

# Newsweek ranks Jamaica one of best countries to live

(Source: Jamaica Observer - Friday, August 20, 2010 retrieved from: <http://www.jamaicaobserver.com> )

JAMAICA is the top Caribbean country to live in terms of education, health, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and political environment, a Newsweek magazine ranking has said.

According to the magazine's first-ever Best Countries special issue, Jamaica ranked 47th of 100 countries while Cuba and the Dominican Republic — the only other Caribbean countries on the list — were ranked 50th and 55th respectively.

"We set out to answer a question that is at once simple and incredibly complex — if you were born today, which country would provide you the very best opportunity to live a healthy, safe, reasonably prosperous, and upwardly mobile life?" Newsweek said in its latest issue.

Newsweek said it compiled metrics within the five categories and used a weighted formula to arrive at an overall list of the world's top 100 countries.

According to Newsweek, the effort took several months, during which it received copious aid from an advisory board that included Nobel laureate and Columbia University professor Joseph E Stiglitz; McKinsey & Co Social Sector Office director Byron Auguste; McKinsey Global Institute director James Manyika; Jody Heymann, the founding director of McGill University's Institute for Health and Social Policy and a professor at the university; and Geng Xiao, director of Columbia's Global Centre for East Asia.

"They would be the first to admit that like any list, this one isn't perfect," said Newsweek. "Finding comparable data points for the world's richest and poorest countries alike was hugely constraining -- often we had to choose fewer or less-nuanced metrics in order to include the broadest array of nations. What's more, our list represents a snapshot of how countries looked in 2008 and 2009 (we always used the most recent data available for each metric), rather than a historic or predictive view."

The top 10 countries are Finland, Switzerland, Sweden, Australia, Luxembourg, Norway, Canada, Netherlands, Japan, and Denmark. The USA is ranked 11th and Germany, which is Europe's largest economy and which has experienced a recovery from the global financial crisis, is ranked 12th.



Source: Newsweek, August 15, 2010

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