



# NEWSLETTER

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



NOVEMBER  
IN REVIEW



UPCOMING  
EVENTS



NEW  
MEMBERS



MEMBER OF  
THE MONTH



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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.

November was another productive and highly successful month for the Chamber, where we were able to cover new ground in some areas, and encouraged discussions and conversations on new ideas of how to further advance the business sector in Guyana as the country continues on its sustained economic transformation.

November was a month of heightened engagements and fruitful interactions. We were pleased to see the Chamber and our members participating in the activities of three inbound trade missions from the US, EU, and UK.

These events included discussion forums and impactful business-to-business meetings which provided valuable networking opportunities and fostered collaboration and innovation.

In addition to these international engagements, the Chamber played a pivotal role in organizing meetings with key public sector organizations. Notably, we engaged in constructive discussions with the Ministry of Home Affairs to address security challenges ahead of the upcoming Christmas season and heightened road safety concerns.

Furthermore, we provided an interactive forum with the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) and our members to provide them an opportunity to voice their concerns on the adverse effects that the current continuous power shortages is having on the private sector. These discussions were instrumental in advocating for sustainable solutions to alleviate these challenges. We were also able to successfully host a webinar in partnership with the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), and give members the opportunity to directly speak with this agency about their concerns and issues. Additionally, our webinar on solid waste management highlighted our commitment to promoting sustainable practices within the business community. I extend my gratitude to all participants, partners, and stakeholders who contributed to these successful endeavors.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to serving the interests of our members and driving economic growth through proactive engagement and meaningful initiatives.

## WELCOME TO THE GCCI

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

- **Transcendence Transformations**
- **Book A Ride Inc**
- **Diversity Beauty Salon & SB Mobil**
- **Carwash**
- **Mobile Money Guyana Inc**
- **UTC Logistics Guyana Inc**
- **AJM Enterprise**

### SMALL BUSINESS TIP

Best Practices for Infusing Heart into Your Business: Storytelling Matters: Craft a compelling narrative around your business. Share the challenges, triumphs, and the driving force behind what you do. Authentic storytelling builds trust and emotional connections.



## EVENTS

### ***GCCI hosts membership session with Ministry of Public Works on the energy sector and power outages***

On November 6, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) held a session for the membership with the Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, the Honourable Deodat Indar, where presentations and discussions were done on the operations of Guyana Power and Light (GPL), current load-shedding exercises, and the government's energy sector plans to address the country's growing electricity needs. Held at the Marriott Hotel, the meeting was also attended by a number of representatives from the GPL including Executive Team Leader, Mr. Kesh Nandlall, Finance Director, Mr. Loris Nathoo, and Deputy CEO (Strategic Operations), Mr. Bharat Harjohn. Minister Indar gave an extensive presentation on the government's current and future plans for dealing with power generation and transmission. Following Minister Indar's presentation, members of the GCCI were given the opportunity to ask questions and participate in an interactive discussion session.



### ***GCCI attends commissioning of NAMILCO \$1.6 billion new mixing plant***

On November 8, GCCI Secretary, Mrs. Smith represented the Chamber at the commissioning of the National Milling Company's (NAMILCO) \$1.6 billion new mixing plant at the company's Agricola, East Bank Demerara location. The billion-dollar facility was commissioned as NAMILCO commemorated 54 years of doing business in Guyana. Feature address at the ceremony was delivered by His Excellency, President Dr. Irfaan Ali, with other remarks delivered by the company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Bert Sukhai, US Ambassador, Her Excellency Nicole Theriot, and Chairman of the Private Sector, Komal Singh.



### ***GCCI President attends CBEE-R Stakeholder Workshop***

On November 8, GCCI President, Mr. Hutson attended the Caribbean Business Enabling Environment Reform (CBEE-R) Activity stakeholder workshop hosted by the International Development Group (IDG) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the activities IDG's technical team had prioritized for Guyana in four activity result areas: Internet Connectivity and Use Increased, and Open, Inclusive, and Secure Digital Economy Advanced; access to Digital Financial Services for Businesses Improvement; conditions for Firm Access to Finance; effective Public-Private dialogue established or enhanced.

### ***GCCI attends discussion session with International Finance Corporation***

On November 8, GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson and Senior Vice President, Mr. Richard Rambarran participated in a discussion session with a delegation from the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The event was hosted by the Ministry of Finance. The IFC is a member of the World Bank Group. The discussions centred around Guyana's development agenda.

in a discussion with the IFC on available financing instruments, the various mechanisms targeting the private sector, modalities of accessing this financing, and examples of how these mechanisms have worked in other countries.

**EVENTS**

***GCCI shows support at Hab International launches expanded operations***

On November 14, GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson showed the Chamber’s support as member Hab International Inc launched its expanded operations “Hab Local Logistics”. The event marked the evolution of Hab International Inc from a shipping company to a logistics provider. HAB International Inc. was established in 2001 as a supporting company to Swiss Machinery.



