



MIT  
HAITI



***MIT-Haiti Initiative:  
Opening Up Education  
Through Mother Tongue &  
Technology for Active Learning***

September 24, 2015

xTalk @ MIT

<http://haiti.mit.edu>









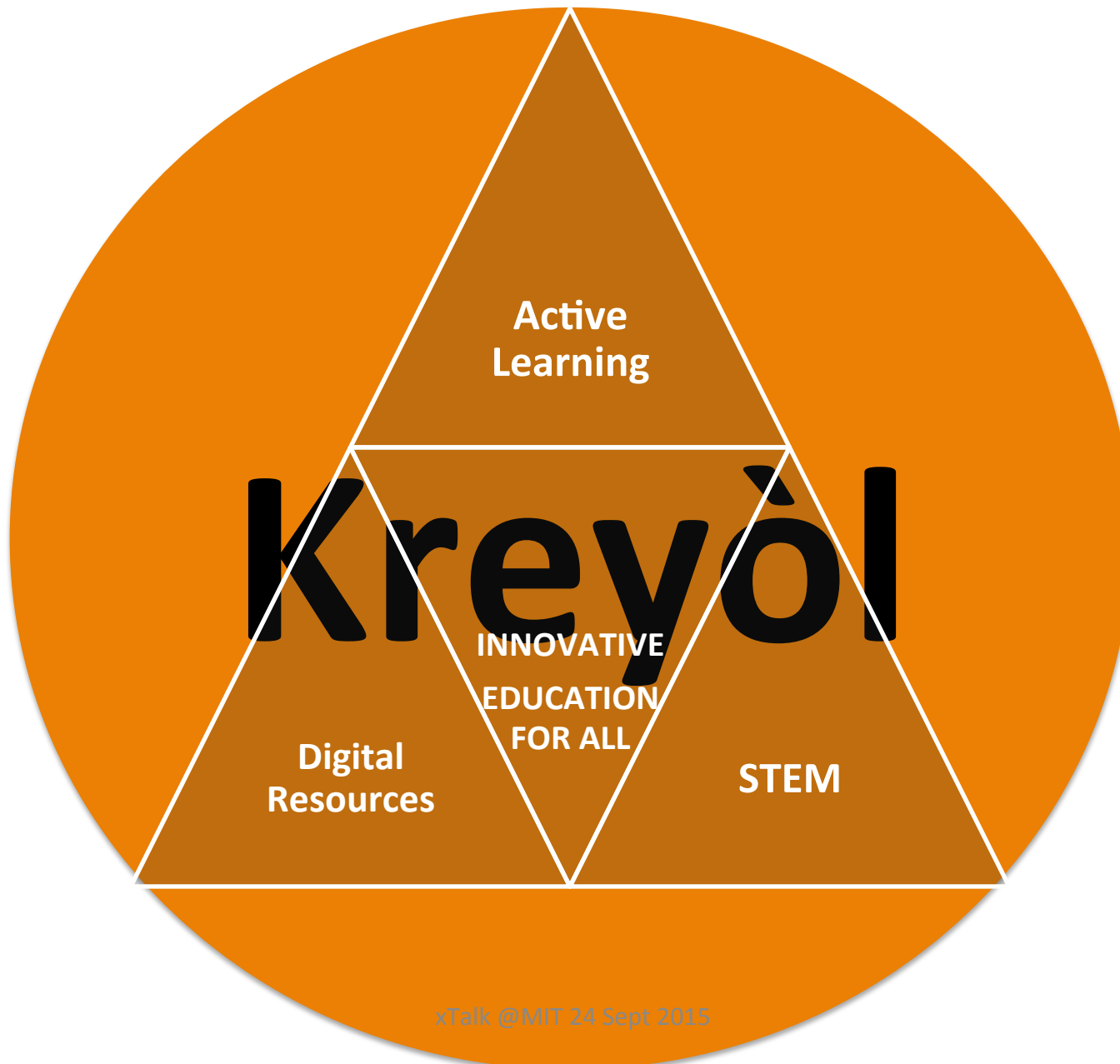
## *Toward a modern democratic education*

