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NEWSLETTER

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



DECEMBER - JANUARY
IN REVIEW



UPCOMING
EVENTS



NEW
MEMBERS



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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.

Happy New Year! I trust this message finds you in good spirits and ready for a productive and successful 2024. As we embark on this New Year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the GCCCI's activities from December 2023 to January 2024.

In December, we concluded the year with a marquee event, the Chamber's Annual Awards Presentation and Gala Dinner on December 15.

It was a celebration of excellence within our business community and a testament to the hard work and dedication of our members. Thank you to everyone who participated and made it a memorable evening. Also in December the Chamber launched our "Respect Campaign", which sought to underscore our commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive work environment across the private sector. We believe that a culture of respect and inclusivity is fundamental to sustainable business growth and employee well-being.

In January, the Chamber took part in an interactive discussion session with key stakeholders during a pivotal meeting with the GoInvest and other business support organizations. These discussions centered on exploring collaborative strategies between the government and the private sector to drive more effective economic development initiatives. We are committed to forging strong partnerships that benefit our members and contribute to overall economic growth.

As we step into 2024, I am confident that together, we will navigate challenges, seize opportunities, and achieve remarkable success. I look forward to an exciting year ahead filled with impactful initiatives, meaningful collaborations, and shared achievements. Wishing you all a prosperous and fulfilling 2024.

WELCOME TO THE GCCI

For the period December 2023 - January 2024, 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:

- **Shandong Deijan International E&T Cooperation (Guyana) Inc.**
- **Webfx Guyana Inc**
- **Guyana Invertertec**
- **H2 Asset**
- **Libra Management and Energy Group**
- **Kirus Time Systems**
- **C.O.M. Chartered Accountants**
- **Inter-Continental Shipping (Guyana) Inc.**
- **Diq'qah Construction and Contracting Services Inc.**
- **United Consistency Energy Services (Guyana) Inc.**
- **Sync Event Management**
- **Global People Services & Management Consultants Inc**
- **HappyHome GY**
- **Amanah Logistics Inc.**
- **Promotech Inc. Guyana**
- **Interlink Business and Logistics Services**
- **Diversity Beauty Salon & SB Mobile carwash**

SMALL BUSINESS TIP

Empower Your Team: Involve your team in the vision and purpose of your business. When employees feel a sense of purpose in their work, they become more engaged, leading to increased productivity and satisfaction.

EVENTS

GCCI hosts 134th Annual Awards Presentation and Gala Dinner

On December 14 the GCCI held its 134th Annual Awards Presentation and Gala Dinner at the Marriott Hotel. The event presented an enchanting night celebrating excellence and innovation, and recognizing achievements that shaped our business landscape over the past year. The event saw presentations from guest speaker Advisor on Borders and Guyana's Agent to the International Court of Justice, the Honourable Carl Greenidge, who spoke on "Guyana/Venezuela - A Historical Look and Future Implications", while the Keynote address was delivered by a representative on behalf of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Honourable Anil Nandlall who spoke on "The Legislative Agenda of Government for Business Community. The GCCI announced the winners of the 17 awards given out. The winners of the awards in the various categories were also announced. The GCCI's Annual Award winners represented a diverse group of individuals and businesses that exemplify everything from leadership style to overall lasting effect on the community.

Congratulations to our exceptional awardees:

1. **Micro Business of the Year: Inner Peace Psychotherapy & Counselling Services**
2. **Small Business of the Year: Rid-O-Pes**
3. **Medium Business of the Year: Kojac**
4. **Large Business of the Year: E-Net**
5. **Green Business Member of the Year: Amaya Milk Company**
6. **President's Award: GxMedia**
7. **Award for Innovation: Keen360**
8. **President's Local Content Award: Western Logistics Inc**
9. **Corporate Citizenship: GTT**
10. **GCCI's Local Content Award: GAICO Construction & General Services Inc.**
11. **Public Service Award: Ministry of Public Works**
12. **Media Award: Demerara Waves**
13. **Young Business Executive of the Year: Ameir Ahmad, Managing Director of Sheriff Security Inc**
14. **Women in Business – Kathy Smith, CEO of Dover Waterproofing Technologies Inc**
15. **Lifetime Achievement: Ramsay Ali, President of the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association**
16. **Chamber Award: Keon Howard, Co-Owner of Guyana Electric Inc**
17. **Local Content Special Recognition Award: Dr. Martin Pertab, Director of the Local Content Secretariat**



