

**PRESIDENTIAL
SUMMIT
ON PRIVATE SECTOR
DEVELOPMENT**

*Turning Words
into Action*

Executive Summary

International Convention Center
Georgetown, Guyana
May 8th, 2006

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1. Overall Results of the Summit



On May 8th, 2006, Guyana's leaders took a major step forward by creating a collaborative public-private partnership to accelerate the country's economic development.

On May 8th, more than 300 public and private sector leaders came together at the Presidential Summit on Private Sector Development to discuss Guyana's new economic competitiveness strategy and identify action initiatives to accelerate Guyana's economic growth. The Summit provided an opportunity for leaders to culminate intensive collaborative work that has taken place over the past seven months to enrich Guyana's National Competitiveness Strategy (NCS) - a living changing strategy which charts a successful course forward for Guyana based on a ground-breaking partnership between the Government and private sector.



The Presidential Summit established 9 Action Teams and generated more than 50 Action Initiatives to achieve a more competitive economy.

The Summit's initial plenary session saw the showing of a video outlining the partnership approach to the development of the NCS. This was followed by keynote speeches delivered by the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Hon. Manzoor Nadir, Vice Chairman of the Private Sector Commission, Mr Mike Correia, CEO of GoInvest, Geoff DaSilva, and a keynote address by His Excellency, President Bharrat Jagdeo. Following this, groups of public and private sector leaders from nine Action Teams worked with participants to develop more than 50 Action Initiatives, to enhance and evolve the National Competitiveness Strategy in key areas. These nine areas included:

1. Scoring Big from Cricket World Cup
2. Aquaculture: *Making More from Your Investment*
3. Call Centers and Contract Manufacturing: *Developing Islands of Competitiveness*
4. Guyana's Next Agricultural Frontier: *Non-Traditional Agricultural Products*:
5. Tapping the Resources of the Diaspora for Guyana's Development
6. Creating "Brain Gain" - Building a Brighter Future for Guyana
7. Financing for Guyana's Future: Addressing the Liquidity Challenge
8. CSME: An Opportunity for Guyana to Jump On Board
9. A New Vision for Guyana Tourism 2010: The Five Year Tourism Development Plan



The Competitiveness Action Committee—a team of 15 committed private and public leaders—will lead and oversee follow-up and oversee on-going implementation of the action initiatives.

A committed group of public and private sector leaders—with the staff support from the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Go-Invest, and the PSC—have volunteered to lead the follow-up process to support and ensure on-going implementation of the action initiatives until the National Competitiveness Council and supporting institutions are established.

2. Origins and Objectives of the Summit

Origins

During the National Competitiveness Strategy consultations of the past eight months beginning in September 2005, many stakeholders throughout Guyana – in particular members of the private sector – expressed a strong desire to see a Presidential Summit take place early this year. Almost everyone who stated a view wanted to see a follow-up to the 1999 Presidential Summit, widely seen as an enormous success. The Summit was therefore a response to requests from many private sector stakeholders to follow up on the 1999 Presidential Summit.

Objectives

1. **Highlighting Progress in “Turning Words into Action:”** To highlight the progress made in the public- private “national conversation” that commenced September 2005, and to generate more momentum behind it, emphasizing the idea of turning words into action – i.e. that the consultations to date have resulted in plans for real action. For example, a MoU was signed on May 4th, 2006 between the Government and Private Sector Commission which will pave the way for the setting up of a National Competitiveness Council. Moreover, a new flagship program, the Support for Competitiveness Program, is now almost completely designed following the partnership process.
2. **Catalyzing Dialogue on Competitiveness Related Issues:** To motivate more people to take part in the national conversation on competitiveness issues by highlighting the positive recent developments that have taken place – e.g. the partnership approach adopted between the Government and private sector, the Guyana-led approach to crafting the National Competitiveness Strategy, the practical implications of some of the new competitiveness related programmes.
3. **Cementing Progress in Strengthening Public-Private Dialogue:** An opportunity to cement the progress made to date on strengthening public-private dialogue in Guyana (described by the PSC as “the most extensive consultation since the NDS.....setting the stage for national unity.”).
4. **Platform to Launch Specific Initiatives:** A platform to launch specific initiatives to enhance Guyana’s national competitiveness, e.g. the “Doing Business in Guyana” guide for investors; the IDB-funded Support for Competitiveness Programme, announcement of the Government and Private Sector Commission’s support for the establishment of the National Competitiveness Council.
5. **Expanding the National Conversation:** An opportunity to expand what His Excellency, President Jagdeo refers to as the “national conversation” about competitiveness issues by raising its public profile. This will hopefully encourage organized labour, Members of Parliament, and civil society representatives to join the Government and Private Sector in analysing competitiveness issues, and making recommendations for action into the future.
6. **Move to Further Action:** A leadership group was formed to follow-up on implementation of the initiatives developed at and prior to the Summit .

