

# SGCC'S JULY NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS



SURINAME-GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**SGCC HOSTS PRODUCTIVE WORKING LUNCH WITH ASSOCIATION OF ECONOMISTS IN SURINAME**

**ADVOCACY FOR BILATERAL SOLUTIONS ON KEY ISSUES IMPACTING TRADE AND CONNECTIVITY**

**RECAP ON CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT FORUM: A PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL GROWTH AND COLLABORATION**

**SURINAME GUYANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL ON JULY 13, 2024.**



# VICE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



SURINAME-GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**DERRICK KLAVERWEIDE**  
VICE CHAIR OF THE  
SURINAME GUYANA CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE (SGCC)

Dear Valued Members,

As Vice Chair of the Suriname Guyana Chamber of Commerce (SGCC), I am delighted to connect with you through this newsletter. Our Chamber's success is a testament to the collaborative spirit between Suriname and Guyana.

We have been working actively to broaden our services, including trade missions, B2B matches, networking, and startup support. We have also been actively advocating with governments to address the various challenges our members are facing when doing cross border trade. These efforts are designed to provide you with the resources and opportunities to thrive in your business endeavors.

Your feedback is crucial. We will soon implement surveys and one-on-one intakes to gather your insights and ensure our services align with your needs and expectations. I encourage you to participate actively.

We are committed to keeping you informed through our monthly newsletter and our regular publications. Our goal is to ensure you stay updated on the latest developments and opportunities within our Chamber and both countries.

I would like to encourage businesses on both sides to look at the bigger picture as regard to the bilateral togetherness of Suriname and Guyana.

The upcoming International Building Expo and International Business Conference are excellent opportunities to showcase your businesses and connect with potential partners. Let us seize these opportunities and continue to advance together.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication. Together, we can achieve great things.

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# ADVOCACY



SURINAME-GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The SGCC is actively lobbying to address three critical issues impacting trade and connectivity between Suriname and Guyana. Recognizing the importance of these matters for regional economic growth, the SGCC has made recommendations and is willing to join working groups for effective resolution.

## 1. Implementation of an Online Booking System for Canawaima Ferry Service

- **Discussion Outcome:** Urgent need for coordinated online booking system implementation.
- **Benefits:**
  - Increased government revenue from streamlined booking processes.
  - Reduced waiting times, allowing for 3-4 trips per day instead of one.
  - Elimination of long waiting lines, enhancing passenger satisfaction.
- **Action:** SGCC calls for communication and collaboration between boards of both countries.

## 2. Finalization of the Double Taxation Agreement

- **Current Status:** Seeking Suriname's position on the agreement.
- **Benefits:**
  - Increased investment by avoiding double taxation.
  - Enhanced trade relations through simplified tax regulations.
  - Boosted business confidence with clear tax policies.
  - Improved administrative efficiency for cross-border businesses.
- **Action:** SGCC emphasizes urgency in finalizing the agreement.

## 3. Collaboration on Local Content Policies

- **Proposal:** Facilitate a meeting between Guyana's and Suriname's local content secretariats.
- **Benefits:**
  - Knowledge transfer from Guyana's robust local content policies.
  - Economic development through local business participation in major projects.
  - Capacity building for Suriname's local content secretariat.
- **Action:** SGCC recommends forming working groups with relevant ministries and stakeholders.

The SGCC is committed to supporting and participating in these working groups to ensure successful resolutions.

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# SGCC HOSTED LUNCH WITH ASSOCIATION OF ECONOMISTS (VES)



SURINAME-GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The SGCC recently hosted a productive working lunch with the Association of Economists in Suriname (VES), aimed at providing crucial updates on Guyana's business landscape and economic climate. Dr. Vishnu Doerga, Chair of SGCC, delivered a detailed presentation on Guyana's economic conditions, covering key indicators and trends. His insights offered attendees a comprehensive view of regional business opportunities and challenges.

Following Dr. Doerga's presentation, SGCC's, CEO Rahul Lildhar discussed the chamber's initiatives and services supporting business growth. Emphasizing a conducive environment for cross-border trade, Lildhar highlighted SGCC's commitment to facilitating business development between Suriname and Guyana.

Significant discussion also focused on the upcoming International Business Conference, co-hosted by SGCC and the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association (GMSA). Dr. Doerga outlined the conference's potential for networking, collaboration, and business expansion opportunities.

The working lunch strengthened collaboration between SGCC and VES, highlighting their role in driving regional growth and prosperity through strategic partnerships.



# "IBC" OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED



SURINAME-GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Suriname Guyana Chamber of Commerce Successfully Launched the International Business Conference set for October 15-17th, 2024. The launch event was opened by CEO Rahul Lildhar, who highlighted the preferences of the SGCC membership for a setup that enables missions, B2B meetings, and direct business engagements. This preference was the driving force behind the SGCC's co-hosting of the event. The CEO stated, "Our members value opportunities for direct engagement and meaningful business interactions, which is why we have focused on creating a platform that facilitates these connections."

