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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



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**GOVERNOR RECOMMENDS FAVACA BUDGET BOOST
HAITI IMPROVES COMPETITIVENESS
ANTIGUA TACKLES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HERITAGE AN URGENT PRIORITY IN THE BAHAMAS**

GOVERNOR RECOMMENDS FAVACA BUDGET BOOST

Governor Jeb Bush has recommended an increase in the legislative appropriation for FAVACA and Florida's International Volunteer Corps from \$500,000 to \$750,000 for 2005-06. Florida's governors and the Florida Legislature have supported an appropriation for FAVACA annually since 1986. The measure will address increased demand for technical assistance and training in the region.

HAITI IMPROVES COMPETITIVENESS

The goal of Haiti's non-governmental Femmes en Production is to help women entrepreneurs become competitive and improve contacts with buyers, exporters and financial institutions. Femmes en Production's Erna Rodriguez hosted two FAVACA volunteer-consultants January 16-22, 2005 whose assignment was to focus on international export standards, labeling and packaging, and quality control. FAVACA volunteer Peter Quinter who handles the Customs and International Trade Department of the international law firm of Becker & Poliakoff, P.A., Fort Lauderdale, consulted on customs and international trade, complying with the often complex regulations of different Federal Government agencies, country of origin marking of products, packaging and labeling of food products. Co-consultant Philip Corrigan, a Miami-based consultant in government relations, program management, trade facilitation, sanitary international standards, and farm-to-consumer food production and safety programs, provided input on labeling and packaging, quality control and international export standards. This project was supported in part by the US Agency for International Development - Haiti.

ANTIGUA TACKLES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Sheila Roseau, Antigua's director of Gender Affairs, hosted workshops on legal issues related to domestic violence, January 16-20, 2005 in St. John's. The workshops were lead by veteran FAVACA volunteer and former advisor on domestic violence to Florida's Governor, Ms. Robin Thompson, of Robin Thompson & Associates in Tallahassee. Co-trainer was Lucia Davis Raiford, Hialeah, a human and civil rights authority who has done extensive consultant work with the New York Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit. Workshop participants included nearly 100 police officers, media personnel, counselors, and advocates for prevention of domestic violence. Antigua has long been a leader in training and advocacy for prevention of domestic violence.

HERITAGE AN URGENT PRIORITY IN THE BAHAMAS

The Antiquities, Monuments & Museums Corporation of the Bahamas (AMMCB) is no stranger to pressure from development. As with Florida, Bahamas firmly recognizes its obligation to identify and preserve sensitive areas. Dr. Keith Tinker, director of AMMCB and his chief archaeologist, appreciating the issues shared with Florida, invited collaboration in conducting an archaeological and historical reconnaissance on Rum Cay. A FAVACA team led by University of South Florida doctoral candidate Kelley Scudder, St. Petersburg, conducted the fieldwork January 2-10, 2005. Scudder worked with fellow archaeologist Dawn Hayes, St. Petersburg. With Bahamian officials, the volunteers conducted archival research in Nassau before traveling to Rum Cay. Once on the site the team worked to relocate several previously identified sites and identified other potential sites for preservation. The sites will be mapped, entered into a GIS database, and given priority due to the urgency of threats from development, looting, and the environment.

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The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA) is a non-profit organization established in 1982. FAVACA was founded in the belief that Florida's future is interwoven with that of our Caribbean neighbors. The organization's mission is the improvement of social and economic conditions in the Caribbean and Central America through volunteer service. FAVACA provides technical assistance and training through a diverse combination of federal, private and State of Florida funding sources. To date, more than 1,200 volunteer missions to 29 nations and territories of the region have been completed. A wide variety of training is offered in health and social issues, agriculture, education, environment, disaster mitigation, women's leadership, capacity building and more.