



Public-Private Alliance Foundation

(1) PPAF and SiMACT to Organize Workshop for Investment and Commerce to Revitalize Southern Haiti

The Société Immobilière de Agriculture, Commerce et Tourisme, Inc., (SiMACT) and the Public-Private Alliance Foundation (PPAF), in collaboration with Haitian government and other local and international partners, will conduct a workshop for potential foreign and local investors and businesses to facilitate their efforts in the region. The workshop will bring together the private sector, government, donors, non-profit organizations and others to work together toward the common goal of revitalizing the Southern area of the country. The workshop will emphasize the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as a framework for sustainable development.

Workshop dates are 27–29 June 2010. A maximum of 70 participants, both Haitian and from other countries, will be invited to attend. If **you or your organization would be interested in attending or in co-sponsoring, contact Dr. David Stillman at ppafoundation@gmail.com**

Additional information including a list of workshop topics is available on the [PPAF Blog](#): Languages of the conference will include French, English and Spanish. High-level officials of the Government of Haiti will be specially invited.

(2) Trip to Haiti

Two weeks ago I traveled by road to Haiti from Santo Domingo, D.R., with Dominican and American colleagues. The purpose was to review local conditions, seek opportunities for establishing small and medium enterprises, and to collaborate with Haitian-American colleagues, Haitians, Dominicans and others to help rebuild the devastated infrastructure and livelihoods. Before traveling I met with people from the World Food Program and the UN High Commission for Refugees.



[Map of Haiti](#)

Our focus would be on Jacmel, on the southern coast, in collaboration with the Haitian-American investment group Société Immobilière de Agriculture, Commerce et Tourisme, Inc., (SiMACT). Our team identified priorities and made initial preparations for a workshop on investment and commerce to revive Southern Haiti. This is scheduled to take place in Jacmel in late June.

En route we visited tent camps near the border and encountered the diversity of conditions we would see throughout the trip. One camp dealing with post-operative care was well-equipped by Harvard University and USAID. Another, for displaced families, run by the American Refugee Committee and assisted by UNICEF, was more basic. A third was “do-it-yourself.”

I wanted to learn how people were faring. I was interested in how people were cooking their meals, and confirmed charcoal and wood had become more scarce and more expensive since the earthquake. I explained that one of our concerns was to promote better, clean cookstoves and ethanol fuel. The ARC camp supervisor was delighted and the woman below gave me permission to take this photo of her using a charcoal stove.



Woman cooking on a charcoal stove

We traveled to Port-au-Prince, Leogane and Jacmel. Many people remained in great distress; others at first sight appeared to be going about their daily lives. In some cases destroyed and intact buildings were side-by-side. One could see tents in front of houses and encampments in schoolyards, churchyards and public sites. There were still people with little shelter from sun and rain – sometimes a bedsheet attached to sticks.

Parts of Port-au-Prince were untouched; other parts were devastated. The image of the demolished Presidential palace has become known worldwide. Leogâne, with a population of about 150,000, suffered heavily. Much was destroyed. Jacmel had been cut off by mountain landslides. The route was reopened but still vulnerable in the coming rainy season.



Maternity Ward at Jacmel Hospital reduced to rubble

The charming port town of Jacmel, with a population of about 50,000, had been damaged. Its hospital had been destroyed. Sections of town had been flattened. But we could also see early possibilities for economic and social reconstruction. With the national policy focus on decentralization and the international attention coming to Haiti for rebuilding, we felt that Jacmel could be a center for recovery and improvement. Jacmel has been known as a site for Haitian tourism and the arts. Its historic district, much of which was slated for demolition after the earthquake, has been spared, at least for now.

There is great need to strengthen the infrastructure and services people need – from the hospital to the schools to the port. Then there is room for imagination and creativity. SImACT and PPAF confirmed their intent to organize the workshop on investment and commerce, with topics that could include infrastructure, renewable energy, ethanol cookstoves, housing, agriculture and agribusiness, social venture capital, health, historic district, tourism and arts and artisans. The outcomes of this workshop can help Haiti Build Back Better.



