



**Press Release
For immediate publication**

GRAHN-World has launched today the initiative of an Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies of Haiti (ISTEAH)

Port-au-Prince - le 8 January 2013 – The *Group of Reflection and Action for a New Haiti* (GRAHN) is launching today its initiative of an **Institute of science, technology, and advanced studies of Haiti (ISTEAH)**. This event took place by videoconference linking close to 60 participants at the École Supérieure d'Infotronique d'Haiti (ESIH) in Port-au-Prince, École Polytechnique de Montréal and Université du Québec en Abitibi Témiscamingue. In addition to the university community partners in Haiti and scientists of diverse origins interested in the project, several representatives of the government, the civil society and the media of Haiti participated in this launch that took place around the commemoration of the third anniversary of the earthquake of January 12, 2010.

Haitian university faculty consists of about a thousand professionals only partly engaged in higher education teaching. In light of Haiti's population estimated at over 10 million inhabitants, the country clearly does not have a critical mass of qualified teachers to strengthen Haitian academic institutions, particularly in the fields of science and technology. That was before the earthquake!

During the earthquake, the Haitian universities have lost over a hundred teachers and administrators as well as thousands of students. In addition, according to several sources, a large number of teachers, professionals and students left Haiti after the earthquake. It is therefore appropriate to accelerate the training of university educators, particularly in science and technology, according to a model that empowers local academic institutions and ultimately reduces their dependence on faculty resources from the diaspora and international cooperation. It is in this context that emerges the initiative of an Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies of Haiti (ISTEAH).

ISTEAH will be an academic institution of excellence, dedicated primarily to post-graduate training. It aims to harness science and technology for development by forming citizens, innovators and leaders able to act with competence at the local, national and regional scale. ISTEAH thus seeks to prolong the action of existing Haitian institutions and strengthen them by providing additional resources pooled into specific areas where expertise is insufficient or non-existent. Several scientists of GRAHN and their allies in Haiti, Canada, the United States and France adhere to this initiative.

Over a time period of 10 years, ISTEAH plans to train a contingent of 1,000 scientists to raise the scientific level of the country and make it less dependent on foreigners for the training of its elite.

About GRAHN

GRAHN is a worldwide citizen watch organization, eager to contribute thoughtful action to resolve Haiti's problems. It is a citizen movement, non-partisan, directed towards the construction of a new Haiti, based on law, sharing, solidarity, education, environmental protection and the cult of the common good.