### **Education in Haiti: the past and the present**

- French based
- “Drill, baby, drill!” model
  - *rote-learning*
  - *minimal relevance*
  - *limited hands-on*

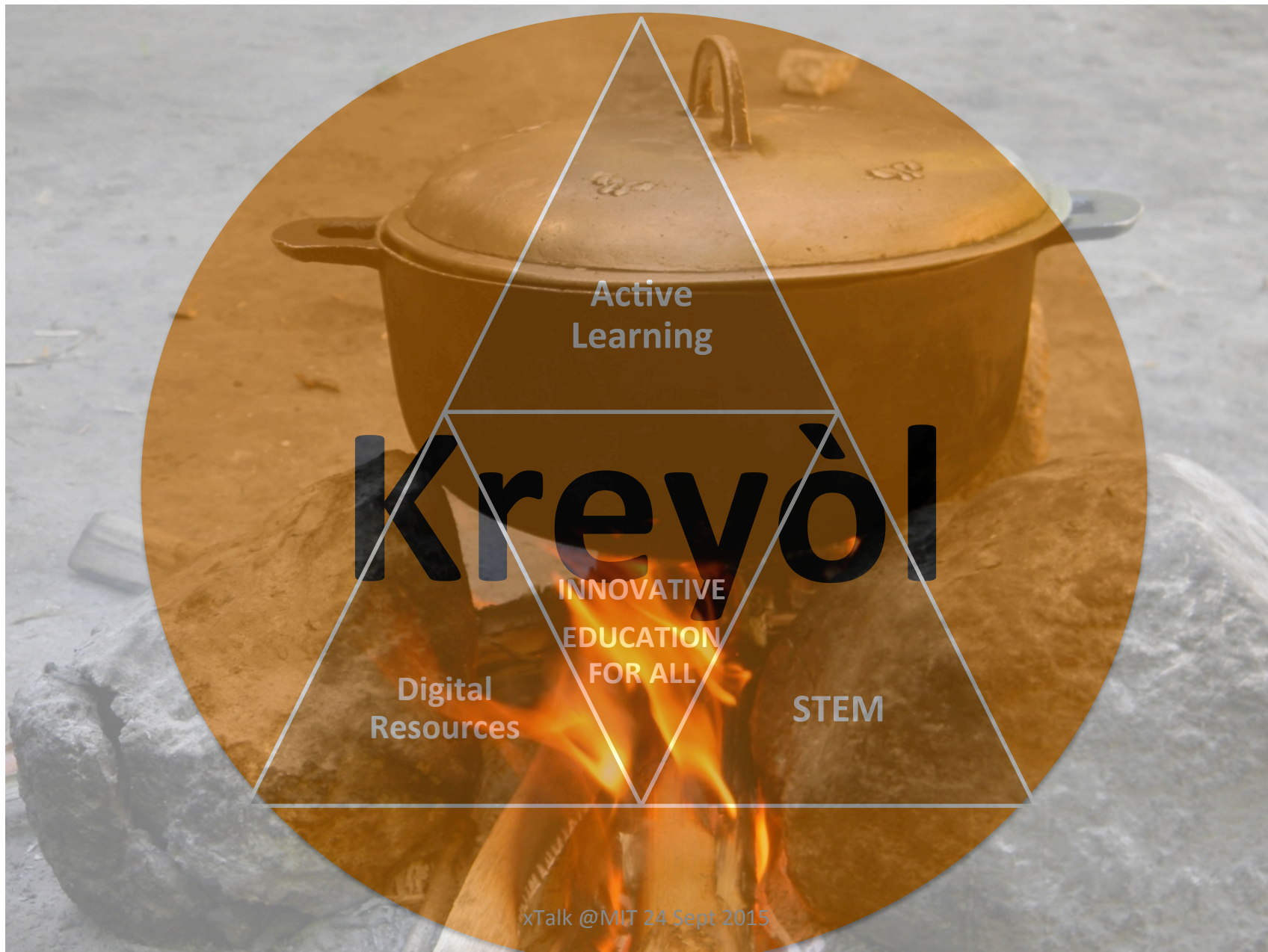


## *Toward a modern democratic education*





## *“Twa wòch dife” (“Three rocks of fire”)*





# **The MIT-Haiti Initiative**

**Goal: High quality STEM education through Kreyòl-based curriculum development & faculty training.**

**Central Ingredients (the three “wòch dife”):**

- 1. Kreyòl as language of instruction**
- 2. Technology-enhanced and open-education resources**
- 3. Active Learning Practice**

# MIT-Haiti Initiative's Timeline

## 2010

- Symposium at MIT

## 2012

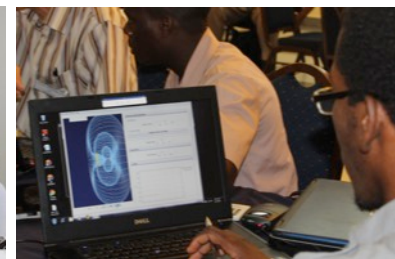
- First STEM workshop in Haiti

## 2013

- MIT and Haiti's PM Lamothe sign agreement
- Three Ministers attend MIT Sloan course

## 2014

- MIT Sloan leadership workshop in Haiti
- MIT-Haiti presentation at GoH Council



## 2013

- Launch of NSF-funded "INSPIRE" Project
- Two "INSPIRE" workshops held in Haiti

## 2014

- "INSPIRE" workshop
- Heightened engagement by GoH
- P.M. Lamothe visits MIT

## 2015 – Future

- Two "INSPIRE" workshops in Haiti, including workshop at State University in Limonade
- MIT-Haiti Fellowship, September 14-25, 2015



# **MIT-Haiti Project Team (partial—see next slide)**

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**“Men anpil, chay pa lou...”**



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# The Initiative by the numbers

- 6 workshops in Haiti + 1 MIT-Haiti Fellowship at MIT (now!)
- 200+ faculty and government officials have enrolled
- 35+ universities and schools represented at workshops
- 50+ apps in Kreyòl for active learning in STEM
