



Press release

**The Think-tank and Action Group for a New Haiti (GRAHN) concluded on Saturday, March 10, 2012, the first edition of Haïti-Éduc by announcing the second: Haïti-Éduc'2014**

**Montréal – March 13, 2012** – From March 5 to March 10, 2012, the *Think-tank and Action Group for a New Haiti* (GRAHN, *Groupe de réflexion et d'action pour une Haïti nouvelle*) held Haïti-Éduc'2012, an event organized under the auspices of the Haiti's Ministry of National Education and Professional (Vocational/Technical) Training. That event was realized in partnership with about twenty national and international organizations; it benefited from the support of three other ministries: the Ministry of Environment (MDE), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI), and the Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad (MHAVE). **Haïti-Éduc'2012** had three components:

1. A series of 3 workshops organized simultaneously in 6 cities of the country: Cap-Haïtien, Cayes, Hinche, Jérémie, Port-au-Prince, and Port-de-Paix. The eighteen workshops held over two days and a half made it possible for 700 young Haitians to benefit from 15 hours of instruction in Information and Communication Technologies, in Training of educational agents, and in Entrepreneurship.
2. The *1<sup>st</sup> Economic Forum of the North and North-East regions of Haiti*, held on Tuesday, March 6 in Cap-Haïtien in collaboration with the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the North (CCIN) and North-East (CCINE) Departments. This activity gathered more than 100 people from the area around the economic development problematic in those regions.
3. The Conference on all aspects and all levels of education, which took place March 7-10 at Hotel KARIBE, in Pétiion-Ville. More than 530 people participated in that conference which consisted of an opening ceremony, 24 simultaneous sessions, 3 plenary lectures-panels, 2 mid-day lectures, and a closing ceremony.

In addition to these 3 components, two youth-led activities were held in parallel with the conference:

1. A Haiti Youth Radio program organized by the Francophonie Center of the Americas in collaboration with two Haitian schools: Catts Pressoir School and Emmanuel Kant School.
2. A fresco painted by five young artists (Walgens Pierre Jean, 21 years of age, who led the project; Pierre Paul Lourdny, 16; Oldreche Crépin, 17; Vladimir Pascal, 21; Patrick Lafontant, 23). These young artists are members of the *Folie Ouverte* (Open Folly) movement, which is the creative studio of APROSIFA. Through the fresca the painters expressed, in the context of Haïti-Éduc'2012, their vision of the model of education they would like to see emerge on the road toward the other Haiti. That fresco, titled "A dis-alienated education for another Haiti...", was presented to GRAHN by those young compatriots as a gift in recognition of GRAHN's noble contributions on the road toward the re-foundation of the Haitian educational system.

A number of important action items came out of the Conference. They represent dossiers that will be followed upon. Some of those action items are:

1. Reactivation of a structure formerly known "Haitian Foundation for Distance Learning and Development" (*Fondation haïtienne pour la formation à distance et le développement*, FOHFADD).

2. Launch of GRAHN's main project, consisting in creating a *National Network of Resource Centers (Réseau national de centres de ressources, RENACER)*, which is a knowledge and learning network (KLN) to serve the whole Haitian territory.
3. Creation of a *Haitian Academy of Sciences* to promote science, ethics in science and scientific culture as an instigator of both well-being and social and economic development in Haiti.
4. Elaboration of a plan of action to strengthen civic instruction at all levels of Haiti's educational system.
5. Creation of a multi-institutional professorship to conduct research on higher learning in Haiti and on development.
6. Creation of an educational radio station at Catts Pressoir School, which will be managed by the Center for Francophonie in the Americas.
7. Creation of a Conservatory of "technical, professional (vocational) and university-level learnings", in order to support the job market integration of young new graduates, and to harmonize the technical and professional curricula while preserving the autonomy of each participating educational institution.
8. Based on a desire expressed by MENFP (the Ministry of Education), implementation of a GRAHN-MENFP partnership agreement to elicit the support of GRAHN in the following areas:
  - At the preschool level: Curriculum preparation and instructor formation.
  - At the secondary education level: Contribution to teacher training, to the preparation of teaching materials, to guiding high schools' junior and senior classes in the choice of professions, to developing programs targeting both the intellectually gifted and the intellectually challenged.
  - At the professional (technical/vocational) training level: Assist those institutions based outside of Port-au-Prince in order to complement local resources.
  - At the university level: Contribution to the regulation and management of the regional public universities, with strong focus on basic science courses to be dispensed since the first year; also, contribution to distance learning and professor coaching.
  - In terms of scientific research: Contribution to the implementation of a framework that is hospitable to research, exchange, reflection and action in education.

GRAHN solemnly commits to report on the progress accomplished in pursuing those 8 action items. Such report shall occur in two years, in the context of **Haïti-Éduc'2014**. GRAHN already looks forward to meeting, at that time, with all concerned.

GRAHN thanks all those who made **Haïti-Éduc'2012** possible, particularly our sponsors who responded positively to our requests for financial contributions even when such requests went to them very late in the process. We profusely thank the Haitian media, including the staff of the Educational Radio of MENFP, who substantially helped us in promoting and disseminating the event.

Organized according to a chapter structure, GRAHN-World wants to be a broad, inclusive, open and multidisciplinary movement, directed towards the articulation of a framework for the reconstruction that goes beyond the mere repair of damaged or destroyed physical infrastructures, to extend towards the construction of a new society that is founded on the rule of law, on sharing, solidarity, education, respect for the environment, and a strong commitment for the common good. GRAHN is a global organization of citizen watch that aims to contribute to the country's problems through action grounded in reflection.

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For additional information :

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