

# Building a Healthy Haiti

The disastrous earthquake that occurred in Haiti in January has plunged the poorest nation in the western hemisphere into an even deeper dungeon of desperation and despair. Their human and natural resources are so poorly developed that many believe their situation is hopeless. Nearly half of their adults are illiterate. The Haitian labor force is largely unskilled. There is a severe shortage of potable water and, as a result of the earthquake, a critical shortage of permanent shelters. The forests on the hills and mountains of Haiti have been ravaged for fuelwood and lumber and by wildfires. Haiti's infrastructure and government operations have been sorely disrupted and debilitated. In short, Haiti has been turned into a societal basket case.

When comparable catastrophes have befallen poor nations in the past, recovery and restoration efforts have had limited success – often taking decades or centuries, if at all. But, with the advent of new technologies – and ones that are just on the horizon – Haiti can be rapidly rehabilitated.

The problems of illiteracy and limited job skills can be partially solved through the establishment of a national information dispensary system, a system that will give the entire population access to new reading tools that will enable everyone to read and, eventually, will enable most readers to become superreaders. The reading tools will include (1) a new software invention, *interactive movable type*, (2) a new information delivery device, *the telereader terminal*, and (3) a new computer language, *Easy* (a computer language that can be used like a natural language). They are the tools of the mudoc technology and are described in considerable detail in the Web pages at mudoc.com. (In particular see <http://mudoc.com/mpms3.htm>.)

As Haiti evolves from a carbon-fueled economy to a hydrogen-fueled economy, more and more of the water that is drunk will come from the many hydrogen heaters, hydrogen steam engines, and hydrogen-fueled generators that will provide most of the heat and energy that is used in the country.

In building replacements for the homes and other buildings destroyed and damaged in the earthquake, new building techniques and materials will be employed in their construction. Most of the materials used in reconstruction will be native products such as sand, clay, marble and other rocks, copper (from Haitian copper mines), and aluminum (from local bauxite). Advanced methods and materials, such as photovoltaic panels, fiberglass panels, and other man-made materials will be employed – and modular manufacturing facilities will mass-produce many new homes and components of other new buildings.

Haiti's forests will be reconstituted and maintained by a new kind of forester, the forest metafarmer (who is described in extensive detail in *The Metafarm*, a

science-extension novel being prepared for publication by The Mudoc Corporation – the first novel that will be written and displayed with interactive movable type). See <http://mudoc.com/newtits.htm>.

As Haiti's population is transformed from one that is partially-literate to one that is fully literate, their government organizations and operations will gradually become more efficient and more effective. With a well-informed citizenry, government leaders and government workers will be better able to serve their constituents.

While the present outlook for Haiti's future seems extremely bleak, it is within their capabilities, if provided with a modicum of support from their friends and neighbors, to build a nation that will be productive and self-sustaining. The support that has been promised and has started to arrive can, if delivered with imagination and creativity, turn this "basket case" into a positive model that can be replicated in all the world's less-developed countries.

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