



MARCH  
IN REVIEW



UPCOMING  
EVENTS



NEW  
MEMBERS



MEMBER OF  
THE MONTH



# Newsletter

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the  
Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Offshore Technology Conference 2023 on the way!
- GCCCI records twenty new members in March
- Glamp Camp Voted Member of the Month for March 2023



### 133rd Annual General Meeting held to elect new Chamber Council

GCCI Announces Newly Elected Executive Management Committee and Council for the year 2023/2024. Elections were held on March 22, 2023.



### Export Saint Lucia leads its Second Delegation to Guyana

The Agriculture Committee of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) made a generous donation of products to the Three Friends Mines Women's Group.

## Join GCCCI's Delegation for the Offshore Technology Conference 2023

As the pioneering organization that led the local private sector to the OTC in 2019, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) cordially invites you to join our esteemed delegation to OTC 2023.

By joining our delegation, you will have the chance to network with industry leaders, showcase your products and services, and gain valuable insights into the latest trends and innovations in the oil and gas sector. For more information contact the secretariat on +592 227-6441



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## Mr. Kester Hutson

CEO Of Dapper Technology Inc.

“My vision for the Chamber is to create a thriving business community where all members feel supported and empowered. I believe that by working together, we can achieve great things and make a positive impact on our local economy”.

Welcome to the monthly e-newsletter of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI). Our latest edition showcases GCCCI's calendar of upcoming events, important Chamber dates, highlights our business and member of the month, and extends warm greetings to our newest members.

March was an exhilarating month for our Chamber! The GCCCI has successfully elected its new executive management committee and council for the upcoming period of 2023-2024. With this new team in place, we are confident in our ability to continue providing exceptional support and resources to our members.

As the newly elected President, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve and lead our Chamber towards sustained growth and success. It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to this month's edition.

I hope you find it informative and engaging.

# WHATS NEW?

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry held its 133rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 22, 2023 to elect a new Executive Management Committee and Council for the year 2023/2024. This event was conducted via zoom and a few persons attended in person.

The following members were elected as the new Council of the Chamber for the year 2023/2024:

No#	Name	Company
1	Timothy Tucker	Rid-O-Pes
2	Richard Rambarran	NCB Capital Markets (Guyana) Inc.
3	Orson Ferguson	GTT Inc.
4	Shaleeza Shaw	Opulent Consultancy Inc.
5	Kester Hutson	Dapper Technology Inc.
6	Dr. Rosh Khan	Social Rank Media
7	Keon Howard	Electric (Guyana) Inc.
8	Rayad Boyce	Sonic Business Services
9	Kerensa Gravesande-Bart	Strategic Recruitment Solutions Inc.
10	Komal Ramnauth	KOJAC
11	Sham Outar	Merchant Marine Services Guyana Inc.
12	Evie Kanhai-Gurchuran	Envisage Marketing & Technology Company
13	Geraldo Alphonso	Innovations America
14	Gavin Ramsoondar	Zarc Properties Inc.
15	Molly Hassan	The Guyana Oil Company
16	Carlos Mendonca	Ricks and Sari Agro Industries Ltd.
17	Kathy Smith	Dover Waterproofing Technologies Inc.
18	Navin Prashad	M.P. Insurance Brokers & Consultants Limited
19	Brian Edwards	Green Agro Services & Supplies Inc.
20	Mary Nagasar	Hand In Hand Mutual Fire & Life Insurance Companies
21	Nadene Gilbert-Rambarran	Ascension Business Services

# WHATS NEW?

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Executive Management Committee comprises a President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Immediate Past President. The following members were elected as the new Executive Management Committee of the Chamber for the year 2023/2024:



**President (centre):** Mr. Kester Hutson, **Senior Vice President (right of the president):** Mr. Richard Rambarran, **Junior Vice President (far left):** Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar, **Secretary (left of the president):** Ms. Kathy Smith and **Treasurer (far right):** Mr. Orson Ferguson.

