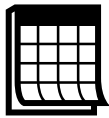




NEWSLETTER

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



SEPTEMBER
IN REVIEW



UPCOMING
EVENTS



NEW
MEMBERS



MEMBER OF
THE MONTH



WHAT'S INSIDE:

- GCCCI meets with British High Commissioner, H.E. Jane Miller
- Importance of strong public-private partnerships highlighted during meeting with Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), the Honourable Mark Phillips
- The GCCCI meets with senior executive team from Ansa McAI, led by Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr. Anthony Sagba III
- GCCCI meets with NIS General Manager to address insurance scheme issues affecting membership
- GCCCI celebrates Amerindian Heritage Month with Indigenous Heritage Month Mixer at Secretariat
- GCCCI galvanizes support for another National Clean-Up Exercise



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the monthly newsletter of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), which showcases activities the Chamber would've held or participated in, highlights of the work we are doing to benefit our members, upcoming events, greetings to our newest members and more.

September saw the work of the GCCCI continue with a number of strategic meetings that placed focus on how the GCCCI can collaborate with various agencies to work on challenges facing the private sector, and continue to build out a local economy that fosters the growth of Guyana's private sector.

The Chamber held discussions on exploring where the potential exists to open up advantageous opportunities for our membership. The Chamber was also at the forefront of advancing discussions on pressing issues facing the local business community, particularly our members.

Work continued within our various sub-committees, with the GCCCI Agriculture Committee spearheading the planning and coordination of Guyana's inaugural Agriculture Symposium, which is set to be part of activities for Agriculture Month in October. All in all the Chamber continued its work towards contributing to the development of the country's private sector landscape and cultivating promising opportunities.

WELCOME TO THE GCCI

In September, 2023, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry embraced its newest cohort of members. We would like to take the opportunity to extend our warmest welcome to:

- Zalco Construction & Investment Group
- I&S Trading
- Herdmanston Lodge
- DOF Subsea
- Aadassa Trading
- Freeman Solutions
- JD Investments Inc

SMALL BUSINESS TIP

Building 'good business' practices into your business goes a long way. It helps in building out a personal brand, which can increase the overall function, benefit, and visibility of your business and bring recognition. Though many businesses focus on CSR, Corporate Social Innovation (CSI) is also a good strategy for promoting your business. This includes addressing societal problems through your business' mission, vision and goals.

DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS

GCCI meets with British High Commissioner

On September 13, the GCCI met with the British High Commissioner to Guyana, Her Excellency Jane Miller, to discuss how the partnership between the British High Commission (BHC) and GCCI can be strengthened, with a focus on issues and challenges being encountered by the Chamber’s membership.



GCCI meets with USAID

On September 26, the GCCI met with representatives from the USAID including USAID Eastern & Southern Caribbean Program and Strategy Director, Ms. Stephanie Mikulasek, and Senior Technical Advisor, Mr. Philip Schwehm. The meeting discussed the work of the GCCI Trade and Investment Committee and sought feedback and ideas from the GCCI on new private sector engagement within the mission. The meeting also looked at SME business development and access to finance, with greater support for trade and investment opportunities.



GCCI meets with Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips

On September 11, members of the Executive Management Committee (EMC) paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) the Honourable Mark Phillips. During the meeting, the GCCI discussed its mandate to cultivate partnerships and engage with the government, particularly concerning efforts for the development of small and medium-sized firms (SMEs).

PUBLIC/PRIVATE MEETINGS

GCCI takes part in discussions on foreign exchange and other banking issues

On September 12, the GCCI was among the private sector bodies that took part in a crucial meeting with the Ministry of Finance, the Governor of the Bank of Guyana, and Guyana Association of Bankers Inc to discuss issues surrounding forex and other challenges in the banking sector in Guyana.



