



The American Chamber of Commerce in Haiti

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 / 2020



INFORMATION



Contents:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AMCHAM HAITI	4
MESSAGE FROM AMCHAM HAITI TREASURER	7
MESSAGE FROM AMCHAM HAITI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	9
MESSAGE FROM HAITI 'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, DC	10
MESSAGE FROM US AMBASSADOR	12
AMCHAM HAITI MISSION AND OBJECTIVE	14
AMCHAM HAITI STATISTICS	15
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019 & 2020	16
COMMISSIONS	17
COMMITTEES	18
AMCHAM HAITI EVENTS IN 2019	20
AMCHAM HAITI EVENTS IN 2020	26
FINANCIAL STATEMENT	29
IN MEMORIAM	30
NEW AMCHAM HAITI MEMBERS IN 2019 & 2020	31
SPECIAL THANKS TO SPONSORS IN 2019 & 2020	32



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AMCHAM HAITI: LAURENT SAINT-CYR



Dear AmCham Haiti Members,

2020 marked AmCham Haiti's 40th anniversary. 2020 also marks my last year as President of this association, after five years on the board. I am honored to have served, you, our valued Members, and I am very proud to have contributed to the success of the chamber and its many activities, which helped strengthen the links between the United States of America and Haiti, as well as the links that unite the members of the private sector. We are also proud to have participated in the noble fight devoted to creating a favorable environment to facilitate investments and foster sustainable growth in Haiti. This objective has been and should continue to be our main focus as we still have a long way to go.

The last four decades have been imprinted by difficult times, natural disasters, countless moments of political unrest, "peyi lock" periods, and seemingly uncontrollable periods of insecurity which more than once took our breath away.

Some have lost their assets, others have lost their dignity and too many have lost their lives. We have definitely lost our way. These events have not only affected our already weakened economy, they have struck us all, at one time or another, causing despair and discouragement; they have impacted us so deeply that our small victories are drowned and almost seem insignificant. It is true that the fight will be long and that we are still far from the light that awaits us at the end of the tunnel, but we must not, of course, give up!

2020 has also been impacted by the pandemic that has distressed the whole world. Being a resilient nation, we were able to accept and face the obvious facts. Although Haiti was fortunate not to be as affected by Covid-19 as most were, we should now accept that the changes that came with the pandemic will forever alter the way we live and work. We must adapt and also change our ways. With all challenges come opportunities. We must be open to see and seize these opportunities.

Finally, although this past year has been characterized by many undoubtedly controversial and equivocal decisions made by those for whom we voted for to guide and protect us, we have learned that we must take control and play our role. A country may be ruled by its government, but it is led by its economy and more importantly by its people. It is time that we assume our responsibilities. We must be part of the solution, and all actors will have their partition to play, as all should be heard, without exclusions. We should all make it a priority to establish a dialog with all parties and finally think of the common good.

Throughout this difficult year, AmCham Haiti has actively participated in finding solutions to face these many challenges. Led by our values as our moral compass, convinced of the importance of good governance and of transparency, we have continuously defended not only our members but our community's common goals and interests. With the support of the US government, we have joined force with the Dominican Republic to find solutions to the contraband issue, a problem that affects both nations causing significant loss of revenues. This year, AmCham Haiti is deeply concerned by the pandemic, and we therefore found it important to actively participate in addressing the needs of our community by supporting Les Centres Geskhio in the fight against Covid-19.

The challenges we faced help us realize our strengths. Despite it all, we have come together and showed up for our members and for our community. I want to thank the Board of Directors for their unconditional commitment, the members of the various committees and the members of the executive office who worked tirelessly to the success of the many activities realized by the chamber. A special gratitude goes to the electoral committee led by Me Jean-Baptiste Brown, Mrs. Guilaine Victor and Mr. Tony Moïse who have improved our bylaws. I also want to express my appreciation to Mrs. Mireille Mérové-Pierre for her dedication to the association; she has generously offered her professional services and her precious advice throughout the years. Last but not least, I want to thank the Ambassador of Haiti in the United States, Ambassador Bocchit Edmond, the Ambassador of the United States in Haiti, Ambassador Michele J. Sison, and their administrations for their unconditional support.



Finally, I want to pay a tribute to the AmCham Haiti members that are no longer with us: Mr. Robert Tippenhaeur, founding member and first President of the board; Mr. Bernard Fils-Aimé, past President; Mrs. Gladimire Augustin, dedicated employee of Cabinet Mérové-Pierre & Associés affected to AmCham Haiti's account. They have deeply imprinted AmCham Haiti; they will be remembered and missed.

Again, it has been an honor to serve you, esteemed Members, and it is an honor to pass the torch to a new President, who, I trust, will continue to humbly lead the team to serve our members and our community with as much passion as I have, and will continue to follow the rules of ethics and of good governance that have always characterized the foundation of AmCham Haiti.

Laurent Saint-Cyr
President

MESSAGE FROM AMCHAM HAITI TREASURER: JEAN-PHILIPPE BOISSON



To our Valued Amcham Members,

I am pleased to share with you the Financial reports for our institution covering 2019 and 2020 activities.

