



# Konesans

*Enabling Interdisciplinary Research, Generating Leadership and Democratizing Access*

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### *Special Interest Articles:*

- Fresh Research Initiatives
- Student Profile
- Holiday Appeal

### **MISSION:**

The Interuniversity Institute for Research and Development (INURED or the Institute) is a research and higher education establishment based in Haiti. INURED's mission is to contribute to the development of high-level research and scientific training in Haiti with the aim of improving the educational, socio-economic and political conditions of Haiti's people. As a "think and do" tank, INURED's collaborative research program provides powerful data analysis, multidisciplinary research and evaluation techniques as tools for Haiti's policymakers to address the wide range of issues affecting Haiti.

## **CELEBRATING ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR**

Dear INURED Supporter,

During this holiday season there is much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. We are thankful for the continued growth and development of our institute. Each of the past five years since our founding we have been able to expand our body of work, contribute to the gap in data available in the country, develop the capacity of the next generation of leaders and expand our network of members and supporters. For all of these achievements we look back at 2011 with great pride and a sense of accomplishment. However there is much work to be done.

In January 2012, INURED will implement the national study of Violence Against Children (VACs) with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and many national partners including UNICEF, the Office of the First Lady, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of Education, Kay Fanm, Kofaviv and WorldVision. INURED will also implement the National Ethnographic Study on Violence and Family, a flagship study entirely funded by INURED. Through these studies, we hope to gain further insight on a problem that plagues our society and contributes to many social concerns such as child servitude, the significant number of economic orphans in the country and even child trafficking. It is our hope that these studies will help inform government policy, shape preventive and intervention programs, and the practice of those working with and advocating on behalf of Haitian children.

INURED will also begin the New Year with two new research initiatives in education, funded by the International Development Research Centre in Canada (IDRC), and energy, funded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). These research initiatives will contribute to three of the four areas of focus of our Longitudinal Project: 1) Health, Violence, Security and the Rule of Law; 2) Environment, Energy, and Agriculture and 3) Education.

During this holiday season we are most thankful for the extensive network of friends and supporters who help us remain focused and keep our priorities in order during very challenging times. For this reason we could not let this year end without acknowledging your contributions to our success. INURED would like to wish you all a happy holiday season and a Prosperous New Year!!!

Sincerely,

INURED Team



# **BREAKING NEW GROUND: Newly-Funded Research Initiatives**

## **Higher Education and the Haitian Diaspora**

In 2010, INURED conducted a rapid assessment of the state of Higher Education immediately following the earthquake, the first of its kind. The full report (“The Challenge for Haitian Higher Education: A post-earthquake assessment of higher education institutions in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area”) can be found at [www.inured.org](http://www.inured.org). Since publishing this report we have received numerous requests from educators, researchers, NGOs and journalists to conduct a follow-up study on Higher Education in Haiti. We are excited to report that The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada recently awarded INURED a grant to study the contributions of the Haitian Diaspora to Haiti’s higher education system. This research will enable us to build on our prior work while contributing to a larger comparative case study titled, ***“Diaspora Impact on the Capacity for Recovery from Conflict and Crisis.”*** This three-country case study will be conducted by George Washington University, Oxford University and University of Miami/INURED in Liberia, Sri Lanka and Haiti respectively. Using a common conceptual framework each country will investigate how Diasporas have affected the political, economic and social recovery of societies in prolonged crisis. However our investigations will look at Diaspora interactions on multiple levels: family; local and national; the heterogeneous make-up of Diaspora and homeland communities and its impact on their engagement and impact; and how major events such as disasters facilitate and/or hinder

Diaspora engagement in the homeland. Finally, these case studies will examine Diaspora interaction with the homeland from the perspective of the homeland community.

For the Haitian case Study INURED will be focusing on Diaspora engagement in higher education. The Haitian Diaspora has long played a pivotal role in the development of Haiti’s education system. They have built a number of private and community schools, launched capacity building initiatives and financially supported many educational institutions in the country. Following the 2010 earthquake, the participation of the Diaspora in education intensified, particularly in higher education. This study will serve to build on INURED’s 2010 study of Higher Education by focusing on the role of the Diaspora in supporting higher education institutions throughout the country.

In keeping with our mission to build capacity through our partnership model, INURED is in the process of pursuing collaborative partnerships with faculty and students from public and private institutions for this study. Our goal is to provide training for their full participation in the development, implementation and analysis of data gathered from this study. It is our goal to uncover the strengths and development needs of the system while examining the critical role the Diaspora has played and make recommendations as to how members of the Diaspora, policymakers and practitioners can capitalize on the resources available both within and outside of the country to strengthen the Higher Education system.