AWARD WINNERS



**2023 GCCI
Small Business of the
Year
Rid-o-Pes**



**2023 GCCI
Award for Innovation
Keen360 Inc.**



**2023 GCCI
Medium Business of the
Year
Kojac**



**2023 GCCI
Young Business
Executive of the Year:
Mr. Ameir Ahmad,**



**2023 GCCI
Woman In Business
Kathy Smith**



**2023 GCCI
Public Service Award For
Excellence
Ministry of Public Works**



**2023 GCCI
Chamber Award
Mr. Keon Howard**



**2023 GCCI
Corporate Citizenship:
GTT**



**2023 GCCI
Lifetime Achievement
Award
Mr. Ramsay Ali**



**2023 GCCI
Large Business of the Year
E-Net**



**2023 GCCI
Local Content Award
GAICO Construction &
General Services Inc.**



**2023 GCCI
President's Local
Content Award
Western Logistics**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The GCCI extended heartfelt gratitude to the various sponsors of our 134th Award Presentation and Gala Dinner, whose generous contributions greatly supported the successful hosting of the event.

PREMIUM SPONSORS



DIAMOND SPONSORS



PREMIUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



EVENTS

GCCI presents cheque to Cancer Institute of Guyana

On December 1, GCCI President,. Kester Hutson, alongside Chairperson of the GCCI Membership and Diversity Committee, Mrs. Kerensa Gravesande-Bart, handed over a cheque to the Cancer Institute of Guyana Inc. (CIG), representing proceeds made from a Breast Cancer Awareness Month Charity Mixer that was held in October at the Palm Court.



GCCI Presents Local Content Award to Dr. Martin Pertab

On January 16, GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson, presented its Special Local Content Award to the Director of the Local Content Secretariat, Dr. Martin Pertab. GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson handed over the award during a brief ceremony held in the Boardroom of the Local Content Secretariat’s Cowan Street Office. Mr. Hutson thanked Dr. Pertab for the critical role he continues to play in advancing local content in the oil and gas sector in Guyana, and commended his commitment to working hand in hand with the private sector to collaboratively develop local content.

MEETINGS

GCCI attends GO-Invest BSO meeting

On January 25, GCCI President Mr. Kester Hutson represented the Chamber at a strategic meeting that the Guyana Office for Investment held with various business support organizations at its Camp and Church Street Office. The meeting was led by Head of Go-Invest and Chief Investment Officer, Dr. Peter Ramsaroop. Also present from Go-Invest were Senior Director of Investment, Mr John Edghill, and Chief Financial Office, Mr. Christian Tebogah. Mr. Hutson shared some of the ventures the GCCI is currently working on, including the spearheading of the Guyana delegation to the upcoming renowned Offshore Technology Conference.



MEETINGS



GCCI meets with FAO Representative as part of Poultry and Grain Production Survey

On January 29, GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson, met with Economist at FAO Investment Centre, Mr. Thomas Chalmers, at the GCCI Office on Waterloo Street. The meeting is part of the FAO Investment Centre’s survey of the poultry and grain production sectors in Guyana. The FAO Investment Centre (CFI) is collaboratively engaged with the World Bank in developing an Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) report focusing on Caribbean Food Security. Present at the meeting were GCCI Agriculture Committee Chairman, Mr. Brian Edwards and Managing Director of Bounty Farm Ltd, and Director of the Guyana Poultry Producers Association, Mr. David Fernandes. The meeting looked at the current capacities and constraints within the poultry sector in Guyana, as well as identifying opportunities for the private sector.



