

USACOR MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING

On Saturday, July 26, 2008, the USACOR Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting was held in the home of Ambassador John W. and Christel McDonald in Arlington, Virginia. Thanks to the excellent presentations and the very lively participation of our guests we spent a challenging afternoon together.

After a brief Welcome by John W. McDonald, each participant of the meeting had an opportunity to introduce him- and herself, thus attesting to the wide variety of expertise at this meeting.

Dr. Pierre Armand made a substantial presentation regarding Haiti's past, the present political and economic situation and challenges, and most importantly its prospects for a sustainable future. Dr. Pavel Novacek distributed an impressive booklet for his own presentation under the title "A Global Marshall Plan for Haiti", which in substance laid out some of the projects already undertaken and others still in preparation regarding improvements that affect the daily life of the Haitian population. He also brought a large number of copies of what usually is his power point presentation, thus allowing all participants to get a visual idea of the vision and plans for the future. The discussion which followed was lively, with different points of view from the presenters and those who had recently returned from Haiti and related their own experiences and observations of what they thought was going on in that country, and their ideas for the future. In many ways, it was heartwarming to see how many people showed a deep interest in the future of Haiti which could have to offer a lot, for example, with regard to Tourism, etc., if only the present lack of leadership could be overcome. Those who work on projects for the future of Haiti and who met for the first time at this meeting agreed to work together and collaborate, communicate and share their ideas in the months to come.

We also heard from Dr. Francesco Stipo, an international lawyer, who shared with us his impressions from his visit to Rome attending the Club of Rome annual conference in June, 2008. The General Assembly of the Club of Rome marked two important anniversaries:

- the 40th Anniversary of the Club
- and the 100th Anniversary of one of its two Founders, the Italian industrialist, visionary and humanist, Aurelio Peccei.
- The conference also launched a new phase in the life of the Club of Rome to extend and strengthen its worldwide activities to meet the increasingly urgent global challenges which threaten the future of humanity and of the planet (see www.clubofrome.org)

Dr. Stipo also added a few words about his recent book regarding global governance, a guide to political globalization. Needless to say that his ideas prompted another round of exchange of ideas what world governance would actually mean for our world and how to execute it.

Time was as usual much too short - and so much more could be said. Especially delightful was the presence of Dr. Lee Talbot and his wife Dr. Marty Talbot. Dr. Lee Talbot has by now visited 138 countries and his contribution to a better world is immense. Our meeting had to come to an end as the opening of the annual conference of the World Future Society beckoned (and the whole WFS Conference was absolutely terrific, challenging and inspiring).

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