3. Commitment and Action: Nine Action Teams

Following the initial Summit plenary, a set of high-level public and private sector leaders from nine Action Teams worked with the help of facilitators to develop more than 50 Action Initiatives, to enhance and evolve the National Competitiveness Strategy in key areas.

Objectives and Selection of Action Areas

The overall objective of each session was to identify a set of practical steps that could be taken by key public and private sector leaders to turn the “words” of the National Competitiveness Strategy into “action,” and so meaningfully contribute to furthering the economic development and competitiveness of Guyana.

The nine areas were selected in the weeks leading up to the Summit on the basis of a number of consultative meetings with high-level public and private sector stakeholders. Areas were selected taking into account a multitude of different considerations. Among these considerations included:

- **Strengthening the National Competitiveness Strategy:** Some action areas, such as tapping into the resources of the Diaspora and creating brain gain, were selected mainly to help not only in mobilizing leaders to act now, but also to help improve on the policy recommendations of the National Competitiveness Strategy in those areas recognized as needing more work.
- **Visible Short Term Impact:** Areas such as the Cricket World Cup were selected because they represent a fixed definitive event with important short term opportunities attached. It was felt that if public and private sector leaders could be more rapidly mobilized towards preparing for the event and understanding the wide gambit of opportunities available, then this would help ensure that the benefit to Guyana from hosting the event is maximized. This is also true of the CSME.
- **Bringing Existing Strategic Plans to Life:** Some action areas such as tourism, non-traditional agriculture, aquaculture, and contract manufacturing/call centres, and access to finance were selected because they already have strong strategic plans in place and a vision for moving the sector/area forward. What the sessions were designed to do was to now mobilize public and private stakeholders in taking action towards delivering on the objectives of those strategic plans. It is only via personal commitments to action by committed leaders can strategic plans truly be expected to deliver the envisaged bottom line results in terms of jobs, exports, and investment for Guyana.
- **Cross-cutting Areas:** Areas such as Maximizing the Opportunities from CSME were chosen because they cut across many of the actions and recommendations of the NCS and action and commitment is now required in these areas on a multitude of different fronts to take advantage of the opportunities that the CSME is presenting for Guyana.

The public-private team chosen to lead each action area at the Summit were engaged in the weeks leading up to the Summit and each made personal commitments to present at the Summit and help drive participants towards making commitments to action.

4. Summary of Action Sessions

The following section provides a short summary of each action session. The detailed action initiatives developed by each team are outlined in Part II of the report.

Scoring Big from Cricket World Cup

1. Focus of the Action Team

With the coming of Cricket World Cup to Guyana in March 2007, Guyana has the opportunity to create a significantly boost the economy, strengthen trade and investment linkages, upgrade and promote tourism services, and present the Cricket world with a modern image of Guyana. The “Scoring Big from Cricket World Cup” Action Team is committed to identifying and implementing a wide range of action initiative that will help people and businesses of Guyana to become aware of, prepare for, and make the most of this important event.



2. Main Themes and Strategies Addressed

Minister Tony Xavier provided an update that Guyana is making good progress preparing for the Cup: the stadium, hotels, other facilities. It was pointed out that the legacy of Cricket World Cup in Guyana will remain long after the event, and that the skills that are acquired, facilities that are built and improved will be used to upgrade Guyana as a tourist attraction. Terry Holder pointed out that there is a sense of urgency that people must be aware of. This event will not be postponed; the first ball will be bowled on March 28, 2007.