Historic building near port of Jacmel

(3) Strategies for Dominican Aquaculture

The Dominican Aquaculture Association (ADOA) and its partners held a workshop on March 23-24 called “**Estrategias para el Desarrollo de la Acuicultura Dominicana 2010-2015.**” The workshop focused on achievements of the earlier strategic planning process and worked to develop a new strategic plan for 2010-2015. The Organizing Committee was composed of a representative from each of the following institutions and agencies: IDIAF, CONAPROPE, ADOA, CODOPESCA, FAO-RD, University ISA and the TAIWAN Mission.

Rafael Pérez Duvergé , the Executive Director of IDIAF – the Dominican Institute for Agriculture and Forestry Research – opened the workshop. Featured speakers included Dr. James Tidwell, chair of the aquaculture program of Kentucky State University and Dr. Daryl Jory, a professional with the American Soybean Association. The Public-Private Alliance Foundation was a co-sponsor of the event.

As a result of presentations to the U.S. Peace Corps staff in January by Maximo Nicolas, President of ADOA, David Stillman, Executive Director of PPAF and former Peace Corps Volunteers Bill Miller and Dan Mizroch, Peace Corps has agreed to add fish farming as a priority in its future programming and volunteer assignments. The workshop included working groups on research, training, finance, marketing, promotion, and quality control. The working groups developed presentations that are currently being distilled into a report of the meeting and a contribution to the National Strategic Plan.

Highlights at the meeting were announcement by the Taiwan Technical Mission and the Agricultural Development Bank of the DR (Bagricola) that a lending program for small farmers had been agreed and would soon begin. This would be managed by ADOA. Kentucky State University announced cooperation with IDIAF and others for research and training. KSU has offered to facilitate exchanges of students and young professionals, both Dominican and from KSU. The American Soybean Association announced its support for continued seminars and for nutrients for fish stock.

See the Dominican online newspaper *El Nuevo Diario* for an [article on the aquaculture conference](#). (*en español*) Also see PPAF’s blog for March 6.



Aquaculture Strategic Planning Workshop Participants



Ricardo Colon, CODOPESCA, speaking at opening session



Finance Workshop including representatives of the Taiwan Technical Mission and Bagricola (Dominican Agricultural Bank), with workshop participants

(4) PPAF in the News

Several recent articles have mentioned PPAF's work:

FUNGLODE, the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development of the Dominican Republic, featured PPAF's work in Haiti, at the UN Department of Public Information / NGO Forum "["NGOs Responding to Crisis: Meeting New Challenges, the Case of Haiti"](#)" held on February 24, 2010. Press release dated March 1, 2010.

The **Dominican newspaper El Nuevo Diario** wrote in "*Expertos nacionales e internacionales revisarán estrategia en acuicultura*" about the [fish farming conference](#) held by the Dominican Aquaculture Association ADOA on March 23-24, 2010. Article dated February 23, 2010.

The **April newsletter of the Kiran C. Patel Center for Global Solutions of the University of South Florida** included an article about David Stillman's March 22 talk on Alternative Energy in Developing countries. See page 4 of the newsletter: <http://patelcenter.rc.usf.edu/documents/newsletters/1004Apr.pdf>

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WITH THE URGENCY OF RECONSTRUCTION IN HAITI, PPAF NEEDS YOUR HELP! YOUR CONTRIBUTION MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE. DON'T HESITATE - PLEASE GIVE NOW.

Online giving through [JustGive](#) is simple. Please consider giving a monthly pledge. There are more options on our Donate page: <http://www.pfafoundation.org/donate.html>

The Public-Private Alliance Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to reducing poverty in the world by bringing together business, governmental, community, academic, United Nations and other interests. Through collaboration, PPAF helps stimulate entrepreneurship and commerce-related activities and encourage investment for sustainable development.

Focusing on the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Madagascar, our vision is to make a difference for human betterment. PPAF works closely with the United Nations for policies and actions to advance public-private alliances. PPAF is associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations.