



FIRST DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE

JULY 23-28, 2017

**Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel
Providence, East Bank Demerara, Guyana**

DRAFT CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Welcome Reception

**Hosted by His Excellency David Arthur Granger
President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana**

**Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel
Providence, East Bank Demerara, Guyana**

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017

17:00h – 19:00h

(Separate Program to be Produced)

MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017

08.00 – 09.15h

OPENING CEREMONY

Conference Room

Chair: Dr. Fitzgerald Yaw, Director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives, The University of Guyana, and
Chairman, Conference Planning Committee

- **National Anthem**
- **Welcome and Occasion:** Prof. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The University of Guyana
- **Voices from the Diaspora & the Homeland:** Dr. Dhanpaul Narine, New York City Department of Education, NY (from the USA), Dr. Indianna Minto-Coy, Mona School of Business, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica (from the Caribbean), Mr. Chet Bowling, Director, Guyana Diaspora, Inc. (from Russia/Europe) , Dr. Raquel Thomas-Caesar, Director, Resource Management and Training, IWOKRAMA International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development, Guyana (from the Homeland)
- **Cultural Item:** Visiting Distinguished Artiste-in-Residence Keith Waithe and the Renaissance Performers
- **Keynote Address:** H.E. David Arthur Granger, President, Cooperative Republic of Guyana
- **Cultural Item:** Visiting Distinguished Artiste-in-Residence Keith Waithe and the Renaissance Performers
- **Vote of Thanks:** Mr. Daren Khan, Planning Officer, Office of Strategic Initiatives, The University of Guyana
- **Adjournment**

09:15 – 09:30h

Break

09.30 – 10.30h ENGAGING THE DIASPORA	BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE DIASPORA
<p>Room 1 Chair: Mr. Wayne Forde, FL, USA; Conference Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights for a Guyana diaspora policy Mr. Paul Nehru Tennessee, The University of the District of Columbia, Washington DC, USA • From Potential to Reality: Towards an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem for Attracting Caribbean Diaspora Investments Dr. Indianna D. Minto-Coy, The University of the West Indies, Jamaica; Conference Planning Committee • What are the Tools, Methods, and Policies for Researching the Diaspora and for Engaging the Diaspora? Ms. Katleen Felix, Felix-Williams Consulting, Toronto, ON, Canada Ms. Gillian Williams, Felix-Williams Consulting, Toronto, ON, Canada; Conference Planning Committee 	<p>Room 2 Chair: Mr. Alim Hosein, The University of Guyana; Conference Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards a multi-dimensional process of diaspora engagement Dr. Valerie Dye, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON, Canada • Diaspora: Guyana’s most Potent resource, Naturally Mr. Salaudeen Nausrudeen, Guyana America Investments, FL, USA • The Private Hindu College in Guyana: Best Practices in Diaspora Engagement Dr. Kumar Mahabir, The University of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago
10.30 – 11.30h PANEL DISCUSSIONS	
<p>Room 1 Co-Chairs: Dr. Vince Adams, The University of Guyana and Rohan Somar, Saint Clare’s Emergency Hospital, NJ, USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Diaspora Challenges Mr. Ewart Marshall, Mars Technologies, NY, USA Mr. Nohar Singh, USA Mr. Ronald Alert, Avory Financial, MD, USA Mr. Wayne Forde, FL, USA; Conference Planning Committee 	<p>Room 2 Chair: Mr. Selvon M. Waldron, Mentor Post, Washington, DC, USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working toward social and civil society goals - examining collaborations between local- and overseas- based organizations Mr. Antoine B. Craigwell, DBGM, New York, NY, USA Mr. Mohamed Q. Amin, Mr. Joel Simpson, SASOD - Guyana