2019 turned out to be a troubled year, during which Business activity was further challenged by multiple interruptions related to a generally unstable political climate. The now famous “Peyi Lok” term, which first emerged to describe the memorable events of July 2018, surfaced early in February 2019 resulting in a virtual shutdown of business activity for approximately 10 days. Unresolved differences involving the Executive branch of the Government, the Legislative branch, and the “Opposition” led to an unprecedented “Peyi Lok” period spanning from mid-September to the end of October 2019., which severely affected the business sector and the country as a whole.

Despite having to operate in this very difficult context, the board of AmCham Haiti looked to continue on its mission to serve its membership in 2019. In doing so, it first focused on strengthening internal capacities. Our new CEO started in January 2019 and infused our executive team with the positive energy needed to bring quality events to our members, while efficiently managing daily activities to minimize operating costs. The board of AmCham also joined forces with other local chambers (CCIO, ADIH, and CFCHI) in the important fight against contraband.

We started 2020 with positive hopes for a better security and business environment for AmCham members to evolve. However, Haiti’s departure from the principles of Democracy characterized by the separation of Executive, Legislative and Judicial powers led to political tensions early in the year. This already difficult start was further compounded by the propagation of the COVID-19 virus, which led to Haiti’s decision to shut down international flights in March 2020. Doing business in this context became even more difficult than it had been, and AmCham saw the scope of activities it could be involved in significantly reduced. Nevertheless, AmCham took the necessary measures to effectively manage resources during these difficult times, while at the same time supporting the community in the fight against COVID-19, through its support to Centres Gheskio.



None of these actions over the past two years would have been possible had it not been for our active membership, that remained faithful even during these difficult times. We started 2019 with 115 active members and closed the year with 119 active members. The difficulties of 2020 impacted our membership, and negated the 3.4% growth in membership of 2019, as we ended 2020 with 110 active members.

Through careful management of expenses, and thanks to our strong membership, we are pleased to announce closing the 2019 year with a net surplus of \$14,247 and Member's equity of \$487,294. We are also pleased to announce closing the 2020 year with a net surplus of \$32,416 bringing Member's equity to \$519,710.

Your association is in a stronger financial position then it was in 2018 despite a very challenging two year-period and is ready to support AmCham's future growth.

I would like to thank my Vice-treasurer, Mme Anne Christine Fouchard, and our Administrator, Tarah Bourjolly, for their amazing support throughout this period to ensure the proper management of AmCham Haiti finances. I would also like to extend very special thanks to Cabinet Merové Pierre for their outstanding support in confirming AmCham numbers not only this year, but over the many years of history with the chamber. This year was particularly difficult as we learned of the unfortunate passing of Mrs. Augustin, who has collaborated so closely with our chamber for many years. She will be truly missed. Despite this devastating event, Cabinet Merové Pierre was able to provide final numbers for 2020 in time for our Annual meeting, and we thank them for their professionalism and support to the chamber.

Thank you to the AmCham membership for the trust put in me to serve as your Treasurer these past two years.

Jean-Philippe Boisson
Treasurer

MESSAGE FROM AMCHAM HAITI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: ERIKA ROSENTHAL



Dear Members,

These past two years have no doubt been challenging for us all as a community on multiple levels. Amcham Haiti has been diligently working to alleviate the impact of these challenges on its members and will continue to find ways to support its member amid the volatile circumstances in which we continue to find ourselves. We remain determined to offer the best the chamber has to offer and to move forward.

2019 and 2020 have been marked by several major events which have shaken the country to its core and affected the functioning of our institution. From the beginning of 2019, we had been caught up by the effects of a political crisis which started in July 2018 and better known as “Peyi lòk”. This period was marked by long periods of uncertainty across the country. Insecurity, strikes, demonstrations and riots marked the daily lives of Haitians, completely paralyzing economic and social activities for extended periods of time

Parallel to these already destabilizing circumstances specific to Haiti, the Coronavirus pandemic came to complicate an already fragile situation here. The virus has exposed our weaknesses, but also strained our already precarious economy. It has forced us to reinvent ourselves, to relearn how to live by making better use of technological tools. The introduction of this “new normal” also allowed us to see the world of possibilities that we have at our fingertips.

The challenges were many and we are aware that we are still a long way from the end of the tunnel. Nonetheless, now more than ever we are determined to seize every opportunity that presents itself. We will continue to work for the recovery of the Haitian economy by making sure to always support our members during difficult times and to get more involved in all initiatives that support our mission.



Erika Rosenthal



MESSAGE FROM HAITI'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, DC: BOCCHIT EDMOND



Washington, D.C., April 12, 2021

Dear Compatriots,

It is an incredible honor and privilege to serve as Co-Chair to the American Chamber of Commerce in Haiti (AMCHAM) and praise the incredible work undertaken over the years to foster the development of the Haitian private sector. This work aims, not just to create wealth, but also to create jobs, which are vital in order to sustainably strengthen our country's fragile economy. It is with great pleasure that I renew the commitment of the Haitian Government to encourage initiatives that promote trade and investments between Haiti and the United States of America.

