

# Communi-clik

**Breaking News** from Florida's International Volunteer Agency

---



May 2009

**Nicaragua NGO Receives A Training on Business Planning and Agricultural Markets**  
**Documentary on Colonialism Created in Grenada**  
**Gang Violence Reduction Strategy and Transnational Crime Prevention Workshop**  
**State Funding Passes Legislature, Next Stop Governor's Office**  
**Donate to the Families of the Haitian Migrants Lost at Sea**

## NICARAGUAN NGO RECEIVES TRAINING ON BUSINESS PLANNING AND AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

Fundacion Fenix is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) located just outside Managua whose main objective is to develop activities and programs to prevent drug use amongst children and teenagers as well as the promotion of the integral development for vulnerable groups. Fundacion Fenix has been working to develop sources that can provide a secure form of funds for their outreach program. The



NGO recently obtained 8 acres of arable land with an irrigation system and postharvest facility. Fundacion Fenix requested a FAVACA volunteer to help establish the agri-business center and provide training in order to achieve their goal of increased production. The demand for produce is on the rise and Foundation Fenix has the land and resources to meet this demand with the appropriate training and plan. Volunteer Frank Lam, with the [Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture \(IICA\)](#) in Miami, Florida traveled to Managua, Nicaragua April 20-26, 2009 to provide an overall training to local farmers and Fundacion Fenix on

technical knowledge that would vastly improve their production as well as on how to create a business plan. The 55 farmers affiliated with the project grow organic fair wage products on their own land and have been working alongside Fundacion Fenix to maximize the use of their agri-business center. Lam connected the NGO to the World Bank and secured a \$5,000 grant to improve the agri-business center. Additionally the [local IICA office](#) has provided a scholarship for a member of the organization to participate in an irrigation seminar, and the local IICA office has granted the NGO a weekly technical

support specialist for follow up. Lam has also been working with the partner since his return to help them create a business plan. It is expected that Fundacion Fenix will finish their business plan by May 18, 2009. The business plan will help the organization better understand their short and medium term goals, current and new markets, activities to collect the produce from local farmers, resources, means of first payment, and financial support. Lam will be traveling back to Nicaragua in June with his own funding to continue partnering with Fundacion Fenix.

#### DOCUMENTARY ON COLONIALISM CREATED IN GRENADA

Dr. Oliver Benoit, Dean for the School of Arts and Sciences at St. Georges University requested an expert to provide a lecture on the legacy of colonialism in Grenada to students in a Caribbean Identity and Caribbean Issues & Perspectives class. Veteran FAVACA volunteer Valerie Scoon, a faculty member at [Florida State University's College of Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts](#) and President and CEO of True Vision Productions, shared excerpts from a documentary she has been creating on colonialism from several previous FAVACA missions. After viewing the excerpts, Scoon had the class participate in a panel discussion with renowned historian and former Prime Minister [George Brizan](#) to discuss issues raised by the documentary on the economic, political, social, and mental legacies of colonialism. In addition to providing a lecture, Scoon and first time FAVACA volunteer Ian Weir, a Post Production Supervisor also from Florida State University's College of Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts, completed filming the documentary on colonialism in Grenada. Interviews with George Brizan and Gloria Payne Banfield, who served in the governments of [Eric Gairy](#) and [Maurice Bishop](#), as well as other Prime Ministers were conducted. The team also interviewed two men who had been part of the [New Jewel Movement](#) and were recently released from prison for the execution of Maurice Bishop and others. Scoon and Weir traveled to St. George, Grenada April 22-29, 2009. Post production of the documentary is underway and the Government Information Services TV has expressed interest in airing the documentary upon completion.



#### GANG VIOLENCE REDUCTION STRATEGY AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION WORKSHOP

FAVACA in conjunction with [United States Agency for International Development's Community Empowerment and Transformation \(COMET\)](#) project and the US Department of State's Narcotics Affairs Sections from [Jamaica](#), Haiti and the Dominican Republic held a regional gang violence reduction strategy workshop and study tour May 5-7, 2009 at the [Mayfair Resort and Spa](#) in Miami, Florida. Security officials from Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic as well as US federal and Florida law enforcement agencies participated in the workshop aimed to help create gang violence reduction strategies in the region, enhance existing community policing programs, and discuss policies and procedures to help prevent, interdict, and suppress gangs. Participants included: [Florida Attorney General's Office](#); [Miami-Dade Office of the State Attorney](#); [National Gang Intelligence Center](#) and Gang Tech; [Florida Division of Victims Services](#); [Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#); [INTERPOL](#); [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms \(ATF\)](#); [US Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\)](#); [Miami-Dade](#)

[Police Department](#); and [Broward County Sheriff's Office](#). A study tour was conducted for regional participants who visited the Miami-Dade Police Department Gang Unit, a school gang prevention program, and a juvenile processing center. Law enforcement and other experts discussed transnational security, crime and gangs, the role of community policing in gang reduction, and regional cooperation between participating countries to combat gangs.



#### STATE FUNDING PASSES LEGISLATURE, NEXT STOP GOVERNOR'S OFFICE



On behalf of the FAVACA Board Members and FAVACA staff members, FAVACA would like to thank all of the people who have dedicated their time and effort in helping support FAVACA's funding from the state of Florida for the coming fiscal year. [Editorials](#) from supporters such as [Bob Graham](#), letters from volunteers to their legislators, and many other efforts have all really helped advocate on behalf of our programs.

FAVACA is pleased to report - thanks to everyone's good efforts - FAVACA received its annual appropriation of \$300,000. FAVACA is thrilled that legislature understood the need to continue funding our programs especially in these difficult financial times.

Governor Crist still has to approve the state budget and he is expected to do so by early June. If signed by the governor, the state of Florida appropriation will leverage private and federal support to enable Floridians to join with their colleagues overseas to address issues affecting all of us here, in the Caribbean and Central America.

#### DONATE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE HAITIAN MIGRANTS LOST AT SEA



FAVACA would like to send our condolences to the families of the Haitian migrants that recently perished at sea while attempting to sail from the Bimini Islands in the Bahamas to South Florida. At least ten people have been confirmed dead and sixteen survived after 10 hours at sea. In the past several months, the U.S. Coast Guard has noticed an influx in the amount of Haitians attempting to migrate from Haiti.

FAVACA will be collecting donations to help pay for the funeral arrangements being held in Palm Beach County. If you would like to donate to the funeral arrangements [donate here](#) or contact FAVACA at [FAVACA@favaca.org](mailto:FAVACA@favaca.org).

For more information on this tragic event, [click here](#).

**FAVACA - The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas**

**Miami Office**

7220 NW 36th Street, Suite 608  
Miami, Florida 33166  
(305) 470-5070

[favaca@favaca.org](mailto:favaca@favaca.org)

Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean  
and the Americas through volunteer service.

[www.favaca.org](http://www.favaca.org)

**Tallahassee Office**

1310 N. Paul Russell Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
850 410 3100

[favaca@favaca.org](mailto:favaca@favaca.org)

