



Organization of
American States

PRESS RELEASE

THE TRUST FOR THE AMERICAS

ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBER, MR MICHAEL LEE-CHIN

CHAIRMAN OF PORTLAND HOLDINGS INC.

Washington, D.C, April 26, 2010. The Trust for the Americas, a non-profit affiliate of the Organization of American States (OAS), is pleased to formally announce its new board member, renowned Canadian business leader, Mr. Michael Lee-Chin. The Jamaican-born Chairman of Portland Holdings Inc., Mr Lee-Chin's business accomplishments span various countries and numerous sectors.

The inclusion of Mr. Lee-Chin on the Trust board is significant for the non-profit, which implements programs that reflect the goals of OAS member states in 22 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Trust has long partnered with the Canadian government and implemented programs in the Caribbean. Mr. Lee-Chin's addition to the Trust board has allowed the Trust to benefit from his significant business knowledge and expertise, and his commitment to Canada and the Caribbean.

On Monday May 3, 2010, Mr. Lee-Chin's will conduct his first official activity as Trust board member, by hosting a meeting with the Canadian private sector to increase awareness and mobilize support for the Trust's flagship POETA program, which provides job-ready technology training to marginalized populations, including youth at risk in 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting builds on Mr. Lee-Chin's commitment to corporate social responsibility and philanthropy, and is aimed at strengthening partnership and collaboration between the Trust and Canadian companies to increase opportunities for

youth in many of the countries where they operate. The lunch meeting will take place at the University Club of Toronto, featuring a keynote address by Mr. Lee-Chin.

The private sector is playing an increasingly important role in developing solutions to overcome poverty in communities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The Trust encourages this trend by building public-private partnerships and implementing innovative programs to build the capacity of local organizations and marginalized populations. The meeting, and Mr. Lee-Chin's hosting of the event in conjunction with the Trust, will highlight the importance of deepening this commitment by the Canadian private sector.

About Mr. Lee-Chin: Michael was born in Jamaica in 1951 to very humble beginnings. In 1986, at the young age of 35, Michael showed his entrepreneurial spirit by purchasing AIC Limited (AIC) for \$200,000; by the mid nineties and with Michael's stewardship, AIC became Canada's largest privately held mutual fund company. In September 2009, Michael sold AIC's retail mutual fund business to Manulife Financial; Canada's largest insurance company. This was the second company which Michael built from the ground up and sold to Manulife Financial since in 2007, Manulife Financial purchased the Berkshire Group, an investment dealer with approximately 1000 financial advisors and \$12.5 billion in assets under administration. In 2002, Michael returned to his home land of Jamaica and purchased a 75% stake in the National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited (NCB). At the time of purchase, he immediately deployed a transformation team with a mandate to improve employee morale, increase customer confidence and modernize the bank's IT infrastructure. Today, NCB is the largest bank in the country and has a formidable reputation for being a leader in corporate citizenship and for its mantra, "Building a Better Jamaica". In 2006, Michael co-founded Columbus International Inc., a diversified telecommunications company which provides services to over 21 countries across the Caribbean and Latin America. Michael through Portland Investment Counsel continues to manage over \$2 billion for Manulife Financial. He is currently the Executive Chairman of Portland Holdings Inc., Portland Investment Counsel and Chairman of Portland Private Equity. Portland Investment Counsel is sub-advisor on several Manulife funds including the Manulife AIC Advantage Fund. As a globally noted

philanthropist, in 2008, he received one of Jamaica's highest national honors – The Order of Jamaica, for his significant contributions to business and philanthropy.

About The Trust: The Trust for the Americas is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization affiliate of the Organization of American States (OAS) and was established in 1997 to promote private and public sector participation in projects that reflect the main goals of the OAS. As an affiliate of the OAS, the Trust develops and executes targeted development programs that respond to the needs of OAS member states. Leveraging in-kind contributions from OAS member states, in-kind expertise from the OAS and cash donations from both the public and private sectors, the Trust executes capacity building projects with support from over 100 public and private sector partners in more than 22 countries throughout the Latin America and the Caribbean.

About POETA: Partnership in Opportunities for Employment through Technology in the Americas (POETA) has been a major source of empowerment for marginalized communities and capacity building for NGOs in Latin America and the Caribbean. The program provides marginalized populations, including at-risk youth, with job-ready information and communication technologies (ICT) training, civic education and job-readiness training to address their vulnerabilities. The program fights poverty and increases social inclusion through a model that partners with local organizations to establish POETA centers in marginalized communities. Since the program's inception in 2004 over 30,700 people with disabilities and youth at-risk have been directly trained at 70 centers operating in 20 countries in the hemisphere. Additionally, over 95,800 community members have benefitted from services offered at POETA centers.

For more information, please contact:

Asha Williams
Program Manager
awilliams@oas.org
+1.202.458.3675