



USAID | **I-TRADE**
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REPORT ON CUSTOMS HARMONIZATION MEASURE(S) (D)

**INVESTMENT-TRADE & ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT
(I-TRADE) PROJECT**

RESULT 5 - Strengthening Institutional capacity to move goods

June 30, 2008

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Within the framework of its objective of strengthening institutional capacity to move goods, I-TRADE aims at undertaking activities to maximize the potential of the HOPE proclamation, and that of goods produced in Haiti to be able to flow freely — but safely and securely — in and out of Haiti. Simplifying and modernizing procedures will improve the ability to move Haitian exports quickly to the U.S. market. Improved institutional capacity of the AGD will enable the government to maximize receipts from duties. As studies presently estimate Haiti loses up to \$200 million per year in uncollected customs revenues, improved functioning will do much to improve the GOH's budget situation.

Progress accomplished

A major stimulating source of progress in this area, the introduction by GOH in Parliament of the “Code Douanier” bill, has failed to progress as expected in the previous report. As a result, the widespread consultations I-TRADE and SUNNY/ARD had jointly agreed, in an MOU, to encourage when the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Chambre des Députés resolved to resume the vote process, could not be launched satisfactorily.

On May 13th, I-TRADE participated in two meetings organized by USAID during which the Technical Assistance Program of the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) – which objective is to provide GOH with training and technical assistance for improving its capacity to implement customs related measures in establishing standards and best practices relating to border security and enforcement, combating corruption and trade facilitation -- was outlined to :

a)- the Director General of the Customs Office (AGD, Mr. Jean Jacques Valentin, to whom a translated revised version of the three year plan (series of training modules on border security; trade capacity building and assessment/evaluation tools) was to be submitted soonest; and

b)- to a delegation of the Canadian Customs Office that was in mission in Port-au-Prince to finalize a Technical Assistance Program to both AGD and the Direction Générale des Impôts (DGI), which objective is to increase significantly GOH's revenue via sustained institutional capacity building activities.

This section of I-TRADE's Contract is in the process of being thoroughly reconsidered and restructured by USAID, and it is likely that AGD and recent harmonization measures will from now on benefit from greater coverage, with the hiring of STTA specialized assistance in the field.