



NEWS REPORT

October 10, 2006

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Central America Consuls Consider New AmericasRelief Initiative

MIAMI, FL-On Tuesday, October 3rd the General Consuls of Honduras, Fernando Agurcia; Guatemala, Beatriz Illescas; El Salvador, Conchy Ruiz; and Nicaragua, Jose Velasquez, who as Dean of the Consular Corps in South Florida also represented the remaining Consuls from Central America, participated in a round-table discussion and introduction of a new *AmericasRelief Team's* initiative titled: *Americas Alliance for Disaster Relief*.

Brian C. Dean, President of Florida FTAA and Ivan Barrios, representing Enterprise Florida introduced the Consuls to *AmericasRelief Team*. Barrios noted that last year Florida's Governor Jeb Bush "applauded the efforts of AmericasRelief when they coordinated more than \$5 million in food, clothing, and other supplies to Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and other countries in the region when Hurricane Stan had swept across Central America". Dean noted the importance that humanitarian aid plays in the U.S. and the State of Florida efforts to reach out to our friends in the Caribbean and Central America.

Through the *Americas Alliance for Disaster Relief* initiative, the countries in the Caribbean Basin who enter into a collaboration agreement with *AmericasRelief Team* would participate in an alliance to facilitate coordinated and effective logistics integration and supply chain management of relief aid provided by *AmericasRelief's* members and others to Internally Displaced People (IDP) following a humanitarian crisis event in the Americas. Relief items commonly requested during the first hours, days and weeks following a crisis would be shipped in a coordinated basis through *AmericasRelief Team's* Bank Depository of Charity Cargo carriers and others. In return, the collaborating country would provide first-hand communications on needs, custom's priority for the humanitarian aid being shipped, and would recommend (or provide) security regarding the relief aid and/or the personnel involved.

AmericasRelief Team members include top executives from Carnival Corporation; Cross International; FedEx Latin America; Feed the Children; Food for the Poor; 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); 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



From left to right The Honorable Beatriz Illescas, Consul General of Guatemala; The Honorable Conchy Ruiz, Consul General of El Salvador; The Honorable Fernando Agurcia, Consul General of Honduras; and The Honorable Jose Velasquez, Consul General of Nicaragua. Right photo: Ines Calderon and Brian C. Dean of Florida FTAA.

SPECIAL GUESTS



Ivan Barrios, Senior Vice-President of Enterprise Florida introduced AmericasRelief Team to the Consul Generals. The round-table discussion took place at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida.

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.**

Strategic Supporters include: AidMatrix Foundation, Airline Cargo Services; Antillean Marine Shipping Corp.; Family Outreach Ministries International; Future of Nicaragua Foundation; Helping Hands Ministry; HOPE International, and Seafreight Agencies.

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