„Urban Strategies for Onaville, Haiti“ (TUM-USO)

Urban Strategies for Onaville is the inter-disciplinary project platform of so far seven TU München Master- and one PhD-student within the study areas of landscape architecture, urbanism, and environmental engineering. A student initiated cooperation with the Port-au-Prince-based Non-Profit Organization TECHO Haïti and grants from DAAD enable information-exchange, research visits, volunteer engagement, and coordination with local community initiatives and neighborhood committees since late 2012.

Subject of research is the rise of Canaan in the aftermath of 2010 earthquake, a vast unplanned urbanization north-east of the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince. In 2013 the area is expected to host 300,000 people with more than 10,000 in TUM-USO focus area Onaville, where the seasonal river Ravine Lan Couline poses a large flood related risk. Having environmental hazards, huge deficits in basic infrastructure, and characteristic, unplanned development, Onaville was chosen to elaborate trans-disciplinary approaches for locally adapted, strategic urban and environmental development planning. TUM-USO investigates in remote modeling and local field work if economically, environmentally and socially integrative development and improvement of living conditions in marginalized neighborhoods become possible – when academia promotes research, mutual learning, as well as citizen empowerment and community-based action in open-ended multi-stakeholder processes.

Johann-Christian Hannemann, Mitarbeiter, Wissenschaftszentrum Weihenstephan & Fakultät für Architektur, Lehrstuhl für Landschaftsarchitektur und öffentlichen Raum

A Neighborhood Contingency Plan Onaville has been established to prepare the residents to flood, erosion and landslide hazard (Drawing: J.-C. Hannemann; Foto: Valentin Heimhuber)