# *NEW MEMBERS*

## WELCOME TO THE GCCI

In March 2023, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed its latest group of members. We are thrilled to extend our warmest greetings to:

- Latitude Geospatial Consulting Inc.
- Gawlin LLC
- OnExt
- University of Excellence, Management and Business (U.E.M.B.)
- Blue Mountain Capital Inc.
- Kall Guy Inc.
- Shally Farms Inc
- AGI Industries Inc.
- TriVolt Energy
- Intertec Inc.
- DH Technical Services Limited
- The Blubird Company Inc.
- Thethys Marine and Logistics Services Inc.
- Quality Express
- Verisa General Services
- Digital Technology Group of Companies Inc.
- Shawarma Hutt
- SB Plumbing, Welding and General Construction
- Caribe Snackz Inc.
- Vista Services Inc.



## PARTNERSHIPS:

### New Hayven Merchant Bank Inc. partnered with EFG International

New Hayven Merchant Bank Inc (NHMB), a member of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a seminar in partnership with EFG International to provide information on asset management opportunities and services available to local institutional investors.

In attendance was Ms. Shaleeza Shaw, former Secretary of the Chamber. EFG International is a Swiss private bank offering private banking and wealth management, asset management, and other financial services with 41 locations worldwide, and a regional office in Miami, USA.

In their presentations, EFG advised that they work with clients to select or structure products that bring an acceptable return/yield while balancing the same with other factors such as the period funds available for investment, principal protection and the risk appetite and tolerance of the investor.

Later that evening, the Ms. Shaw and other Council members of the Chamber, Dr. Rosh Khan and Mr. Orson Ferguson partook in a cocktail event which saw NHMB and EFG publicly sealing their collaborative relationship with the signing of an agreement.

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## The Business Link Up

Do you have a Micro, Small or Medium Business and thinking about joining the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry?

Then join us Friday 14th April 2023 at 10:00 hrs. on MEGA 102.1 FM as we bring to you how Safeway Security Inc. can safeguard your investments and what the GCCI has to offer MSME.



## EVENTS: GCCI Participated in Empower Guyana’s Annual Retreat

On March 8, 2023, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) handed over a cheque valued at three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to Ms. Shamane R. Headley, the recipient of the 2022 vision fund grant.

The Fund was established in 2019, at the second Business Development Forum to target individuals, with a small business idea, who would like to see it come to fruition. In addition to the grant, winners will receive technical support for their business growth from the GCCCI and a year’s worth of free membership within the chamber.

Ms. Headley is the proprietor of Nooks and Crannies; a personal and commercial cleaning supplies store, which targets consumers of both locally manufactured and imported cleaning supplies. Ms. Headley’s business has been operating as a mobile business for the past three (3) years, driving into communities and selling the locally manufactured Tidy Up brand of detergents.

After the cheque handover yesterday, Ms. Headley sat down with the Chamber’s former secretary Ms. Shaleeza Shaw and Mr. Eusi Evelyn, Managing Director for Green State Oil & Gas Services Inc. to receive her first mentoring session.

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## Business Tip: Get Professional Help

Starting a business doesn't require you to be an expert in every aspect of it. It's important to recognize your strengths and weaknesses and seek professional help when necessary. For instance, if you lack accounting or bookkeeping skills, it's wise to hire an expert in that field.

Similarly, if you need to draft a contract, it's best to seek the services of a qualified lawyer. Attempting to handle tasks beyond your expertise can lead to wasted time and money in the long run. Remember, investing in professional help can save you from costly mistakes and ensure the success of your business.



## DONATIONS: GCCCI's Agriculture Committee supported Women in Agriculture

On March 8, 2023, the Agriculture Committee of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) in conjunction with the Region 10 and Green Agro made a generous donation of products to the Three Friends Mines Women's Group at the Three Friends Mines, Upper Demerara River, Region 10 just in time for International Women's Day 2023.

The farming group, predominantly women, reached out to the Chamber in late February requesting assistance with basic planting equipment and seedlings. The products donated included fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, seedlings, pro mix and other essential agriculture equipment such as forks, hoes, water cans and sprayers to name a few.

These products are intended to assist the women in producing better quality produce while observing good agriculture practices, which will in turn allow them to sell the produce and improve their livelihood.

