to tropical storms and hurricanes.

CHAT provides an excellent opportunity for the message of preparedness to be reinforced among the population and to assure the public of the commitment of the Meteorological Service to consistent tropical storm and hurricane monitoring, forecasting and warning during the ensuing hurricane season.

The group will host a press conference at the Sangster International Airport after which the U.S. Hurricane Specialists and U.S. military air crew will facilitate access by students, media, community groups and other members of the public aboard their Air Force Reserve Command WC-130J “Hurricane Hunter.”

During hurricanes, U.S. military air crews fly these types of aircraft directly into the core of tropical cyclones to gather data that are critical for forecasting a hurricane’s intensity and direction.

Jamaica is the only English-speaking country on the 2018 Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour (CHAT). The other countries to be visited by the team are Mexico, Panama and Puerto Rico.

The last CHAT to Jamaica was in 2001 and was hosted at the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA) in Kingston.

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