***GCCI attend welcome Reception for Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegation***

On November 14, GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson represented the Chamber at a welcome reception held at the Umana Yana for a delegation from the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The delegation was on a five-day visit to Guyana.



***GCCI attends Presentation by Harvard Business School’s Dr. Christian Ketels***

On November 14, GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson represented the Chamber at a presentation by Dr. Christian Ketels from the Harvard Business School on “Company Strategy and the Role of the Private Sector in Guyana’s Development”. The event was hosted by American Chamber of Commerce of Guyana (AmCham Guyana) in collaboration with the Guyana Development Initiative (GDI).

***GCCI represented at launch of GPF Christmas Policing Plan***

On November 15, GCCI Council member and Chairman of the HSSE & Construction Committee, Mr. Keon Howard, along with Vice-Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Mr. Paul Archer, attend the Guyana Police Force (GPF) launch of their Christmas Policing Plan.





## EVENTS

### ***GCCI hosts webinar on Men's Health in Celebration of International Men's Day 2023***

On November 16, the GCCI held a Men's Health Awareness Webinar in Celebration of International Men's Day 2023, which was celebrated on November 19. IMD celebrates the positive value men bring to the world, their families and communities. This year the event was celebrated under the theme "Zero Male Suicide". The GCCI Webinar saw presentations by Ministry of Health Men's Health Coordinator, Dr. Sawan Jagnarine, Balwant Singh Hospital Specialist Urological Surgeon, Dr. Rajendra Sukraj and Clinical Psychologist and Head of the Ministry of Health Mental Health Unit, Dr. MarkConstantine. The event was moderated by Director of OnCall Health, Dr. Dason McKenzie.

**GCCI**  
Est. 1889

## **MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS WEBINAR**

"ZERO MALE SUICIDE"

*Speakers*

**Dr. Sawan Jagnarain MD, MSc, FRSPH**  
Men's Health Coordinator,  
Ministry of Health

**Dr. Rajendra Sukhraj**  
Specialist Urological Surgeon

**Dr. Mark Constantine**  
Clinical Psychologist, Head of  
Psychological Services, Training and  
Education,  
Mental Health Unit,  
Ministry of Health

*Moderator*

**Dr. Dason McKenzie**  
Director  
OnCall Health

### ***GCCI attends the GMSA launch of the Manufacturers' Summit.***



On November 27, President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), Mr. Kester Hutson represented the Chamber at the launch of the "GMSA IMPACK Manufacturers' Summit", held by the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association (GMSA) at the Pegasus Suites and Corporate Centre. Scheduled to be held in early 2024, the manufacturers' summit will seek to bring together major Caribbean players to address challenges and explore opportunities in various manufacturing sectors, with a focus on enhancing Guyana's competitive edge in the region's manufacturing landscape.

### **SMALL BUSINESS TIP**

**Live Your Values:** Ensure your business practices align with your values. This authenticity reinforces your commitment to your purpose and creates a positive perception in the eyes of your customers.

## TRADE MISSIONS

### *GCCI Secretary represents Chamber at PSC Texas-LA Bilateral Chambers Business Luncheon*

On November 15, GCCI Secretary, Mrs. Kathy Smith represented the Chamber at a Texas-LA Bilateral Chambers Business Luncheon hosted by the Private Sector Commission (PSC). The event was organized in collaboration with the Louisiana District Export Council (LDEC), a private-sector advisory organization established in Louisiana. The luncheon was part of the Bilateral Chamber's trade mission to Guyana.



### *GCCI participates in EU Trade Mission panel discussion, and B2B meetings*

On November 21, GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson, took part in a private sector panel discussion on “Transforming the Business Environment for a Sustainable Economy”, which was part of the EU Global Gateway Economic Mission being held at the Marriott Hotel from November 20 - 22.

During the discussion Mr. Hutson spoke on how foreign companies can benefit from Guyana’s growing economy through partnerships with local companies. Mr. Hutson was joined on the panel by Vice Chairman of the Private Sector Commission (PSC), Mr. Rafeek Khan, Chairperson of the Agro-Processing Committee at the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association (GMSA), Ms. Earliecia Hieronymo, Member of the Women’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry Guyana (WCCIG), Ms. Jenell Pinder, and Chairman of the EU Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Gregory Dean.

Following the panel discussion Mr. Hutson and a number of other members of the GCCI participated in a business to business meeting.



## SMALL BUSINESS TIP

**Live Your Values:** Ensure your business practices align with your values. This authenticity reinforces your commitment to your purpose and creates a positive perception in the eyes of your customers.