The Handover was facilitated by Brian Edwards, Chairperson of GCCCI's Agriculture Committee. The Chamber also thanks the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) for supporting this initiative.

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## EVENTS: Launch of the Women in Law Enforcement Summit 2023

In recognition of the International Women's Day campaign theme for 2023 – Embrace Equity, The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) in collaboration with the community relations department of the Guyana Police Force, and the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry launched the Inaugural Women in Law Enforcement Summit 2023 – Gather. Collaborate. Grow.

The summit's objectives were to proactively foster and support inclusiveness while facilitating open and candid discussions; and activities to develop personal and professional skills and the general growth and development of female law enforcement officers.

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## MEETINGS: GCCI met with Non-Resident Israeli Ambassador to Guyana, His Excellency Ambassador Itai Bardov

The Executive Management of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) met with the Non-Resident Israeli Ambassador to Guyana, His Excellency Ambassador Itai Bardov. The Ambassador is currently in Guyana to present his credentials as Ambassador of Israel to Guyana and CARICOM.

The Chamber's President, Mr. Timothy Tucker, accompanied by secretary, Ms. Shaleeza Shaw, welcomed the Ambassador to Guyana and shared the Chamber's mandate which is to advocate in the interest of the business community. An invitation was also extended to members of Israel's business community to join the Chamber's membership.

Taking into account Israel's significant progress in climate smart agriculture and Guyana's commitment to developing renewable energy resources in its own country, the parties present identified potential partnerships in the following fields: Renewable Energy, Green and Medical Technology, Reusable Water, Agriculture and Water Conservation.

During the meeting, the officials discussed a variety of ways to collaborate that will benefit both nations, primarily in the Economic and Trade sectors. Israel and Guyana have enjoyed increasing diplomatic relations over the last two decades. In 2013, bilateral trade reached nearly 4 million US dollars.

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## EVENTS: International Day of Forests 2023

Ms. Shaleeza Shaw, former Secretary of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), participated in the International Day of Forests celebrations at the Arthur Chung Convention Centre. This year's theme is "Forests and Health," highlighting the crucial role that forests play in promoting human well-being and environmental sustainability.

Ms. Shaw's presence at this event underscored her commitment to promoting sustainable economic growth and environmental stewardship in the business community

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Subsequent to the AGM, the new Council held its first Statutory Council meeting on Monday, 27th March 2023 to elect from its body a new Executive Management Committee (EMC) for the year 2023/2024. The EMC comprises a President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Immediate Past President. The elected Executives are as follows:

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## AGM 2023: GCCI Announced Newly Elected Executive Management Committee and Council for the year 2023/2024

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) held its 133rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) virtually last Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023. During the meeting, remarks were delivered by the Honourable Minister Deodat Indar Minister within the Ministry of Public Works and outgoing President of the GCCI, Timothy Tucker.



## Business Tip: Don't Do it Alone

Starting a business can be a daunting task, and having a support system in place is crucial for success. It's essential to have a trusted family member or friend who can provide a listening ear and offer valuable feedback as you navigate the ups and downs of entrepreneurship. However, if you're looking for more structured guidance,

seeking out a mentor or participating in a business start-up program can be even more beneficial. These resources can provide you with the knowledge, skills, and connections necessary to take your business to the next level. Remember, building a strong support system is not only helpful during the initial stages of your business but also throughout its lifespan.



## MEETINGS: GCCCI met with representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce to discuss current trade issues between Guyana and Trinidad

On March 28, 2023, GCCCI's Executive Management Committee convened with Ms. Safrana Cameron, a representative from the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce. Ms. Cameron's role is to facilitate private sector development, making her an asset to the committee's discussion.

This meeting was a follow-up to a previous gathering hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on March 6, 2023. The focus of that meeting was the Trade Agreement between Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. While trade issues were briefly discussed, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, represented by former President Timothy Tucker, raised concerns about the status of intervention to date.

The meeting on Tuesday was dedicated to discussing current trade issues between Guyana and Trinidad, as well as additional trade issues that the private sector is currently experiencing. The GCCCI recognizes the importance of addressing these concerns to ensure the success of the Trade Agreement and the growth of both countries' economies.