The more prepared you are, the more likely you will make money. Guyana needs to take advantage of this opportunity to work on improving “tourism hospitality”, orientation to customer service, and other attributes. Karan Singh said that it is critical that we get to ACTION. He indicated that were many strategic areas for Guyanese businesses and people to take advantage of this opportunity, including



providing accommodations (e.g., bed & breakfast, tenting, hotels, all the way to cruise ships); transportation services; tour and travel within Georgetown and throughout the country; catering, restaurants, food booths; licensing and merchandizing Gifts/Souvenirs, Games and Leisure, Music, Selected Foods, Collectors Items, Apparel and Accessories, Art and Culture, Publications, Stationary, Homewares, Sporting); training; airport, access to finance.



3. Key Initiatives Identified

Initiative	Leaders of the Initiative
Guyana Festival of Arts & Crafts	Ms. Indra Gobind
ATMs for Guyana Visitors	Mr. John Tracy
Taking Back the Environment	Mr. Terry Holder
Guyana Handcraft Extravaganza	Ms. Avril Boston
A Safe and Secure Guyana: Sending Crime to Hell	Mr. Balraj Balram
Coordinating Transportation for World Cup	Ms. Linda Wray
New Image 2007	Mr. Grantly Culbard
Discover Guyana	Mr. Vijay Datadin

Switching to Plastic	Mr. Oscar Phillips, Mr. Standford Mr. Solomon, Mr. John Tracy
Courtesy a Must	Mr. Troy Pearson, Mr. Wilfred Brandsford, Ms. Mitra Devi Ali
The Guyana Flower Show 2007	Mr. Faria

4. Summary of Next Steps for Action Team

The “Scoring Big from Cricket World Cup” Action Team – under the leadership of Terry Holder, Minister Tony Xavier, and Karan Singh – will meet monthly to review and support progress on the action initiatives.



5. Leadership Team

Private	Public	Facilitators
Terry Holder (GMAS)	Min. Tony Xavier (Youth Culture Sport)	Dr. Eric Hansen (ETG)
Vic Insanly (GuyEnterprise)	Karan Singh (CWC Local Organizing Committee)	Felicia Forde (Mintic)
Norman McLean (GMAS)	Nikolaus Oudkerk (CWC LOC)	
William Bransford (Bransville Apts)		
Elisabeth Hughes (Craft Industry)		

Aquaculture: Making More from Your Investment



1. Focus of the Action Team

The Aquaculture Action Team focused on analyzing interventions to help the development of the nascent aquaculture sector. Interventions were focused on achieving sustainable exports by taking advantage of competitive advantages enjoyed by Guyana. The Aquaculture Action Team was largely driven by the leaders from the newly established Guyana Aquaculture Association, which has been meeting regularly since February 2006.

2. Main Themes and Strategies Addressed

- Growth of Tilapia and Shrimp for both commercial and small farmers
- Access to Finance
- Potential Markets
- Industry Information Networking
- Access to the Existing Processing, Marketing and Exporting Chain
- Build Upon Existing Aquaculture Research and Training Resources



3. Key Initiatives Identified

Initiative	Leaders of the Initiative
Securing Markets Now!!	D. Griffith (AAG)
Centralisation of Marketing and Export Information	AAG & GoInvest
Training for Commercial Aquaculture	Salim Azeez (New Line Aqua Farms)
Technology and Equipment Pool	Beni Sankar (AAG)
Processing Guidelines	H. Dharma (Trawlers Association)
Financial Reform	Beni Sankar (AAG)
Aquaponics Integration in Aquaculture	J. Paltoo (IAST)
Fish and Food For Profit	AAG and MoA

4. Summary of Next Steps for Action Team

- All further steps will be coordinated by the Aquaculture Association
- Prioritise and combine initiatives by relevance.
- Follow up Leaders of Key Initiatives to Insure Implementation

5. Leadership Team

Private	Public	Facilitators
Beni Sankar (GABA & AAG)	Tejnarine Geer (MoA)	Sean O'Leary (MoA)
Salim Azeez (New Line Aqua)	Mr. Profit (GoInvest)	
Sheik Rahman (Guyana Aqua Farms)	Mr. Seepersaud (MoA)	
Mr Carpin (East Coast Aquaculture)		
Dr. Chin (IPED)		
Mr. Mohees (Private)		

Call Centers and Contract Manufacturing: Developing Islands of Competitiveness



1. Focus of the Action Team

Accelerating the development of Call Centers and Contract Manufacturing in Guyana to deliver sustained economic growth, more jobs, more exports, and more investment for Guyana. Already Guyana is showing signs of strong competitiveness in call centers with the recent emergence and growth of four call centers. Similarly, contract manufacturing operations like the DenMor clothing manufacturer with over 1,000 employees and supplying major clothing companies such as Victoria Secrets, Russell Athletics, etc. have

strong promise for growth and expansion in Guyana, especially if specialized export processing zones can be established to reduce red tape and costs and provide attractive facilities to attract new investment.