# TRADE MISSIONS

## ***GCCI members attend luncheon with UK Business Mission***

On November 29, several members of the GCCI attended a lunch that was organized for the visiting UK delegation that was in Guyana from November 28 to December 1. The Business Mission is being facilitated by the GCCI in collaboration with the Caribbean Council, the British/Guyana Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the UK Department for Trade and Business. The visit is aimed at bolstering engagement for quality business investments and fostering opportunities in the region. During the Luncheon remarks were delivered by GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson, the British High Commissioner to Guyana, Her Excellency Jane Miller, Managing Director of Caribbean Council, Mr. Chris Bennett, while the programme was chaired by GCCI Secretary Mrs. Kathy Smith.



### **SMALL BUSINESS TIP**

**Engage with Your Community:** Actively participate in community initiatives or support causes that resonate with your purpose. This not only contributes to a greater cause but also strengthens your brand's connection with the community.



## MEETINGS

### *GCCI meets with Mexican Maritime company*

On November 7, Councilors of the GCCI met with representatives from Maritime and Port Operation (OMP), a maritime company based in Mexico. OMP was in Guyana for one of several visits over the last few months as the company seeks potential partnerships to establish a local subsidiary. Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Hutson shared insight on the local economy and the opportunities that exist for the company in Guyana and the wider Caribbean region. Mr. Hutson spoke on some of the existing needs in Guyana's private sector and how OMP may be able to fill existing gaps.



### *GCCI meets with regional cargo company*

On November 17, GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson met with Co-Founder and Vice President of CaribWest, Mr. Roy Solomon. CaribWest is an air cargo company that is involved in creating new trade routes to connect the Caribbean, Latin American, Central American, and South American nations, as well as with northern consumers and suppliers of North America, Canada, and Europe.



## COMMITTEES' HIGHLIGHTS

### ***GCCI S&G Committee meets with Minister of Home Affairs***

On November 10, GCCI Executives and other members met with the Minister of Home Affairs, the Honourable Robeson Benn, at his Brickdam Office, in a meeting organised by the Security and Governance Committee. The meeting's discussions centered on various current security challenges

as well as the plan for the forthcoming Christmas season, and how the business sector might work with the government to increase security measures in the areas of traffic management and crime. Concerns about the Guyana-Venezuela controversy were also raised. Those present included GCCI President, Mr. Kester Hutson, Treasurer and Chairman of the S&G Committee, Mr. Orson Ferguson, Secretary, Mrs. Kathy Smith.

### **SECURITY & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**



### **AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**

#### ***GCCI attends meets with World Bank representatives***

On November 16, GCCI President Mr. Kester Hutson and Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Mr. Brian Edwards attended a session with Ms. María Florencia Millán Placci, Agro-Logistics Consultant at the World Bank. The session allowed the GCCI to give insights into the analysis and policy recommendations to improve trade in the region.

### **HRM & CAPACITY COMMITTEE**

#### ***GCCI hosts webinar with NIS***

On November 28, the Human Resource Management and Capacity Building Committee hosted a webinar facilitated by the National Insurance Scheme (NIS). This was organized to discuss concerns shared by members of the GCCI. The session looked at details of the services offered by the NIS, information on how businesses and individuals can benefit from NIS services, updates on recent developments or changes within the NIS, while the session closed with an Q&A session to address any specific questions or concerns from members.

### **GREEN ECONOMY COMMITTEE**

#### ***GCCI Green Economy Committee hosts solid waste management webinar***

On November 15, the GCCI Green Economy Committee held a webinar on "Solid Waste Management - Improving Our Environment and Health". Presenters included CEO of G-Nrgy, Mr. George Irvine and Georgetown Municipality Director of Solid Waste Management, Mr. Walter Narine. Green Economy Chairperson, Ms. Shaleeza Shaw moderated the webinar. Discussions looked at solid waste management, potential solutions, and how to get residents involved in an anti-littering campaign.



## MESSAGES AND STATEMENTS



# Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry

"Serving Guyana through Commerce and Industry since 1889"

President: Kester Hutson

November 2, 2023

**PRESS RELEASE** *by*

**Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry** *on*

**Disappointment with state of power outages**

**- START -**

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) wishes to express its profound disappointment with the continued state of power outages in Guyana.

The Chamber of Commerce notes that this continued spate of power disruptions is having an acute impact on the productivity of enterprises. The GCCI has also noted that this is cascading into general underperformance of enterprises. This continued loss of productive time, disruption to production and an overall hindrance to the smooth functioning of business will impede both growth and investment prospects.

The GCCI at this time wishes to reiterate its unwavering support for investments that will create a sustainable energy mix for Guyana including the Amaila Falls Hydropower Project, the Gas to Energy Project and Solar Farms. These projects, in the view of the Chamber, represent the future of Guyana's energy supply. However, the Chamber of Commerce also calls on the Guyana Power & Light and, by extension, the Government of Guyana to employ measures that will bridge the current generation shortfall.

The Chamber is also of the view that better forecasting, planning and investments into the energy sector will profoundly mitigate this bugbear on the life of the Guyanese people. Power outages have been decades-long feature of life in Guyana and, it is the hope of the Chamber of Commerce that this does not translate into life in our newfound status as a rapidly emerging economy.

**- END -**