

2021 ASIS Jamaica Awards Ceremony – Chairman’s Address

His Excellency Mr. Asif Ahmad, Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George - British High Commissioner to Jamaica;
Mr. Willem Teuben, CPP – Regional Vice President of ASIS Int’l Region 7B;
ASIS Int’l Volunteer Leaders from home and abroad;
Recipients of our ASIS Jamaica Chapter Award of Merit;
Our recently Internationally Certified Members;
Colleagues and friends...

Please accept my sincere welcome on behalf of the Jamaica Chapter of ASIS International.

It is with deep regret that we acknowledge those who lost their lives due to the ongoing pandemic. We also wish to mention the loss of two security officers – Mr. Anthony Embden of Guardsman Ltd. and Mr. Opolan Clarke of Hawkeye Electronic Security Ltd. Both men were cut down in the line of duty in separate incidents within the last 30 days. Please join me in observing a minute of silence...

May their souls rest in peace.

Our last Awards Banquet was held on 09 March 2019 and we have certainly seen how the world has changed in the last 24 months.

The chapter has since transitioned to virtual events, with our last Awards Ceremony held as part of our AGM in November 2020.

According to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, over 127 million persons have contracted the COVID 19 virus, with over 2.7 million deaths.

Jamaica has over 38,000 confirmed cases with almost 550 deaths to date.

Yet, as horrific as the Coronavirus is, other forms of threats, which have taken somewhat of a backseat in the media, such as lifestyle diseases, crime, and motor vehicle accidents continue to wreak havoc in our own lives as well as the lives of our friends and colleagues near and far.

The fact that we are here, ‘together’ again is testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

As a species, we somehow always find a way to not only survive, but THRIVE!

It is in times like these, when we either choose to give up and see our selves as victims, or we choose to find a better version of our selves – the one that will be among the numbers when this time would have passed.

Finding the opportunities in every crisis, defining new norms, improving the way we relate to each other and to our environment, such as virtual conferences like this demonstrates the choice we have made; the choice to be our best selves.

I have shared those thoughts in order to contextualize the reason we are meeting today...

Today is a celebration!
A celebration of life;
A celebration of resilience;

A celebration of dedication and focus, in a time when there are so many reasons, so many distractions, so many excuses for not being productive and getting things done.

Today we celebrate the individual and collective achievements of our ASIS brothers and sisters
The achievements of our extended family in the security industry
Today we acknowledge those who do it for the LOVE and not for the LIKES!

2020 was a challenging yet ironically, very successful year for the Jamaica Chapter. Under the astute leadership of Mr. Warren Smith, CPP, PCI, PSP and his dedicated executive and business management committee (BMC), the chapter:

- Copped the coveted IB Hale Chapter of the year 2020 Award; and
- Thanks to our Webmaster Capt. John Richards CPP, PCI, PSP we also won the Chapter Website of the year 2020 Award.

We also recognize those who were singled out by ASIS Int'l for their exemplary volunteerism:

- Capt. Basil Bewry, CPP, PCI, PSP – EJ Criscouli Jr CPP Volunteer Leadership Award
- Mr. Wayne Ballen, CPP, PCI, PSP – PCB Regional Award
- Capt. Garth Gray, CPP, PCI, PSP – PCB Regional Award

Our sincere gratitude goes out to the 2020 leadership team for running the chapter so very well, while simultaneously magnifying its presence on the global scene.

The 2019 Global Security Exchange was held in Chicago, Illinois.

The Chapter's 25 strong contingent created quite a stir at the conference in our signature, yellow polo shirts.

As a result of the global travel restrictions, the 2020 GSX was rebranded GSX+, which was a very well executed virtual conference, which was also well supported by the chapter.

During last year with the steady hand of our Newsletter Editor – Mr. Carlos Pipher, CPP, PCI, PSP we published 4 volumes of The Informer, which continues to grow in popularity among members as well as the wider security and corporate world.

Thanks to the Pandemic, our popular PSP Review course went virtual in 2020 and created the opportunity for us to attract candidates from across the region.

We had 11 students with representation from Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, St Vincent and the Grenadines and the British Virgin Islands

While we are proud to announce that 2 of the 11 have since sat and passed the PSP exam and will be recognised today, the other 9 are yet to sit the exams which have also gone fully virtual by way of an online proctored exam format.

We continue to encourage them to sit the exam sooner than later.

11 Chapter meetings were held during 2020, including the AGM. Interestingly, attendance has more than doubled since going virtual in March 2020.

In September 2020 the chapter partnered with the Jamaica Association of Private Pharmacy Owners (JAPPO) to host a Security Webinar, which saw an attendance of over 150.

Based on feedback, the event was well received and as such, we have a few similar events in the pipeline for later in the year.

Last year the chapter grew by 44%, achieving its largest membership in its almost 50-year history.

As at 31 Dec 2020 chapter membership stood at 154

To date, our official active membership stands at 102, with 61 person's membership pending renewal.

Our certified members currently stand at 34, with 4, having 2 certifications; and

7 members having the hallowed triple crown – holding concurrent certifications in the CPP, PCI and PSP.

Needless to say, we are extremely proud of all our members and our Business Management Committee is here to serve and support every member to achieve their personal goals even in the face of all the challenges and distractions that bombard us daily.

Our priorities this year will remain aligned with the vision and mission of ASIS Int'l:

Vision: Be the recognized leader, advancing security worldwide.

Mission: Promote excellence and leadership in the security management profession.

We value each and every member of the chapter and look forward to providing support and opportunities for you to grow both personally and professionally.

In this regard, we are currently hosting a CPP study course and will be hosting a PSP course, commencing in the summer.

Members in good standing will be able to participate in select presentations from the PSP course, in order to improve your professional knowledge and where applicable, earn Continuing Professional Education Credits (CPEs) towards recertification.

Thanks to the ASIS Foundation, the chapter was awarded the Roy Bordes scholarship valued at up to US\$10,000 and will be hosting a 2-day virtual educational event on Enterprise Security Risk Management scheduled for 20-21 July 2021, so please save the date.

Registration will be free of cost and we hope to target the C-suite of corporate entities as well as security professionals in developing nations across the globe.

This will also provide opportunities for certified members to earn CPEs.

It is our hope that today's proceedings will inspire and encourage you to continue to develop professionally, to help each other where you can and to continue to redefine the private security industry as a viable career path for the next generation of young professionals.

Finally, I must offer my personal congratulations to all who will be recognised today. Your life and work are a testament to what can be achieved if we choose to pursue our goals and to make sound life choices. Well done to each of you.

A rising tide raises all ships!

Thank you!