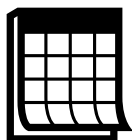


VOLUME 28
NOVEMBER 2024



NEWSLETTER

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



NOVEMBER IN
REVIEW



UPCOMING
EVENTS



NEW
MEMBERS



MEMBER OF
THE MONTH



IN THIS ISSUE

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INTO OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL COMPANIES

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» GCCI ENGAGES FINN & UK TRADE MISSIONS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Readers,

Greetings and best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season. As we approach the Christmas season, I wish to take this opportunity to first and foremost encourage you to ensure that safety remains a priority. I urge you to take the necessary steps to ensure that you act responsibly on the roadways and that you are cautious when conducting business by minimising cash transactions and being vigilant as you go about your business.

As I reflect on November, it was truly a busy and impactful month, with many activities being executed in keeping with our advocacy and capacity-building efforts. The month began on a high note with the hosting of the Chamber's Business Development Forum, which saw industry leaders and policy-makers come together to provide crucial information on opportunities in the oil and gas sector, and how these opportunities could be accessed.

In order to ensure that our membership remains informed and up-to-date with developments in the country and how they can benefit from infrastructural development projects, the GCCI organised and held meetings with the Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Hon. Susan Rodrigues, and Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Hon. Deodat Indar. The Chamber also facilitated several capacity-building session for its membership, including the Ministry of Labour and the Guyana National Bureau of Standards.

Our advocacy and stakeholder engagement efforts were also noteworthy, and I invite you to read more about our meetings with members of the diplomatic community as well as inbound trade missions in this newsletter.

Finally, I take this opportunity to invite you to attend the GCCI's 135th Awards Presentation and Gala Dinner as we celebrate the Chamber's rich history and accomplishments.

**Regards,
Kester Hutson
President – GCCI**



WELCOME TO THE GCCI

In November 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:

- HEM ENGINEERING SERVICES
- COLI SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (GUYANA) INC.
- JAMES VARIETY STORE
- AMIN'S CONSTRUCTION
- HEALTH SALES GLOBAL INC.
- VANCAM
- PRIORITY LOGISTICS (GUY) INC.
- IDEAL SUPPLIES INC.

EVENTS

New members welcomed at the President's Reception



In a bid to ensure that new members become more integrated into the organisation's work and fully utilise the opportunities that arise as a result of membership, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on November 29 hosted the President's Reception—allowing members that registered between April and November to network among each other, and better understand the roles and benefits of the GCCI. The activity was organised by the GCCI's Membership and Diversity, and Entrepreneurship and Small Business Committees.

The event was held in the GCCI's boardroom and saw Councillors including Executive Members—President, Mr. Kester Huston; Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Treasurer, Mr. Brian Edwards; Secretary, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George, and Executive Members, Mr. Richard Rambarran and Mr. Timothy Tucker—welcoming the new members to the Chamber.

Councillors, Mr. Delmar Walcott, Mr. Devon Seeram, Mr. Keon Howard, Mr. Komal Ramnauth, Mr. Rayad Boyce, Mr. Paul Archer, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott, Mrs. Evie Kanhai-Gurchuran, and Ms. Mary Nagasar also took the opportunity to meet the new members, and share how their businesses benefited from membership with the GCCI.

GCCI's 2024 Business Development Forum focuses on empowering local businesses to tap into O&G supply chain



Under the theme ‘Developing local businesses for the emerging energy sector’, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry’s (GCCI) 2024 Business Development Forum commenced on November 14, with keen focus on empowering Guyanese businesses to tap into the oil and gas supply chain.

Day One of the Business Development Forum saw remarks and presentations being delivered by key stakeholders of the energy sector, including Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Mr. Joslyn McKenzie; Area Procurement Manager of ExxonMobil Guyana, Mr. Spencer Hutchings; Senior Petroleum Coordinator at the Ministry of Natural Resources, Dr. Gopnauth ‘Bobby’ Ramsaroop Jr., and Director of the Local Content Secretariat, Dr. Martin Pertab.

