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Public-Private Alliance Foundation



NEWSLETTER

August 4, 2014

Dear PPAF Colleagues and Friends,

We have several things to highlight: (1) Our seminar at the United Nations on August 29, (2) a video on our consulting assignment for the Inter-American Development Bank in Haiti, (3) cooperation with the Batey Relief Alliance, which is active in the Dominican Republic, and (4) connections with the UN Association of the USA, which is a program of the UN Foundation. As always, partnerships and the contributions of volunteers and interns provide PPAF with important leverage.

Best regards,

David Stillman, PhD, Executive Director

Seminar at the United Nations, August 29

PPAF will lead a seminar entitled **“Energy and Climate Action: Essential Tools for the Post-2015 Development Agenda”** as part of the UN Department of Information / Non-Governmental Organizations conference **“2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda.”** The UNA-USA Southern New York State Division (UNA-SNY) and its Energy Project are co-sponsors of the seminar, along with the United Nations Association of the USA and the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development. The full conference, August 27-29 in New York, will draw some 3,000 participants.

The PPAF seminar will take place at mid-day on Friday August 29. **Please e-mail us at ppafoundation@gmail.com ASAP if you would like to attend.** We will send you a form to fill in. We must return all forms by August 12.

Moderated by Dr. Stillman, the panelists at the seminar include:

- Tapio Kanninen, PhD, *“Crisis of Global Sustainability.”* Dr. Kanninen is Senior Fellow and Co-Director of the Project on Sustainable Global Governance at the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the Graduate Center of The City University of New York. During his long international career he was Chief of the Policy Planning Unit in the UN Department of Political Affairs (1998-2005) and Head of the Secretariat of Kofi Annan’s five Summits with Regional Organizations, in addition to earlier work with the Finnish government.
- George Garland, DBA, *“Climate Policy: The U.S. and the UN.”* Dr. Garland is a former US/EPA official, is currently head of the Energy Project, UNA SNY and is

a PPAF board member.

- Amy Parekh Mehta, Esq. *"Climate Change and Energy Issues as seen in the Sustainable Development Goals."* Ms. Mehta is a Program Management Officer at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations. She also teaches environmental law at Pace University Law School.
- Vadim Belikov, MA, *"Involving Social Entrepreneurs for Solutions in Energy and Climate Action."* Mr. Belikov is CEO of PSD Development Company in St. Petersburg, Russia, Co-Founder of the New Energy Leaders Council, Vice Chair of the G-8 Youth Summit and Vice-President of the its Business Assembly, and Vice-President of the International Youth Diplomacy League.

Video on ethanol fuel & cookstoves in Haiti

Posted on the website homepage is a [video that summarizes the work and findings](#) of PPAF's consulting assignment for the Inter-American Development Bank a few months ago. This illustrates how Haiti's poverty, respiratory disease, and environmental problems relate to burning wood and charcoal for family cooking and small businesses, and the possibilities for fuel ethanol from Haitian sugarcane. PPAF and associated organizations are currently developing further action steps to address these issues.



PPAF Consultants Cara Mullen (l) and Tom Setchel (r) discuss ethanol production with Georges Philogene (cl) and IDB Project Manager Fritz Gerval Octave (cr).

Cooperation with the Batey Relief Alliance

With its focus on the impoverished Haitian and Dominican inhabitants of what began as migrant labor camps for sugarcane workers (i.e., bateyes) in the Dominican Republic, the Batey Relief Alliance (BRA) and PPAF have a natural affinity, drawn by humanitarian concerns and a desire to promote agribusiness, health and better living conditions at the community level. Cooperation so far includes these:

- PPAF arranged for the host of Global Connections TV, Bill Miller, to interview BRA's CEO, Ulrich Gaillard, in June at the UN. [An excerpt is available here.](#)



- PPAF interns and volunteers prepared English and French translations for a BRA video that was originally recorded in the D.R. in Spanish and is now available with subtitles. Click here to view "[Building a better life in the 'bateyes' of rural Dominican Republic.](#)"
- PPAF provided an intern to work for two months in a BRA animal husbandry program focused mainly on raising and selling pigs in batey communities. Jacqueline Slorach, a Robertson Scholar in a combined program at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was based at the BRA office in Santo Domingo with site visits to Monte Plata Province. She also had opportunity to travel with the BRA CEO to Haiti for a meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative Haiti Action Network. Her responsibilities were to use a business report compiled by a team from Marquette University to develop an executive summary, a PowerPoint presentation, a proposal & budget to submit to prospective funders, and a press release about the program. A photo of Jacqui Slorach and Ulrick Gaillard, and a photo from the project are given below. Look at the PPAF website menu (www.pfafoundation.org) for her Blog posting.



