



## ICC NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Whitney Doll  
(202) 568-1798  
[wdoll@iccsafe.org](mailto:wdoll@iccsafe.org)

### **International Code Council and Bureau of Standards Jamaica sign a milestone agreement to advance building safety in Jamaica**

*Modern, updated codes will help strengthen Jamaica's infrastructure in light of recent natural disasters*

**Kingston, Jamaica** – The International Code Council (ICC) and the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) recently signed a milestone memorandum of understanding to update Jamaica's building codes. Under this agreement, the Code Council will work with BSJ to produce customized building codes for Jamaica based on ten of the International Codes, including the International Building Code, International Plumbing Code and International Mechanical Code. ICC will also provide its expertise to help with strengthening training programs for code officials in Jamaica.

The World Bank Group, as part of its Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project, and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction & Recovery (GFDRR) facilitated this agreement through a \$30 million loan granted to the Government of Jamaica to support investment in resilient infrastructure and disaster risk reduction measures. Between 2001 and 2010, ten major natural disasters impacted Jamaica, affecting approximately two million people and causing nearly \$1.21 billion in property losses. This agreement is a much-needed boost to Jamaica's efforts to address the effects of natural disasters and prevent the loss of lives and property.

The Code Council's engagement in Jamaica complements a simultaneous effort carried out by the Government of Jamaica to enact a new Building Act, expected to be passed by Parliament by December 2017. The act would considerably modernize building control processes and formally give legal effect to the adapted ICC building codes. BSJ Chairman James Rawles noted that "ICC engagement is critical to Jamaica as it will set the stage for a successful implementation of the new Jamaican Building Code. This will be a major step to protect health, safety and welfare and make Jamaica more resilient to natural disasters."

"This is a landmark agreement with the potential to protect health, safety and welfare in Jamaica," said ICC Executive Vice President Mark Johnson. "We are excited to be working with Jamaica and many other countries around the world to establish strong building codes, resilient communities and safe buildings."

To download photos from the signing, [click here](#).

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**About the International Code Council**

The [International Code Council](#) is a member-focused association. It is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Most U.S. communities and many global markets [choose the International Codes](#).