

# JOA endorses Swim Jamaica

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**The Jamaica Olympic Association (JOA) this week joined other organisations in adding their support to SwimJamaica, the national learn to swim programme based at the National Stadium pool in Kingston.**

The JOA joins the Ministry of Education & Youth, Ministry of Health, Early Childhood Commission and Mayor McKenzie as supporters of the national swim programme.

Michael Fennell, president of the JOA, said: "The JOA would like to take this opportunity to congratulate SwimJamaica and the Amateur Swimming Association of Jamaica (ASAJ) for developing a national learn to swim programme."

"I am encouraged that one of your goals is to increase the number of swimmers competing in the competitive aquatics. I hope that SwimJamaica will develop a wide base of swimmers resulting in more Jamaicans representing their country at the highest level," said Fennell, the former Jamaica swimmer.

SwimJamaica was launched in January 2005 with fifty swimmers. In just over two years, the number of swimmers has grown to over 550 with approximately a third being sponsored from inner-city communities.

Complementing the increase in students, SwimJamaica's team of instructors has grown to 20, working at seven pools in Kingston and one in Discovery Bay.

"We are very pleased to receive the endorsement from the JOA," said John Eyre, president of the ASAJ.