Also present at the meeting was, the Director of Business, Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Mr. John Edghill and Mr. Carlos Mendonca, Councillor, GCCCI.

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## Understand the Risks and Rewards

To achieve success, it is crucial to take calculated risks that can help your business grow. One effective way to assess the potential risks is by asking yourself, "What's the downside?" By doing so, you can identify the worst-case scenario and prepare accordingly.

Armed with this knowledge, you can take calculated risks that have the potential to yield significant rewards. Remember, taking risks is an essential part of any successful business strategy, but it's important to do so with careful consideration and planning.



A major highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Mr. Ian Mitchell, Managing Director of eMagine Solutions Inc., on an online marketplace platform he has developed called Shopfront. This Caribbean online market would enable regional companies to offer their goods to a wider audience, providing a valuable opportunity for businesses in both St. Lucia and Guyana.

In addition to members of the EMC, the meeting was attended by Mrs. Sophia Alfay-Henry, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Manufacturing, Business Development, Cooperatives, and Consumer Affairs, and Mr. Kelvin Jn. Baptiste, Technical Officer of Export Saint Lucia.

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## TRADE MISSIONS: GCCCI met with Export Saint Lucia

On March 28, 2023, the Executive Management Committee of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry had a productive meeting with representatives from Export St. Lucia, the national export promotion agency of St. Lucia. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss trade-related issues and explore opportunities to strengthen ties between St. Lucia and Guyana.

During the meeting, the participants discussed a range of topics, including ways to increase import and export trade between the two countries, improving logistics, and general information about starting businesses in Guyana. The conversation was engaging and informative, and both parties left with a better understanding of the potential for collaboration.



## Business Tip: Prepare to Make Sacrifices

Starting a business is no easy feat, and the lead-up to its launch requires a great deal of hard work. However, the real work begins once you open your doors. In fact, in many cases, you may find yourself putting in more time than you would if you were working for someone else. This level of dedication and commitment is often necessary to achieve success. Unfortunately, it may also mean sacrificing time with loved ones in order to achieve your goals.

The adage that there are no weekends and no vacations for business owners might ring true for those who are committed to making their business work. There is nothing wrong with full-time employment, and some business owners underestimate the true cost of the sacrifices that are required to start and maintain a profitable business.



According to Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), the Honourable Mark Phillips who also attended the event, the launch of BritCham will undoubtedly bring about mutual benefits for both nations and Guyana will now be better equipped to capitalize on the opportunities for expanding trade and tourism.

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**EVENTS:**

**GCCI attended reception in honour of Minister David Rutley and the launch of BRITCHAM Guyana Inc.**

Mr. Kester Hutson, the newly elected President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry, graced the Reception held in honour of the distinguished United Kingdom's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Americas and Caribbean Minister, David Rutley, and the launch of BRITCHAM Guyana Inc.

The event was hosted by the British High Commissioner to Guyana, Her Excellency Jane Miller, on the evening of Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at the High Commissioner's Residence in Bel Air.

The reception was a testament to the strong ties between Guyana and the United Kingdom, and the launch of BRITCHAM Guyana Inc. marked a new chapter in the two countries business relations.



**COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT :**

**Mr. Kester Hutson met with City of Miami Chairwoman to enhance communication and collaboration between GCCI and the City of Miami**

On March 28, 2023, Mr. Kester Hutson, the President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), met with Ms. Christine King, the Chairwoman of the City of Miami. The purpose of this meeting was to strengthen the working and communicative relationship between the City of Miami and the GCCI.

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This year, the mission also hosted a business mixer at Duke Lodge on March 29, 2023, aiming to reconnect with individuals they established relationships with last year and establish new prospective business connections.

The delegation's efforts to deepen business ties between Saint Lucia and Guyana are commendable and will undoubtedly lead to mutually beneficial outcomes for both nations.

