This newsletter covers three stories on Haiti:

1) A meeting on Haitian Reconstruction held at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce;
2) meetings PPAF and colleagues held afterward with the Hon. Patrick Delatour, Haiti Minister of Tourism (and reconstruction); and
3) the new Government of Haiti / UN Development Program website that enables tracking of reconstruction funds (in English and French).

(1) Haitian Reconstruction Business Dialogue - Washington, DC, April 20, 2010

On April 20, David Stillman and colleagues including Dr. Lesly Kernisant, President, SIMACT, Inc., Harry Stokes and Brady Luceno of Project Gaia, and Regine Barjon of the Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida and New York attended the Haiti Reconstruction Business Dialogue at the U.S. Department of Commerce. This featured U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and Haitian Minister of Tourism (and reconstruction) Patrick Delatour as the keynote speaker. Robert Jones, U.S. Commercial Services Regional Senior Officer for the Caribbean, was emcee.

A panel discussion on the private sector perspective for doing business in Haiti featured senior representatives of Trilogy International Partners, Crowley Maritime Corporation, Hanes Brands and BEA Architects. Trilogy is currently the largest U.S. investor in Haiti, with the Voila! wireless communications. Crowley has reopened the Port of Port-au-Prince; Hanes has resumed manufacture in Haiti; and BEA Architects spoke of planning for ports and modular housing.

A second panel included senior representatives of the USAID/Haiti Task Team, Inter-American Development Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency. USAID is emphasizing public-private partnerships and activities for development outside of Port-au-Prince. IDB has agreed to double its lending program and welcomes proposals. OPIC aims to mobilize U.S. capital and skills, and provides political risk insurance. The USTDA focuses on funding for infrastructure projects through feasibility studies and technical assistance and also welcomes proposals.

Despite the positive remarks of the private sector’s experience and the welcoming tone of the public sector speakers, three months after the earthquake specifics of detailed plans for reconstruction were not available. In response to questions, the USAID representative remarked it would take time for the pledges made at the March 31 Donors Conference to be approved by legislatures and implemented by agencies.

The meeting was valuable for making personal contacts with a number of senior officials

(2) The Meetings After the Meeting

Our group from PPAF, SIMACT, Project Gaia and the Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida and New York attended a reception held by Mercy Corps to honor Patrick Delatour. At this we spoke with a number of Haitian and American business people and government officials, including Minister Delatour.

At dinner after the reception, Harry Stokes of Project Gaia was able to demonstrate an ethanol cookstove to Minister Delatour.

This initiative brought to the attention of one of Haiti’s highest officials the practical possibilities of the ethanol cookstoves being promoted through Project Gaia, SIMACT, and PPAF. The ethanol-burning cookstoves can help overcome hardships from the earthquake and help change people’s lives as Haiti seeks to “build back better.”
Inexpensive, efficient, safe, time-saving, and healthy, the stoves and their fuel make possible reduced reliance on charcoal, new small and medium enterprise opportunities, revival of sugar-based agribusiness, and environmental and carbon credit advantages.

(3) Tracking Haiti Funds Online - Le suivi des fonds pour Haiti en ligne

Everyone interested in learning about the US $9.9 billion in funds pledged at the Haiti Donors Conference, and about tracking their use, will welcome the news that the Government of Haiti and the United Nations Development Program have established a website for such tracking. The new site, available in French and English, includes articles, a map of pledges, and a “dashboard” providing analytics. It also includes the French and English versions of the National Reconstruction and Development Plan.

The website is a “work in progress” which will be updated.


English version:  [http://www.refondation.ht/index.jsp?&lng=en](http://www.refondation.ht/index.jsp?&lng=en)

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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.