The Chair of the SGCC, Dr. Vishnu Doerga, also in his address, emphasized the importance of the conference in fostering regional cooperation and economic growth. He remarked, "The International Business Conference is a testament to our commitment to creating a conducive environment for business and investment in Guyana and Suriname. We are proud to bring together key stakeholders to explore and capitalize on the vast opportunities available in our region."

Mr. Ramsey Ali, President of the Guyana Manufacturing & Services Association (GMSA), shared his vision for Guyana as the primary destination for manufacturing in the Caribbean. He stated, "Guyana has the potential to become the manufacturing hub of the Caribbean, and the IBC is a crucial step towards realizing this vision."



# "IBC" OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED



SURINAME-GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



15-17 October 2024

Ambassador Liselle Blankendal, Suriname Ambassador to Guyana and honorary member of the SGCC, spoke on the importance of collaboration between Guyana and Suriname. She highlighted the shared commitment of both nations to fostering economic growth and strengthening bilateral ties.

Mr. Amar Alakhramsing, Director of the Suriname Investment and Trade Agency (SITA), addressed the role of SITA in promoting Suriname as an attractive destination for business. He stated, "Suriname is open for business, and through collaboration with our regional partners, we aim to create a thriving business environment that benefits all."

Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, CEO of the Guyana Office for Investment, expressed his support for the IBC and emphasized the importance of practical engagements focused on closing business deals. He welcomed the hosting of the event in Guyana and encouraged actionable outcomes.



# MOU'S INKED WITH SITA AND BILATERAL CHAMBERS



SURINAME-GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In a significant development, several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed at the sidelines of the event. These included an MOU with SITA and SGCC to strengthen trade opportunities between Suriname and Guyana. Additionally, MOUs were signed with the Canada Chamber of Commerce, represented by Ms. Rochelle Parasram, the Dominican Republic Chamber of Commerce, represented by Ms. Leonida Foo, and the European Chamber of Commerce, represented by Dr. Alista Bishop. These agreements foster stronger advocacy, joint events for members, and collaborative efforts to address cross-cutting issues while preventing duplicity.

The SGCC is excited about the potential of the International Business Conference to unlock new opportunities for businesses in Guyana and Suriname. The conference, scheduled for October 15-17, 2024, promises to be a dynamic and engaging event, bringing together over 500 delegates from local and international business communities. It will feature focused conference sessions, workshops, and interactive seminars, providing valuable insights and practical knowledge across various sectors.

We encourage all businesses and stakeholders to participate in the International Business Conference. For more information and to register, please visit [www.guyanabusinessconference.com](http://www.guyanabusinessconference.com). Members of the Guyana Manufacturing & Services Association (GMSA) and the SGCC are entitled to a 50% discount on delegate passes. Act now to take advantage of this exclusive offer and secure your spot at this transformative event.

The SGCC extends its deepest gratitude to the governments of Guyana and Suriname, the Guyana Manufacturing & Services Association, and all partners and participants for their unwavering support. We look forward to a successful International Business Conference and the continued growth and development of our region.



# SGCC AT THE CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT FORUM



SURINAME-GUYANA  
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**SGCC at the Caribbean Investment Forum: A Platform for Regional Growth and Collaboration**

SGCC proudly participated in the Caribbean Investment Forum (CIF), held from July 10th to 12th, 2024. This event, which focused on the theme "Fostering Sustainable Economic Growth Through Regional Integration," provided an invaluable platform to showcase its commitment to regional cooperation and economic development.

Our participation at CIF was marked by significant exposure for SGCC and our esteemed members, including ActionINVEST Caribbean Inc, PBS Technologies, and Digicel Business. The forum allowed these businesses to exhibit their innovative solutions and services to a diverse audience of investors, industry leaders, and policymakers.

SGCC actively participated in several key sessions and B2B meetings throughout the forum. These sessions provided insights into critical topics such as sustainable development, digital transformation, and trade facilitation.

One of the highlights of our presence at CIF was the promotion of the upcoming International Business Conference, which SGCC is co-hosting. We leveraged the forum to generate interest and attract potential participants and sponsors for this significant event. The conference aims to further strengthen regional business ties and provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss and explore investment opportunities.

SGCC's involvement in the Caribbean Investment Forum was a testament to our commitment to promoting the interests of our members and driving regional prosperity. The insights gained, and connections made during the forum will play a crucial role as we continue to advocate for our members and champion regional economic integration.

As we move forward, SGCC remains dedicated to leveraging such platforms to represent our members, promote investment opportunities, and strengthen regional ties. We look forward to the continued support and active participation of our members in our future endeavors.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



SURINAME-GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## INTERNATIONAL BUILDING EXPO

August 8-11th

The International Building Expo is a premier event for the construction and building industry, showcasing the latest advancements, products, and services.