- 6 online video tutorials in Kreyòl for genetics and bio-chemistry

For progress reports on this Initiative, see <http://haiti.mit.edu>



# Questions for our Haitian panelists

1. What is the importance of the MIT-Haiti Initiative for Haiti?
2. What are the advantages in using Kreyòl in education in Haiti?
  - a) For the students?
  - b) For the teachers?
3. What are the teachers' attitudes vis-à-vis the use of Kreyòl as tool for instruction and production of materials?
4. What difficulties arise when teaching in Kreyòl?
5. What difficulties arise when translating materials in Kreyòl?
6. What impact do you see that the teaching in Haitian Creole may have as part of a national development project?



## Challenges and opportunities?

1. Create and disseminate a new *lexicon* of science and technology in Kreyòl
2. Create a new *culture* of deep learning—an antidote against “par coeur” (i.e., against rote learning of texts that few can understand)
3. Enlist the un-ambiguous support of the public and private sectors, civil society and the international community.

### Larger impact—*Mens et manus et mundus?*

Millions of students worldwide speak “local” languages and are mis-/under-educated. The MIT-Haiti Initiative can be at the forefront of a global revolution toward equal access to quality education across linguistic and socio-economic barriers.

Scientists, engineers and humanists can collaborate to solve global challenges to human rights.





# Opening up education

MIT-Haiti Initiative: Opening up education in Haiti



Public  
Choice



See Related: Mathematics Science Broadening Participation

<http://videohall.com/p/519>

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