Day Two of the forum focused on the opportunities available within the energy sector, with panel discussions that examined both the opportunities within the sector, as well as success stories and testimonials from local businesses that have successfully entered the oil and gas value chain. Representatives of several prime contractors in the energy sector including MODEC, SBM Offshore Guyana, Halliburton, SAIPEM, and Guyana Shore Base Incorporated participated in a discussion during which the companies’ local content initiatives and procurement opportunities were shared. The day’s proceedings concluded with a discussion on how five local companies navigated the sector and carved out their space in the value chain, with panelists from Lodestar Incorporated, Excel Guyana Incorporated, Shaws Investments, Cyril’s Transportation Services, and Rafeek and Moore Customs Brokerage Firm.

GCCI collaborates with partners to host Men's Health and Agriculture Awareness Workshop in Region Three



Designed to champion the message of protecting the health of men in agriculture, a 'Men's Health and Agriculture Awareness Workshop' was held on November 19, where over 50 farmers in Region Three were engaged in best practices in the utilisation of pesticides.

The workshop was spearheaded by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) in collaboration with World University Services of Canada (WUSC) with funding from Global Affairs Canada, the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) and the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB).

The event was hosted in the boardroom of the Regional Education Office of Region Three, Vreed-en-Hoop, West Coast Demerara (WCD), and saw the attendance of Regional Executive Officer for Region Three, Mr. Devanand Ramdatt who described the event as "timely" as it coincided with International Men's Day. Urging the farmers to make themselves and their health a priority, he pledged his commitment to continuing the collaboration with the organising agencies for the development of farmers. Regional Finance Manager of the Sustainable Agriculture in the Caribbean (SAC) Project, Ms. Onieca Dennis expressed similar commendations to the organisers.

Chairperson of the GCCI's Agriculture Committee, Mr. Brian Edwards, who led the initiative, spoke to the farmers about the importance of the correct usage of pesticides, and preserving their health and wellbeing. Chairperson of the GCCI's Health and Wellness Committee, Dr. Dason McKenzie also emphasised this message as he spoke of the risks posed by improper handling of these substances. Four farmers also won pesticide storage cabinets, while several others received farming implements.

GCCI's President encourages Finn business delegation to partner with local businesses



President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), Mr. Kester Hutson on November 5 encouraged the visiting business delegation from Finland to partner with local businesses.

Mr. Hutson was at the time addressing the bilateral business seminar and networking event “Guyana-Finland: Partnerships for a Sustainable Future”, organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The GCCI Official stated that Guyana has witnessed successful joint ventures between local and foreign companies. “You come with the capital, you come with the expertise, and we will support you to grow your business,” he said. He pointed to the various sectors which offer valuable opportunities for investment including agriculture, tourism, and health.

“Engage the local private sector to see where the opportunities and synergies lie,” he emphasised, noting that Guyana is at a critical point of its development. Guyana and the Ambassador of Finland have collaborated twice in the past—2020 and 2022—to host business-to-business networking between Finn and Guyanese businesses.

GCCI's Petroleum Committee visits GYSBI



Members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) Petroleum Committee—led by Senior Vice President and Chairperson of the Committee, Mrs. Kathy Smith—visited the Guyana Shore Base Incorporated (GYSBI) facility on November 8.

GYSBI's Operations Manager, Mr. Kevin Black, led a tour of the over 140-acre facility, including the annex at Industrial Estate, Houston. Mr. Black provided insights into the various facilities on the compound, explaining their roles in supporting GYSBI's operations. He also shed light on the hundreds of subsea pipes in the laydown yard, detailing the functions and features of different sizes.

SVP Smith in the discussion with the Committee noted that these visits are important in providing an understanding of the operations of the oil and gas industry, as well as the pace of expansion so that Guyanese companies will better understand the sector's trajectory. This, she said, is crucial as it allows entrepreneurs to frame their mindset to grow their operations in alignment with the opportunities arising out of the industry's expansion.

This visit by the Committee follows a recent tour of the Gas-to-Energy site at Wales, West Bank Demerara.

UK Trade Mission encouraged to invest in Guyana



A United Kingdom Trade Mission comprising 20 firms was on November 11 encouraged to invest in Guyana and partner with local companies, with officials from the British High Commission pointing out that at least 50 percent of businesses from past UK Trade Missions successfully engaging in ventures with local businesses or conducting business in Guyana.

