



The  
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Column

# GUYANA'S DIASPORA ANSWER PRESIDENT'S CALL TO BE INVOLVED IN IOM ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND UG ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2017

**President David Granger will address and declare open the University of Guyana's first Diaspora Engagement Conference 2017 — "DEC 2017" — at the Ramada Georgetown Princess in Georgetown, Guyana on July 24, 2017.**

The events of the Diaspora Engagement Conference 2017 will be the harbinger in establishing one of the largest gatherings comprising individuals and companies within Guyana and the Diaspora.

Wide ranging topics which could have positive far reaching effects for Guyana, especially through the involvement of the Guyana Diaspora, along with presentations by several keynote speakers have been submitted to the University by the intended presenters.

The abstracts covering the range of Diaspora issues from "Diaspora Engagement Experience"; "Contemporary Issues/Challenges Facing the Caribbean Diaspora"; "The Rose of Hometown Associations"; "Researching the Diaspora"; "Diaspora Tourism"; "Imaging and Imagining the Diaspora"; "The Global Diasporic Community in the Twenty-First Century"; "Building Partners With and Within the Diaspora"; "Remittances and Beyond"; "Technology and Business/Entrepreneurial Opportunity Recognition within the Diaspora", are already submitted.

The intent of the Conference "DEC 2017" is to facilitate the presentation of materials in the expansive field of the Diaspora. The University had requested interested presenters to provide it with the abstracts which are currently being examined and their submitters will be advised by next week *via* email of their acceptances. The final executive summary would be submitted to the University no later than June 16th.

The programme and dates of the conference are as follows: July 23 — Welcome Reception; July 24: Opening Plenary, Academic Panels and Papers; July 25 — Presentations from representatives of Government, the Private Sector and the Civil Society; 2nd Educational Resource Ambassadors' Conference; July 27 — Know your Country Day & Give Back Market Place; and July 28 — Closing Plenary, Official Installation of Vice-Chancellor and a Cultural Night event.

The "DEC 2017" strives to achieve the following objectives:

1. Discuss Global best practices in Diaspora Engagement Policies and Practices and strengthening Partnerships with Diaspora Organisations.
2. Engage the Diaspora in facilitating the pursuit of entrepreneurship, and social capital and human capital opportunities.
3. Enable Diaspora and Homeland Citizens

to give back to Guyana tangibly and experience some of the nation's beauty; and

4. Launch the Caribbean Diaspora Engagement Centre to institutionalize engagement in research, outreach, and talent management among other things.

The Diaspora Engagement Centre will be launched at the "DEC 2017". The overarching

The UNIVERSITY of GUYANA  
*invites you to the*  
**DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT  
CONFERENCE 2017**

*July 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2017  
at the  
Ramada Georgetown Princess*  
**GEORGETOWN, GUYANA**

objectives of the Centre is to deepen and enhance the institutional framework within the Caribbean countries and key stakeholders relative to Diasporas and the diasporic economy.

The Centre's mandate is based upon a Regional approach which would involve key stakeholders and institutions in the CARICO/CARIFORUM region and in the wider Latin American context. The Diaspora Engagement Centre would be based at the UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA.

Registration for the conference from the Diaspora is now open for Early Bird Registrants, and will close on June 30, 2017. Persons in the Diaspora, not confined to Guyanese, who are interested in attending the conference should visit the conference website at <http://diasporaconference.uog.edu.gy> for further information. The

University has indicated that late registration, effective July 1, 2017 will attract a 15% increase on the Early Bird fee.

GO SEE VISIT GUYANA

In other news related to the Diaspora, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Georgetown is finalizing the list of 10 persons who have been selected to participate in the "Go See Visit Guyana" project due to start on May 22, 2017.

According to the Coordinator of the project at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Michael Brotherson, "as soon as the participants list is finalized, it will be released to the public and the Ministry will inform the media accordingly. The process will be completed early in the current week."

The Government of Guyana in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) had invited entrepreneurs from the Guyanese Diaspora to be part of the "Go See Visits 2016". This initiative will provide entrepreneurs of Guyanese origin residing abroad to visit Guyana to explore prospects for establishing small and medium-sized businesses in their home country.

It was originally intended that the project would have been executed in the latter part of the past year, but the applicants were late in submitting applications, which finally closed in December 2016. Twenty persons applied for the 10 available places, and with only two weeks before the announced date for the start of the project — May 22 — the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diaspora Division, headed by Mr. Brotherson is still finalizing the list of the Diaspora participants.

The IOM is providing Round trip air tickets and a one-time stipend to support related costs, technical assistance for travel, introductory meetings, and workshops with shareholders in the country.

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