2. Main Themes and Strategies Addressed

- the creation of information technology parks and export processing zones
- the creation of small and medium enterprises business incubators
- the establishment of a special “desk” at Customs to deal with manufacturers
- the processing of manufacturers Customs entries on-line and within 24 hours
- spare parts imported for the use of existing manufacturing equipment should be duty free
- the implementation of specialized “crash” courses at GTI, UG etc.
- enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Education’s Work Study Programme
- aggressively market Guyana as a destination for contract manufacturing and call centers
- acquire professional trainers to train local staff



3. Key Initiatives Identified

Initiative	Leaders of the Initiative
Establishment of a regional skill training programme with grant funding from the government	Mr. Dennis Morgan
Establishment of customs desk for Manufacturers	Mr. Andrew Thorne
The implementation of specialized “crash” courses at GTI, UG etc.	Mr. Dennis Morgan
The creation of information technology parks, export processing zones and SME incubators	Ms. Kathleen Whalen

4. Leadership Team

Private	Public	Facilitators
Mr. Dennis Morgan Mr. Andrew Thorne Ms. Kathleen Whalen	Mr. Geoff da Silva	Mr. Clinton Urling Ms. Neromini Fagu

Tapping the Resources of the Diaspora for Guyana's Development



1. Focus of the Action Team

Tapping the Resources of the Diaspora for Guyana's Development. Our global Diaspora is a treasure trove of investors, tourism boosters, leading edge knowledge/technology contributors, and ambassadors for Guyana. The Action team worked to develop practical ways to harvest these resources .

2. Main Themes and Strategies Addressed

Engaging the Diaspora to convey our new vision for Guyana – promoting a positive image of Guyana abroad;

- Involving the Diaspora in the promotion of trade, tourism and investment:
 - Tourism packages and promoting indigenous products
 - Establishment of joint Business Councils in key capitals
 - Regular dissemination of information relating to market and trade strategies
 - Creation of a Business Development Fund/Investment Fund to help develop local businesses
 - Harnessing contributions from remittances for development projects;
- Building a database of skills and expertise:
 - Mobilising Professional Associations
 - Locating the Diaspora using network approaches
- Providing the Diaspora with a satisfactory degree of confidence through transparency and accountability with regard to their contributions and encouraging them to invest in national development projects:
 - Investment bonds, for example, in infrastructure projects
 - Investments in community projects linking the economic with the social development helping to create employment
 - Formation of a High Level Committee to discuss firm proposals for structured involvement of the Diaspora in the national development process and to oversee their implementation
 - Formation of a Diaspora Unit comprising public and private sector representatives
- Convening Conferences on a regular basis

3. Key Initiatives Identified

Initiative	Leaders of the Initiative
Establishment of Joint Business Councils	Mr Gerry Gouveia
Mobilising Professional Associations	Dr Prem Misir
Establishment of a Joint Public/Private Sector High Level Committee to develop a strategy for a structured relationship with the Diaspora	Elisabeth Harper

4. Summary of Next Steps for Action Team

The Action Team met on May 10 to develop proposals to carry forward the abovementioned initiatives. Mr. Gerry Gouveia and Dr. Eric Hansen conducted a Guyana-Canada Diaspora Competitiveness Summit in Toronto on May 19, 2006, carrying forward the initiatives from the Presidential Summit to the Diaspora in Canada. A Memo of Understanding between the Guyana-Canada Chamber of Commerce and the Private Sector Commission was signed opening up the channels for further collaboration and linkages between Guyana and the Canadian Diaspora.