The current economic development challenges are significant in Haiti; however, we must strive to change our narrative nearshore and in the region in the quest to emerge as an attractive and essential economic partner, rather than the stereotype of "Humanitarian Destination." While challenges do exist, there is no denying the importance of sustainable investments in breaking the vicious cycle of instability, reducing endemic poverty, and improving the living conditions for millions of our people. This endeavor implicates all of us, without exception.

In this regard, I also want to congratulate all of our public and private actors who have worked tirelessly for the successful renewal of the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA), the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act (HOPE I & II) and the Haiti Economic Lift Program (HELP). These U.S. trade legislations will continue to provide duty-free access to the U.S. market until 2025. The passing of these laws guarantees the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Haitian and other Caribbean residents, representing a powerful means to continue to promote investments and to create much needed jobs. This is our desired end game.

Our remaining common challenge is to work even harder to bring inclusive dialogue, peace, reconciliation, political stability and social equity in our beloved Haiti.

I look forward to a continued collaboration with AMCHAM, as we keep striving to improve our country's economic outlook. I extend my full support, and that of the Embassy writ large, to further the investment objectives that will be established for the upcoming year.

I take this opportunity to renew to AMCHAM the assurances of my highest esteem.



Bocchit EDMOND



MESSAGE FROM US AMBASSADOR: MICHEL J. SISON



Dear AmCham Members:

I am grateful for this opportunity to once again acknowledge the strong partnership between the U.S. Embassy in Port au Prince and AmCham Haiti. We continue to work together to promote shared prosperity in our region by boosting trade, commerce and investment that benefits both the United States and Haiti.

The events of the COVID-19 pandemic – not only the serious health concerns but also the pandemic’s impact on global operations – affected the business environment here in Haiti and in the United States. Nonetheless, we weathered these trials and came out better-connected and more resourceful than ever. We transitioned to virtual environments to continue our work, promoting private sector-led growth and increased investment through our online engagements. We tackled border trade priorities, including countering contraband and promoting investment, through our continuing multi-business association dialogue with private sector partners in the

Dominican Republic in July and November.

Going forward, the group will continue to meet to pursue discussions on how to support a business-enabling environment on both sides of the border. In December, AmCham President Laurent Saint-Cyr and I also participated the Caribbean Virtual Networking Event and encouraged investment and stronger regional ties.

Of course, although online events have facilitated our collaboration and information sharing, nothing compares to in-person interactions when it comes to business and diplomacy. The United States’ commitment to our partnership with the Haitian private sector was exemplified by the visit of Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and an interagency U.S. government delegation in October 2020. As a follow-on to that visit, I want to highlight the U.S. Embassy’s upcoming DFC virtual webinar. You, as AmCham members, have been invited to this DFC webinar to explore how financing mechanisms and other tools can work best in Haiti. We look forward to sustained engagement that will promulgate innovative business concepts. We will also continue our joint efforts to combat corruption and highlight the need for fiscal transparency. Together, we will advocate for the changes that will bring about much-needed investment.



I am also pleased to recognize increased collaboration between AmCham Haiti and the U.S. Mission's USAID team to exchange perspectives on the business environment, facilitate access to capital, and strengthen the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises. These projects are successful because AmCham Haiti shares the U.S. commitment to creating a sound enabling environment for businesses. We must continue to work together and insist upon good governance for Haiti. These efforts will not only contribute to the ease of doing business; they will benefit both our countries.

Bilateral economic ties between the United States and Haiti are strong, and we look forward to building upon this solid foundation and work to further strengthen our trade, investment, and commercial relationship. We are mindful of the important and constructive role that you -- our partners at AmCham Haiti -- play. There is still much work to be done, but we can be proud of our progress and continued resolve. I look forward to a productive year ahead.

Best regards,


Michele J. Sison
U.S. Ambassador



AMCHAM HAITI, YOUR CONNECTION TO THE AMERICAS

MISSION

AmCham Haiti's mission is to promote trade and investment between the United States and Haiti through free trade, free Markets, and free enterprise.

OBJECTIVE

Our objective focus on 4 main points: Rule of Law, Arbitration, Trade Facilitation and Intellectual Property Rights. We also have a strong interest in promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with our members and with the overall private sector in the country. AmCham Haiti serves as a reliable source of information on regional trade and investments issues, a critical point of communication between the AmCham's in the region, members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. government. AmCham Haiti is a channel for companies based in the U.S. to invest in Haiti, find partners and opportunities. We act as a coordinator of face-to-face interaction between business and government leaders in the country.

BECOME A MEMBER OF AMCHAM HAITI

Join the most prestigious group in Haiti and a vibrant networking platform.

ADVANCING BUSINESS IN HAITI

For over 40 years, the American Chamber of Commerce in Haiti has been an influential voice of U.S. business in Haiti. Today, joined together with the other AmCham's in Latin America under the umbrella of the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America and the Caribbean (AACCLA) these 24 AmChams represent more than 20,000 companies and over 80% of U.S. investment in Latin America. Working in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (the world's largest business federation) and AACCLA, AmCham Haiti is the premier advocate for U.S. business in Haiti.

