

GCCI Newsletter

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGETOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



President's Address



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry welcomes you to our monthly e-newsletter.

The month of September was a very exciting one, particularly because the GCCI, on September 27th-28th, 2019, hosted the Second Edition of its Business Development Forum. The event was a tremendous success. Over a period of two days, small to medium enterprises and large companies had the opportunity to learn about trends and best practices in the areas of marketing, finance, projects and investments from a high powered team of presenters.

I hope you have fun reading this month's edition.

What can you find in this Month's Newsletter?



August month in review



Matters of Trade



Who became members in August?



Save the Dates!



Member-Company Feature

GCCI's Month in Review

GCCI Signs MOU with Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) and the Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on September 3, 2019 at the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Offshore Europe Conference and Exhibition held in Aberdeen, Scotland. The MoU is intended to create and strengthen links between the two Chambers for the enhancement of trade and for information sharing relating to issues of policy and trade development. The Memorandum was effected from the day of its signing and will be valid for a period of two years.

The GCCI was represented by the President of the Chamber, Mr. Nicholas Deygoo-Boyer and Ms. Anije Lambert, Secretary of the GCCI.

GCCI met with the Civil Defence Commission to discuss Hurricane Dorian Relief Efforts

GCCI met with the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) on September 06, 2019 with the aim of informing the Chamber's members of the current situation in the Bahamas as well as to explore areas of relief and support that the GCCI can provide. The GCCI pledged its full support to the Bahamas and committed to aiding relief and recovery efforts following Hurricane Dorian.



GCCI's Month in Review

GCCI receives courtesy call from Ambassador of Finland

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), on September 12th, 2019 received a courtesy call from His Excellency, Pertti Ikonen, Non-Resident (Designate) Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the republic of Finland to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.



GCCI receives courtesy call from Former Senator of the State of Roraima, Brazil

The Chamber received a courtesy call from the Former Senator of the State of Roraima, Dr. Romero Juca, accompanied by a delegation of business men who are desirous of investing in housing, construction, industrialization of primary products, transportation, among other areas.



GCCI's Month in Review

Event of the Month

GCCI's Business Development Forum 2019

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry would have launched its second edition of the Business Development Forum 2019 under the theme, "Evolve Your Brand, Fuel Your Finance". The forum was slated for September 27th-28th, 2019.

The forum was centrally focused on two main thematic areas: **MARKETING** and **FINANCE, PROJECTS & INVESTMENTS**. Some of the topics that were presented on includes but were not limited to; Marketing Strategy Fundamentals, Search Engine Optimisation, Sources of Funding and Equity investment, Merchant banking, Project Proposal Writing, Managing Credit Scores, etc. At BDF 2019, GCCI would have launched the Vision Fund Grant of GY \$300,000. Participants were required to submit their business proposal pitches and the winner will be announced in November, 2019.

Here are some pictures from the Business Development Forum 2019.



Senior Vice-President of the GCCI, Mr. Timothy Tucker, gives his opening remarks at BDF 2019



The line up of speakers for the marketing segment- starting from the left- Mr. Rowen Willabus (CEO, Information Systems Architect at IntellectStorm), Dr. Vishnu Doerga (Executive Chairman, ActionINVEST Caribbean Inc.), Ms. Sara Bharrat (CEO/Founder of Withoutwax Inc.), and Dr. Rosh Khan (CEO, Social Rank Media)



Senior Vice-President of GCCI presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Sara Bharrat



Scenes from BDF 2019- Cocktail Event



More scenes from the Cocktail Event



Ms. Lyndell Danzie-Black (Managing Director, Cerulean Inc.) would have kick started Day 2- Finance, Projects & Investments. Sitting next to her is Mr. Martin Massiah, MC for Day 2.



Mr. Nigel Deosaran (Financial Planner, Aspire Limited) during his presentation on "Sources of Funding and Equity Investment".