The Trade Mission was organised through the collaborative effort of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), Department of Business and Trade of the British High Commission, and the Caribbean Council with the objective of sensitising the delegates about navigating the local business environment.

President of the GCCCI, Mr. Kester Hutson, who addressed the delegates, encouraged them to partner with local firms, telling them of the benefits of taking this path. “You came at the right time, a time where Guyana needs you,” he stated, adding, “Our business community is eager to grow and to partner, and I’m encouraging you to come in and come in with the right attitude to collaborate.”

Mr. Hutson emphasised that culture plays a major role in the growth of businesses in Guyana, and the GCCCI is ready to support companies in understanding the business environment. “Our members are eager to grow with you and support you in any industry or any venture you want to get into,” he reiterated.

Country Director for Trade and Investment, Department for Business and Trade of the British High Commission, Mr. Sherwyn Naughton noted that this Trade Mission is the fourth of its kind and the previous three missions resulted in 30 UK firms operating in the infrastructure, shipping, transport, maritime, food and drink, defence and security sectors visiting Guyana.

The Mission included entities in several industries including transport and infrastructure, legal, environmental technology, shipping and logistics, media, shipping, and construction, Mr. Naughton noted, adding that the British High Commission is hoping to replicate the high rate of success previously achieved. Members of the delegation also met with Councillors of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) on November 13 at a networking event at Palm Court.

GCCI facilitates presentation on housing sector development by Minister Susan Rodrigues to members



In a bid to better understand the government's strategy for the housing sector, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on November 12 facilitated a presentation by Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Hon. Susan Rodrigues to members of the Chamber.

Led by Senior Vice President and Chairperson of the Petroleum Committee, Mrs. Kathy Smith, the meeting saw over 40 in-person attendees, including President of the GCCI, Mr. Kester Hutson and several Councillors, as well as online participation. Mrs. Smith noted that the meeting was initiated based on the Petroleum Committee's interest in the direction that the government is taking the sector in.

The Minister provided an overview of ongoing housing developments including Silica City, and the administration's thrust to ensure that citizens, including young people, benefit from affordable housing while executing a plan to develop the country holistically. Minister Rodrigues also addressed the demand for housing developments while grappling with challenges related to the need for adequate contractors who can meet the sector's rapid demands of the construction industry.

"Another major consideration for us is that we develop sustainable housing areas," she stated. The Minister outlined efforts taken to establish the infrastructure needed to encourage persons to occupy the house lots they have been allocated, including the construction of housing units to allow for the population of housing developments that are slow to be occupied.

Minister Rodrigues also fielded questions and concerns related to challenges experienced with the new Single Window system and construction permits. Members of the Chamber were also able to make queries with the Minister and seek updates on matters related to the Ministry's work.

Minister Deodat Indar updates GCCI on infrastructure development projects around Guyana



Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Hon. Deodat Indar on November 20 updated members of the Chamber on infrastructure development projects that are ongoing and in the pipeline around the country.

The meeting, which was held in the GCCI's boardroom, was organised by the Chamber's Petroleum Committee, which is chaired by Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith. The Minister delivered a presentation that covered several areas including general infrastructure, energy infrastructure, aviation infrastructure, transportation networks, the procurement system, oil and gas infrastructure, and the government's spend on infrastructure.

Noting that this year's national budget allocation for infrastructural development is the largest the country has seen to date, the Minister highlighted the focus being placed on expanding and improving the road networks in Guyana, particularly in interior areas. "When we have access into the interior, farmlands open up," he stated. Meanwhile, the Minister shared that works have been completed on over 5000 community roads so far. He also took the opportunity to address concerns about the use of small, community-based contractors, a decision that he said was taken to provide contractors with the capacity to complete these projects a fair chance to access contracts.

Providing an update on the new Demerara Harbour Bridge, the Minister said that the project is over 75 percent complete, with rapid work on the backend to ensure that the completion remains on track. He also addressed issues related to the country's energy constraints such as the current transmission lines being overloaded, which is compounded by the growing demand that has resulted from increased construction in the country. This, he said, is being addressed by using the power ship.