YOUR ADVANTAGES

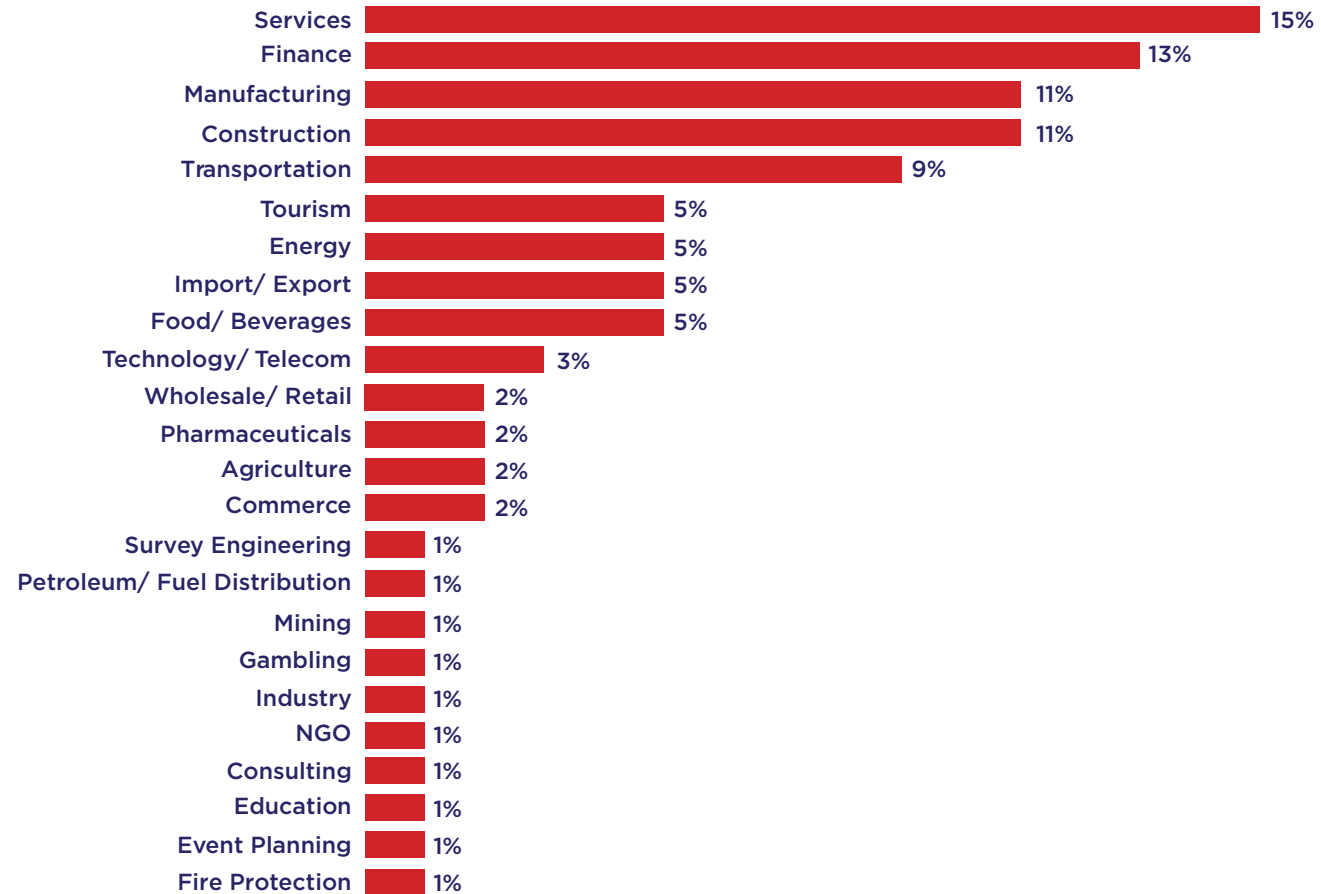
- Be part of a global network of AmChams;
- Share innovative, ethical, and community-minded business practices;
- Get preferred access to AmCham Haiti's conferences, seminars, social gathering and events;
- Benefit from the 7 days Visa renewal process for your business associates and your employees;
- Increase your business exposure by being featured in the Annual Members Directory.

REGISTER TODAY AT: WWW.AMCHAMHAITI.COM | +(509) 2940-3024



AMCHAM HAITI, STATISTICS

MEMBERS BY CATEGORIES





THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF 2019 / 2020



President: Laurent Saint-Cyr, Alternative Insurance Company

First Vice-President: Christelle Vaval, Cabinet Salès

Second Vice-Président: Michael Lemke, Enmarcolda

Treasurer: Jean-Philippe Boisson, Compagnie des Tabacs Comme il faut

Assistant-Treasurer: Anne-Christine Fouchard, Anndex-FedEx

Secretary: Bryan Gonzales, Digicel

Assistant-Secretary: Francky Louis, ABC Solutions 1,2,3

Member: Almiracle Saint-Fort, Global Home & Office Smart

Member: Sacha Perez, Karibe Hotel

Member: Marc-Kinson Antoine, ADEKO Entreprises S.A.

COMMISSIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS WHERE AMCHAM HAITI HAS A SEAT.

CTMO HOPE

The CTMO Hope Commission aims to support growth of new assembly and production in the textile sector. The Commission revised the minimum wage legislation in October 2013, which was signed by all members of the Commission and the Minister of Social Affairs.

