



FTCNewsLine is an on-line quarterly newsletter of the **FAIR TRADING COMMISSION** that contains information on competition matters dealt with by the Fair Trading Commission as well as other competition agencies from around the world. The aim is to provide readers with insights into some of the matters that are prosecuted in other jurisdictions; and to assist businesses and consumers in better identifying issues that may pose competition concerns.

Competition legislation is specific to each jurisdiction and activities that are prohibited in one jurisdiction are not necessarily prohibited in other jurisdictions. For information on the prohibitions under the Jamaica's competition legislation, the **FAIR COMPETITION ACT (FCA)**, please visit our website at www.jftc.gov.jm.

In this Issue we feature issues related to the period April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016.

FTC Comments on Petroleum Sector

In May 2016, the FTC submitted to the Ministry of Science Energy & Technology, comments on the proposed Amendments to the Petroleum (Quality Control) Act, which arose primarily from the Final Report of the Petroleum Trade Reform Committee. Several recommendations that are intended to create a more effective market environment in the petroleum sector, were submitted. The FTC also suggested measures that will likely improve the market dynamics and relationships between the players in the sector, and more specifically to redress the unequal bargaining position between marketing companies and retailers. This inequity has resulted in the market not functioning as efficiently as it should be, thereby leading to disruptions.

FTC Commences Assessment of Rice Agreement

The FTC is assessing the likely competitive effect of provisions of a supply agreement which the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB) entered into individually with two local importers of rice. Arising from the agreement, each importer has the option of importing rice from the GRDB in volumes sufficient to satisfy one half of the local demand for the commodity, which could potentially foreclose the market for other importers.

FTC Staff Participates in local Competition Law and Policy Seminars

The Staff of the FTC participated in two local training seminars on Competition Law and Policy in May and June 2016. The first seminar was a Level One training seminar attended by the Administrative Staff of the FTC. It was held on May 31, 2016 at the Mona Visitors Lodge in Kingston. On June 15-16, 2016, the Technical Staff of the FTC participated in a two day training session held at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Kingston. The three areas covered at the seminar were (i) Merger Control Regulation; (ii) Cartel; and (iii) Abuse of Market Dominance.

FTC Participates in CARIFORUM- EU Capacity Building Project on Competition

In continued commitment to the strengthening of competition in the region, the FTC contributed to the CARIFORUM-EU Capacity Building Project on Competition held in Trinidad May 2-6, 2016. This follows the FTC's participation in a similar workshop held from March 14-18, 2016 in Antigua and Barbuda. The project is geared toward assisting CARICOM and OECS member states in developing competency in the area of competition law and ultimately establishing national competition authorities.

The FTC contributed to discussions in the areas of (i) cross border anti-competitive conduct; (ii) institution design; and (iii) institution building. Other areas covered at the workshop were (iv) abuse of market dominance; (v) merger control regulation; and (vi) bid-rigging in public procurement. The FTC remains committed to promoting competitive markets and lends a helping hand to other jurisdictions that are looking to do the same.