

Communi-клик

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



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UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE STRENGTHENS ADMINISTRATION

Public institutions are increasingly under scrutiny and held to high standards of accountability. Universities are no different. Realizing this, Dr. Geraldo Flowers, University of Belize vice president for development, hosted volunteer consultant Dr. Marty Z. Khan April 24-29, 2006 on a mission to strengthen institutional operations in auditing, accounting, internal controls, operational reviews and financial management. Dr. Khan is the director of internal auditing, University of North Florida, (UNF), Jacksonville. He is responsible for internal auditing and investigation functions at UNF as well as effective management oversight processes within all functional areas in the University.

ST. LUCIA YOUTH TACKLE ANGER, CONFLICT

Chriselda Branford, former police superintendent and now director of St. Lucia Junior Pride, organized conflict resolution and anger management training for at-risk youth April 16-24, 2006. In addition to the members of St. Lucia Junior Pride, youth from the Boy's Training Centre and from several schools participated in the training. The aim of Junior Pride is to provide youth a place where they can learn life skills and pro-social habits. Return volunteer Neville Graham of Lake Placid, Florida, conducted the training. Graham, a native of Barbados and former executive director of the Florida Environmental Institute currently is the facility shift manager at the Florida Civil Commitment Center.

NATURE ISLES EMBRACE SOLAR ENERGY

The Commonwealth of Dominica is branding itself Nature Isles and focusing on clean industries like Eco-Tourism. In collaboration with Collin Guiste of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme FAVACA conducted a workshop on renewable energy to support this national strategy. Explored during the April 16-21, 2006 event were energy sustainability and

capacity to satisfy energy needs as well as providing energy security. Also discussed were the capabilities of solar energy systems in disasters. Environmentally friendly sources of energy are the specialty of return volunteer Bill Young who conducted the workshop. He helped participants make informed decisions on how to meet their energy needs. Topics included: Defining Alternative Energy, Conservation and Efficiency, Photovoltaics (solar electricity), Solar thermal (hot water), Wind, and Geothermal (heat within the earth). Young, a 2002 FAVACA Volunteer of the Year, is senior research engineer at the Florida Solar Energy Center, a research institute of the University of Central Florida, Cocoa. He has 18 years of experience in applied research, testing, and training in renewable energy and the use of photovoltaics for disasters.

JAMAICA TARGETS AUTISM

Educating teachers, care givers, and the public in dealing with autism is a top priority for Monica Bartley, chairperson of the Jamaican Combined Disabilities Association and Rotary Club of Kingston. To this end the groups sponsored a Seminar April 22, 2006 on children with autism spanning childhood to adolescence. First time FAVACA volunteers Amanda Keating and Dr. Bobbie Vaughn, both of Tampa, traveled April 20-23 to present at the seminar and consult with participant organizations. Keating is the coordinator of human services at the University of South Florida, (UNF), and an adjunct professor at Webster University. Vaughn is beginning a research project at the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) at UNF focusing on young children with disabilities entering pre-kindergarten special education. More than 80 special education teachers, parents, care givers and health professionals participated in the Seminar.