CADRE INTÉGRÉ RENFORCÉ (CIR) – COMCIR

The COMCIR Commission was created in March 2013 by the ministry of Commerce to tighten relationship between the public and the private sector, to install commerce as the backbone of Government policy, to support economic growth and development, and to facilitate trade and investments.

CONSEIL SUPERIEUR DES SALAIRES (CSS)

Conseil Supérieur des Salaires (CSS) was established in August 2013 to support social security system of workers in Haiti. The commission is composed of representatives from the public and private sectors.

FORUM ECONOMIQUE DU SECTEUR PRIVE

The « Forum Economique du Secteur Privé » is an umbrella of major chambers of Commerce, Associations and large Companies in Haiti. This entity was created to bring together the formal Private Sector under one umbrella for a stronger and united private sector voice.



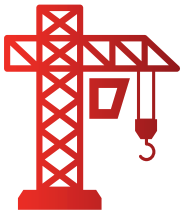


COMMITTEES

The Committees are part of the Chamber's mission of promoting a healthy business environment for companies operating in Haiti. They also serve for investigation and discussion on topics and specific issues relevant to business expansion and development.

Our Committee Members, share best practices and discuss ideas and issues relevant to their respective committee. Each committee is led by a volunteer Chairperson within its members.

CONSTRUCTION



The mission of the Construction Committee is to promote the construction sector by proposing and fostering the appropriate legal framework to facilitate investments in real estate projects, and to ensure a responsible development of the sector while complying with international building norms and procedures. The Committee also works on facilitating training seminars and scholarships through vocational schools in the sector.

Chairperson: Francky Louis, ABC Solutions 1.2.3

Vice-Chair: Kisha Terry Boucard

Members: Robert Excellent, FME Equipment • Jude Alain Kébreau, Internegoce S.A. • Greg Figaro, Arcotec • Guilaine Victor, Miyamoto International • Fabrice Nzodoum, Geotechsol • Christelle Vaval, Cabinet Salès • Fedna Delerme, KayXpert • Cyril Jean-Baptiste, Charles Engineering

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



The CSR Committee promotes CSR activities within our membership and with the private sector in Haiti. The CSR Committee also focuses on having a better grasp on CSR activities done by AmCham membership by sector and by region to build on synergies and assist SME's in getting involved with CSR.

Chairperson: Jean-Philippe Boisson, Comme Il Faut

Vice-Chair: Thony Moïse, SOFIHDES

Members: Gilbert Gonzales, REBO • Alexandre Dominique, UniBank • Sophia Joseph Riboul, CINA • Laurent Saint-Cyr, AIC • Katia Brezault, Lesly Center • Daphnée Charles, HELP • Déborah Stark, Citibank • Vanessa H. Degraff, Marriott Port-au-Prince • Grégory Morissette, EGM Strategy and Management



MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee's focus is to recruit new members and serve current members by organizing events and seminars as well as promoting a better visibility of the institution through marketing materials, our website, and using social media. The committee also received the mandate from the 2013 Board to promote and facilitate trade events.

Chairperson: N/A

Vice-Chair: Sacha Perez, Karibe Hotel

Members: Laurent Saint-Cyr, AIC • Almiracle Saint-Fort, Global Home and Office Smart S.A. • Francky Louis, ABC Solutions 1.2.3. • Vanessa Heyliger-Degraff, Marriott Port-au-Prince • Marceau Jude Edouard, Lawyer



DIASPORA

The Diaspora Committee works on promoting actions that stimulate sustainable economic growth in Haiti through productive investments and trade from the diaspora business community. The Committee has gathered a database of all the main Haitian American Chambers and Associations in order to assist diaspora investors in match-making with private sector companies in Haiti.

Chairperson: Vanessa H. Degraff, Marriott Port-au-Prince

Vice-Chair: Régine René-Labrousse, La Perle S.A.

Members: Laurent Saint-Cyr, AIC • Anne-Christine Fouchard, Anndex/Fedex • Christelle Vaval, Cabinet Salès • Almiracle Saint-Fort, Global Home and Office Smart S.A. • Michael Lemke, Enmarcolda • Marceau Jude Edouard, Lawyer • Sacha Perez, Karibe Hotel • Ludwig Leblanc, Cabinet Leblanc



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Public Affairs Committee has been created to help foster stronger relations with governmental institutions. This Committee analyzes policies and legislation that have a direct impact on the business environment. In addition, it assists AmCham to better communicate its positions to a wider audience and to better structure its advocacy efforts.

Chairperson: Guilaine Victor, Miyamoto International

Vice-Chair: Christelle Vaval, Cabinet Salès

Members: Almiracle Saint-Fort, Global Home and Office Smart • Cédric Bouquety, Sol Petroleum David Deslances, CINA • Francky Louis, ABC Solutions 1.2.3. • Marceau Jude Edouard, Lawyer



AMCHAM HAITI EVENTS 2019

2019 has been a very challenging year in Haiti. Strikes, demonstrations and riots were part of the daily life of Haitians along the year. The national economy is very affected by the situation that has caused the entire capital to be completely paralyzed at times.

However, Amcham Haiti, eager to remain faithful to its mission, still managed to stay in business. We organized debates, conferences and other similar activities. We met with various political leaders and issued several press releases to inform on specific subjects or to express our position. We also took part in summits outside the country.