GCCI meets with ODITC

On January 25, GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson, met with a group of management representatives from ODITC, led by General Manager, Mr. Alan Sharp. Also present at the meeting were ODITC Business Development Managers, Ryan Bissessar and Ryan Deoraj. Discussions at the meeting regarded a mutual desire to strengthen the relationship between the two agencies. Mr. Sharp expressed the ODITC’s inclination to support the Chamber and be more proactively involved in activities, particularly in the area of HSSE. Mr. Sharp noted that the ODITC plans to make contributions by joining the Chamber’s HSSE and Construction Committee. ODITC is a joint venture between Guyana’s Orinduik Development Incorporated, Windsor Technologies, and 3t EnerMech. ODITC has established a world-class Industrial Training Facility in Guyana servicing the on and offshore Energy, Maritime, Construction, Telecommunications and Mining industries.



GCCI meets with TechnipFMC Area Director

On January 18, GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson met with TechnipFMC Area Director for Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad, Mr. Nicolas Sicard at the GCCI Waterloo Street Office. The meeting was also attended by TechnipFMC Business Development Manager, Mr. Sheldon Carew. Mr. Sicard conveyed the TechnipFMC’s excitement at being part of the phenomenal oil and gas sector currently being built out in Guyana. Mr. Sicard underscored the company’s commitment to local content and investing in Guyana.



COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

GCCI launches its inaugural "Respect Campaign"

On December 12, the GCCI Entrepreneurship and Small Business, and Membership Committees launched its inaugural "Respect Campaign" at GTT Corporate Headquarters, inside the Pegasus Hotel, under the theme "Building a Culture of Respect". The Respect Campaign will focus on equipping Micro, Small and Medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) with the tools to create a more positive work environment. The "Respect Campaign" was launched in commemoration of International Human Rights Day, which was observed on December 10 under the theme "Freedom, Equality and Justice for All". The launch was attended by Minister of Labour, Hon. Joseph Hamilton, Chairperson of the GCCI Entrepreneurship and Small Business Committee, Mrs. Evie Kanhai-Gurchuran, Chairperson of the Membership and Diversity Committee, Mrs. Kerri Gravesande-Bart, and Committee members Mrs. Natasha Waddle and Mr. Joel Simpson.



MEMBERSHIP & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

GCCI hosts webinar on Cervical Cancer

On January 31 the GCCI Membership and Diversity Committee held a Webinar on Cervical Cancer, featuring numerous health professionals on this topical issue. The webinar is being done in observance of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, which is being celebrated during January. This year the event was observed under the theme "Learn. Prevent. Screen". Cervical Cancer Awareness Month is a time to sensitize the public on cervical cancer, and highlight conversations about solutions, and global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem.



SMALL BUSINESS TIP

Invest in Targeted Marketing Channels: Identify the most effective marketing channels for reaching your target audience. This might include digital channels like social media, email marketing, and search engine optimization (SEO), as well as traditional channels like print ads or local events. Allocate your marketing budget strategically, focusing on channels that offer the highest return on investment (ROI) based on your target audience's preferences and behavior.

MESSAGES & STATEMENTS BY THE GCCI



Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry

“Serving Guyana through Commerce and Industry since 1889”

President Kester Hutson

January 29, 2024

PRESS RELEASE *by*

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry *on*

Call for Overhaul of Guyana Stock Exchange

-START-

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) notes with concern, reports of operations at the Guyana Stock Exchange (GSE), and its effect on the business community in Guyana. With access to financing being a leading hurdle for many businesses in Guyana, GSE has a significant role to play in facilitating a transparent and efficient marketplace for companies to raise capital, invest, and grow. The GCCCI has been on public record, on multiple occasions, championing the reform of the capital markets and the stock exchange in Guyana.

The lack of necessary infrastructure, technological advancements, and regulatory framework at the GSE compromises the financial health of businesses, restricts their ability to attract investment, and ultimately hampers their growth potential. That the substandard functioning GSE is also resulting in the sale of stocks in breach of a company's by-laws is also most worrying.

