

OAS Staff Association supports education project in Haiti

In the presence of the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States and Chair of the Haiti Task Force, Ambassador Albert Ramdin, the President of the OAS Staff Association, accompanied by other members of the bureau, handed a financial contribution to the Hope for Haiti Foundation, an NGO working in the fields of education and health in Haiti. It is the second time that such a support is provided, the first time being three years ago.

In a brief conversation, Ambassador Ramdin laid out the work and future plans of the OAS in Haiti, as well as the activities of the Group of Friends of Haiti. Rene Gutierrez, President of the Staff Association stressed the importance of being active in the community, supporting the efforts of civil society institutions such as Hope for Haiti Foundation. Then Jean Elade Eloi, Founder and Head of the Foundation thanked the OAS and highlighted the invaluable impact the significant support of the OAS Staff Association will have on helping children and families in Haiti. He also expressed confidence that this partnership will continue for years to come.

Assistant Secretary General Ramdin informed that the efforts of the Staff Association are timely, because the OAS is coordinating an Inter-American mission to Haiti, September 3-6, 2009. He welcomed the interest and contributions of the international community in Haiti, including those of the Haitian Diaspora, while recognizing that the primary responsibility for development in Haiti falls on Haitians themselves.

Hope for Haiti Foundation has been working in Haiti for the last 10 years in the areas of education and medical care in Zoranje and its vicinity, Southeast of Haiti. It helps to provide education to more than 350 children and medical care to more than 100,000 haitians.