LUNCH DEBATE SERIES

After the first episode of what we now refer to as “Peyi lock”, Amcham Haiti together with Sohfidis organized a series of lunch-debates on practical topics requested by its members given the difficult economic conditions that the country has been going through for a few months.

We hosted our first lunch debate on March 26, 2019 with the economist Pierre Marie Boisson who made a presentation on how to finance the growth of a business in an uncertain and difficult context.

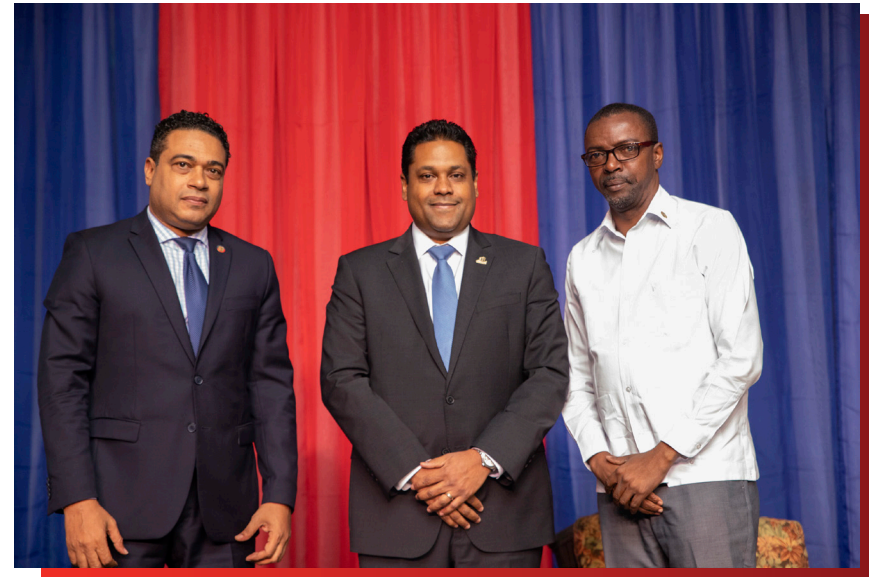
On June 4, 2019, Mrs. Tessa Jacques from the Center for Investment Facilitation (CFI), spoke to us about the agency she manages, its role and the incentive advantages granted to some companies, especially those that are in export.



DEBATE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

The American Chamber of Commerce in Haiti (Amcham Haiti) organized a debate on March 27, 2019 on the following subject: "The Constitutional Reform - Challenges and issues for the Private sector." This debate was moderated by the special commission on the amendment of the constitution of the Chamber of Deputies at the Karibe convention center.

The work of this commission chaired by Deputy Jerry Tardieu resulted in the submission of 30 amendment proposals that should be made to our Constitution in order to make it more suited to our reality and facilitate the governance of our country.



OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION ACTING PRESIDENT VISITED HAITI

On May 21st, the acting president of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Mr. David Bohigian, visited Haiti. Five companies had the opportunity to present their projects to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation which is a development finance institution of the United States government. OPIC helps American companies invest in emerging markets. OPIC works with companies of all sizes and in sectors ranging from critical infrastructure to electricity, health and financial services.





BUSINESS FUTURE OF AMERICAS 2019 SUMMIT

The Executive Director of AmCham Haiti Mrs Erika Rosenthal, participated in the Business Future of Americas 2019 Summit held in Barranquilla, Colombia from May 22 to 24.

US CARIBBEAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE

On June 5 - 6 2019, A delegation from the Board of AmCham Haiti participated in the US Caribbean Business Conference in Miami. The U.S. Commercial Service, the Florida District Export Council (DEC), and Enterprise Florida organized the conference to help companies access opportunities across this important region. This conference presented an excellent opportunity for private sector participants to engage in a constructive dialogue effort to attract and expand investments.

“BE EXTRAORDINARY” SEMINAR

On June 8th, AmCham members were invited by the CSR Committee to take advantage of a special offer to participate in the second full-day Mindvalley seminar “Be extraordinary” in Haiti. AmCham thanks Gilbert and Béatrice Gonzales for introducing the concept of Mindfulness into the workplace and is grateful for such an “Extraordinary” day.

EXPRESS NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD RENEWAL

Amcham Haiti has accommodated an express national identification card renewal service exclusively for its members and their employees from July 15 to 29. Over 1,500 identification cards have been made.



CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL

Given the climate of insecurity like no other that makes life in general precarious here in Haiti, we are obviously not inclined to party. Therefore, we cancelled our traditional Christmas party that is usually held at the residence of the Ambassador of the United States. This year, to thank our members, our partners and all our collaborators for their commitment and their continuous support, we shared a special moment and made a toast to a better tomorrow in Asù on December 11, 2019.



AACCLA'S 52ND ANNUAL MEETING

A delegation from the Board of AmCham Haiti participated in AACCLA's 52nd annual meeting held in Washington, D.C on October 1-2, 2019. The American Chambers of Commerce (AmChams) have been the most influential voice of U.S. business in Latin America and the Caribbean. Today, joined together in the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America and the Caribbean (AACCLA), these 23 AmChams represent more than 20,000 companies and over 80% of U.S. investment in the region.