The Planning Committee for BDF 2019



12 DYNAMIC SPEAKERS

48 AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

SURVEY RESULTS
BASED ON A POST-EVENT EVALUATION

98%
of participants stated the presentations were relevant to their business

100%
of participants surveyed believe the information presented can be applied to their business for growth

100% SATISFACTION



Sept 27th & 28th, 2019 | Savannah Suite, Pegasus Hotel



Matters of Trade

Guyana's Trade Facilitation Roadmap

Trade Facilitation is the simplification and harmonization of trade procedures, particularly for imports and exports, . At present, Guyana's Trade Facilitation profile incorporates moving away from the Total Revenue Integrated Processing System (TRIPS) that was used for a number of years and replacing it with the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) in Guyana. Moreover, on May 2019, Guyana would have welcomed the passage of the Customs and Trade Single Window System Bill. The Bill allows for a single submission of documents electronically for fees, levies, duties, and taxes due to the government on goods which are imported or exported.

Further, Guyana is ranked 134, as its score is about 3 points lower than the regional average as its ease of doing business score for the year 2019. Compared to other countries, since 2014 Guyana's quality of trade and transport related infrastructure falls by 0.16 point in 2016 and by 0.15 in 2018, suggesting that infrastructure facilities need to be enhanced and strengthened to improve the quality of Guyana's trade and transport. According to the 2019 World Bank Doing Business – Trading Across Borders report, in Guyana, the time to attain border compliance for export is three days while for import is three days and twelve hours. Both are slower than the average in Latin America & Caribbean

So what then is the Guyana Trade Facilitation Roadmap 2019-2024?

The Trade Facilitation Roadmap 2019- 2024 is a consultative effort of Guyana's National Trade Facilitation Committee under the guidance of United Nations Conference on Trade and Investment (UNCTAD).In March 2019, members of Guyana's National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) were trained on planning skills for implementing trade facilitation reforms as part of UNCTAD's Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees. Afterwards, NTFC's members undertook UNCTAD online courses on understanding trade facilitation (delivered in July and

August 2019). In September 2019, Guyana's NTFC conducted the training of trainers to develop skills for ensuring the NTFC's sustainability and concluded the official launch of Guyana's Trade Facilitation Roadmap 2019-2024.

The vision for the roadmap is: *"Guyana aims to improve its standing as an effective trading partner in the global value chain through the implementation of key trade facilitation reforms described in this Roadmap that would reduce trade processing time by 50% and related transaction costs by 30% by the end of 2024 and therefore would improve the position of its World Bank's trading across border position, which in turn would contribute toward enhancing Guyana's ease of doing business"*.

So how then do we benefit?

Apart from reduced trade processing time by 50% and related transaction costs by 30%, we will also be able to see a reduction in the complexity of customs operations for conducting trade in Guyana by 2020, strengthened collaboration & cooperation among border agencies for the alignment of procedures and formalities by 2022, reduction of unnecessary, duplicated trade documents, among others.

Trade experts from UNCTAD, representatives of the agencies of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTCF), members of the private sector, and staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would have participated in all workshops.



The Chamber Welcomes You On Board!

As of September, 2019 the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry would like to take the opportunity to welcome its newest members:

1. Air Services Ltd
2. Harpi Management Consultancy
3. Innovations America
4. Mario's Juice Bar
5. Starcomm Office Furniture (Guyana) Inc.
6. 401 Furniture

Save the Date!



CONNECTING WOMEN IN BUSINESS
COCKTAIL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019
6:30 PM



SOME PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE
**CANCER INSTITUTE
FOR BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH**

CONTRIBUTION: 7,000

LOCATION:
PEGASUS OASIS
DON'T FORGET TO WEAR SOMETHING PINK!

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Business Feature for the Month

ROSE RAMDEHOL AUTO SALES

Rose Ramdehol Auto Sales offers competitive prices on all vehicles and motorbikes. Founded in 1990 by Rose Ramdehol, the company offers the lowest interest rates and payback period, a range of layaway options, 6 months warranty on engine and transmission and imported pre-ordering. Rose Ramdehol Auto Sales would have joined the GCCI in early 2019.



ROSE RAMDEHOL



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