	Ms. Romola Lucas, SASOD, Caribbean Equality Project, NY, USA
<p>11.30 – 12.30h</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Conference Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial Roundtable I <p>Moderator: Mr. Komal Singh, Gaico Construction, Inc., Guyana; Conference Planning Committee</p>
<p>12.30 – 13.30h</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LUNCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KEYNOTE ADDRESS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Banquet Hall</p> <p>Introduction: Chet Bowling, Guyana Diaspora Inc., Moscow, Russia; Conference Planning Committee</p> <p>Speaker: Prof. Suresh Narine, Director, Institute of Applied Science & Technology, Guyana and Trent University Centre for Biomaterials Research, ON, Canada</p>
<p>13.30 – 14:30h</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Conference Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guyana’s Diaspora Engagement Strategy <p>Chair: Dr. Vince Adams, The University of Guyana</p> <p>Speaker: Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, Second Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana</p>

<p>14.30 – 15.30h THE ROLE OF HOMETOWN ASSOCIATIONS</p>	<p>ENHANCING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT</p>
<p>Room 1 Chair: Dr. Wazir Mohamed, Ministry of Education, Guyana and Indiana University East; Conference Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hometown Associations and Diaspora Engagement: Challenges and Emerging Role in Nation Building Dr. Lear Matthews, Empire State College, SUNY, NY, USA • The role of the hometown association COFONA (Council of Friends of New Amsterdam) in forging change at the community level Dr. Leonard C. Lewis, City College of CUNY, NY, USA • Role of Hometown Associations Ms. Katleen Felix, Felix-Williams Consulting, Toronto, ON, Canada Ms. Gillian Williams, Felix-Williams Consulting, Toronto, ON, Canada; Conference Planning Committee 	<p>Room 2 Chair: Dr. Valerie Dye, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON, Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for Return Migrants to have an Impact on Development in the Small State Case of Guyana Dr. Marlon Bristol, Ministry of the Presidency, Guyana • The Audacity to Prosper: Building Capacity through Diaspora Engagement Mr. Cosford A. Roberts, Organic Development Corporation, Maryland, USA • Diaspora Engagement – New Imperative for Tourism Growth in the Caribbean with Emphasis On Tobago. Mr. Andre Adrian Phillips, Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business, Trinidad and Tobago
<p>15:30 –16:30h Conference Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial Roundtable II <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Guyana Media Professional TBD</p>	
<p>16:30– 17:00h BREAK</p>	

<p>17:00 –18:00h</p> <p>TRANSFORMING THE SELF-IMAGE</p>	<p>IDENTITY ISSUES IN THE CARIBBEAN DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE</p>
<p>Room 1 Chair: Professor Paloma Mohamed, The University of Guyana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A case study of Edwidge Danticat’s ‘Children of the Sea’ and Earl Lovelace’s ‘Joebell and America’ Dr. Karen King-Aribisala, The University of Lagos, Nigeria • A robust and visionary post-secondary education policy can contribute to the economic and social development of Guyana in the knowledge based economy of the 21st century Mr. Fidel A. Captain, H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, British Virgin Islands 	<p>Room 2 Chair: Dr. Kumar Mahabir, The University of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically Separate but Psychologically Inseparable: Notions of Belonging and Identity among Jamaicans Living in the United Kingdom. Dr. Aieka Smith, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica • The construction of “Indianness/ Indo-Caribbeaness” and “Authenticity” in reference to the marginalized communities of Indo-Guyanese heritage abroad Mr. Karimah Rahman, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada • Identity and the diaspora: Unpacking understandings of home, place/space, and belongings in a postcolonial context Dr. Dianne Ramdeholl, Empire State College, SUNY, NY, USA
<p>TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017</p>	