With Guyana being on a revolutionary growth trajectory it is imperative that the GSE be rehabilitated to keep pace with the rapid growth and development taking place all across the nation.

The GCCCI therefore calls on the Guyana Association of Securities Companies and Intermediaries Inc., and Guyana Securities Council (GSC) to prioritise the modernization of GSE infrastructure, with a focus on the incorporation of technologically advanced best practices.

-END-

MESSAGES & STATEMENTS BY THE GCCI



Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

"Serving Guyana through Commerce and Industry since 1889"

President: Mr. Kester Hutson

January 19, 2024

PRESS RELEASE *by*

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry *on*

Budget 2024

-START-

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) wishes to congratulate the Honourable Dr. Ashni Singh and his team at the Ministry of Finance on the presentation of the National Budget 2024. This National Budget of G\$1.1 trillion, being the largest budget prepared by the Government of Guyana, represents an increase in support for the citizenry, social services, infrastructure, and opportunities for the private sector.

The GCCCI is pleased to see the budgetary measures being centered around the thematic areas of an ease in the cost of living, support for the vulnerable, increase in disposable income and addressing National Insurance Scheme (NIS) issues. Of continued importance to the private sector, are the measures to contain the cost of fuel, reduce the freight charges. These policy measures are timely as they ensure that there is a mitigation in the global inflationary pressures which can have damaging pass-through effects to Guyanese enterprises and citizens at large.

The policy measure to collaborate with financial institutions in Guyana to lower the interest rate on loans up to G\$5M represents a critical lifeline for the support for micro and small enterprises. This an important measure to assist in access to finance for micro and small enterprises and the Chamber of Commerce looks forward to its implementation. Notably, the G\$7B buffer which is allocated to contain the impact of price increases is a measure which offers support that can be tailored to emerging inflationary issues in the economy.

On the point of building the capacity of Guyanese, the measure which commences support to University of Guyana graduates, is a welcomed move; one which is a step in the right direction to build the skillset of the Guyanese people. The GCCCI anticipates full programmatic execution of the National Budget 2024 which will see significant opportunity for the private sector of Guyana to participate in Government spending for the fiscal year. The Chamber of Commerce continues to stand as a critical development partner in Guyana's growth agenda and welcome the National Budget of 2024.

-END-

MESSAGES & STATEMENTS BY THE GCCI



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) mourns alongside all Guyanese for the loss of five of our country's best servicemen of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF).

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Lieutenant Colonel Michael Charles, Colonel Michael Shahoud, Retired Brigadier Gary Beaton, Lieutenant Colonel Sean Welcome, Staff Sergeant Jason Khan, who died in service of their country in the helicopter crash in Arau.

Our prayers are with the survivors Lieutenant Colonel Andio Michael Crawford and Corporal Dwayne Johnson for a speedy recovery.

We take this time to salute these brave men, and call on all Guyanese to use this opportunity to honour the sacrifices and dedication that our men and women in uniform make in the service of their country.

On December 7, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) issued a statement in light of the loss of five of our country's best servicemen of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), who perished when one of the Force's e Bell 412 helicopter crashed on December 6.

MESSAGES & STATEMENTS BY THE GCCI



A MESSAGE FROM GCCCI PRESIDENT

KESTER HUTSON

In light of the recent development of Venezuela's vote on their referendum which concluded on Sunday, we are strongly encouraging our members to do the following:

- Stay calm and follow **ONLY** official news media, and messages from the Government of Guyana.
- **DO NOT** engage in any form of propaganda or instigation that will cause disruption to the general public.
- Continually educate your employees, family and friends on the **FACTS**.
- Be reassured that the Government of Guyana is doing all in its power to ensure the safety, security and protection of the citizens and our state.
- Remember that our position as a nation is one that promotes peace, stability and diplomacy.
- Ensure that words of affirmation and peace are always spoken in our daily conversations.
- Be vigilant and share with us any concerns that you may have so that much clarity is provided.

Essequibo Belongs to Guyana

A message from the GCCCI to its members as Guyana continues to work towards preserving our territorial integrity.