## **ALTERNATIVE ENERGY INITIATIVE: Eradicating Energy Poverty: Community participation in the development of micro- grids in Les Anglais, Haiti**

In Haiti as elsewhere in the Global South more than 80% of the population relies on biomass, such as charcoal, as their primary source of energy and have little or no access to electricity. These people are living in “energy poverty,” which is defined by the tight linkages between poverty and lack of access to modern energy services. Especially in island nations like Haiti, poverty is perpetuated by the high cost of using inefficient fuels and technologies as well as the innate lack of productivity associated with their use.

In Les Anglais, local entrepreneurs and organizations such as EarthSpark International have been developing local businesses and supply chains for clean and efficient energy technologies. Ultimately, they seek to drive sustainable economic development by providing access to better quality energy services.

INURED is working in conjunction with EarthSpark International using our unique participatory assessment methodology to explore local assets, existing energy demands, and behaviors to replicate and expand these programs country-wide, with particular emphasis on reaching underserved rural areas and small towns like Les Anglais.

The research will help to identify key indicators that will help shape effective communication, public outreach and education to increase support for policy, collective action and behavior change regarding efficient energy technologies. The project is possible with support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and its multi-year multi-sector Côte Sud Initiative which aims to bring sustainable prosperity to Haiti’s Southern Peninsula.

## **UPCOMING EVENT: Mark Your Calendar!**

INURED is pleased to announce that we will be hosting our sixth Annual Meeting in Port-au-Prince, Haiti from July 19 – 21, 2012. We are working hard to finalize the themes of next year’s meeting and look forward to another year of fruitful collaboration with our network of supporters. Please note the dates in your calendar as we hope to make the next meeting an even greater success than this past summer’s meeting.





## INURED STUDENT PROFILE: JEAN SERGO LOUIS RESEARCH ASSISTANT II

Jean Sergo Louis, or “Sergo” as he is affectionately known, came to INURED in 2008 when he saw a job listing in the Department of Ethnology at the State University of Haiti for a student researcher to participate in a collaborative study between INURED and VIVA RIO (a Brazilian NGO). Sergo already had research experience in the community of Bel Air and decided to apply for the position and was subsequently hired for the study. He has been with INURED ever since.

Sergo worked on several research projects including a collaborative study between INURED and Save the Children titled *“Education, School Safety and Re-education of At-Risk Children”* and an action research project with community members from Cite Soleil which led to the development of the Community Forum. Over the years, he has proven to be an eager learner by taking advantage of every opportunity to further his knowledge. Due to his dedication, Sergo now has learned how to develop ethnographic tools and conduct sampling, mapping, surveying, data analysis and report writing.

After taking a course with his advisor in Economic Anthropology he developed an interest in understanding street commerce that would lead him to do research on the Petionville Street Market. Specifically, he wanted to understand alternative routes to social mobility. After working on several research projects he joined the institute’s Thesis Advisory Program where he worked with his thesis advisor, also a faculty advisor on INURED’s staff, on his thesis titled, *“Markets, Social Ascension and the Marketing of Cloth.”* Through his ethnographic study of street markets he found that the merchants became upwardly mobile as their entrepreneurship enabled them to send their children to school, engage the international market for the purposes of expanding their business and increased their purchasing power. Sergo has since completed our



Thesis Advisory Program and successfully defended his undergraduate thesis.

Sergo’s goal is to pursue his graduate studies abroad and has recently applied for a scholarship to study at the Universidade Federal de Rio Janeiro in Brazil. Through his collaborative research activities with INURED and VIVA RIO, Sergo has co-authored two articles *“The Social Life of Water”* and *“Waste, Stigmatization, Commerce and Politics”* through the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro Press. If he receives the fellowship, Sergo will travel to Brazil by March 2012 to conduct further research on Markets, Culture and Economy in Contemporary Haiti.

We sincerely hope that Jean Sergo Louis will be joining the 10 student fellows whom INURED has been supporting through its student scholarship program since 2010. Through this scholarship program we are building capacity for students who would otherwise not be able to attend university. Our funding makes it possible for students to purchase supplemental materials such as textbooks, equipment and cover their daily living expenses. If you wish to support this program, please feel free to make a donation to INURED via check or credit card. Check donations can be mailed to **10750 SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Terrace, Miami, FL, 33173**. On the memo line, please note that your tax-deductible donation should be allocated to the **Student Scholarship Program**. If you wish to use a credit card, please visit us at [www.inured.org](http://www.inured.org) and click on “Donate Now.” We strongly urge you to send your donation **today**.



