



Remarks of the Director of Department of Emergency Management, Miss Judy Thomas, at the Signing Ceremony of the Agreement between the United States Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)
Tsunami & Coastal Hazards Warning System (TCHWS) Programme
September 26, 2007, CDERA Coordinating Unit

United States Ambassador Mary Martin Ourisman, Hon Dale Marshall, Chairman of CDERA Council, Coordinator of CDERA, Me`dia.

It is a pleasure for me, on behalf of the Participating States of CDERA, to give the Vote of Thanks at this morning's ceremony.

I have had the good fortune over the past twenty four years to witness the considerable contribution which the United States, through its agency USAID/OFDA, has made to the disaster management in the Region. Your contribution to the PCDPPP ten- year Project, (1980-1990) laid the solid foundation on which all of the English- speaking disaster management organizations in this region are built.

At the birth of CDERA in 1991, USAID/OFDA continued to play a significant role in the Regional Response Mechanism and more importantly your government's contribution to the framing of the Caribbean Road Map for disaster management which has resulted in the region having its unique brand: Comprehensive Disaster Management.

This initiative is therefore considered by the Region as a signal of your government's continued commitment to disaster management. The Participating States, as island states, appreciate the devastating impact that Tsunamis can bring and have taken steps to ensure that their Disaster Management Organizations have the institutional capacity to educate their citizens of the threat, as well as the response capacity to cope with the hazard.

The partnership established between USAID/OFDA and CDERA will guarantee the success of this initiative in our mutual interests. I thank you Ambassador and all the Partners on behalf of the Participating States of CDERA.