

Jamaica first country to become member of US dental examination group

Thursday, November 20, 2014

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Jamaica has become the first country outside of the US mainland to be a member of the American Board of Dental Examiner (ADEX) organisation.



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Health Minister, Dr Fenton Ferguson today witnessed the first trial run of dental examinations for the qualification of local dentists held at the College of Oral Health Science in Kingston.

The process meets the highest international best practice in terms of standards and will ensure that locally trained dentists would be on par with their North American counterparts, the Health Minister said.

Members of the ADEX today visited the College of Oral Health Science where 11 of 24 students sat the 'double-blind' exam. The remaining 13 students will be examined tomorrow.

ADEX is a test development board serving member state dental boards in developing valid and reliable initial licensure examinations in dentistry and dental hygiene.

Interim Dean at the College of Oral Health Science and Chief Dental Officer in the Health Ministry, Dr Irving McKenzie, explained that this type of exam allows for a fair grading process as the neither the students nor examiners know who will be grading a particular piece of work.

During a tour of the facilities, Jamaican-born dentist Dr Maurice Miles, head of the Maryland Board of Dental Examiners in the US took the health minister through the process of the exams.

Dr Ferguson welcomed the move for "an examination that affords transparency, accountability and international validity" in Jamaica's dental health care sector.

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