<p>08.00 – 8.30h</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conference Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VIDEO MESSAGES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introduction: Mr. John Mair, Journalist and Author, Oxford, UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Gina Miller, Founding Partner, SCM Direct, UK • Baroness Valerie Amos, Director, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, England 	
<p>08.30 – 09.15h</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KEYNOTE ADDRESS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introduction: Mr. Paul N. Tennessee, The University of The District of Columbia, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Mr. Glen Khan, Chairman, LAPARKAN Group of Companies</p>	
<p>09.15 – 10.15h</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT FOR A GREEN ECONOMY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CASE STUDIES</p>	
<p>Room 1</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Terrence Simon, T.E. Simon Consulting, INC., NY, USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Orientation towards the changes taking place in Guyana in pursuit of a Green State Development Strategy Major General (Ret'd.) Joseph G. Singh, Ministry of The Presidency, Guyana • A diasporic engagement with Guyana's green economy Rear Admiral (Rtd.) Gary Anthony Rodwell Best, Ministry of the Presidency and LIRDS Think Tank Group, Guyana • Global Warming: An Urgent need to Prevent Professor R.C. Jagessar, The University of Guyana 	<p>Room 2</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Raquel Thomas-Caesar, IWOKRAMA International Centre; Conference Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpacking the conceptual landscape of the Diaspora: Lessons from Case Studies Ms. Audrey Benn, The University of Guyana • A Report on the Listening Interviews of the Needs and Aspirations of the Aging Population in Guyana and the Diaspora Ms. Claudia John, University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC, USA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mimicry and Fantasy in the Diaspora: The View from Richmond Hill in New York Dr. Dhanpaul Narine, New York City Department of Education, NY, USA
10.15 – 11.15h	
THE LIVED EXPERIENCE	CREATING FORUMS FOR ENGAGEMENT
Room 1 Chair: Dr. Leonard C. Lewis, City College of CUNY, NY, USA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribbean Families’ Preparation for Migration to the United States Dr. Rosalind October-Edun, SUNY, Empire State College (Metro Centre), New York, USA • The Guyanese Mafia, Awards and More: Making a Diasporic Community Proud of Itself Mr. John Mair, Oxford, UK • Towards a more integrative diaspora policy and inclusion in local politics Dr. David Hinds, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, USA 	Room 2 Chair: Mr. Andrew Hicks, The University of Guyana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding Guyanese Culture: A Look at London Links Dr. Michelle Asantewa, Way Wive Wordz and Bogle L’Ouverture Publications, London, UK • Re-launch of a publicly-accessible website, “Seeding the Commons” Dr. Calvin D. Brutus, Kykoveral Development Services, New Jersey, USA • Presentation on the Global Platform DREAMTRIPS. Ms. Sebrana Sumrah-Kelly, Caribbean and American Global Business Connections, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
11:15 – 12:15h	Conference Room
DOING BUSINESS IN GUYANA	
Chair: Mr. Owen Verwey, GoInvest, Guyana	

