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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



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**GOVERNOR TAPS HAITI ADVISORY GROUP
HAITI ISSUES COMPEL HIGH-ECHELON ATTENTION
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GOVERNOR TAPS HAITI ADVISORY GROUP. Governor Jeb Bush appointed 17 members to a Haiti Advisory Group charged with producing recommendations on policy and identifying needed development initiatives in that beleaguered nation. The group, empowered September 1, will receive support from FAVACA in coordinating its activities that encompass economic development, education, technology and the environment. Also the group will act as a clearinghouse for initiatives and resources from the private and public sectors.

As the Governor announced the initiative, Advisory Group appointee and FAVACA Board Member Dr. Rudy Moise, FAVACA President Julieta Valls and Program Director Ben Fleming were in Port-au-Prince discussing development needs with US and Haiti government officials, including Prime Minister Gerard Latortue.

Members of the Haiti Advisory Group include: **Marie S. Bell**, Miami, executive director of the Miami-Dade Land Advisory Board. Bell shall serve as chair. **Eddy Bayardelle**, New York City, first vice president and head of global philanthropy for Merrill Lynch. **Jean-Michel G. Caffin**, Miami, president and chief executive officer of Bureau Veritas North America (Bivac). Reverend Monsignor **Franklyn M. Casale**, Miami Gardens, president of St. Thomas University. **Aldy Castor**, Weston, president of the Haitian Resource Development Foundation. **Jessie M. Colin**, Cooper City, associate professor of nursing and Ph.D. program director for Barry University. **Gary C. Eugene**, Miramar, police commander with the Miami Police Department. **Adolfo A. Franco**, Alexandria, Virginia, assistant administrator for USAID for Latin America and the Caribbean. **Adam M. Goldstein**, Coral Gables, executive vice president of Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd. **Ghislain Gouraige, Jr.**, Miami, senior vice president of Bank of America Private Bank. **Francois Leconte**, Miami, president and chief executive officer of Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc. **Francis J. Mitchell**, Miami, civil engineer and assistant director of the

City of Miami Public Works Department. **Rudolph G. "Rudy" Moise**, Miami, president and chief executive officer of Comprehensive Health Center, Inc. **Sagine T. Morgan**, Boca Raton, real estate agent with Keyes Realty. **Dumarsais M. "Dumas" Siméus**, Southlake, Texas, chairman and chief executive officer of Siméus Foods International, Inc. **Guilène F. Theodore**, Tampa, attorney with Ruden, McCloskey, P.A., and **Thomas G. Wenski**, Altamonte Springs, Co-adjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Orlando.

HAITI ISSUES COMPEL HIGH-ECHELON ATTENTION. US Treasury Undersecretary for International Affairs John Taylor discussed mutual concerns over Haiti with South Florida Haitian-American community leaders at a meeting convened by FAVACA and Florida Free Trade Area of the Americas (FL FTAA) August 23. FAVACA's historical involvement in development in Haiti and entree with Haitian-American interests in Florida has made the agency a recognized source on Haiti issues. Following the discussions with Haitian-Americans in North Miami, Secretary Taylor addressed South Florida business community leaders in Coral Gables. Florida FTAA, Inc. is the private-public organization charged with making Miami the site of the Permanent Secretariat of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

FAVACA MARKS SEVENTEEN YEARS IN GRENADA. FAVACA youth development volunteers first consulted in Grenada in 1987. In a relatively younger collaboration that dates back to 1999, FAVACA supported "Operation Safe Summer" in Grenada recently, demonstrating FAVACA's "long-term commitment to short-term technical assistance". The Grenada Drug Control Secretariat of the Ministry of Education hosts the youth leadership-training program. FAVACA veteran consultant Terry Jones, Clearwater, Florida, lead the workshops that covered conflict resolution, anger management, communication, leadership skills and drug abuse prevention. The team took their show on the road, traveling from St. George's, Grenada to the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique to train 15 youth leaders from secondary schools in both sites. This project is supported in part by the US Embassy, Barbados

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TACKLES PRISON HEALTH CONDITIONS. FAVACA joined forces with the Florida-based "Health Through Walls" program and the Dominican non-profit "Fundación Genesis" to lay the foundation for improving prisoner health in the Dominican Republic. FAVACA supported the travel of two team members, Dr. John May, North Miami, and Evener Liberal, Miami. Prison living conditions are ideal for promoting the rapid spread of disease. This presents a public health risk with guards and visitors passing in and out of their walls daily. The four-person team from Health Through Walls worked three days at La Victoria Penitentiary screening more than 100 inmates. Along with providing treatment, the team developed a screening tool for local officials, identified common health needs and provided training to the prison health staff on infectious diseases. Several diseases were detected during the consultation, including four active cases of tuberculosis.

HAITIAN HEALTH GRANT SKILLS STRENGTHENED. August 3-6, 2004, a FAVACA team consulted with Haitian health providers on researching, developing and maintaining relationships with funders in the United States. Team members included former Volunteer of the Year Maude Huertelou, and Thor Barraclough. Haitian health professionals were given a step-by-step account and supplementary manual on the "universal" steps necessary to partner with organizations providing financial, technical and in-kind support. The workshop covered six main

areas: Understanding your Program, Understanding your Funder, Clarifying Guidelines, Team Organization, Writing, and Grant Management. More than 55 US and international nonprofit agencies with their funding requirements and funding trends were identified to Haitian healthcare providers. Barraclough will assist three potential grantees develop proposals to fund equipment, staffing and a public health campaign.

CUBAN-AMERICAN NGOS TOUTED. FAVACA President Julieta N. Valls presented a paper entitled “The Role of Volunteerism in Capacity Building for Cuban Non-governmental Organizations” at the Fourteenth Annual Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE) Conference in Coconut Grove, Florida, August 6, 2004. The paper, co-authored by FAVACA Senior Advisor Dave Schmeling, argues that the use of volunteers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and development of a US-like non-government, non-business “Third Sector” is essential to a successful Cuban transition to democracy. The authors also suggest that needed skills for Cuba’s fledgling non-governmental organizations can be developed via US-based Cuban-American NGO’s in roles of training, coordination and technical assistance.

FAVACA - The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas

Tallahassee Office

1310 N. Paul Russell Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
850 410 3100

favaca@favaca.org

South Florida Office

713 SE 1st Avenue
Hallandale Beach, Florida 33009
954 924 3865

favaca@favaca.org

Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean
and the Americas through volunteer service.

www.favaca.org