GCCI continues support for National Clean Up Exercise

EVENTS

On September 2 the GCCI galvanised private sector support for the National Clean Up Exercise that was executed across the country. An initiative spearheaded by the President, His Excellency Dr. Irfaan Ali the exercise was geared at enhancing our surroundings and promoting a culture of cleanliness and protection of our environment. Several members of the GCCI donated materials and equipment to the exercise, while GCCI President Mr. Kester Hutson, Treasurer, Mr. Orson Ferguson, and Council Member Shaam Outar were among the over 1400 persons that participated in the clean-up that took place in Georgetown.



GCCI President attends opening of EKAA HRIM US\$10M Quarry

On September 9, GCCI, Mr. Kester Hutson, attended the opening of the US\$10 million EKAA HRIM Earth Resources Management Quarry in Batavia, Region Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni), showing the Chamber’s support for the significant venture.



MEETINGS

GCCI meets with Bureau of Statistics

On September 1, the GCCI met with representatives from the Bureau of Statistics to discuss collaboration on the upcoming National Economic Survey (NES). The Bureau hopes to work with private sector organisations to sensitize the business community about the importance of the survey. The NES is a business survey that will collect data from businesses of all sizes and sectors. The survey’s data will be used to build a comprehensive database, calculate GDP accurately and guide smart policymaking. This will enable a better understanding of the country’s economic health and form the foundation of Guyana’s economy.



GCCI meets with team of senior executives from Ansa McAl Ltd

On September 12, Councilors of the GCCI met with a team of senior executives from Ansa McAl Group of Companies, led by Chief Executive Officer(CEO) , Mr. Anthony Sagba III. The meeting was a significant step towards strengthening ties between ANSA MCAL and the business community. The GCCI team was led by Senior Vice President, Mr. Richard Rambarran. Mr. Sagba conveyed his company’s respect and support for local content provisions in Guyana, and shared that Ansa McAl is eager to partner with the Chamber as the company looks to widen its investment portfolio in Guyana.



GCCI meets with NIS

Following multiple concerns raised by its membership about issues being encountered with the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), the GCCI organised a meeting with NIS General Manager, Ms. Holly Greaves, and a team of management officials to discuss gaps and the need for improved efficiency in the Scheme’s operations. The GCCI emphasized the need for the agency to adapt to the exponential growth of the private sector. It was noted that an adaptive approach with the use of technology is paramount, coupled with capacity building. Ms. Greaves acknowledged the need for better collaboration with the private sector to enable greater exchange of information. At the end of the meeting it was decided that NIS would collaborate with the GCCI to hold regular training and information sessions with the GCCI membership so that individual concerns could be addressed.



GCCI meets with Caribbean Association of Customs Brokers (CACUB)

On September 14, GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson met with a team from the Caribbean Association of Customs Brokers (CACUB) to discuss areas of collaboration to promote trade and development. Mr. Hutson noted that the Chamber is looking forward to seeing the mutual benefits that can be garnered. He further noted that information sharing will be an important next step particularly as it pertains to sensitization for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).



GCCI meets with team from UWI Cave Hill Campus to discuss potential partnership

On September 18, GCCI Senior Vice President, Mr. Richard Rambarran, and Secretary, Mrs. Kathy Smith met with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the UWI Sagikor Cave Hill School of Business and Management, Dr. Dion Greenidge, Assistant Lecturer within the Department of Economics, Mr. Gavin Bovell and Project Officer, Mr. Shakir Barrow to discuss the development of a long term mutually beneficial partnership.

Discussions included partnering in the development of customized business development of executive education and leadership training programs, collaboration on research beneficial to Guyana’s manufacturing and services sectors, providing data-driven insights and solutions, access to faculty resources for specialized initiatives, and the creation of networking opportunities.



GCCI President meets with TT Chief Medical Officer

On September 25, Mr. Hutson met with Trinidad and Tobago Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Maryam Richards, to discuss the opportunities in an upcoming regional Healthcare show focused on climate change, business, and health.



