



SURINAME-GUYANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“The Suriname-Guyana Chamber of Commerce Commends Progress Made on the Corentyne River Bridge Project”

The Suriname-Guyana Chamber of Commerce (SGCC) applauds the recent meeting between Suriname's President H.E Chandrikapersad Santokhi and Guyana's President H.E Mohamed Irfaan Ali, held on March 23rd, 2024, in Guyana. This pivotal gathering focused on advancing discussions for a bridge over the Corentyne River, signifying a monumental step towards solidifying the bond between the two nations.

The SGCC commends the involvement of key ministers from both countries. This further emphasizes the project's critical nature and signifies a unified effort to realise a vision that would reshape the regional dynamics of both countries.

Suriname's Ambassador to Guyana, Ms. Liselle Blankendal, echoed this sentiment: "The bridge between Suriname and Guyana is more than just steel and concrete; it represents the culmination of years of collaboration, vision, and determination. It symbolizes both countries' commitment to connectivity, progress, and mutual prosperity."

Chair of the SGCC, Dr. Vishnu Doerga noted that “Guyana and Suriname have the best chance at full economic integration due to our geographic and historical ties. The bridge will serve as a critical economic driver for both countries allowing for both populations to experience the best goods and services from each respective country with more efficiency.”

This bridge, a physical manifestation of the connection between Suriname and Guyana, would serve as a cornerstone for regional integration. It would facilitate the movement of people, and enhance trade and investment opportunities.

The Suriname-Guyana Chamber of Commerce is particularly encouraged by the positive feedback received from our members through a recent survey, which indicates a strong belief that the bridge will significantly increase the free movement of people and goods across the border. This increased mobility is expected to bolster agricultural cooperation, promote tourism, and spur economic growth, thereby providing sustainable prosperity to the populations of both nations.

As the Presidents prepare to enter the project's next stage, focusing on pricing, technical aspects, financing, and operational modalities, SGCC expresses its full support for these efforts. The SGCC is confident that the collaborative approach adopted by the two governments will ensure that the project's execution will be marked by affordability, efficiency, and mutual benefit.

As the anticipation for the Strategic Dialogue and Cooperation Platform (SDCP) meeting in May 2024 grows, the SGCC looks forward to contributing at various levels, offering the perspective and expertise of our members to ensure that the bridge project not only strengthens the economic ties between our nations but also fosters a deeper sense of community and shared destiny.

Guyana and Suriname stand on the threshold of a new era of prosperity, connectivity, and regional cooperation. The chamber commits to remaining an active partner in this journey, championing the benefits of the bridge and advocating for the interests of our members to ensure that this project achieves its full potential for the betterment of both our countries.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rahul', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rahul Lildhar
Chief Executive Officer
Suriname Guyana Chamber of Commerce