

## JCDC accepting entries for Festival of Foods Competition

The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC), an agency of the Ministry of Youth & Culture is inviting members of the public to submit entries for its Festival of Foods Competition.

This Competition is staged annually to celebrate the culinary creativity of Jamaicans, while allowing participants to showcase and sharpen their culinary skills for personal and professional pursuits. The Festival of Foods Competition is open to individuals, schools, churches, universities and community groups and accepts entries in categories which include Main Dishes, Pastries, Beverages and Desserts among others. There is also a live competition element, where entrants can participate in the Mystery Basket Cook Off, Table Setting and Napkin Folding competitions. According to Stephen Davidson, Director, Marketing & Public Relations, "Entrants are encouraged to use local ingredients in their dishes. This is to foster a greater sense of appreciation for local produce and in support of our thrust to eat what we grow. Entrants can also utilize specialty products from the sponsors of the competition in showcasing their talents." Davidson also noted that the competition has been a platform for many persons aspiring to be professionals in the hospitality industry. He pointed to Nicholas Douglas, the reigning Pastry Chef of the Year and Showpiece Champion from Taste of Jamaica as a JCDC multi- gold medalist in the Culinary Arts. Deadline for entries for the Festival of Foods Competition is Friday, March 28, 2014. Entry forms and guidelines are now available online at [www.jcdc.gov.jm](http://www.jcdc.gov.jm), at the JCDC Head Office located at 3-5 Phoenix Avenue, Kingston 10 and at all JCDC parish offices island-wide.