

# AmericasRelief Team NEWS REPORT

May 5, 2006

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## Relief Leaders Gather to Discuss Aid Logistics to the Caribbean

MIAMI, FL-May 4, 2006- Close to 100 government officials, corporations, and non-profit organizations gathered to discuss this year's aid logistics to the Caribbean following a humanitarian crisis such as a hurricane in the Americas and the Caribbean. The event took place aboard the Carnival Cruise Ship Imagination at the Port of Miami.

Florida's Secretary of State and former Ambassador to Jamaica, Ms. Sue M. Cobb urged officials from the Caribbean Basin countries to begin preparing for the next blast of tropical weather. Secretary Cobb also discussed the importance of state involvement in natural disasters and human crises in the Americas. Her experience in hurricane relief is substantial, in 2004; following the devastation of Hurricane Ivan she signed a grant agreement in which the U.S government provided \$18 million for Jamaica's recovery and reconstruction.

U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) Assistant Administrator, Mr. Adolfo Franco gave a detailed account of the federal involvement during past crises and pledged support following future catastrophic events. Franco serves as the principal advisor to the USAID Administrator on matters involving the Latin American and Caribbean region. USAID works in agriculture, democracy & governance, economic growth, the environment, education, health, global partnerships, and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries to provide the structure for a better future.

Mr. Juan N. Cento, President of FedEx Express Latin America & Caribbean Division announced that his company is ready to place their more than 3,300 employees in more than 50 countries and territories on alert to collaborate with AmericasRelief Team to provide assistance to our friends in the Caribbean and Central America following a natural disaster.

Dr. Teo Babun, Executive Director of AmericasRelief Team explained that when disaster strikes, the Team works in a coordinated basis with the governments in the target region, the U.S. government, donating corporations, air & sea cargo carriers, logistics companies, non-governmental experts and others to implement effective shipment and distribution of humanitarian aid. Team members coordinate, facilitate, and offer services, such as relief aid, preparedness, development, and recovery for victims of the emergencies.

Local, state, and federal officials joined country representatives from Jamaica, Grenada, Haiti, Guatemala, Suriname, Barbados, and Mexico in expressing their concern for effective preparations and organized logistics to help reduce deaths occurring in the wake of disasters.

AmericasRelief Team members include top executives from Carnival Corporation; FedEx Latin America; Feed the Children; Lucent Technologies; Pharmed Group Corp.; Caribbean Central America Action (CCAC); Florida Stevedoring; G.O.A.L., Inc.; Miami-Dade Aviation Department; Port of Miami Terminal Operating Co. (POMTOC), Seaboard Marine; Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA); Food for the Poor; Gordon, Reyes & Co.; Harvest International; Pan American Development Foundation (PADF); WorldCity Media; Enterprise Florida and World Vision-South Florida.

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## THE SPEAKERS



**U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) Assistant Administrator, Mr. Adolfo Franco ; Florida's Secretary of State and former Ambassador to Jamaica, Ms. Sue M. Cobb ; Mr. Juan N. Cento, President of FedEx Express Latin America & Caribbean Division ; and Dr. Teo Babun, Executive Director of AmericasRelief Team**

## SPECIAL GUESTS



**The Honorable C.P.Ricardo Allicock, Consul General of Jamaica led the consular corps delegation, while Chief of Miami Police John Timoney and Deputy Chief Frank G. Fernandez provided local leadership. The U.S. congressional delegation was led by Harriet V. Carter, Congressional Community Liaison for Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. Other VIP's included Timothy Callaghan and Gregg Nakano of USAID, amongst others.**

## SPECIAL GUESTS



Friends of AmericasRelief Team representing the City of Miami, Enterprise Florida, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Beacon Council, University of Miami, Latin America Mission, and many other participated in the event.

## ART MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS



AmericasRelief Team members and Strategic Partners took advantage of the event to network and meet new friends. Some of the companies and organizations in attendance included: Antillean Marine Shipping; Harvest International; Food for the Poor; Port of Miami (POMTOC); GOAL, Inc.; Pharmed Group; and Gordon, Reyes & Co. Carnival Cruise Lines and Carnival Corporation were the perfect hosts, representing Carnival were Joy A. Cadieu Manager of Business Development, and Brendon Corrigan, Senior Vice President of Cruise Operations.

## **AmericasRelief Team**

**AmericasRelief Team is a private sector collaboration of companies, non-profit organizations, and government agencies, created to coordinate, facilitate, and offer the following services for victims of humanitarian emergencies in the Americas: relief aid, preparedness, development, and recovery. AmericasRelief Team also:**

- Reacts to immediate crisis,**
- Facilitates and coordinates relief aid logistics for its members and others,**
- Provides guidance for implementation of effective supply chain management disciplines,**
- Advocates for efficient logistics integration,**
- Supports broad range planning & implementation,**
- Encourages and conducts educational programs on effective processing, distribution, logistics, and capacity building,**
- Provides advice on state-of-the-art logistics techniques and effective emergency relief protocols,**
- Assists in the assessing and surveying of needs and damage, to help guide the effective channeling of emergency relief to the most affected areas,**
- Promotes the charitable activities of its members.**

### **Team Members**

**Caribbean Central America Action (CCAC); Carnival Corporation; Enterprise Florida, FedEx Latin America; Feed the Children; Florida Stevedoring; G.O.A.L., Inc.; Lucent Technologies; Miami-Dade Aviation Department; Pharmed Group Corp.; Port of Miami Terminal Operating Co. (POMTOC), Seaboard Marine; Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA); Feed the Children; Food for the Poor; Gordon, Reyes & Co.; Harvest International; Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), WorldCity Media ,World Vision-South Florida.**

### **Strategic Supporters**

**AidMatrix Foundation, Airline Cargo Services; Antillean Marine Shipping Corp.; Family Outreach Ministries International; Future of Nicaragua Foundation; Helping Hands Ministry; Seafreight Agencies.**

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