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## **Sahana Software Foundation receives PPBI Best Practices Award**

**Orlando, FL, March 23, 2010** - The Private and Public Businesses, Incorporated Best Practices Award was presented this morning to the CEO and President of the Sahana Software Foundation, Mark Prutsalis of Brooklyn, New York. This honor was presented to Mr. Prutsalis during the *Disaster Recovery Journal's* Spring World conference at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Under Mr. Prutsalis' leadership, a major collaborative effort was coordinated by the Sahana Software Foundation in response to the Haiti Earthquake. These efforts were initiated and a situation management support portal was activated within 48 hours of the earthquake. Collaborative functions of the systems being provided included: Organization Registry, tracking the location and operation of all responding relief organizations; Request Management System to integrate text messages and translate Haiti native language to English and transfer messages from trapped individuals directly to international Search and Rescue teams; Hospital Management System provides info on bed capacity, patient load, staffing levels, need requests across all hospitals; World Food Program Management System designed to support WFP coordination of all food distribution in Haiti. All of these efforts have been accomplished through the aid, development and assistance of multiple collaborators.

The award is made annually or semi-annually for “exemplary planning, practices or response to a critical incident,” according to Deidrich E. Towne, Jr., Chairman of the PPBI Board of Directors. Mr. Towne offered that following the nomination, the PPBI Board of Directors had unanimously voted to present this industry specific award to the Sahana Software Foundation as represented by Mark Prutsalis. Towne said, "...the Sahana Software Foundation coalesced in Sri Lanka during the South East Asian Earthquake and Tsunami in 2004. This foundation has provided coordination and support for major humanitarian relief efforts at multiple disaster locations since its inception.”

"PPBI applauds this practice and thus has recognized the Sahana Software Foundation as represented by Mark Prutsalis with the award." He continued, "Sahana fulfills the deed of gift for this award and their spirit and passion for building and maintaining partnerships, especially in response to disaster are to be exemplified. We congratulate them on their program, their processes and their success!"

Following this presentation Mr. Prutsalis spoke to the 1100 conference attendees relating some of the specific issues and logistics of coordinating response to the physical devastation and humanitarian need created by the earthquake in Haiti.

PPBI is an association of business continuity and incident management personnel in the private and public sectors who are dedicated to encouraging planning and cooperation between the two sectors to mitigate the impact of disasters.