<p>12.15- 13:15h LUNCH</p> <p>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction: Dr. Indianna Minto-Coy, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica; Conference Planning Committee <p>Speaker: Hon. Gail Teixeira, MP, National Assembly, Guyana</p>	
<p>13.15 – 14.00h</p> <p>ENVISIONING THE FUTURE</p>	<p>GROWING BUSINESS IN GUYANA</p>
<p>Room 1 Chair: Ms. Audrey Benn, The University of Guyana, Turkeyen, Guyana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guyana as a Location for a Charter City Dr. Samuel Braithwaite, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica 3E's Strategy to Enable, Engage and Empower the Diaspora Ms. Eraina Yaw, International Organization for Migration, Georgetown, Guyana Friends of a Green Guyana Diaspora Partnership Dr. David Singh, Conservation International (Guyana) 	<p>Room 2 Chair: Dr. Marlon Bristol, Ministry of the Presidency, Guyana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A session by the Small Business Bureau of the Ministry of Business, Guyana Strengthening the SME and SGB sector in Guyana through Diaspora Investment Ms. Katleen Felix, Felix-Williams Consulting, Toronto, ON, Canada Ms. Gillian Williams, Felix-Williams Consulting, Toronto, ON, Canada; Conference Planning Committee
<p>14.00 – 15.00h ECONOMICS</p>	<p>EDUCATION</p>
<p>Room 1 Chair: Dr. Thomas Singh, The University of Guyana, Turkeyen, Guyana</p>	<p>Room 2 Chair: Dr Karen King Aribisala, The University of Lagos, Nigeria</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Role of the Diaspora in Safeguarding the Wealth of a Gold Producing Nation Mr. Collin Constantine, Kingston University, London, UK Dr. Tarron Khemraj, New College of Florida, Sarasota, FL, USA • There are unlimited Investment Opportunities in Guyana Mr. Eric M. Phillips, The University of Guyana, Guyana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What lessons can be used to ensure that the Caribbean systems of Education utilize early culturally responsive pedagogy Mr. Selvon M. Waldron, Mentor POST , Washington, DC, USA • Academic Programs for the 21st Century. Moving Forward by Looking Back Dr. Kelwyn Thomas, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA
<p>15:00 – 16:00h Conference Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lessons from Other Diaspora Experiences</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Ms. Melanie Smith, Melanie Smith Consulting, Guyana; Conference Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute for Mexicans Abroad and the Network for Mexican Talent abroad H.E. Iván Roberto Sierra Medel, Ambassador of Mexico to Guyana • The outlook of the 12 years of implementation of the Global Mx Network of skilled migrants. Ms. Tania Miranda, The Institute for Mexicans Living Abroad, Mexico City, Mexico • Presentation by Indian High Commission in Guyana, 	
<p>16:00 – 16:15h BREAK</p>	
<p>16:15 – 17:00h KEYNOTE ADDRESS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conference Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introduction: Mr. Collin Constantine, Kingston University, London, UK Speaker: Hon. David Lammy, MP, British House of Commons, UK</p>	

17:00 – 18:00h

TOWARDS NEW ECONOMIES

Conference Room

Chair: Dr. Tarron Khemraj, New College of Florida, Sarasota, FL, USA

- **The Guyanese Diaspora in the Time of Petroleum and Climate Change**
Professor Jay R. Mandle, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, USA
- **Deepwater Exploitation of Oil and Natural Gas – A Roadmap for Technical Assistance**
Professor Norman D. H. Munroe, Florida International University, Miami, FL, USA

19:00 – 21:00h

DINNER SESSION ON DEC 2017 AND BEYOND

Moderator: Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, The University of Guyana

- **The Diaspora Economy, Trade and Entrepreneurship in the Caribbean**
Speaker: Dr. Keith Nurse, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago; Conference Planning Committee
- **The Economic Impact of the 2017 Diaspora Engagement Conference**
Speaker: Professor Leyland Lucas, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD, USA and The University of Guyana
- **Proposal for the Caribbean Regional Diaspora Engagement Centre**
Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, The University of Guyana
Dr. Fitzgerald Yaw, The University of Guyana
Dr. Keith Nurse, The University of The West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2017

Second Conference of Education Resource Ambassadors. The ERA conference will be restricted to Education Resource Ambassadors and Ambassadors-Designate, and it will be held at The UG Turkeyen campus. Transportation will be provided from the Conference Hotel and back.

19:00 – 21:00h: Business dinner open to all participants.

Give Back Day for those not participating in the Second Conference of Education Resource Ambassadors.

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017

Know Guyana Day

Information on One Day tours to places of interest in Guyana available on the Diaspora Engagement Conference website:

<http://diasporaconference.uog.edu.gy/>

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2017

08:00-12:00h

CLOSING PLENARY

Moderator: Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, The University of Guyana

- **Proposal for Diaspora Recognition by High Commissioner Dr. Cyril Kendrick Hunte**
- **Report of the Rapporteur**
- **Conference Evaluation**
- **Conference Photo**

12:00-15:00h

FREETIME AND LUNCH

15:00-15:45h

TRAVEL TO TURKEYEN CAMPUS

16:00-18:30h

INVESTITURE OF VICE CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPAL FOLLOWED BY RECEPTION

18:30-19:15h

TRAVEL TO CONFERENCE HOTEL

20:00-22:00h

CULTURAL EXTRAVANGANZA

Date: June 21, 2017