### Why Attend?

**Networking:** Connect with industry leaders, potential clients, and partners.

**Innovation:** Discover the latest trends and technologies.

**Business Opportunities:** Explore new growth and collaboration avenues.



## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE

October 15-17th

### Why the IBC?

**Dynamic Keynote Speakers:** Industry leaders sharing insights.

**Networking Opportunities:** Connect with top professionals.

**Enhancing Business Efficiency:** Strategies to improve regional business operations.

**Facilitating International Investments:** Opportunities for global investment.

**Highlighting Industry Best Practices:** Learn from the best in the field.

**Building Strategic Partnerships:** Collaborate across key sectors of Guyana's economy.

**Growth Surge Benefits:** Harness the ongoing growth for all sectors.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



SURINAME-GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**MR PRITIPAUL SINGH JR**  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR**  
**GUYANA PORT INC.**

## **GUYANA PORT INC. TO LAUNCH DREDGING AND SHIPBUILDING SERVICES WITH US\$40 MILLION INVESTMENT**

The Suriname Guyana Chamber of Commerce (SGCC) proudly highlights significant advancements by one of its directors, Pritipaul Singh Jr., Managing Director of Guyana Port Inc. (GPI). GPI is launching dredging and shipbuilding services, marking a substantial US\$40 million investment to bolster Guyana's maritime infrastructure.

In a recent Energy Perspectives Podcast episode, Singh detailed GPI's strategic initiatives and investments since 2019. The company has invested between US\$4 million and US\$5 million in the ship repair market, offering services such as blasting, painting, and various mechanical repairs to local and international clients.

### **Strategic Growth and Customer Satisfaction**

GPI's ISO certification and prime location near the Demerara River underscore its commitment to customer satisfaction and long-term relationships. Singh emphasized, "It's not just about delivering a service. It's making sure that the client is satisfied at the end of the day."

GPI invests US\$100,000 to US\$115,000 annually in workforce training, currently employing around 90 individuals, with 10 more jobs to be created through new dredging services. The company emphasizes quality management, health, and safety, and collaborates with PMD Offshore Limited to meet rising ship repair demands.

GPI plans to construct a 5,000 gross-tonnes dry dock, a US\$35 million project set to be completed over 18 months, and invest US\$5 million to initiate dredging services. These efforts aim to support the increased demand for maritime services due to substantial offshore oil reserves.

Pritipaul Singh Jr. exemplifies the innovative spirit and leadership that the SGCC promotes. The SGCC supports GPI's endeavors and anticipates a positive impact on Guyana's maritime industry and economic growth.

For more information about GPI's services and upcoming projects, visit [GPI's website] or contact [GPI contact information]. To learn more about the SGCC, visit our website or contact us at [SGCC contact information].

**Together, let's build a stronger, more connected Caribbean business community!**

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



SURINAME-GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**MR ANDEL SAUL**  
CEO, CARIBBEAN MEDICAL  
SUPPLIES INC

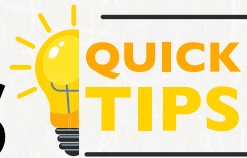
## HIGHLIGHTING MR. ANDEL SAUL, CEO OF CARIBBEAN MEDICAL SUPPLIES

SGCC is proud to highlight our member, Mr. Andel Saul, CEO of Caribbean Medical Supplies, for his exceptional leadership and dedication to advancing healthcare technology in Suriname. Mr. Saul's commitment to excellence and innovation has been instrumental in bringing these state-of-the-art laboratory analyzers to Nickerie Hospital, significantly improving the quality of healthcare services in the region.

Join us in celebrating this milestone moment and acknowledging the remarkable contributions of Mr. Andel Saul and his team at Caribbean Medical Supplies. Their efforts are making a tangible difference in the lives of many, and we are excited to see the continued positive impact on healthcare delivery in Suriname.



# BUSINESS TIPS AND RESOURCES



SURINAME-GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## ATTEND EVENTS!!

Participate in industry conferences, trade shows, and networking events to build relationships and learn from peers. These events provide invaluable opportunities to connect with industry leaders, potential clients, and partners. By attending, you gain insights into the latest trends, innovations, and best practices that can help propel your business forward.

### Join Business Associations

Membership in business associations like the Suriname Guyana Chamber of Commerce (SGCC) can provide access to valuable resources, support, and networking opportunities. As a member of SGCC, you will benefit from:

**Exclusive Access:** Attend members-only events and gain exclusive access to industry insights and market intelligence.

**Networking Opportunities:** Connect with other business leaders and professionals, fostering relationships that can lead to collaborations and partnerships.

**Resources and Support:** Utilize the resources and support offered by SGCC, including advocacy, business development programs, and more.

Foster valuable connections and take your business to the next level by joining the Suriname Guyana Chamber of Commerce. Enhance your network, gain access to exclusive resources, and be part of a community dedicated to supporting business growth and regional economic development.

# RELATIONSHIPS



## JOIN SGCC TODAY AND START BUILDING MEANINGFUL BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS!

We were honored to welcome Rosa Carolina Garzon, Representative for the South East Caribbean of ProColombia, at our recent meeting with Vicechair Dr. Vishnu Doerga and CEO Rahul Lildhar.

During the meeting, we shared insights about the upcoming International Business Conference and discussed exciting opportunities for Colombian companies to enter the Guyanese market

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# GALLERY



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