5. Leadership Team

Private	Public	Facilitators
Mr Gerry Gouveia	Dr Prem Misir	Ms Myan Baker
Mr Geoff Da Silva	Dr Nanda Gopaul	
	Mrs Elisabeth Harper	
	Mr Neil Persram	

Creating Brain Gain: Attracting New Skills and Retaining our Boldest and Brightest

1. Focus of the Action Team

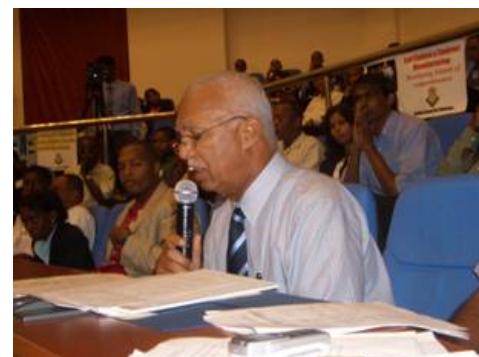
Guyana has been losing skills rapidly in recent years and is ranked second as the country suffering the highest level of skill loss in the region, after Suriname. An IMF study showed that 86% of degreeed Guyanese emigrate. The National Competitiveness Strategy offers an opportunity for the public and private sector to come up with strategies to address the human resources needs of Guyana in a tangible and meaningful way.

The Action Team was tasked with coming up with a set of initiatives which could over the next six months see the formation of policies to create a pool of skilled resources to develop Guyana and champions of these initiatives were to be identified.



2. Main Themes and Strategies Addressed

Minister of Education, Henry Jeffrey and businessman, Clifford Reis addressed the action team on the possible solutions they saw. Jeffrey spoke of the need for a labour market/manpower study which looks at the gap analysis between what are the skill requirements of strategic growth industries and gearing the education and technical and vocational systems to produce these. Reis spoke of the need for companies offering training to their staff to collaborate instead of compete for skills; for incentives to be provided to graduates and for international and regional initiatives to provide for the awarding of contracts to Guyanese businesses. Harnessing technology to make



use of the internet and established job sites to find skills, creating a virtual labour pool; changing immigration requirements to make citizenship easy and improving on CSME tract of a free movement of skills to attract skills from outside of the region; building pride in Guyanese to stop bad mouthing Guyana and to market the positive values of living in Guyana; exploring incentives to retain and attract skills, including the reinstitution of a market supplement for key and critical skills, and improving the entrepreneurial training programme by having established businessmen address certain modules were all explored.

3. Key Initiatives Identified

Initiative	Leaders of the Initiative
1. Skill Gap analysis to create a data base	Minister Dale Bisnauth
2. Immigration Law change	To be determined
3. Web based recruiting	Minister Henry Jeffrey
4. Short term retention programme	Mark Bynoe
5. Incentivising graduates	Mark Bynoe
6. Entrepreneurial training	Sattaur Gafoor

4. Summary of Next Steps for Action Team

The Action Team Leaders will meet to provide direction for initiative implementation.

5. Leadership Team

Private	Public	Facilitators
Clifford Reis Ramesh Dookhoo	Minister Henry Jeffrey	Gitanjali Singh Joanna Homer

Financing for Guyana's Future: Addressing the Liquidity Challenge

1. Focus of the Action Team

The action team addressed the problem of how to enable businesses to access finance at a reduced cost. It was agreed that there is excess liquidity in the banking system and the group addressed the problem of why this liquidity was not being channeled into the productive sectors.



2. Main Themes and Strategies Addressed

The discussion focused on three areas; the supply side – the willingness of the banking sector to lend, the demand side – the skills of businesses in accessing finance, and the regulatory environment. On this supply side, it was noted that banks willingness to lend and the terms they lend on are heavily influenced by the high levels of default in the past. Solutions must therefore be tailored to reducing the likelihood of default (better risk assessment via Credit Bureau, improving information disclosure by businesses under Companies Act) and making it easier for banks to collect in the event of default (improved commercial dispute resolution).

On the demand side, it was agreed that businesses have trouble in preparing the necessary information to access finance and these skills need improving through training and capacity building (improving business

plan skills). It was also agreed that businesses can develop through the use of equity finance, along side debt finance, and as such there was discussion of improving the stock market.

3. Key Initiatives Identified

Initiative	Leaders of the Initiative
Establish a Credit Bureau	Maria Van Beek (MinFin)
Improve Business Plan Skills	Lindel Harlequin (DFLSA)
Improve Commercial Dispute Resolution	Tonia Griffith (Citizens Bank)
Expansion of the Stock Market	Patrick Van Beek (CAFS)
Improve Companies Act Compliance	To be determined
Encourage Lending to Small Businesses	To be determined

4. Summary of Next Steps for Action Team

A team will be formed around each action initiative. Each team will meet separately to examine each of the issues in more detail and to agree on the steps necessary to improve the current position in Guyana. As far as possible these teams will commit their own time and resources to the solutions. However, where necessary the Government will also be called upon to provide financial backing and legislative change.