Ulrick Gaillard and Jacqueline Slorach

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- PPAF is a co-sponsor of the BRA seminar that is included in the forthcoming UN Department of Information / Non-Governmental Organizations conference in New York at the end of August. David Stillman will be the moderator; the seminar, which will take place on Wednesday, August 27, is entitled "*Building a better life in the 'bateyes' of rural Dominican Republic.*"

Connections with the UN Association of the USA and the UN Foundation

Several leaders and volunteers of PPAF are also active in the UN Association of the USA (UNA-USA), especially the Southern New York State Division (UNA-SNY). The UNA-USA is a program of the UN Foundation; other such entities are the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and the anti-malaria program "Nothing but Nets." David Stillman, Jeanne Betsock Stillman, George Garland and Michael Ambrozek also serve on the board or volunteer with UNA-SNY and its Energy Project. Current connections include these:

- Several PPAF leaders participated in a seminar in New York in July on some of USA's responsibilities under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The report emerging from that seminar, "Race and the American Criminal Justice System," has been sent to the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and will be reviewed in mid-August along with the official U.S. Government report and many other so-called "shadow reports" by non-governmental organizations. PPAF concerns and experience with problems of poverty, injustice, lack of education, etc., and efforts to bring positive outcomes, were relevant to the discussions. [Click here for the seminar report.](#)



- PPAF is engaged with the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and the “Nothing but Nets” program of the UN Foundation regarding developments in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
- As noted above, on August 29 PPAF will organize, and UNA-SNY will co-sponsor, a seminar at the UN on “Energy and Climate Action: Tools for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.”
- On September 17 PPAF will co-sponsor a UNA-SNY Energy Project event featuring Dr. Tapio Kanninen as speaker. (See information about him in relation to August 29, above.) PPAF’s work on cookstoves and other energy issues is relevant here. **Please contact us if you would like to attend.**

NOTE: Climate Summit at the UN - September 23

The United Nations will hold a [Climate Summit](#) on September 23 prior to the 2014 opening of the General Assembly. The subject is important for all of us. As indicated on the lead page of the website, “Climate change is not a far-off problem. It is happening now and is having very real consequences on people’s lives. Climate change is disrupting national economies, costing us dearly today and even more tomorrow. But there is a growing recognition that affordable, scalable solutions are available now that will enable us all to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies.

There is a sense that change is in the air. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has invited world leaders, from government, finance, business, and civil society to Climate Summit 2014 this 23 September to galvanize and catalyze climate action. He has asked these leaders to bring bold announcements and actions to the Summit that will reduce emissions, strengthen climate resilience, and mobilize political will for a meaningful legal agreement in 2015. Climate Summit 2014 provides a unique opportunity for leaders to champion an ambitious vision, anchored in action that will enable a meaningful global agreement in 2015.”

Thanks to great PPAF Interns and Volunteers

Natalie Araya, Hastings High School, spent her Senior Alternative as an intern with PPAF. She is on her way to Tufts University in the fall. In addition to working on translations (see below), she created a video on PPAF's consultancy with the IDB in Haiti.

Watson Li, International Studies / Foreign Policy student at City College, CUNY, used his videographer talents to create and edit videos.

Translation of Batey Relief Alliance Video: Thanks go to several people, including Abigail Franco, Martha Perez and Pascale Jean-Gilles, students at Mercy College; Claude Chaptal and Rosario Rodriguez, PPAF associates, and a big thank you to Natalie Araya, who translated into English and French and organized the translations into final form.

How You Can Work with the Foundation

To stay up-to-date, Like us on [Facebook](#), join us on [Linked In](#) and sign up for our [Twitter](#) feed.

Your contributions make it possible for the Foundation to continue our work in bringing organizations and people together for sustainable development and clean energy.

(1) **Donate Directly.** It's quick, safe and easy to give online. Go to www.pfafoundation.org and click on the donation button you prefer. Please consider a monthly gift. You can also mail a check directly to Dr. David Stillman, PPAF, 166 Edgars Lane, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706, USA. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

(2) **Become a Corporate Sponsor.** You'll be listed on our website and in our newsletter as a corporation that supports important work in agribusiness, clean energy, and broad assistance to people in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Madagascar. Contact David Stillman at ppafoundation@gmail.com

(3) **Live Green!** If you live in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia or Illinois, you can help by **changing your electricity provider to Viridian Energy.** (Depending on where you live, you may also be able to switch your gas provider. In Virginia Viridian provides only natural gas.) **This saves you money, supports green energy and provides a smaller carbon footprint, with the Foundation earning a small fee.** Click here to learn more, and feel free to contact us. Go to www.viridian.com/PPAF (Have your current electricity bill handy) or call 914-478-3450; e-mail ppafoundation@gmail.com. You can watch a great 2-minute video by clicking at the top right on our Viridian page.

If you have considered adding solar panels to your home, Viridian has partnered with Solar City, the #1 residential solar company in the U.S. Viridian and Solar City are offering a 20-year contract and free installation. You will reduce your electricity bill significantly.

(4) **Volunteer, serve as an intern, or get involved as a professional.** Use the information above to contact us. Volunteer positions are available in fundraising, research and business development and in translating from English to French and to Kreyol.

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