



Konesans

Enabling Interdisciplinary Research, Generating Leadership and Democratizing Access

Spring 2013

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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.

Dear INURED Supporter,

Spring is a time of change. Whereas in colder climates snow gives way to milder weather in Haiti we are preparing for the rainy season. In the past, rain symbolized prosperity in Haiti as it brought with it the hope to cultivate a good crop. However, in the past years torrential rains and hurricanes have brought tragedy and despair. Change is an inevitable fact of life. While change may bring about anxieties about the unknown it is something that we must prepare for and adapt to. Naturally, INURED is experiencing a lot of change, from staffing- which you will learn about in this edition of *Konesans*- to programming. And while we anxiously anticipate what lies ahead for the institute, we are excited about the opportunities that are before us including: capacity building initiatives with the civil society and research projects that scientifically examine where Haiti is in the rebuilding process.

We hope that you will join us from July 18-20, 2013 for INURED's Seventh Annual Meeting titled, "*Reconstruction: Milestones, Missed Opportunities and the Voice of the Haitian People*," where we will share past and future initiatives with our partners and supporters. Haiti is at a major crossroad and INURED is working diligently to ensure that the path chosen brings progress, sustainable development and respect to the land and its people (no matter where in the world they may reside).

We welcome you to continue this journey with us or, for those who are new to the institute, to join us.

In Solidarity,

INURED Staff



Preliminary Results of the Jalousie Study

The Jalousie Research Project, funded by the Haitian Ministry of the Environment, takes a human rights-based approach to addressing the environmental issues faced by the informal settlement community of Jalousie. The project entailed a community-based mapping and survey process, to gather accurate information about the residents and their living conditions. The overarching goal is to empower Jalousie residents to upgrade their standard of living by transforming their community into an environmentally sustainable and socially viable one.

In early December 2012, teams of researchers visited the community during different times of the day and noted their observations on the infrastructure, environment, and public spaces in Jalousie. Later that month, they organized a meeting with local leaders from different neighborhoods and various organizations in the area. Researchers developed a survey which was tested and implemented in January 2013. The survey was complemented by the facilitation of several focus groups with leaders, women, and youth.

Preliminary results revealed that an overwhelming majority of residents (87.8%) were not born in the Jalousie area. Most respondents (63.86%) hailed from outside the department of the West. An overwhelming majority of respondents (91%) resided in Jalousie before the earthquake of January 12, 2010 and almost none came to Jalousie because they had been internally displaced by the earthquake. The community of Jalousie is fairly young, with 47% of respondents between the ages of 35- 54. And although most households were headed by men, most respondents were women. Unemployment is rife in Jalousie with the vast majority of residents working in the informal economy.

Most homes are constructed with cement blocks and metal roofs. While most homes contain electricity, they lack running water. The vast majority of residents believe in the importance of protecting the environment and cited trash disposal and access to water as their major concerns.

The overwhelming majority of respondents (84.34%) were interested in activities that occurred in their community, mainly social and environmental activities. Few were interested in political activities. A strong majority of respondents (83%) vote at least sometimes. Respondents were more likely to vote in a national election than a local one although a significant minority stated that they were as likely to vote in a local election as a national one.

Most respondents received information on current affairs on a daily basis. The most common and most trusted sources were the radio and television. Respondents felt that the State's highest priority in Jalousie should be providing social services.



Dabouze Estinvil

Profile of INURED's In-House Researcher and Administrative Assistant

In January 2013 Dabouze Estinvil officially joined INURED's administrative staff. Dabouze's career was launched in 2008 when he received his degree in Psychology from the State University of Haiti. Prior to completing his degree he spent six years gaining administrative experience at the Haitian Foundation for Development. Specializing in Art at Haiti's National School of Art, Dabouze is an illustrator with a notable portfolio of work (and the creator of this issue's comic strip).