## INURED Institutional Review Board

INURED is proud to announce that we have registered our Institutional Review Board (IRB) with the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP). While INURED has always maintained an active ethics committee, we felt that acquiring an official registration and recognition from the U.S. government would be critical to our continued success. The IRB committee will ensure that all proposed research meets international ethical guidelines and protects the rights and welfare of the research subjects. Additionally, INURED will be able to provide Federalwide Assurances to other organizations that require proof of compliance with human research protections but lack the resources to maintain an IRB. All registrations are fully searchable and can be located at <http://ohrp.cit.nih.gov/search/search.aspx>.

## INURED IRB Standing Committee

INURED's IRB Standing Committee will be chaired by Dr. J. Bryan Page from the University of Miami and a supporter and member of INURED since its inception in 2007. He will be joined by a distinguished international panel of colleagues covering the full spectrum of the social sciences.

NAME	AREA OF SPECIALTY
J. Bryan Page, Ph.D.	Chair, Social & Behavioral Sciences
Marie Bonnard, BA	Science Education
Danic Cantave, BA	Child Protection Specialist
Alain Denis, MA	Administration
Mackenson Doucet, MA	Science & Information Technology
Johnny Fontaine, BA	Social Sciences
Hugues Foucault, MA	Social Sciences
Sherley Jean-Pierre	Social Sciences
Jean Sergo Louis, BA	Social Sciences
Nadine Royere, BA	Community Advocacy & Education

## INURED IRB Alternate Members Committee

A designated alternate IRB member may substitute for a primary IRB member for an entire meeting or at any time during a meeting if the primary IRB member is (a) absent from the room for part of the meeting, or (b) recused from review of certain research protocols because of a conflicting interest with respect to a specific research protocol. Additionally, an alternate IRB member may serve as the tie-breaking vote during meetings.

NAME	AREA OF SPECIALTY
Gary Belkin, MD	Medical & Social Sciences
Marilyne Elie-Joseph, MD	Medical Sciences
Myrvine Fleureau, ABD	Social Sciences



## **HOLIDAY APPEAL**

INURED's work is critical to Haiti's recovery and development. Through our capacity development and knowledge generation activities we are training Haiti's future leaders while providing today's local leaders and the international community with accurate baseline data to inform policy and practice. Our work could not be done without the generosity of our funders and individual supporters such as yourself. During this holiday season, please consider making a contribution to one of INURED's programs:

### **Thesis Advisory Program**

INURED provides academic support to students in the thesis writing stage of their studies. Through this program students participate in research initiatives and are given full access to research data for thesis development. Students receive guidance from INURED's cadre of faculty advisors. Your contribution will underwrite workshops, seminars and a modest student stipend.

### **Community Intervention Program**

INURED supports the Community Forum program which provides support to Cite Soleil residents in the development of research-informed advocacy initiatives that will improve their community. Your contribution enables us to launch small-scale studies, as dictated by Forum members, as well as sponsor trainings for community members in action research and leadership development.

### **General Fund**

Through your donation INURED can ensure that it has the appropriate infrastructure in place to provide the administrative support necessary for our scholarship, research, academic support and community intervention initiatives.

### **Student Scholarship Program (Haiti)**

INURED supports five students studying at universities throughout Haiti. As INURED is not funded for this program we depend on donations from individual donors like yourself. Your contribution will help us cover tuition, textbooks, transportation and miscellaneous academic expenses.

### **Student Scholarship Program (Brazil)**

The Government of Brazil (GoB) and INURED support 10 undergraduate students studying in public universities throughout Brazil. While the GoB underwrites tuition costs, INURED supports students by serving as a liaison between them and the GoB and covering other educational and living expenses including: textbooks; pedagogical materials; rent and meals. As INURED is not funded for this project your contribution to this fund will help cover the administrative cost of program as well as student expenses.

#### ***To Donate:***

- 1) Visit [www.inured.org](http://www.inured.org) and click "DONATE NOW" to use your credit card.***
- 2) Please mail your tax-deductible donation to: INURED at 10750 SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Terrace, Miami, FL, 33173 and reference the program where we should allocate your donation on the memo line of the check.***





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 Wesner Marcelin, Micro-Enterprise

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