5. Leadership Team

Private	Public	Facilitators
R. K. Sharma (GBTI) Prakash Dhanrajh (DFL Trinidad) Lindel Harlequin (DFLSA) Patrick Van Beek (CAFS)	Lawrence Williams (BoG) Ramnarine Lal (BoG)	Ed Humphrey (MinFin) Derise Williams(MinTIC)

Maximising the Benefits of the CSME

1. Focus of the Action Team

The Action Team focussed its discussions on how best to take advantage of the opportunities that would be available to Guyanese businesspersons under the CSME and looked at ways to ensuring that the rights accorded were not restricted because of the presence of non-tariff barriers.



2. Main Themes and Strategies Addressed

The need was recognized for wider dissemination of information on the CSME to ensure that a wide-cross section of persons were made aware of the benefits of the CSME. The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation made a brief presentation as did the representative from the CARICOM Secretariat. There was recognition of the need to eliminate existing barriers to trade to ensure the smooth operation of the CSME. The President highlighted the possibility of the establishment of a Unit that would investigate breaches of existing treaty

arrangements (not limited to the CSME). The group thought there was a need for further development of and investment in the services sector while others supported the call for exploration of opportunities existing in bilateral agreements. Other action team members saw the opportunity to develop a line of branded Guyanese products and linking with other sectors, such as tourism, to distribute their line to tourists.

3. Key Initiatives Identified

Initiative	Leaders of the Initiative
Investing in the Services	Aneesha Rahaman-Allie/Mr. Patrick Walker
Removing the Barriers	
Gaining from Bilaterals	Alicia Reid/Colwyn King
Marketing Guyana	Joycelyn Dow

4. Summary of Next Steps for Action Team

The Action Team Leaders will meet to provide direction for initiative implementation.

5. Leadership Team

Private	Public	Facilitators
Joycelyn Dow Bal Persaud	Mr. Patrick Walker (CARICOM) Hon. Clement Rohee(MOFTIC)	Alicia Reid (USAID GTIS) Samuel Brathwaite (IDS)

Making the Five Year Tourism Development Plan Happen



1. Focus of the Action Team

With assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank, Guyana has prepared a 5 Year Tourism Development Plan to move the sector forward. The Action Team ‘Making the 5 Year Tourism Development Plan Happen’ deliberated, within the constraints of time to identify a few key areas which are essential to the implementation of the Plan and the development of the sector.

2. Main Themes and Strategies Addressed

Ms. Cathy Hughes, President of THAG gave a brief overview of the sector and indicated that as part of the development the 5 Year Plan there was the involvement of key stakeholders from the public and private sector. She identified 5 critical areas which are key to making the Plan happen, these being Security and Political Stability; Tourism Administration; Marketing and Public Relations; Accessibility; Financing and Investment and a



number of others including Product Development and Infrastructure, Standards and Training.

Minister Clinton Collymore delivered a guest presentation where he alluded to the need to have a clean environment for the development of tourism. He alluded to the needs for a change in attitudes towards the environment which will require efforts not only of the City Councils and NDCs but all Guyanese to make Guyana a tourist attraction.

Minister Nadir pointed out that over the last 5 years there has been an increase in visitor arrivals to Guyana and alluded to 2005 as the highest number of arrivals. He indicated that the 5 Year Tourism Development Plan built on the foundations laid by a number of other sector Plans and Strategies and was widely consulted on. The idea of the Plan was to double the current levels of tourism in 5 years by identifying concrete actions and costs for implementation.

3. Key Initiatives Identified

Initiative	Leaders of the Initiative
Tourism Development – Accessibility	Learie Barclay Carla James Chandra
Marketing and Public Relations	
Financing and Investment	GTA & THAG

4. Summary of Next Steps for Action Team

Time constraints did not allow for a discussion on Next Steps.

