**News Release**

**19 June 2012**

**New Substrates (Paper) for 2012 Jamaica Banknotes**

Bank of Jamaica wishes to advise that the 2012 issue of four of the five denominations of banknotes - $1,000, $500, $100, $50 - which will be released into general circulation on 23 July 2012, will be printed on more durable substrates. This change has become necessary as the Bank seeks to extend the useful life of the banknotes. Currently, Jamaican banknotes are printed on a cotton material which has a relatively short useful life in the country’s tropical climate and other circulation conditions.

**$100 on Hybrid®**

The One Hundred Dollar ($100) banknote, the most widely-used note, will be printed on a material known as **Hybrid®**, made by the German security paper manufacturer, Louisenthal, a subsidiary of the Munich-based technology company, Giesecke and Devrient GmbH.

 Hybrid® is a combination of protective polyester film layered around a cotton fibre core. The cotton core will continue to be embedded with the usual security features, such as the watermark and security thread, to ensure that the banknote remains secure against counterfeiting. The combined weight and thickness of the finished material is the same as that of conventional banknote paper, that is, 95 grams per square metre.

The polyester film in Hybrid® makes banknotes more durable and the notes stay clean longer and remain firm even in extreme circulation conditions. Hybrid® therefore, improves soiling resistance while continuing to give the same touch and feel as notes printed on only cotton.

**Varnished Cotton for $1000, $500 and $50**

To enhance the durability of these denominations, the $1000, $500 and $50 notes will be printed on a varnished cotton substrate, that is, the traditional cotton treated with a varnish after the notes have been printed. Varnishing creates a moisture proof layer to protect the banknotes against surface soiling and reduces the extent to which they will absorb moisture, contaminant particles and microorganisms.

**$5000**

The Bank will continue to print the $5000 denomination on regular cotton substrate as the main security thread, Optiks®, is only compatible with the cotton-based material.

**Cost Savings**

The changes to the substrates on which the banknotes are printed will cost the Bank more initially. However, beginning in 2013, the Bank expects to realise substantial savings as the notes will remain in circulation for longer periods, thereby reducing the number of new notes required to refresh the circulation stock.

**Bank of Jamaica**