



CHINA HARBOUR HANDS OVER ST. MARK FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT IN TIME FOR HURRICANE SEASON

ST. MARK'S, GRENADA, July 2, 2014 – GIS: The following is a Press Release from the China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd. (CHEC):

The people of the St. Mark community can breathe a sigh of relief now that the flood mitigation work has been completed just in time for the onset of the 2014 hurricane season. The construction will protect the community from the effects of dangerous flooding.



In a hand-over ceremony held last Friday, attended by top-ranking Government Officials, Officials from the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China, and CHEC Americas; Dr. the Right Hon. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique said that this occasion was a special one for his country, "This is a very happy day, we are launching a very significant project for the development of Grenada Carriacou and Petite Martinique. I want to extend a special thanks to our friends at China Harbour. With Grenada working along with China and the U.S. together we can't go wrong."

Hon. Clarice Modeste – Minister of Health & Social Security and Parliamentary Representative for St. Mark further reiterated the sentiments of the Prime Minister. "This flood mitigation project is a priority need for the safety of the community. In addition, it has provided much needed employment for the locals. China Harbour Engineering Company has executed an excellent job and has collaborated well with the community and the Government."

In the past, torrential rains and mudslides caused much devastation in the parish of St. Mark, many of which resulted in the destruction of homes and even loss of lives. In an attempt to combat this problem, the Government took the decision to contract China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) Americas to implement the St. Mark Flood Mitigation project in 2013. Steps to better access the river were laid and clearly marked swimming basins/areas were put in place to further cater to the needs of the community.

"In the Caribbean you never know when a hurricane can hit especially in the season between June and November," remarked Jeff Wang, Country Manager of CHEC Grenada. "With this in mind our team has been working especially hard to complete this project before the peak of the hurricane season as this area is particularly prone to floods and damage caused by soil erosion."

Known worldwide for the high quality of its work and ability to complete projects on time and within budget, CHEC Americas did just that as the company officially handed over the St. Mark Flood Mitigation project to the Grenadian Government and the people of the St. Mark Community on Friday June 27 – nearly two months earlier than planned.

This \$US5 million project employed nearly 100 people – 90% of whom were Grenadians. However, CHEC Americas did not stop there as the company was committed to further enhancing the community through a number of social outreach programmes, one of which is the basketball court which was granted to the Bonaire Government School to celebrate the completion of the project.

Hon. Clarice Modeste – Minister of Health & Social Security and the Parliamentary Representative for St. Mark further remarked, “You have people out there who come and talk, but talk is cheap, when you start signing documents and hiring locals that is walking the talk and that is what China Harbour did. Their heart is in the right place and I want to thank CHEC for believing that our Government will honour the agreements that we have discussed together.”

Since CHEC began its operations in Grenada, it has been engaged in several Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, including the donation of school supplies, clean up campaigns, and the sponsorship of cricket in Carriacou. It was therefore no surprise that entertainment, fireworks, food and drinks were important components of the hand-over ceremony.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Frank Yuan, Deputy General Manager of CHEC Americas thanked the Government and the people of Grenada for their support, while reassuring attendees that CHEC would continue to contribute its best services to the country: “At CHEC Americas, we strive to stand by our core business values which can be best characterized with four words - integrity, dedication, inclusion and innovation. As such, we are deeply rooted in our commitment to maximizing the utilization of local resources and expertise in all our operations.”

The St. Mark project is the first of a series of infrastructure development Government works which are planned to be implemented by CHEC Americas. The company has already completed its geotechnical studies on the Lauriston Airport in Carriacou and work will soon begin on the expansion and refurbishing of the Maurice Bishop International Airport in St. George’s.

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