Transparency, stability and the contribution of local governments are among the subjects that have been discussed in this year's meeting.





TRAININGS

On October 25, 2019 AmCham's Executive Director, Mrs. Erika Rosenthal, was invited by Caribbean Export to participate in a training on the Diagnostic assessment tool for SME's. This tool has been generated to enhance competitiveness in the private sector by creating a standardized, expert-based methodology for accurately assessing SMEs and identify the areas where development is required.

As part of the Trade and Private Sector development component of the Binational program between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, AmCham's Executive Director took part on November 28, 2019 in a training presented by Caribbean Export in Dajabon, Dominican Republic, on Sanitary and Phytosanitary rules and on customs inspection.

Mrs. Rosenthal met with Board members of the Dominican Federation of municipalities (FEDOMU) to discuss Trade and contraband issues between the two countries.



FIGHT AGAINST CONTRABAND

At the beginning of the year, Amcham Haiti joined the efforts of ADIH and CCIH and started advocating for the fight against contraband.

On March 22, 2019, the Center for Strategic & international studies (CSIS) presented in Washington, a report on cross-border trade and corruption on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic and their impacts. A delegation from the Haitian private sector visiting Washington D.C as part of the advocacy efforts to combat contraband met with the CSIS members and shared its recommendations in relation to the document submitted by the CSIS.

Representatives of the Haitian and Dominican private sectors, representatives of associations including Amcham Haiti, Mrs. Cindy Kierscht, the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. State Department, the American Ambassadors in Haiti Mrs. Michèle Sison and in the Dominican Republic Mrs. Robin Bernstein met in Miami on December 16th to discuss the elements necessary to establish a favorable business climate. The discussion focused on the specific measures that the private sector can take to increase formal trade, decrease informal trade and contraband, and promote investment. The next meeting is scheduled for the beginning of 2020.





AMCHAM HAITI EVENTS 2020

2020 has started with bright prospects. We were able to organize a few activities at the beginning of the year in Haiti and even in the United States where we attended AACCLA's last live conference where each year representatives of more than twenty Amcham across Latin America and the Caribbean meet. On March 2020, the Covid 19 pandemic changed the dynamics of everything around the world. We had to reinvent ourselves to face this new way of living. Wearing a mask, social distancing, working from home are some additions made to our daily lives. The virtual world has imposed itself in our lives.

CODEVI VISIT - FEBRUARY 5TH 2020

Members of the Haitian private sector represented by Amcham Haiti, CCIH, ADIH and CFHCI, their Dominican counterparts and some officials governments of the two countries met on Wednesday February 5, 2020 at the CODEVI industrial park located in Ouanaminthe. This fruitful meeting was facilitated by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ms. Cindy Kierscht, US Ambassadors in Haiti Ms. Michèle Sison, in the Dominican Republic Ms. Robin Bernstein, USAID members and their teams. The focal point of discussions was the management of the Haitian-Dominican border particularly on the sharing of information between customs officers of the two countries, transparency, security, formalization cross-border trade and the application of the customs agreement signed in March 2017.

AACCLA CONFERENCE

23 countries were represented at a conference held in Atlanta and which brought together the American Chambers of Commerce (AmChams) of the western hemisphere. The summit kicked off on February 12 at the Metro Atlanta Chamber with a luncheon bringing together business leaders and high-level diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean.



LET'S NETWORK

It is in a friendly atmosphere that Amcham Haiti organized on February 18th, a networking meeting at Asù. Several dozen members and non-members came to discuss and attend the presentation of the "Development Finance Corporation "(DFC) hosted by Tanya Spencer, from the Economic section of the American Embassy.



HAITI INVEST PRESENTATION

On March 12, 2020, Amcham Haiti organized a conference-debate at the Ritz on the "Haiti Invest" project. About a year after its launch by the United States Agency for International Development, entrepreneurs wishing to better understand the functioning of this new project interacted with USAID representatives who provided the presentation for over an hour.



COVID 19

As part of the fight against COVID-19 in Haiti, Mr. Laurent Saint-Cyr, President Amcham Haiti and Madame Erika Rosenthal, Director Executive met Mr. Jouthe Joseph, Prime Minister and his Chief of staff Madame Guerline Pierre in Montana on March 28 2020. The main objective of this meeting was to see how the private sector could contribute in skills, nature and others with the government as part of the fight against COVID-19, which concerns all.





WEBINARS

ARBITRATION OR TRIAL: WHAT CHOICES FOR YOUR TRADE DISPUTES - OCTOBER 14, 2020

Webinar organizes with the Chamber of Conciliation and Arbitration (CAAH) to present their different services, their advantages and why it is recommended to go through the CCAH to resolve commercial conflicts.

Me Daniel Jean, Me Vanessa Abdel-Razak and Me Carves Jean presented arbitration as an intermediate solution between conciliation and mediation. It is a private justice whose sentence is taxable to the parties. They explained the difference between the Ad hoc and the institutional arbitration. And why the participants should consider arbitration to resolve their commercial conflicts

PRESENTATION OF IDB LAB AND IDB INVEST ON THEIR PRODUCTS, CONDITIONS AND PRIORITIES - SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Mr Jean- Emmanuel Desmornes, Mr Adrien Dewalque and Mrs Kawala Jean from IDB presented in a webinar with Amcham Haiti, the whole group of IDB with its different components.

