

1st Business Summit of Diaspora Suriname

Theme: **"Unity Overcomes Distance"**

Date: February 6th, 7th & 8th 2025

Venues: Assuria Event Center/Ballroom Prince/Yogh Hotel

DAY 1 – Thursday 6 February 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
18:00 PM – 21:00 AM	OPENING CEREMONY	Assuria Event Center
16:00 PM - 17:30 PM	Registration Opportunity for networking with IBC delegates	
17:30 PM	Doors open <u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Dirk Currie	
	Volkslied (Mannenkoor Harmoie o.l.v dhr. Marcel Pinas)	
18:00 PM - 18:10 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directorate International Business – Henna Soerdjoesing 	
18:15 PM - 18:25 PM	Keynote speaker Anand Jagessar	
18:25 PM - 18:55 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diaspora Nederland - John Brewster (online) Diaspora Nederland - Robby Makka (online) Diaspora Guyana - Vishnu Doerga Diaspora Frans Guyana – Marciano Soewa 	
18:55 PM - 19:05 PM	Cultural Performance	
19:05 PM - 19:15 PM	Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of the Republic of Suriname - H.E. Albert Ramdin	
19:15 PM - 19:45 PM	President of the Republic of Suriname – H.E. Chandrikapersad Santokhi	
19:45 PM - 21:00 PM	Informal networking	
21:00 PM	END OF DAY 1	

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Day 2 – Friday 7 February 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
10:00 AM - 17:00 PM	Exhibition & Networking Promo stations Panels & Workshops	Ballroom Prince
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	OFFICIAL RIBBON-CUTTING by H.E. President Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of the Republic of Suriname & a guided tour through the Business Summit area.	ENTRANCE LEVEL
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<p>PANEL Theme: Investing in Suriname: Opportunities and Challenges Goal: Discussing investment and trade opportunities in various sectors such as agriculture, business, tourism, manufacturing, energy, aquaculture, fish processing and technology. Keynote speaker: Minister Albert Ramdin from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation (online). Topic introducer: Mr. Rafiq Ilahi (MinEZOTI) <u>Opportunities: Surinamese:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rabin Boedha (MinTCT) • Mr. Anand Chotkan (Min.LVV) • Ms. Marita Lautan-Wijnerman (Min.Fin.) • Mr. Preshant Awadhpersad (SITA) <p><u>Challenges: Diaspora:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Steven Pinas (Frans Guyana) • Ms. Rosalinda Rasul (Guyana) • Mr. George Aalstein (Ned) <p><u>Moderator:</u> Willem Bloem (Amcham)</p>	UPPER FLOOR
12:00 AM – 13:00 PM	<p>WORKSHOP/ PRESENTATION</p> <p>Theme: Agriculture and Tourism as Engines for Development Goal: Explore the role of diaspora investments in manufacturing, tourism branches, agriculture, two key growth sectors for Suriname. Topic 1: Tourism and agriculture</p>	

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	<p>Tourism status and development opportunities, incl. increased need for local agriculture (vegetables and fruits increased with the addition of 5 to 6 hotels and supply to the oil/gas market).</p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> Mr. Egon Von Foidl</p> <p>Topic 2: Agriculture, food processing and manufacturing</p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> Mr. Revinh Ramnandanlal</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Dione Diko</p>	
13:00 PM – 14:00 PM	Lunch break (own account)	
14:00 PM – 15:00 PM	<p>WORKSHOP/PRESENTATION</p> <p>Theme: Digital technology and e-commerce: The Role of Diaspora</p> <p>Goal: Explore how the diaspora can contribute to knowledge exchange, innovation, digital transformation and development of e-commerce in Suriname</p> <p>Topic 1: Leveraging AI to Foster Innovation, Economic Growth, and Connectivity within the Surinamese Diaspora</p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> Mr. Anvit Ramlakhan</p> <p>Topic 2: Digital technology and e-commerce: The Role of Diaspora</p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> Mr.M.Toendang</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Lygia Mitrasing</p>	
15:00 PM – 16:00 PM	<p>WORKSHOP/PRESENTATION</p> <p>Topic: IDB lab: Unlocking Growth Capital for Development Solutions</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <p>1.Mr.Simon Johnson Private Finance Operations Senior Specialist IDB Lab Venture Capital and Investments</p>	