Attendees were also provided an opportunity to raise concerns and queries with the minister. Activities such as these are geared towards ensuring that members of the Chamber are abreast with the ongoing development in the country and are made aware of opportunities to benefit from these projects.

GCCI collaborates with Ministry of Labour to host sensitisation session with members



Members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) benefited from a sensitisation session that was facilitated through a collaboration between the Chamber's Human Resource Management and Capacity Building Committee, which is chaired by Councillor and Executive Member, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George, and the Ministry of Labour on November 21.

The three-hour session was held in the GCCI's boardroom and saw the Ministry's Legal Officers, Ms. Alyea Williams and Ms. Janelle Thomas; Senior Labour Officer, Mr. Premdat Basdeo, and Assistant Chief Occupational Safety and Health Officer, Mr. Royden Croal engaging over 50 GCCI members on pertinent HR matters and fielded related questions.

Attendees were able to gain insights on key labour laws and workplace practices including information on termination rights, benefits, and obligations; Overtime regulations; Procedures for handling complaints at the Ministry of Labour; Occupational Safety and Health-related issues; Child labour; Holiday payments; Employment contracts, and Sexual harassment in the workplace.

The session was executed through the sponsorship of John Fernandes Limited.

GCCI members benefit from awareness session on standards through collaboration with GNBS and GA-FDD



Even as the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) advocates for the enforcement of standards and compliance among retailers and distributors, the Chamber has taken active steps to ensure that its membership is aware of the standards and requirements for products being sold to consumers in Guyana through the organisation of education and awareness activities.

On November 28, the GCCI's Trade and Investment Committee collaborated with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) and the Government Analyst Food and Drug Department (GA-FDD) to host an awareness seminar for members that provided insights into Guyana's standards and requirements for the manufacturing and importation of food, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics; the enforcement of standards and verification, as well as the services provided by the two agencies.

Business Development Officer of the GNBS, Mr. Shivraj Ramdat provided participants of the hybrid session with information on the Bureau's core services including training and technical assistance, certification, calibration and testing, verification, standards development, and product inspection. He also outlined other services offered such as product compliance, business development, standardisation, industrial metrology and testing and legal metrology.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Melody Hutson and Ms. Kerri Ann Warde of the GA-FDD educated participants on Guyana's Food Safety Legislation, the organisation's laboratory and inspection services, the department's roles and responsibilities, and the requirements and standards that food importers must comply with. Similar information was provided for the importation of cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

Chairman of the GCCI's Trade and Investment Committee, Mr. Devon Seeram noted the importance of this collaborative effort, saying, "We want our memberships to be more au-fait with the requirements...and we want to continue building on the relationship that we have already with these organisations." Meanwhile, President of the GCCI, Mr. Kester Hutson stated, "We continue to, one, bring awareness to our members, and educate them so they can have better business development strategies."

This initiative is the latest in a series of awareness sessions coordinated by the Committee to support members in conducting business by familiarising them with the regulations that guide their operations.

GCCI lobbies for continued collaboration with China on trade and local content utilisation



Following attendance at a trade seminar in China in September and participation in the China-Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Business Summit in Nicaragua in November, President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), Mr. Kester Hutson lobbied for continued collaboration between Guyana and China in the area of trade, and also voiced the call for Chinese companies operating in Guyana to support the local content drive by collaborating with Guyanese companies, particularly Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

These sentiments were expressed during a debriefing seminar with outgoing Chinese Ambassador, Her Excellency, Guo Haiyan at the Chinese Embassy on November 27. In providing his feedback on the two recent seminars, Mr. Hutson commended the Embassy for its responsiveness and keen attention to information-sharing.



“While there is the cooperation aspect of things, there is also collaboration and being intentional with collaboration,” he stated as he highlighted the presence of several Chinese companies in Guyana, calling for closer collaboration between those firms and Guyanese companies—particularly in the construction sector. Also of interest, he said, is China’s advanced technology and a desire to see technology transfer to Guyana.

The GCCI’s President also spoke of the need to collaborate on the enhancement of export readiness and innovation. Similar sentiments were expressed by Councillor of the GCCI, Mr. Delmar Walcott who lauded the dynamism and innovation experienced in China, particularly in the transportation system and sustainability efforts.

