

**Port Resiliency Program (PREP)
September 28th, 2011
Herbert Hoover Building, Washington DC**

On September 28th, 2011, the U.S. Department of Commerce hosted a meeting at the Herbert Hoover Building in Washington, DC to facilitate discussion of a private/public initiative for a disaster mitigation network of airports and seaports throughout Central America and the Caribbean. Named *The Port Resiliency Program (PREP)*, it is led by Americas Relief Team (ART) and Louisiana State University (LSU) – Stephenson Disaster Management Institute.

The meeting was led by Walter Bastian, Deputy Secretary of Commerce for the Western Hemisphere and the Honorable Ana Guevara, Former Executive Director of the World Bank. The Masters of Ceremonies and meeting planner was Merriam Mashatt, Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, U.S. Department of Commerce

Various interested parties and existing stakeholders attended the briefing and brainstorming sessions: FedEx, Wal-Mart, USSOUTHCOM, the US Chamber Disaster Assistance and Recovery Working Group, and many other government, non-profit, and private sector entities; providing input on current developments regarding PREP.

The program's mission is to work through local universities and other learning institutions to conduct port (airport and seaport) resiliency analyses, training, and support, as we seek to understand and help local communities build capacity to provide sustainability and continuity of operations during disasters. With plans to pilot the program in the Dominican Republic, we are anticipating great progress and promise.

For more information on PREP and its developments, please contact Dr. Teo Babun at teob@americasrelief.org or Andres Calderon at acalderon@lsu.edu.



Left: Dr. Teo Babun, Executive Director of Americas Relief Team, gives a presentation on the Port Resiliency Program (PREP); Center: Attendees of the September 28th PREP Meeting pose for a group picture.; Right: Merriam Mashatt, Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, U.S. Department of Commerce, Andres Calderon, LSU Stephenson Disaster Management Institute and Walter Bastian, Deputy Secretary of Commerce for Western Hemisphere.