IDB works with governments, supporting large public sector projects. IDB Invest finances private sector initiatives and companies. IDB Lab develops proofs of concepts in innovation ecosystems to scale the impact of the IDB Group's influence.

IDB Invest is looking for clients to develop projects financially viable with an economic, social and environmental. It offers innovative and varied products as well as non-financial services including technical assistance. IDB can also co-invest in your projects when they do you have access to the IDB Group's network and expertise, access to a cutting-edge digital reporting platform and IDB Lab doubles your investment and your impact.

TRADE FACILITATION - OCTOBER 2, 2020

Webinar organized by Amcham Haiti and Amcham DR in collaboration with CCIO, ADIH and CFHCI. The objective of this activity was to inform economic agents involved in international trade in Haiti on the essential elements of the Bali Facilitation Agreements exchanges and share the lessons learned from the creation of a National Trade Facilitation committee in the Dominican Republic. The DR National Trade Facilitation committee of DR established a regulatory and operative framework that is predictable, efficient, agile, consistent and transparent for managing transactional processes associated with international trade by doing so it reduced the complexity and transaction costs associated with international trade and enhance national competitiveness. The Haitian Private sector should be part and advocate to activate our Haiti's National Trade Facilitation committee.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2020, 2019 AND 2018
(EXPRESSED IN US DOLLARS)

ASSETS	2020	2019	2018
CASH AND TERM DEPOSITS	517,257	485,471	466,482
OTHER ASSETS - ART WORK	5,199	10,198	9,572
TOTAL ASSETS	522,456	495,669	476,054
LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S EQUITY	2020	2019	2018
DEFERRED DUES	2,746	8,375	3,007
MEMBERS' EQUITY	519,710	487,294	473,047
LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY	522,456	495,669	476,054

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020, 2019 AND 2018
(EXPRESSED IN US DOLLARS)

REVENUES	2020	2019	2018
MEMBERSHIP DUES	156,912	167,000	153,313
SPONSORS AND EVENTS	15,280	30,471	73,880
OTHER INCOME	9,739	12,195	9,560
TOTAL REVENUES	181,931	209,666	236,753
EXPENSES	2020	2019	2018
PERSONNEL AND BENEFITS	85,056	99,706	105,477
OFFICE EXPENSES	49,599	54,303	65,703
AMCHAM EVENTS	3,662	27,244	63,198
DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS	12,380	17,000	7,000
FOREIGN EXCHANGE GAIN	(1,182)	(2,834)	(1,735)
TOTAL EXPENSES	149,515	195,419	239,643
EXCESS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	32,416	14,247	(2,890)
MEMBERS' EQUITY, AT THE BEGINNING OF YEAR	487,294	473,047	475,937
MEMBERS' EQUITY, AT END OF YEAR	519,710	487,294	473,047

In memoriam



M. Bernard Fils-Aimé



Mme. Gladimire Augustin



M. Robert Tippenhaeur

Forever present in our hearts!



NEW AMCHAM MEMBERS IN 2019

BANQUE NATIONALE DE CREDIT
CARRIBEX S.A
CARIBBEAN INVESTOR CAPITAL
CK HARDWARE
EGM STRATEGY & MANAGEMENT
GECA
HAITIAN EDUCATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
HL CONSTRUCTION S.A
ISHA FOODS
MARIMEX
MAXIMUM PROTECTION SECURITY SERVICES S.A (MPSS S.A)
MOUNTAIN FLOWERS SA
MONFORT DISTRIBUTION
M & R LUMBER S.A
PLASTECH SOLUTIONS S.A
PROTECTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT SECURITY
SODIPAL
SOCIETE GENERALE DE PLASTIQUES S.A (SOGELAST)

NEW AMCHAM MEMBERS IN 2020

GAZPLUS S.A
HAITI JARDIN S.A
J/P HAITIAN RELIEF ORGANISATION (J/PHRO)
MSC TRADING SA
RJ CONSTRUCTION
SOGEDIPA S.A
SOCIETE DU RHUM BARBANCOURT
CHAMPAGNE
CABINET THOMAS BLOT ET ASSOCIES
SOGEBEL
PAON BLEU S.A



WE THANK ALL OF OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING OUR EVENTS A SUCCESS

2019

LES LABORATOIRES 4C • SOGENER • LESLY CENTER
E-POWER • SOGEBANK • AIC • COMME IL FAUT
ENMARCOLDA • BUH • APN • SOFIHDES

2020

ENMARCOLDA • LUBEX • HM • SODIPAL

thank you



COVID-19

Nous supportons la

FHAME:

FONDATION HAÏTIENNE DES MALADIES
ENDÉMIQUES QUI SUPPORTE

LES CENTRES GHESKIO



(509) 2940 3024 • info@amchamhaiti.com • www.amchamhaiticom

Le Ritz • Suite #9

Angle Rue Panaméricaine et Imp José San Martin
Pétionville, Haïti