



International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
APRIL 8-9, 2013**

---

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 1.8 : IAPB REGIONAL UPDATES – NORTH AMERICA

---

**NORTH AMERICA PROGRESS REPORT OCT 2012 - MAR 2013**

**Major achievements**

In the past six months the major achievements for the region have been:

1. The Caribbean sub-regional meeting in December 2012 held in Georgetown, Guyana.
2. The further development of VISION 2020/Canada under the leadership of John Rafferty of CNIB.
3. Haiti national planning workshop held in February 2013.

**Key opportunities**

Two key opportunities to be taken up in the next six-month period are:

1. Improved coordination of activities by NGOs in Haiti. If IAPB and VISION 2020 are to be credible, we must be able to coordinate our work efforts and assist the Haitians in a meaningful and sustainable way. We hope that the outcome of the workshop, along with improved coordination will be an example of true regional cooperation.
2. Once again, it would be very supportive to have further development of cooperation among the various national development assistance organizations in support of blindness prevention. This is particularly important in the US, where USAID needs to be encouraged to continue its support to programs like the NTD efforts. We have discussed this in the past and again I want to put it on the agenda.

Louis Pizzarello  
Regional Chair for Europe