



Preliminary Agenda
Panel Composition/Proposed Speakers for the Diaspora Conference
Hotel Montana, Port au Prince, Haïti
June 20-21, 2002

Thursday 20 June

8:45 Opening:

Ralph August, CLED

Donald Terry, MIF

10:45 Panel I: Characteristics of the Haitian Diaspora Overview of Remittance Flows (Haiti specific)

This panel would describe the characteristics of the Haitian Diaspora, and their patterns of behavior in relationship to both the host country and their country of origin. Remittances are a very large part of all funds entering the home countries. The panel will attempt to give a clearer picture of the scope of remittances as percentage of funds perceived and promote the need to canalize these remittances into positive, pro-development investments.

Moderator: CLED

Manuel Orozco, Inter-American Dialogue (confirmed)

Margarita Mooney, Princeton University (confirmed)

Ronel Ceran, IAF Study on Haitian Diaspora (confirmed)

Adrien Castera, UniTransfer (confirmed)

1:30 Lunch: Lesley Voltaire, Minister of the Diaspora (confirmed)

3:00 Panel II: Experience of other Latin American Diaspora Groups

This panel focuses on several Latin American Diaspora groups, whose experience maybe be similar or more organized and whose cohesive attitudes has positively impacted the way their country of origin benefit from their social and financial investments. The focus is on the macro impacts on the local economies. The cases of Mexico, Jamaica, El Salvador, and the Eastern Caribbean can be emphasized. In addition, other groups can be used in illustration to these regional examples, such as the Indian Diaspora and their funding of technology parks in India.

Moderator: Carlo Dade, IAF or USAID

Roberto Ramirez, APOYO Mexico (confirmed)

Mario Riestra Veneags, National Coordinating Office, Mexican State Offices on Migrants (confirmed)

Blanca Romero, Blanca Cruz, CUS El Salvador (confirmed)

Rene Antonio León Rodríguez, Ambassador El Salvador (invited)

Representative, Jamaican Diaspora Organization

5:00 Dinner:

Key Note Address Juan Hernandez, Oficina Presidencial para Mexicanos en el Exterior
(invited)

Friday 21 June

9:00 Panel III: The role of organizations in the channeling of Diaspora Investments and Involvement

The role and impact of organizations in the channeling of Diaspora group efforts both locally in the home countries and in the host countries should be examined and discussed. Most successful Diaspora investments are channeled through groups with organized structures that can make useful contributions on the field (such as church groups and schools) or through organized groups in the host countries with targeted contacts in the home countries.

Moderator: CLED

Marie-Carolle Tertulien, FARE, New York (invited)

Marc Roger, FAVACA, Florida (confirmed)

Joe Baptiste, NOAH (confirmed)

Dina Parks, NCHR (confirmed)

Romer Bocicault, FIDEB, Haïti (confirmed)

Guy Sansariq, Haitian

11:00 Panel IV: Diaspora Markets

This panel will investigate opportunities for Haitian products in the Diaspora Markets, also known as nostalgia markets. Who buys what and for what purpose. By developing these niches markets Haiti can increase exports and improve local production.

1:00 Lunch: Political Impact of Diaspora groups

Representative from US Congressional Office

3:00 Panel V: How Can the Haitian Diaspora Help in the Development of Haïti and How Can the Government and Aid Agencies Help the Diaspora Help Haiti

This wrap-up panel will try to concretely acknowledge ways in which the Haitian Diaspora can actively contribute to the competitive economic development of Haiti. Collaboration between identified Haitian Diaspora groups worldwide and the Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad, and local private sector partners is one of the proposed ways to proceed.

Moderator: Lionel Delatour, CLED

Leslie Voltaire, Minister, Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad (confirmed)

Jean Deryce, Ministry of Planning or Jacques Dorcéan, Ministry of Public Works, (invited)

David Adams, USAID (confirmed)

Carlo Dade, IAF (confirmed)

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