## EVENTS:

### GCCI attended a business mixer hosted by Saint Lucia trade mission

A delegation from Saint Lucia, consisting of Export Saint Lucia, the Ministries of Commerce, and other private sector and education agencies, recently returned to Guyana for a second time on the inaugural British Airways flight. Led by Commerce Minister Hon. Emma Hippolyte and Export Saint Lucia, in 2022, the delegation's primary objective was to strengthen business connections with Guyanese businesses and the St. Lucia diaspora in Guyana.

During their first visit, the trade mission collaborated with the GCCI to coordinate B2B meetings and business mixers, which received a positive response. As a result, the GCCI is delighted to welcome the delegation once again and introduce them to the newly elected Executive Management Committee.



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**PRESS RELEASE:**

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry displeased with the Bank of Guyana's treatment of the ongoing Foreign Currency Shortage in Guyana

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The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry expressed zero tolerance for agents or agencies who perpetuate racial agendas

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The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry calling on local banks to share hindrances to access to finance for the local private sector

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## What Is the Fastest Way for a Business to Grow?

Business growth is often unpredictable and beyond the control of business owners and workers. However, implementing lean practices can accelerate growth. One effective strategy is to focus on a narrow product line, allowing for streamlined operations and increased efficiency.

Additionally, scaling up rather than scaling down can lead to faster growth. Finally, providing a clear competitive advantage can set a business apart from its competitors and attract more customers. By adopting these lean principles, businesses can position themselves for rapid growth and success.

# Member Spotlight



## GLAMP CAMP

LUXURY OUTINGS

### “Enjoying the Outdoors in Luxurious Style!”

Glamp Camp Luxury Events owned by Ashmin Brathwaite is an event decor and event planning service. Glamp Camp was conceptualized during the pandemic with the main aim of getting persons to enjoy the outdoors in luxurious style via their luxury picnics.

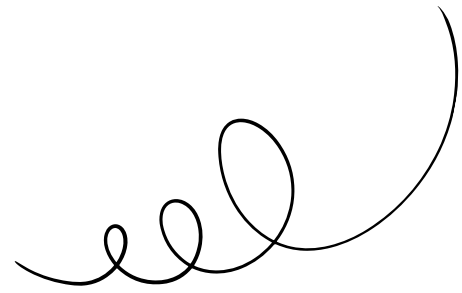
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# Upcoming Events

VOLUME 14



## Business Guyana Magazine Volume 14

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry is preparing to launch Volume 14 of the Business Guyana Magazine. Stay Tuned !



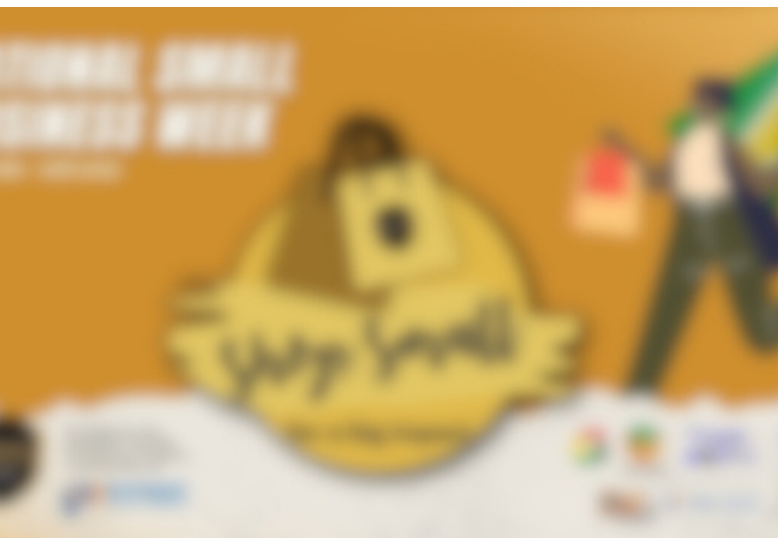
## Offshore Technology Conference 2023

This years Conference is slated for May 1-4 and will be held at the NRG Park in Houston Texas, USA. For more details contact the Secretariat or shoot us an email !



## National Small Business Week is fastly approaching

Stay tuned for the latest updates on the Chamber's highly anticipated National Small Business Week (NSBW)



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