GCCI meets with CLBD Labour Survey Team

On September 26, the GCCI representatives met with CLBD Labour Survey team, which is carrying out an assessment to gain insights into the specific labour force gaps and challenges in the agriculture, oil and gas, construction, transport and logistics, and health sectors in Guyana. The consultative process is being supported by economists for the CLBD, Nora Soliman and Dillon Clarke.



COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

On September 6, the GCCI Agriculture Committee, in partnership with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), hosted a planning meeting to establish the agenda for the inaugural "National Agriculture Symposium," which will take place as part of Agriculture Month activities in October. The symposium aims to foster discussions among agricultural stakeholders to develop a sustainable and robust agriculture market system that promotes food security, increases productivity, and drives economic prosperity for farmers.



HRM & CAPACITY BUILDING COMMITTEE

On September 22, the GCCI Human Resource Management and Capacity Building Committee met with the Director of the Centre for Local Business Development (CLBD), Dr. Natasha Gaskin-Peters to initiate discussions on opportunities for collaboration on training programmes. Dr. Gaskin-Peters presented some of the training programmes that are currently being offered by the CLBD and expressed her eagerness to work with the GCCI to sensitize the Chamber's members on how they can access the services and opportunities available at the CLBD.



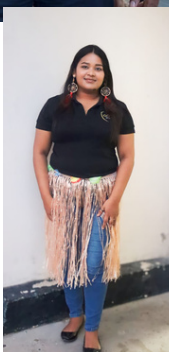
SMALL BUSINESS TIP

Work with established organizations to multiply your efforts. Starting things from scratch is great but collaboration with organizations who already have a reach and network can help to accelerate your mission.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

MEMBERSHIP & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

In celebration of Amerindian Heritage Month, the GCCI Membership and Diversity Committee hosted an Indigenous Heritage Month Mixer on September 15 for GCCI Councillor and staff. During the event authentic, traditional Amerindian arts and craft items were on display. Those in attendance were treated to traditional Amerindian foods including the renowned live Tacoma worms. Staff and other attendees wore Amerindian outfits honouring the country's first people.



COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

TRADE & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE



GCCI hosts webinar on the CARICOM-Dominican Republic Free Trade Act.

The GCCI’s Trade & Investment Committee in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitated a presentation on the CARICOM-Dominican Republic Free Trade Act. This virtual event, held on September 28 marked a significant milestone in ongoing efforts by the GCCI to provide valuable insights and opportunities to its members.

During this enlightening session, Mr. Edmund Paul Kalekyezi, Trade Adviser/Director (Ag.) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, expertly covered various aspects of the CARICOM-Dominican Republic Free Trade Act, with a specific focus on its implications for Guyanese businesses.

Attendees gained a comprehensive understanding of the Act and its significance in regional trade. The presentation highlighted the exciting business opportunities created by this agreement, offering actionable steps to harness the Act for growth and success. The session also included an interactive Q&A segment which allowed participants to seek expert guidance on specific queries.

Some key aspects of the CARICOM-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement that were discussed included:

1. Trade in Goods: The agreement promotes the liberalization of trade in goods between CARICOM member states and the Dominican Republic. This includes the elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers, making it easier for businesses to export and import products.
2. Market Access: Businesses from CARICOM member states gain improved access to the Dominican Republic's market, which has a growing consumer base. This opens up opportunities for export and expansion.
3. Rules of Origin: The agreement defines specific rules of origin, determining which products are eligible for preferential treatment. Understanding these rules is crucial for businesses looking to benefit from reduced tariffs.
4. Services Trade: In addition to goods, the agreement covers trade in services. This means that service providers, such as those in tourism, finance, and professional services, can access markets more easily.

Those who missed the live presentation, can access a recording of the presentation, by clicking here: <https://fb.watch/nBmfGiINuy/?mibextid=v7YzmG>.

SMALL BUSINESS TIP

Always actively look for opportunities to showcase your business, whether through PR, or otherwise, and always have a communication plan. This makes it very easy to be in the minds of persons nominating or even selecting, as you take the steps to be validated and build trust.