

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On January 12, 2010 a magnitude M_w 7.0 earthquake struck the Port-au-Prince region of Haiti. The earthquake epicenter was located immediately west of the city of Port-au-Prince, and the damage induced by this event was extreme. It is estimated that over 200,000 people were killed during the earthquake, and several hundred thousand injured. A strike-slip $M_w = 7$ event that affects ground near the margins of a bay represents a common earthquake scenario in the United States and throughout the world, and thus it was important to document the aspects of this event.

GEER mobilized a reconnaissance team, funded by the United States National Science Foundation, consisting of geotechnical engineers and engineering geologists from both the United States and the Dominican Republic. The team members included:

- **Prof. Ellen Rathje** (Team leader, University of Texas)
- **Mr. Jeff Bachhuber** (Fugro/William Lettis & Associates)
- **Prof. Brady Cox** (University of Arkansas)
- **Mr. Jim French** (AMEC/Geomatrix)
- **Prof. Russell Green** (Virginia Tech)
- **Mr. Juan Molina** (Constructora Inmobiliaria M&N)
- **Mr. Tabare Mundaray** (Proyectos Especiales)
- **Prof. Scott Olson** (University of Illinois)
- **Prof. Luis Pena** (Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra)
- **Prof. Glenn Rix** (Georgia Tech)
- **Mr. Oscar Suncar** (University of Texas)
- **Mr. Donald Wells** (AMEC/Geomatrix)

Glenn Rix was part of an advance team that partnered with EERI, the USGS, and the US Army Corps of Engineers to visit Haiti from 26 January to 2 February 2010. The remainder of the team travelled to Haiti, via the Dominican Republic, and was in country between 31 January and 5 February 2010. The GEER team also partnered in the field with Dr. Paul Mann of the University of Texas and Dr. Rich Koehler of the Alaska Division of Geology and Geophysical Surveys.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Primary support for the participants in this work was provided by grants from the U.S. National Science Foundation as part of the Geo-engineering Extreme Events Reconnaissance (GEER) Association activity through an NSF RAPID Grant and CMMI-00323914. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

Additional support for our efforts was provided by security personnel from Haiti (Francois Aurel, Alex, and Jack) and by Mr. Rick Sellers, the security manager for AMEC/Geomatrix. GPS street maps for Haiti were donated to the team by GPSTravelMaps.com. These maps were extremely useful during the reconnaissance. This support is gratefully acknowledged.

GEER Recorder Katherine Jones assisted with the preparation and posting of the report.