(Draft as of Feb 16)

Haiti Re-Building Against All Odds: Fostering Partnerships

Wednesday, February 24, 2010 | 2:45PM - 6:00PM | Location: United Nations, New York
Reception to Follow | 6:15 – 9:00PM | Location: Turkish Mission, New York

Organization: United Nations Association Haiti in Collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations.

Other Collaborators / Sponsors to include:
Corporate Donors, Member States, Non-Governmental Organizations, United Nations Offices, Universities, and Business Associations.

Conference Committee:
Chair and Co-Chair: H.E. Mr. Leo Merores & Mark Hyman, MD.
Team: Emmanuel Francois MD, Carmelita Francois, Kherlyn Veillard-Marcel, Anushay Anjum, Olivia Sybille Desinor, Staci Alziebler, Richard Jordan, Daryl Wilson, Randolph Saint Leger, Lawanda Kamara, Jean Louis Dupiton MD, Nadege Fleurimond, Alana Marsili, Harvey Dupiton, Sanaa Himani, Chris Panzica, Michelle Leberfeld, Margot D. Prendergast, Darly Coupet, Elaine Valdov PhD, Michael Collins PhD, Michele Jean-Jacques.

Context: Currently, there is a worldwide mobilization effort to provide assistance to the people and nation of Haiti. A majority of the world's governments, private sector donors, and private citizens are seeking ways to address the urgent needs and challenges facing Haiti and its people. Unfortunately, there are a number of international initiatives waiting to be launched with little or no information on how to take action on the ground.

We are faced with the question: Can Haiti offer viable opportunities to the investment community? While many will point to Haiti's challenges, we of UNA Haiti look at Haiti as a tremendous opportunity. Moreover, UNA Haiti believes the current environment in Haiti presents long-term opportunities for public and private sector investments which can serve as a catalyst for real changes that will lead to prosperity for the Haitian people. More importantly, the Association believes that now more than ever, members of the Haitian Diaspora community have a real opportunity to share their visions for the future of Haiti with the world.

Objective: The conference, to be the first of its kind at the United Nations, aims to bring together a variety of initiatives across sectors, including the private sector, professional and technical (education, health, medicine, and engineering), NGOs, and local communities, among others, to foster partnerships for strengthening short- to long-term projects and programs for Haiti. The goal is to mobilize Haitian Americans in the United States, especially the youth, to voice their ideas and vision for Haiti. The sessions will focus on specific areas of growth and existing opportunities. There will also be an interactive exchange of ideas on how individuals can get involved both from abroad and on the ground in Haiti. The conference will be followed by similar conferences in the coming months. It is the hope of UNA Haiti that the results of this initial conference will shape some of the discussions that will take place at—and the initiatives that will emerge from--a major donors' conference on Haiti in March.

Audience: Haitian American communities across the U.S. in general, and those in the Tri-State in particular; United Nations Member States and Staff; Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs); Academic and Independent Research Organizations; Students; Business/Private Sector Associations; and Religious and Secular Organizations.

Registration: The Conference is Free of Charge. However, we ask a minimum donation of $25 for those who wish to attend the reception. Register on-line at www.unahaiti.org, or send an email to mailbox@unahaiti.org.

Tentative Program Agenda

2:45-3:05PM	**Session I: Opening Remarks**
2:45-2:55PM	**Introduction** **Who:** **Harvey Dupiton**, Secretary General (elected) UNA Haiti **Eric Falt,** Director Outreach Division, UN Department of Public Information **Guest UNA: H.E. Francis Lorenzo**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the UN & Founder of United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic. **H.E. Mr. Antonio Pedro Monteiro Lima**, Permanent Representative of Cape Verde to the UN **What:** Introduction to conference, the role of a UNA in community-level participation.
2:55-3:15PM	**Chair Opening Address** ***Who:*** **H.E. Mr. Leo Merores**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Haiti to the UN. **Dr. Mark Hyman,** Volunteer, Partners in Health.

What: A personal message, What's Going on Now? Shelter, Relief, Future Plans etc. The high-level/national approach focusing on the short & long term challenges;

Special Acknowledgment from the Haitian community of CNN's media team of Anderson Cooper & Dr. Sanjay Gupta

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3:15-4:00PM **Session II: Community Level Participation**

4:00-4:30PM **Areas of Growth and Opportunity: Partnerships in Education and Health**

What*:* Getting communities engaged. Campaign on education. Training young and old for preparedness, Education for Development (virtual classrooms, ICT, etc.). Medium - to - long term projects and programs for re-building Haiti.

Panelists:
Jean Louis Dupiton, MD, Critical Care Specialist, Graduate Fellow Mount Sinai Hospital.
Emmanuel Francois, MD, MPH, Chairman of Association of Haitians Physicians Abroad Foundation.
Senior Level Government Official on Education of Uganda (to be announced).

Chair: To be Announced
Discussant: Anushay Anjum, International Community Development Consultant

4:30-4:40PM **Q&A**

4:40-4:50PM **Coffee Break**

4:50-5:35PM **Session III: Getting Haiti's Economy Going**

5:15-5:25PM **Areas of Growth and Opportunity: Partnerships in Microfinance and Diaspora-originated Investment Fund for Haiti**

What: Programs for re-building Haiti. Getting the financial community involved in investments that promotes Small and Medium-size Enterprises (SMEs).

Who:
Alexandre de Lesseps, Founder & President of Blue Orchard Finance S.A. of Geneva (tbc)
Zvi Chalamish, Chief Fiscal Officer of Israel's Ministry of Finance for North America;
Senior Representative of Investment Group, Launching Fund on Haiti (tba)

Chair: Hon. Mr. Felix Augustin, General Consul of the Consulate General of Haiti of New York.

Discussant: Kherlyn Veillard-Marcel
Deputy Finance Director, Open Society

5:25-5:35PM **Q&A**

5:35-6:00PM **Session IV: How Can Haiti's Dynamic Music and Art Culture Boost Development?**

Areas of Growth and Opportunity: Crossover of Haitian Arts & Culture

What: Crossover of Young Haitian Talents & Arts – crossing boundaries and promoting change

Who:
Yves Joseph, Tabou Combo
Alex Abellard, Founder Zin (tbc)
King Kino, Artist

Chair: Wycleff Jean, Artist (tbc)

Discussant: H.E. Mr. Antonio Pedro Monteiro Lima, Permanent Representative of Cape Verde to the UN.

6:00-6:10PM **Q&A**

6:10-6:20PM **Wrap-up Session: Closing Address**

Who:
H.E. Mr. Leo Merores, Permanent Representative of Haiti to the UN, Chair of the Conference
Harvey Dupiton, Secretary General, UNA Haiti, Wrap Up
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6:30-9:00PM **Reception: Performance & Social Hours** at Turkish Mission

KanuDance Theatre;
Stephan Said, *international recording artist and community organizer*
Asphalt Kingdom Productions' Artists
Haitian Art Exhibit

Social hours!