In less than one year Dabouze's diverse skill-set in research, administration and illustration has already proven to be a great asset for INURED. He first worked with INURED in April 2012 as a researcher on the national Violence Against Children Study (VACS) where he created illustrations of the field training and survey implementation experience. In December 2012 Dabouze served as a research assistant on the Jalousie Research Project which culminated in February 2013. We are proud to have Dabouze join our staff full-time as INURED's administrative assistant, managing the institute's facilities and assisting INURED's Finance Administrator.

Dabouze would like to thank INURED for this invaluable learning experience and is looking forward to a fruitful future at the institute.



INURED and PotoFanm+Fi Gender-Based Violence Workshop



Increasing attention is being paid to the problem of Adolescent and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Haiti. On February 9th, 2013, INURED and PotoFanm+Fi brought together a diverse group of advocates to provide a platform for open discussion and future collaboration as well as to share the findings from the recent PotoFi Adolescent GBV and Violence Against Children studies. The urgent need for action was confirmed by the preliminary findings of the recent national study on Violence Against Children (VACS). The final results of the VACS are to be released by May 2013. Participants addressed gaps within the GBV research that have resulted in a myriad of camp-based studies that make it difficult to assess and compare findings. Many shared the need for regular meetings to share information and experiences.

Responding to these needs PotoFanm+Fi presented the concept of a GBV Adolescent Technical Working Group charged with developing a multi-sectorial strategic plan. Building on the government's evolving commitment to GBV issues, the group will act as a forum for continued collaboration and problem solving. The Working Group would provide valuable trainings to local providers on tools proven to be effective as well as evidence-based strategies. Other proposed solutions included utilizing internet-based tools for sharing experiences and disseminating information, 'best practices,' and developing Kreyol training curricula for community outreach workers. The workshop stands as a successful model for others in the growing movement to end gender-based violence in Haiti.



Damara Miller

Profile of INURED's Micro-Small and Medium-Enterprise Intern

Damara Miller is a native Californian from the San Francisco Bay Area where she grew up with her mother and sister. After graduating with honors in Spring 2009 with a Bachelors of Science in International Business and a French Minor from California State University Sacramento she returned to her alma mater and is now completing her thesis for a Masters in International Affairs. Through social enterprise Damara has been able to align her personal and professional interests in entrepreneurship as a means of promoting social and economic development that positively impacts people in their daily lives. She is also committed to the improvement of economic security and empowerment of youth and adults through business skills development and education.

In January 2013 Damara joined INURED as an intern and is working on her thesis on Community-Based Social Enterprise in Haiti. She became interested in INURED while researching the Haitian economy at which time she came across one of the institute's publications, "Garbage. Stigmatization, Commerce, Politics". She is delighted to be a part of an institution that is actively engaged in making a positive difference.

Damara's other joys include reading, learning French and Kreyol, volunteering, exercising, spending time with her friends and family, hiking, and exploring new places.



New Research and Capacity Building Initiatives

Civil Society Reflections on Haiti's Reconstruction

INURED was recently awarded a grant from Oxfam America in which the institute will design and implement a public opinion poll on post-earthquake reconstruction in Port-au-Prince. This study will include a capacity building component in which INURED will work with and train members of the *Observatoire de la Societe Civile pour la Reconstruction d'Haïti* (OSCRH) in quantitative and qualitative research methods in preparation for the implementation of the study. This scientific initiative will serve as a methodological case study, as well as provide insight into public opinion of reconstruction efforts within a selected pilot community. The results of the study are expected to shed light on public opinion of the role (expected and actual) of local citizens, community groups, INGOs, NGOs, CBOs, and governments in the process of reconstruction.

United Nations Rule of Law Indicators in Haiti: A Step in the Right Direction

Haiti was chosen as one of three countries as pilot sites for the implementation of the United Nations Rule of Law Indicators. With funding provided by the Canadian government, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security held a workshop from February 21-23 of this year on the Rule of Law indicators at Club Indigo in Haiti. The workshop brought together participants representing the Haitian government, civil society, and the international community with the goal of identifying priorities and effective methods that would yield an evidence-base for Rule of Law reforms in Haiti. This workshop aligned with INURED's Justice, Security and Rule of Law initiative inaugurated during its July 2012 Annual Meeting. The UN Rule of Law Indicators identified points for converging collaborative actions between INURED, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Haitian National Police, civil society institutions and actors from the international community.