MEETINGS

GCCI meets with new UN Resident Coordinator



Executive members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on November 5 met with the new United Nations Resident Coordinator in Guyana, Ms. Jean Njeri Kamau, and Communications Officer of the Resident Coordinator's Office, Mrs. Colette Hytmiah-Singh.

During the meeting on November 5 at the GCCI's Secretariat, President of the Chamber, Mr. Kester Hutson; Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith, and Secretary and Councillor, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George provided the Resident Coordinator with an overview of the GCCI's history, role, accomplishments, and activities. The Executive Members also provided insights into the GCCI's membership, as well as the capacity-building initiatives that are undertaken as part of the organisation's work plan.

Ms. Kamau lauded the country's development, particularly the positive development indicators. Discussions also touched on potential collaboration between the two organisations in the area of membership sensitisation on achieving and inculcating Sustainable Development Goals into their operations.

GCCI meets with Belgian First Secretary for Political Affairs



Executive Members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) met with First Secretary of the Belgian Embassy in Jamaica—which also has responsibility for Guyana—Mr. Gaspard Van Goethem on November 27 and discussed strengthening bilateral trade relations with Belgium and closer ties between the Chamber and the Business Associations in Belgium.

President of the GCCI, Mr. Kester Hutson; Junior Vice President, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar; Treasurer and Councillor, Mr. Brian Edwards, and Executive Member and Councillor, Mr. Richard Rambarran met with the Belgian official, whose intention was to gain a clearer understanding of Guyana and the business environment. He was provided insights into the Chamber's history and role. The Chamber's officials also highlighted the GCCI's position as a trusted Business Support Organisation in Guyana, as well as the oldest and most prominent, with an excellent relationship with state agencies that support the business sector.

Mr. Van Goethem noted that based on his observations, Guyana is a promising destination for European investors. The GCCI's Executives expressed their preference for companies to partner with Guyanese companies when entering the market. They proposed that Mr. Van Goethem connect the Chamber to the largest and most prominent BSO in Belgium, following which the Chamber will provide the Belgian companies with an overview of the opportunities in Guyana and the business landscape. This collaboration, it was noted, will allow Guyanese companies to tap into the European Market, which is an ambition that is being pursued by the Chamber.

GCCI discusses preparations for General and Regional Elections 2025 with EU Ambassador



Emphasising the importance of the preservation of law, stability and democracy, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on November 4 met with Ambassador of the European Union to Guyana, H.E René Van Nes to discuss the 2025 General and Regional Elections, and potential collaboration in preparation for the electoral season as it relates to voter information and the fielding of observer missions.

Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Secretary and Councillor, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George, and Councillor and Executive Member, Mr. Richard Rambarran met with the Ambassador, and Press and information officer of the EU Delegation to Guyana, Mr. Javin Singh.

The GCCI Officials noted that the Chamber has fielded observer missions for elections in Guyana since 1992. Reflecting on the prior election, Mr. Rambarran stated that Guyana cannot have a repeat of the 2020 General and Regional Elections where there was a protracted period for the delivery of the results as this poses a risk to investor confidence at this crucial juncture of the country's development. He also stressed the important role that the media, diplomatic community and civil society play during this period.

Stating that "Elections work best in democratic societies where you have strong institutions," Ambassador Van Nes disclosed that the EU will be fielding an observer mission in 2025 of close to 70 observers, including local support staff—with the members arriving about two months prior to polling day. Included in the EU's plan of action is the launching of voter awareness initiatives, media training for both state and private media houses, and providing support to civil society organisations in their preparation.

GCCI meets with French delegation scouting opportunities in Guyana



A French Business Delegation currently in Guyana met with Executive Members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) as well as the Chairman of the Trade and Investment Committee on November 21 in keeping with their objective of understanding the investment landscape and exploring potential areas for partnership and investment.

Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Councillor and Executive Member, Mr. Richard Rambarran; Councillor and Executive Member, Mr. Timothy Tucker, and Councillor and Chairperson of the Trade and Investment Committee, Mr. Devon Seeram met with EVOLEN, an association of energy sector companies and professionals that works towards the achievement of sustainable, reliable and cost-competitive solutions to achieve the energy industry's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

The business delegation included Voltalia Guyane, Veolia, Vallourec, SPIE Global Services Energy, SeaOwl, SBM Offshore, REP Smart Chemicals, Ponticelli, Jifmar, and FOSELEV. The group requested the meeting in order to understand the vast opportunities emerging in Guyana's rapidly growing energy sector and the investment strategies of key players in the country's energy sector.