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	2.Ms. Vashtie Dookiesingh Private Finance Operations Lead Specialist IDB Lab Venture <u>Moderator:</u> A.B. (TBC)	
16:00 PM - 17:00 PM	<p>WORKSHOP/PRESENTATION Theme: Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Successful Diaspora Companies Goal: Have successful diaspora entrepreneurs share their experiences of setting up businesses in Suriname or abroad Topic 1: Successful diaspora entrepreneurs, their experiences of setting up business in Suriname <u>Presenter:</u> Mr. Orlando Cairo</p> <p>Topic 2: Networking & collaboration: the key to every business' s success <u>Presenter:</u> Mr. Adyson Pansa</p> <p>Topic 3: Bridging Borders, Building Prosperity <u>Presenter:</u> Mr. Prakash Rostam (online)</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms.Sushma Biere</p>	
10:00 PM - 17:00 PM	EXHIBITION & NETWORKING PROMO STATIONS OPEN	ENTRANCE LEVEL
CULINAIRY FAIR		
17:00 PM – 21:00 PM	Culinary Fair: FLAVOURS OF SURINAME	Ballroom Prince OUTDOOR
END OF DAY 2		

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DAY 3 – Saturday 8 February 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
10:00 AM-17:00 PM	Exhibition & Networking Promo stations Panels & Workshops	Ballroom Prince & Yogh Hotel
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	<p>PANEL</p> <p>Topic: Financing and Diaspora</p> <p>Goal: Discuss financing opportunities for local SMEs, diaspora startups, starting with sectors such as agribusiness, infrastructure, energy, education through an investment desk.</p> <p>Topic introducer: Mr. Robby Makka(online) <u>Surinamese:</u> MinFin – Mr.Stanley Raghoebarsing (TBC) Min LVV – Mr.Parmanand Sewdien Min OW – Mr.Riad Nurmohamed Min MINOWC – Mr.Henry Orié Mr. Terence Gonesh (Surichange)</p> <p><u>Diaspora:</u> Ms. Ruth Sinkeler Mr. Mahinder Sewgobind Mr. Willem Bloem</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> A.C (TBC)</p>	UPPER FLOOR
11:30 AM - 13:00 AM	<p>PANEL</p> <p>Theme: Art, Culture, Sports and the Role of the Diaspora in preserving the Surinamese Identity</p> <p>Goal: Discuss the role of the diaspora in the preservation and promotion of Surinamese art and culture.</p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> Ms. Malesia Murray</p> <p>Panelists: <u>Surinamese</u> Mr.Roger Hoogeboom</p>	

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	<p>Ms.Reshmi Oemrawsingh</p> <p><u>Diaspora</u> Mr. Giano Currie Ms. Natasha Knoppel</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Juan Pawiroredjo</p>	
13:00 AM - 14:00 PM	Lunch (own account)	
14:00 PM - 15:30 PM	<p>PANEL Theme: Education and Skills: The Role of Diaspora in Educating the Next Generation Goal: Explore the role of the diaspora in improving education and training talent in Suriname for companies.</p> <p>Topic introducer: Mr.Frank Soe A Ngie</p> <p>Panelists: <u>Surinamese:</u> Mr. Wilgo Bilkerdijk Mr. Maurits Hassankhan Prof. dr. Shanti Venetiaan</p> <p><u>Diaspora:</u> Ms. Gracia Nanan - Ori (online) Mr. Henk Redmond</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms.Kathleen Jharie</p>	
15:30 PM - 16:30 PM	<p>WORKSHOP/PRESENTATION Theme: Opportunities for Suriname to enhance business development Topic 1: Online learning/training model Presenter: Ms. Priya Ramcharan Topic 2: Driving Economic Growth in Suriname: Key Business Opportunities Presenter: Ms. Zeldenrust <u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Joemanbaks</p>	
10:00 PM - 17:00 PM	EXHIBITION & NETWORKING PROMO STATIONS OPEN	

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16:30 PM - 17:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CLOSING REMARKS by the Permanent Secretary of the Directorate International Business Ms. Henna Soerdjoesing	
19:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Gala Dinner & Auction of Arts: A NIGHT OF GLAMOUR	Yogh Hotel
END OF DAY 3		