Emmanuel Prédessin

Ten Students, Ten Dreams: Profile of an INURED Student in Brazil

This semester, Emmanuel Prédessin, one of INURED's scholarship recipients studying in Brazil, was selected by the Plant Pathology Research Laboratory of the Biology Department of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, one of our partner universities, to participate and represent his research group in the National Congress of Plant Pathology (The Congress). The Congress will be held in October of this year in Ouro Preto, Brazil. Emmanuel is studying agronomy and presenting his work on plant pathology, specifically plant bacteria- pathogens that attack vegetables and result in the loss of harvest. His research team examines how to overcome the effects of these pathogens by studying and cultivating regional plants that have bactericidal effects and are easily accessible to farmers.

Emmanuel (Manno) Prédessin was born in April 18, 1987 at Perches, in northeast Haiti. His parents, 3 brothers and 3 sisters live in Cité Soleil, Port-au-Prince. Manno envisions a future as "a great scientist and good agronomist who can contribute to the fundamental change of Haitian agriculture. I want to prove to the world that in Haiti there are people who study, who have great vision and believe that Haiti's image can change at the international level." INURED wishes to congratulate Emmanuel on this major achievement!

A FOREWARNED RESEARCHER

A researcher from INURED named Jean Eddy is accompanied by a guide for a research project in an area called Kafou Plezi.



They arrive in the area with their research equipment: surveys, backpacks, notebooks, etc. Noticing that certain residents from the area begin to express their discontent by saying:



However, others say:



As the researcher approached a house, the researcher noticed a man and a woman staring at him hostilely.



The man turns his back then walks away and says:



The woman closes her door and says:



I understand. Thank you for your time.



These people seem hostile, but if they had let me in too quickly, I would be worried. If they don't throw rocks at me today, I will come back tomorrow.



The work of the researcher is often misunderstood in the community. But the investigator must understand that in most cases, the hostility of people comes mainly from the fact that the results of the research often end up in desk drawers instead of transforming their lives.

Created by Dabouze Estinvil



Save the Date!

INURED's 2013 Annual Meeting

Join us from July 18-20, 2013 for INURED's Seventh Annual Meeting titled, *Reconstruction: Milestones, Missed Opportunities and the Voice of the Haitian People*. This year's meeting will examine reconstruction efforts, identify successes and challenges Haiti continues to face while considering the role/absence of the Haitian people in the process. There will be presentations made by Haitian officials, local and international researchers as well as our partners from civil society institutions.

For more information and to register please visit our website at: www.inured.org

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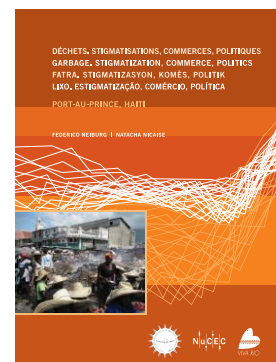
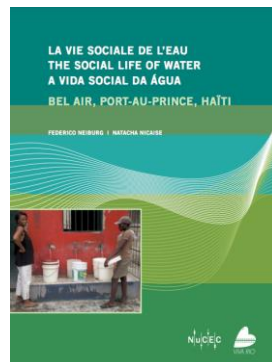
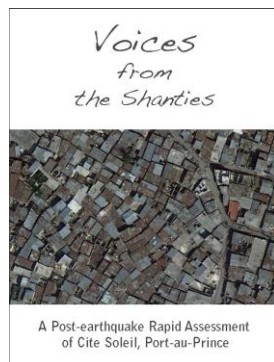
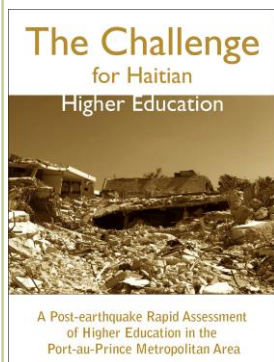
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