The GCCI officials in engaging the delegation provided an overview of a range of investment opportunities in the country, encouraging the firms to partner with local entities. Speaking of the history and membership of the Chamber, the Executives indicated that companies within the Chamber are involved in various sectors and are available for collaboration. The businesses were also provided an overview of the nuances of doing business in Guyana, the challenges and the measures being taken to address these challenges. In particular, the businesses were encouraged to utilise Guyanese employees, as the GCCI team described the workforce as highly capable of being trained to support any industry.

Apex-Brazil meets with GCCI to discuss strengthening of trade partnership between Guyana and Brazil



With discussions on trade opportunities between Guyana and Brazil as well as potential areas of collaboration for skills exchange, the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (Apex-Brazil) met with Executive Members and Councillors of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on November 21.

Market Intelligence Analyst, Mr. Igor Gomes and Foreign Trade Analyst, Mr. Pedro Piá of Apex-Brazil, accompanied by the Commercial Specialist of the Trade and Investments Section of the Embassy of Brazil in Guyana, Ms. Terrianna Selby engaged Senior Vice

President of the GCCI, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Executive Member and Councillor, Mr. Richard Rambarran; Councillor and Chairman of the Trade and Investment Committee, Mr. Devon Seeram, and Councillor, Mr. Rayad Boyce as they sought to gather information on the business culture in Guyana, logistics chains, regulatory environment, distribution networks, consumption patterns, and the perception of Guyanese consumers regarding Brazilian products.

The Brazilian team indicated that they intend to present the findings of their visit to resident companies in Brazil in order to raise awareness about the market and opportunities as well as the challenges. Ultimately, the goal is to help strengthen the bilateral trade relationship between Guyana and Brazil, while examining several industries in keeping with this agenda—equipment and machinery for the oil and gas and construction sectors, ceramic tiles, wooden furniture, and prepacked and processed food.

The GCCI officials provided the team with an overview of the Chamber, with insights into the committees and their functional roles. The Trade and Investment Committee Chairperson, Mr. Seeram took the opportunity to discuss the partial scope agreement between Guyana and Brazil, and the need to improve it, highlighting that in its current form, the framework is in favour of Brazil exporting to Guyana. “We are looking at ways in which we can operationalise that partial scope agreement, getting more benefits for Guyanese and Guyana’s manufacturers,” he stated. He noted that meeting the standards required by the Brazil market has been a challenge, adding that Guyana needs support to be able to produce at the scale and consistency needed to tap into the market.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rambarran stated that, “It is opportune to open these conversations on trade facilitation.” He pointed to products manufactured in Brazil which can benefit from the increased demand in Guyana due to the construction boom, including electrical parts and fixtures, as well as sanitary fixtures. He also noted that Brazil has one of the most advanced agricultural sectors in terms of mechanised operations, and advocated for skills exchange. “There are many areas of climate-resilient agriculture that Brazil has implemented that Guyana can benefit from,” posited. Similar sentiments were expressed by Mrs. Smith as it relates to the furniture industry as she pointed to the fact that Guyana has the raw materials needed and the benefits of local production. The two parties also discussed increasing awareness of the products that can be sourced in Brazil for the Guyana market and agreed to continue collaborating in the areas identified.

NOVEMBER 2024: MEMBER OF THE MONTH RAFEEK AND MOORE CUSTOMS BROKERAGE FIRM



Aimed at providing quality service to all their clients in a timely manner with the greatest efficiency, Rafeek and Moore Customs Brokerage and Tax Consultancy was founded in February 2010 by partners, Ms. Amanda Rafeek and Mr. Colin Moore. With specialisation in Risk Management, Law Enforcement and Intelligence, tax processing, and compliance, the company provides efficient services such as clearance of cargo, import consultancy and much more.

