



# Haiti Business Bulletin

## Haiti Business Development Conference

**SAVE THE DATE! – MAY 5-6, 2010**

The U.S. Commercial Service in Santo Domingo, in collaboration with the American Chamber of Commerce in the Dominican Republic (AMCHAM-DR) will be organizing the Haiti Business Development Conference on May 5-6, 2010, at the Jaragua Hotel in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

The conference will bring together U.S., Dominican and Haitian companies (focusing on SMEs), to facilitate the development of business relationships to contribute to the reconstruction and renovation of the Haitian economy. The agenda will include speakers from key organizations involved in providing funding for the reconstruction of Haiti, including USAID, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme, among others. The speakers will also review their plans and projects for Haiti, and provide essential information about working with their organizations.

In addition, there will be a large exhibition area for participating U.S. companies to network with potential business partners in the D.R. and Haiti, and display information on their companies via table-top exhibits.

More information will be sent in the following weeks.

### *OPIC - Supporting U.S. Businesses*

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) is the primary U.S. government agency focused on supporting private sector investment in the developing world. OPIC helps U.S. businesses invest overseas, fosters economic development in new and emerging markets, complements the private sector in managing risks associated with foreign direct investment, and supports U.S. foreign policy.

OPIC's political risk insurance and financing help U.S. businesses of all sizes invest in more than 150 emerging markets and developing nations worldwide, including in the Caribbean region. Because OPIC charges market-based fees for its products, it operates on a self-sustaining basis at no net cost to taxpayers.

For more information about OPIC, please visit their website, [www.opic.gov](http://www.opic.gov).

### *OPIC Announces Special Initiatives to Support Reconstruction and Relief in Haiti*

OPIC will offer Haiti an immediate special line of credit of up to \$50 million to access OPIC financing and political risk insurance for investment in the country.

Secondly, OPIC will offer significantly discounted political risk insurance to support first responders – typically American NGOs and other humanitarian operations – providing disaster relief in Haiti. The OPIC insurance will be available to protect assets such as vehicles, equipment, inventory, supplies or other property that are deployed on the ground to carry out humanitarian or rebuilding and reconstruction activities.

Finally, OPIC will offer direct loans to American NGOs currently assisting humanitarian efforts in Haiti. The loans will target NGOs that had exhausted their operating cash flow, enabling them to continue to operate.

Already, a \$10 million loan from OPIC will enable a U.S.-headquartered business to manufacture Fiber Composite Panels that will be used to build more than 32,000 energy-efficient homes in Haiti over the next five years, helping the country to rebuild from the devastation caused by the January 12 earthquake. Once the Haitian production facility is in place, InnoVida will be able to produce panels to construct 6,500 homes annually in Haiti for the next five years.