Guyana's Next Agricultural Frontier: Non-Traditional Agricultural Products

1. Focus of the Action Team

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2. Main Themes and Strategies Addressed

3. Key Initiatives Identified



Initiative	Leaders of the Initiative

4. Summary of Next Steps for Action Team



5. Lessons Learned for Next Year's Summit – Feedback

Based on feedback from forms collected at the Summit and from subsequent engagements with the Summit leadership, Table 1.1 represents a general review of the perspectives and comments on the Summit. These comments will be used as part of a cycle of continuous learning to improve future Summits.

Table 1.1:
General Review: Perspectives and Comments on Presidential Summit
held on May 8th 2006

What Worked (what to conserve)	What to Improve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of investors in various sectors • Attendance of private sector excellent • Greater participation than in other meetings • Commitment to doing things: this was new • Good attendance by public • Good attendance by small and medium farmers from across Guyana • Commitment by President to support a training initiative (Call Ctrs/Contract Mfg.) when he visited the break-out session very encouraging; builds trust in the partnership • Some people liked the rapid fire pace of the Action Team Meetings • Timing was adequate • Distilled central issues in Action Team sessions • Venue had a great effect – not at all the same as meetings at the Pegasus • Good to have labour involvement • “Rapid Fire” methodology was good • Learned that people could self-organize. • People can organize: generated feeling that there is “hope for us” (i.e. Guyana) • Summits cannot be left to chance (like 1999); the 2006 Summit was well organized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stick with the time allotted for speeches and reports • People not understanding fully what was expected of them, e.g., to do things, make commitments – maybe better preparation of participants and facilitators would help • Some people wanted more time • Schedule session for a whole day • Have fewer speeches – “considerable fluff” even with ½ day (concern that if the Summit were longer, more speeches would be given, ergo, more fluff) • Best to plan ahead for follow-up for future Summits to capture and amplify momentum • Get Action Teams going at least several months prior to the Summit (can get very positive results like Aquaculture) • There was a concern that people would leave after the Opening Plenary. This did not happen. This suggests that, with the “cream of the crop” present, it would be good to expand future Summits to include 2nd level (employees of companies, ministries, NGO’s, funders, etc.). It is assumed they do much of the work and would also have good ideas for action initiatives.

6. Next Steps

To support follow-up of the Summit Action Teams and initiatives, the *Summit Leadership Team* was formed on May 9th. The *Summit Leadership Team* includes the following members.

Summit Leadership Team

Beni Sankar	Tejnarine Geer
Gerry Gouveia	Jared Kissoon
Geoff Da Silva	Tamara Whelan
Prem Misir	Neromini Fagu
Elisabeth Harper	Neal Persaud
Dennis Morgan	Kamila Singh
Nizam Hassan	Edward Humphrey
Dennis Griffith	Sean O'Leary
Nick Godfrey	Dr. Eric Hansen
Dennis Griffith	Myan Baker

The Team agreed that for most initiatives to move forward there is no need to wait for an organization to take action on initiatives – the leaders engaged are sufficiently high level to move forward immediately. Indeed, many action teams have already made plans to meet regularly to move forward with their initiatives (e.g Diaspora and Aquaculture Groups). Nevertheless, the *Summit Leadership Team* agreed to help coordinate follow-up activities from the Summit and support Action Teams over the next 6 months to take next steps in strengthening their action initiatives and implementing them. It was agreed on the need for a scheduled, systematic getting together once a month to support this process to help with implementation, including:

- support those who stepped in to commit to an initiative by creating a “culture of committed leadership”
- maintain momentum
- capture and further develop some of the good ideas that enriched every Action Team Meeting at the Summit
- capture and share important ideas developed at the Summit with relevant Ministries, sectors, organizations, etc. to help create a sense of urgency

The *Summit Leadership Team* will meet monthly. The first meeting was scheduled for Tuesday May 23rd 9 -11am at the Red House (Cheddi Jagan Research Center). At this meeting, the Team reviewed this 2006 Presidential Summit Report, plans for the next progress report from Action Teams, discuss priority action initiatives for each Action Team, and determine how to support all initiative leaders, not just the priority ones.

As detailed in the NCS, permanent institutional mechanisms will be put in place over the next six months to support ongoing formulation and implementation of the NCS and provide Secretariat functions for future Summits via the setting up of the National Competitiveness Council and National Competitiveness Strategy Unit (NCSU). In the interim, the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce's Commerce Division with support from GoInvest and the PSC have agreed to serve as interim coordinating presence until permanent mechanisms can move into place.