Ms. Rafeek has extensive knowledge and experience in tax processing and compliance, and she has a Masters Degree in Business Management from the University of the West Indies. She is also certified in project management. Mr. Moore has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from the University of Guyana, and he is also a qualified project management specialist

The firm is ISO 9001:2015 certified to meet international standards, which means they are capable of executing importations and exportations for small, medium and large containerised cargoes and logistic needs for your business. They also acquired their Local Content Certificate of Registration which has enabled them to meet the demands of the oil and gas industry. Their goal is to make positive results in your business through their services.

In 2023, Rafeek and Moore Customs Brokerage Firm partnered with Bertling Logistics to form a joint venture (JV) company, Rafeek & Moore Bertling Logistics (Guyana) Inc., to tap into the business opportunities available in the oil and gas, mining, and construction sectors, and to combine the value-added services and structures of both companies into a dedicated logistics service provider.

MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

Merchant Marine Guyana signs MOU with several international contracting companies to establish a comprehensive “one-stop shop” to support the development of Guyana’s oil, gas, and renewable energy sector

Merchant Marine Guyana has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with several international contracting companies to establish a comprehensive “one-stop shop” to support the development of Guyana’s oil, gas, and renewable energy sector.

Merchant Marine, a Guyana-registered company, has achieved a significant milestone by forming a Global Strategic alliance with a number of prominent UK-based companies. This has been possible in part following its sponsorship and participation in events in Scotland over the past three years,

This bold strategic move positions Merchant Marine as an emerging player in the Guyanese oil and gas sector with the backing of leading engineering and offshore support companies from Scotland, England & Wales

Freightlink Logistics Inc. attains ISO 9001:2015 certification



Freightlink Logistics Inc. is a local Guyanese company that has been in existence for over 14 years. In October 2023, they obtained their ISO 9001:2015 Certification from LRQA in the United Kingdom. This remarkable milestone reflects the dedication and hard work of their in-house team, led by C.E.O Mr. Zahir Hack, without any external help or consultation. They were able to successfully complete their first annual audit in September 2024 again with the leadership of Mr. Hack without external consultation.

In addition to being Local Content Certified, they were also able to achieve their HSSE Mentorship Programme Certification from the Centre for Local Business Development (CLBD) in December 2023.

These accomplishments demonstrate their unwavering dedication to delivering quality and exceptional service to their customers and is also aligned with the company’s broader goal of implementing more internationally-recognised Management Systems as they continue to service and cater to the emerging oil and gas industry.

MESSAGES



International

MEN'S DAY 2024

"Positive Male Role Models"



STATEMENT



Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

"Serving Guyana through Commerce and Industry since 1889"

President: Mr. Kester Hutson

November 19, 2024

STATEMENT *by*

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry *on*

The need for stronger enforcement of laws and stricter penalties to curb growing road fatalities

-START-

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) has grown increasingly concerned about the growing number of road fatalities as a result of reckless usage of the country's roadways, and is urging the Guyana Police Force to implement stronger enforcement of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act. Furthermore, the Chamber is calling on the Government of Guyana to revise the system of penalties to implement stricter consequences for breach of traffic laws.

The country continues to be plagued with daily reports of road fatalities, and thus far in the year, there have been 117 deaths as a result of these road accidents. This loss of life cannot be allowed to continue unabated while Guyana loses its valued citizens. It is therefore crucial that the Guyana Police Force implements a robust education and awareness, and monitoring campaign to ensure that road users operate within the ambit of the law. The State, too, must not turn a blind eye to this issue which has become an epidemic—timely and measured action is needed with great urgency particularly as it relates to legislating stricter penalties against errant road users.

Beyond the implementation and enforcement of traffic laws, the GCCCI is calling on members of the public to utilise the roadways in a safe and responsible manner. Speeding and disregard for traffic laws must not be tolerated, and failure to admonish these behaviours when we witness them may be regarded as complicity in lawlessness.

END

UPCOMING EVENTS



135TH ANNUAL
AWARDS PRESENTATION &

GALA
Dinner

December 12th, 2024 | Time: 6:00 pm

Guyana Marriott Hotel Georgetown

Early Bird Tickets

\$30,000

Tickets cost \$35,000 GYD after December 2nd