

Dominican Republic Bioenergy Conference a Success; PPAF Updates

Updates below include:

- [Press release on the Bioenergy International Debate in the Dominican Republic, October 7-9, 2009](#)
- [Videos and photos from the Debate](#)
- [Recent posts on the PPAF Blog, on Standards for Sustainable Development – Relations to Bioenergy, and Better Protection of African Women Through Security Sector Reforms](#)
- [Madagascar to receive more medical supplies and equipment](#)
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The Public-Private Alliance Foundation (PPAF) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization which depends on contributions from the public and its partners to carry out its work.

Do you support the UN Millennium Development Goals? PPAF is working with its partners to help achieve these. PPAF's activities in biofuels and bioenergy contribute to poverty reduction, protection of the environment and the goal of bringing all partners into play. PPAF is also assisting a Dominican group to develop proposals for funding in agribusiness. Other projects are developing in Haiti. PPAF has facilitated a new donation to Project C.U.R.E. for its work in Madagascar.

The work of PPAF is designed to bring forth these issues and propose solutions. You can help us change lives and build a better future for many.

Your generous support will help PPAF continue its work. You can contribute to PPAF through [Just Give](#) – an easy, on-line method, or visit our website for more information on the [Donate](#) page. If you would like to sponsor work specifically in the Dominican Republic, Haiti or Madagascar, please contact David Stillman, Executive Director of PPAF, at ppafoundation@gmail.com, or tel: 914-478-3450 or 914-924-0108. All contributions are welcome.

■ Press Release

For Immediate Release - October 18, 2009
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International Debate on Bioenergy Held in the Dominican Republic

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY – From October 7 through 9 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, the Public-Private Alliance Foundation (PPAF) and ResearchPAYS, Inc., organized the Third International Debate on Bioenergy – Risk Management and Business Model Innovation. Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Energy Commission (CNE), the event brought together leaders from the government, business, financial, non-profit and academic sectors as well as from the United Nations. The program included a reception, a debate, case study presentations and a field trip. Earlier events in the series were held at the United Nations in New York in May and June 2009.

Some 65 mostly Dominican participants engaged in discussions aimed to achieve investment and commercial opportunities resulting from consultations among interested parties. The meeting's report is expected to serve as a contribution of the Government of the Dominican Republic to the UN General Assembly and the December 2009 Climate Conference in Copenhagen.

Mr. Enrique Ramirez, CNE President, opened the session. He emphasized that bioenergy is vital to the future of the Dominican Republic and is a priority for President Fernandez. He said that events such as this were important in bringing together stakeholders to work together to develop solutions to the energy issues facing the country.

Ambassador Federico Cuello, Permanent Representative of the D.R. to the United Nations, remarked that the country had great opportunities and capabilities and could play a constructive role in promoting biofuels internationally.

Dr. David Stillman, Executive Director of PPAF, addressed the relation of development of bioenergy to achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals and provided background on international standards for sustainable development and their relation to bioenergy.

Tom Kadala, President of ResearchPAYS, Inc., facilitated the discussions in a lively and interactive manner, bringing out differing perspectives and points of agreement regarding the current situation and potential steps for the future.

Congressman Pelegrin Castillo, the father of the D.R.'s renewable energy law (Law 57-07), was an active participant. Others included representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, Banco de Brasil, Fundacao Getulio Vargas, AES Dominicana and a number of Dominican and international companies.

Ambassador Joao Solano Carneiro de Cunha, Brazilian Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, highlighted the experience of his country in biofuels and said that creating a domestic demand for ethanol was extremely important.

Case study presenters included Jean-Claude Alten, President of Fenix Bioenergy, LLC, who spoke on plans for a project to use Arundo Donax (giant cane) as pellets to replace coal for electricity production. Rafael J. Zapata, President of RJ Zapata & Associates, spoke on plans for converting municipal waste of Santo Domingo to energy. Tom Kadala described the potential for production of zero carbon footprint ammonia. The presentations generated much interest and encouragement.

In addition to investment prospects, participants embraced the idea that the Dominican Republic could be a viable testing ground for new ideas, new technologies, and global innovation in the area of renewable energies.

Sponsors of the event included Grupo Vicini, the Center for Export and Investment of the D.R., and the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization (IREO) in addition to the hosts and organizers. Ing. Diogenes Reyna, Director of International Relations and Events, coordinated the program on behalf of the CNE.

Following the conference, Ambassador Cuello, Dr. Stillman and Mr. Kadala appeared on the Sabado Agropecuario television show to discuss outcomes, achievements and plans for the future.

For more information, see: www.ppafoundation.org (events page). See also videos from the program: <http://www.youtube.com/ppafoundation#p/a/f/0/HHdGcp2HMIM> and <http://www.youtube.com/ppafoundation#p/a/u/0/ihHZbdLQeVk>

■ Videos and Photos

PPAF thanks Frank Minaya of Samana College Research Center, in Samana, D.R., who has produced a 9 minute video of the October 7 – 9 Bioenergy International Debate in the Dominican Republic. This gives an excellent and lively overview of the conference. It can be viewed at: [Bioenergy](#) in PPAF's YouTube "favorites".

Also view David Stillman's opening remarks to the conference, at [Bioenergy International Debate – Opening remarks by David Stillman](#). In his remarks Dr. Stillman reviews the importance and relevance to the work of the conference of the UN Millennium Development Goals, the UN Global Compact and Principles for Responsible Investment, the Sustainability Scorecard of the Inter-American Development Bank and Sustainable Agriculture Certification developed by the Rainforest Alliance.

Photos from the conference can be viewed at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ppaf>

■ **Recent Blog Posts**

Recent blog posts from early October include:

[Standards for Sustainable Development – Relations to Bioenergy](#). This is also available from PPAF in Spanish and will soon be posted on the Events page. This was circulated at the Bioenergy International Debate in Santo Domingo.

[Better Protection of African Women Through Security Sector Reforms](#)

David Stillman and Alexander Baldwin, Program Manager at PPAF, took part in a United Nations seminar entitled "Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Protection of Women in Africa."

■ **Madagascar to Receive More Medical Supplies and Equipment**

PPAF has received a note from Claire Cunningham, Director of Corporate Development at Project C.U.R.E. She writes,

"The Ambatovy Project has donated the funds to deliver five containers of medical relief to Madagascar to the areas in which they operate. One a month for the next five months. As of now, they are delivering containers to healthcare facilities in the Tamatave, Moramanga, and Brickaville areas.

We appreciate all the support of Ambassador Zina [Andrianarivelo] and PPAF. Project C.U.R.E. will be delivering even more life-saving medical relief to Madagascar! Thank you."

Congratulations to all involved. PPAF initiated the contacts and supported the needs assessment that led to these donations.

■ **Thanks to PPAF Volunteers**

PPAF Board Treasurer Attorney Scott Wright and Project Assistant Rosario Rodriguez, a Master's degree student at State University of New York in Albany, joined David Stillman and Tom Kadala (President of ResearchPAYS, Inc. and a PPAF Senior Fellow) at the Bioenergy International Debate. They provided valuable contributions to business explorations and the conduct of the meeting.

Thanks also to Alexander Baldwin, who has completed his work with PPAF as Program Manager working on agribusiness and communications. He is planning to work in Thailand.

Carlos A. Lithgow, Jr., who is contributing to PPAF's work in agribusiness, is a new Senior Fellow.