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Haiti Works! Assesses Post-Earthquake Terrain as a First Step Towards Implementing Redevelopment Strategies in Haitian Cities

As part of the Haiti Works! initiative to identify needs and long-term strategies that will aid in the redevelopment of Haiti, a team of experts traveled to Haiti to meet with local officials of Petion-Ville including Mayor Claire Lydie Parent, city engineers and city attorney’s office and to tour the post-earthquake terrain.

Since the earthquake hit Haiti on January 12, 2010, Haiti works! has been working with local officials and business leaders to assess the areas of greatest earthquake damage and devastation specifically in Petion-ville and Port-au-Prince. The inspections included assessment of debris and damage, housing situation and requirements, roads and access, utilities and infrastructure.

“Our long term goal is to create redevelopment strategies incorporating earthquake and hurricane resistant structure designs and modern master planning and infrastructure concepts,” says Pierre d’Haiti, Chairman and President of Haiti Works! “In the short term, we seek to find immediate relief for the citizens of Petion-Ville particularly in the areas of cleanup and debris removal, short-term and permanent housing, schools, medical facilities and infrastructure repairs and improvements.”

The first team of experts included: Pierre d’Haiti, President of Haiti Works!, Paul Hirsch construction management and planning consultant, Michael Infante road and infrastructure construction consultant, Michael Molinelli Architect, and emergency services expert, and Todd Westphall photographer and videographer.

Accomplishments:

Within a week’s time, the team was able to meet with a number of government officials and assess the needs of the several Haitian cities. The following outlines many of the team’s accomplishments:

- Met with the Mayor of Petion-Ville, Claire Lydie Parent who signed an authorization letter giving Haiti Works! preferred Non-governmental Organization (NGO) to fundraise on behalf of Petion-Ville for future projects.
- Presented Mayor Parent with invitation to join advisory board of Haiti Works
- Mayor Lydie Parent committed to Haiti Works! program Rubble to Road initiative.
- From the commune of Port au Prince met Mayor Muscadin Jean Yves Jason whose government oversees seven cities within the region of Port au Prince including: City of Petion-Ville, City of Delmas, City of Kenskoff, City of Carrefour, City of Port au Prince, City of Tabarre, and Croix des Bouquets.



The Team stands with Mayor Parent from Petion-Ville. From Left: Gerald Bristhole, Paul Hirsh, Michael Molinelli, Mayor Parent, Michael Infante, and Pierre d’Haiti.

- Presented Mayor Jason with Proclamation and Citation regarding adoption of Port-au-Prince by the City of New Haven, CT
- Mayor Jason agreed to collaborate with Haiti Works! through a memorandum of understanding.
- Mayor Jason committed to Haiti Works! as a preferred NGO for master planning and design, debris removal, contractor and Developer to implement .
- The team met with Wood an Daad a Swedish non governmental organization (NGO) that operates vocational schools throughout Haiti. They will collaborate with P&A for the purpose of the vocation training which will be required to maximize the employment of Haitians for Haiti Works! projects.
- Met with the Notre Dame staff at their Leogane laboratory. Faculty, staff and alumni have initiated collaboration to work with Haiti Works! in the implementation of housing strategies to relocate Haitians displaced by the earthquake.
- Spoke with the Mayor of Carrefour who is willing to collaborate for the purpose of providing housing strategies.
- Spoke with the Senator from the City of Cotes de Fer (Iron Coastal) for purpose of adopting this coastal area of the south of Haiti.
- Spoke with the Confederation of Haitian Workers (CTH) Chief Executive Officer Louis Chery who is willing to collaborate for the purpose of providing trained labor for future projects.
- Met with Lionel Duvalsaint, President of the AHEC Association Des Entreprises de Construction (Association of Construction Entrepreneurs) and discussed opportunities to work with local contractors in the area, the availability of materials and equipment for construction, and work projects currently underway. Also discussed was the available water sources, current systems and infrastructure.
- Visited several temporary camps to assess living conditions and current needs, number of people displaced, requirements to restore these areas once residents are relocated.
- Visited current construction projects to assess methods and materials currently in use including Concrete and Masonry production facilities, dock facilities, and locations that can be utilized for construction materials processing and storage.

Next Steps

Haiti Works! will work closely with the cities to create and execute a master plan for infrastructure, development and administration so that all new projects fit within a framework of planned sustainable development. Components of the Master Plan include:

- Develop “Rubble to Roads” where concrete and masonry debris will be cleaned up and removed from earthquake damage areas, and then processed into graded inspected material that can be used in reconstruction of roads, infrastructure and other development activities.
- Develop a program to test and improve raw materials being utilized in construction so end products will meet internationally recognized standards. This includes sand, aggregate, and water used in masonry and concrete, as well as steel used in reinforcement. These materials were a major factor in earthquake related failures of structures.
- Collaborate with cities to develop master plans which include land use planning, infrastructure development and improvement, housing reconstruction and development, medical and emergency systems and facilities, roads and transportation, commerce and economic development.



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- Design new housing to meet revised criteria including: 1) Secure “hard-wall” temporary housing that can be quickly mobilized and relocated as required to immediately provide housing for people currently displaced in camps 2) Low cost permanent housing that can be constructed in “pocket parcels” within urban earthquake damage areas that conforms to local tradition and usage, but also meets internationally recognized earthquake and hurricane requirements. 3) Complete communities of low cost permanent earthquake and hurricane resistant housing that can be constructed on larger parcels of land in outlying areas.
- Review and implement new methods and standards for both solid waste and sanitary waste management including re-use, recycling, and energy production. Part of this plan includes a “pay for waste” plan to collect recyclable materials and at same time provide income source.
- Develop water systems on both private and municipal scale to provide and distribute water.
- Identify businesses and industries that will benefit from investment by and collaboration with U.S. and other non-Haitian businesses. Haiti Works! will initiate these partnerships to create economic development, local investment, and employment of Haitian Workers.

About Haiti Works, Incorporated

Haiti Works! (www.haiti-works.org) is a not-for-profit organization formed for the purpose of aiding Haiti in its long term recovery and rebuilding efforts following the devastation caused by the January 12, 2010 earthquake. Leaving aid and relief efforts to the many other organizations that specialize in such work, Haiti Works! focuses on the development of long term strategies, planning, projects, and partnerships that will help to rebuild Haiti as a modern country with a vibrant economy.

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