OAS RED GEALC
Customs Visit
Agents’ Committee Presentation

Presented by Mrs. Paula Pinnock
Tuesday July 25, 2006
Shipping Association of Jamaica
4 Fourth Avenue, Newport West
The Shipping Association of Jamaica (SAJ)

- SAJ History – membership, mandate
- Traditional relationship with Customs
- Important Actor in Trade Facilitation
- Continued Interface for official Dialogue on the Customs “product” – Quality Assurance Committee (QAC)/ Agents Committee meetings
Presentation Layout

- Brief Introduction
- Current Outlook
- Hope for Change
- Recommendations
- SAJ’s role
Brief Introduction

- Introduction of Customs Modernisation process – objectives, goals, etc. (need to elaborate)
- Change management (Customs officials, Govt. and stakeholders) in shifting from paper to electronic processes
Current Outlook

- Inadequate synchronization of administrative/political commitment – e-legislation
- Cargo release time / Average processing time for Customs and TCC approvals/
  Average Import clearance times
- E-manifest system – mixed success
  (technical/ legislative hitches)
Hopes for change

- Lessened cargo release time
- Less paper transaction – advent of the SAD (standardised information with minimal “red tape”, corruption, tax evasion)
- Speedy implementation of Single Window project (*Jamaica Trade Portal*). Agents’ interaction with Customs will be through the KWL/PAJ terminal Operations
- Grievance redressal mechanism – accessibility of senior officers– effective and timely redress
Hopes for change (cont’d)

- Improved cooperation among stakeholders at ALL stages of the process
- Improved communication and enhanced information flow of Customs policies and regulations
- Implementation of transparent, coherent and harmonised regulations and procedures with less ad hoc implementation, especially by officer on the ground
- Increased facilitation from policy perspective - implementation of necessary supporting regulatory framework for electronic processing / signature
Recommendations

- Consultation, consultation, consultation!!
- Reduction of discretionary power in the application of policies
- Improve training of line staff within JCD
- Improve awareness of external customers, stakeholders on processes (agents, brokers, etc)