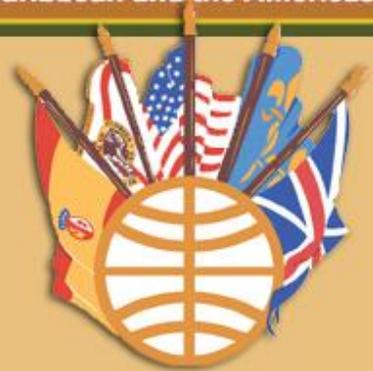


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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



October 2010

USIP WEBCAST: IS HAITI BUILDING BACK BETTER?
ROYAL PALM ASSISTS BAS GROMAND AND CARREFOUR FEUILLES
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USIP WEBCAST: [IS HAITI BUILDING BACK BETTER?](#)

FAVACA is collaborating with the [United States Institute of Peace](#) as an online partner and encourages those interested to participate. You may participate in this event in two ways. You can [register to attend the event](#), or you may watch the live webcast beginning at 10:00am EDT on October 29, 2010 at www.usip.org/webcast.html. [Directions](#) [RSVP Now](#)

The slogan "Build Back Better" has come to symbolize the commitment to help Haiti's government and people address the roots of poverty and instability. Yet, in the nine months since the January 12 earthquake, reconstruction efforts have stalled, and Haitians now face a new task of holding national elections on November 28. How will Haitians and the international community respond to this dual challenge? Former Haitian Prime Minister Michèle Pierre-Louis will discuss these issues and her views on Haiti's future.

ROYAL PALM ASSISTS BAS GROMAND AND CARREFOUR FEUILLES



Singing for Change

Royal Palm is a Haitian organization dedicated to training and empowering Haitian communities to reach a higher level of self-sufficiency. FAVACA is collaborating with Royal Palm to implement the Post Earthquake Capacity Building and Recovery Grants program which will focus on providing vocational and agricultural training as well as recovery grants requested by the communities of Bas Gormand and Carrefour Feuilles. In addition to the community development role, the partnership will advocate for a larger voice for local communities in international development programs and policies. This program is made possible by a grant from the [Singing for Change Foundation](#).

PETAVY STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT HIV/AIDS PREVENTION

[Ecole La Dignité](#) opened its doors to the children of Pétavy, a small village near the town of Cayes Jacmel on the southeast coast of Haiti, in 1999. Initial funds and space only allowed for one classroom and nine children to attend. Each year the school has garnered more support and now teaches a total of 267 students from grades K-6 and has plans to add grades 7-8 next year. Most of the students are from extremely poor families in the region - some of them even working as "[restaveks](#)" or household servants living with families other than their own. The school also caters to students who have never attended school before and thus are older than their classmates. It is completely free to attend and offers lunch, school books and health care. To help the students and the residents of Pétavy, each year members of the [Haitian American Professional Coalition](#) (HAPC) travel to Petavy and provide medical care.

Recently Ecole La Dignité recognized the need to educate parents and students on HIV/AIDS prevention methods and requested support for experts to travel to Haiti and teach these methods. FAVACA supported, Haitian-American nurse Patricia LaFontant of Memorial Hospital West in Pembroke Pines and social worker Thérèse Létang of the Miami-Dade Public Schools to join the HAPC medical mission September 3-6, 2010. They provided HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention to nearly 150 parents and 30 children ages 8-14. The volunteers also taught the children social skills and how to report sexual abuse and molestation to adults.



THREAT TO FOOD SECURITY REDUCED IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN

In an effort to protect the Eastern Caribbean from invasive Heteroptera pests threatening over 90 species of plants including legumes and vegetables, the [Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture](#) (IICA) requested



FAVACA's assistance to train farmers and extension agents on identifying and eliminating these pests. The ability to increase food production and even maintain current levels of production has been endangered by outbreaks of the Heteroptera suborder. Experts were requested to work with farmers and extension agents from IICA, [CARDI](#), [USDA](#), Windward Islands Research and Development Foundation and Grenada's Ministry of Agriculture to control further infestation. Susan Halbert from the [Division of Plant Industry at the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services](#) and John Leavengood, a teaching assistant in the [Department of Entomology at the University of Kentucky](#), traveled to St. George's, Grenada September 29-October 9, 2010.

The volunteers trained extension officers from approximately 15 mainly Eastern Caribbean countries, many of which have major infestations of [Heteroptera](#) that have caused extensive damage to a variety of crops. The FAVACA volunteers trained participants on specimen preparation techniques, methods to identify Heteroptera pests - especially the cotton seed bug, and conduct field surveys. Sea Island cotton is a growing industry in many Caribbean countries known for its high quality fibers. The cotton seed bug feeds on cotton seeds reducing the quality of the seeds and during ginning the bug is often crushed staining the cotton. The volunteer experts also provided information on other pest species in the region or threatening to reach the Caribbean. The participants traveled back to their countries of origin to disseminate the information on Heteroptera to other entomologists and extension officers.

JOIN FAVACA AT THE CCAA ANNUAL MIAMI CONFERENCE

FAVACA encourages you to participate in the Caribbean-Central American Action (CCAA) [34th Annual Miami Conference](#) December 1-3, 2010, at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Miami, Florida. The Miami Conference brings together the regional and international stakeholders who are making a difference to the economic development of the Caribbean and Central America. The conference will highlight the key business and policy issues most relevant to economies of the Caribbean and Central America and of particular importance this year are the headline issues of security and disaster preparedness as well as highlighting the financial services and energy sectors.



During this year's conference, FAVACA's Executive Director Demian Pasquarelli will moderate a forum entitled "Disaster Management: Tools for Disaster Management and Mitigation," which will look at some of the national and regional plans, best practices in public/private cooperation, and emerging technology that can most impact a country's ability to recover from a disaster. For more information on the 2010 Miami Conference on the Caribbean and Central America and to see the [conference agenda](#), please visit the CCAA website at <http://www.c-caa.org/>.

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