



SHIPPING ASSOCIATION OF GUYANA

NEWSLETTER

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The Shipping Industry Forging New Frontiers



About Cover

Forging New Frontiers

The Oil and Gas Sector has had a significant impact on the shipping industry in Guyana and this has led to major investments being made to meet the demands. The Cover of this issue features the recently procured Mobile Crane by GYSBI, the developing Artificial Island at Vreed-en-Hoop in the Demerara River and Educational pursuit in the Maritime Sector.

This is a testimony of the investment being made by the SAG and its membership in Forging New Frontiers for the growth of the shipping industry.



Blue Shipping for a Green Economy

When observed from outer space, the predominant colours of our planet are blue and green. More than 70 per cent of our planet's surface is covered by seas and oceans and therefore – dressed in blue. 40% of the world's population live near coastal areas, more than 3 billion people utilize the oceans for their livelihood, and 80% of world trade is achieved using the seas. This is where the blue economy, that which considers the seas and oceans as drivers of growth and innovation for sustainable and profitable economic development, becomes relevant.

– **Chairman Mr. Philip Fernandes**



Our Mission

Through dynamic **LEADERSHIP** and **ADVOCACY**, SAG will actively represent the interests of its members, clients, stakeholders and all other operators at local, regional and international levels, ensuring the highest standards of efficiency to facilitate movement of imports and exports and maximize national economic growth.



S.A.G.

SHIPPING ASSOCIATION OF GUYANA

Secretary/Treasurer

Tel: 592 226 2169 | **Fax:** 592 226 9656

Email: saginc@networksgy.com

Lot 10-11 Lombard St., Werk-en-Rust,
Georgetown, Guyana, South America

Website: www.shipping.org.gy

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Chairman's Report

Mr. Philip Fernandes Report to SAG Dinner

December 2022

I am pleased to address you on the activities of the Shipping Association of Guyana (SAG) over the past year, also in keeping with our theme: "Blue Shipping for a Green Economy" because what we do impact the blue and green economies that are now so often mentioned. The Shipping Association of Guyana finds itself among this new environment and what a time in history. With the lofty promises of oil to a tiny nation of 750,000 people, many of whom have only known what is called a third world existence. However, it was not the promises of newfound wealth through Oil & Gas that dominated every conversation in recent times. Covid-19 managed to unexpectedly place a chokehold on the world and on the shipping industry in particular, as we saw huge downward spirals and upward swings in demand and supply during that difficult and challenging period.

Our industry, along with those of manufacturing and retail, will never be the same after Covid-19. The deadly pandemic exposed the weaknesses of our global supply chain, leaving produce rotting at the source, shipping lines perplexed at having cargo containers in the wrong locations, retailers faced longer lead times and higher finance cost for their businesses while consumers were stuck in their homes awaiting long overdue deliveries. Shipping rates skyrocketed as everyone clamored to get their cargo on board. With large traders having to resort to entering long-term contracts to ensure they secure bookings, the freight rates, though having dropped off a bit since the peak of the pandemic, are not likely to return to normalcy for quite some time.

Locally, concerns were raised by the Guyana Forestry Commission, which anticipated increases in the timber

trade, in relation to inadequate capacity for lumber exports. Those concerns emerged from the lack of suitable containers available for lumber exports. The GMSA also expressed concerns of their own that stemmed from the shortage of containers as well as cargo delays. These of course were largely due to the remaining challenges of the pandemic which saw carriers still struggling to clear backlogs of cargo and not having adequate equipment in the right locations.

FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The SAG is being guided by a new five-year Strategic Plan, as there is great need for the Association and the industry, to keep pace with anticipated development and demand of the new oil and gas industry, which has a heavy dependency on the maritime sector. In addition, to direct demands, the projected growth in GDP for the coming years is likely to result in increased cargo traffic which will place greater strain on the current resources of the industry.

Now the landscape has already begun to change with the advent of oil and gas as we witness the emergence of new business opportunities that have attracted investors and competitors from all parts of the world. Some of the issues identified in our current Plan seeks to address:

- Safety and security
- Trade facilitation
- The establishment of a Port Authority
- Improved dredging to increase capacity and enhance Cargo throughput
- The establishment of a deep-water harbour
- Improvement to the existing



Chairman – Mr. Philip Fernandes

Maritime legislation to make the ports and shipping industry more responsive to Regional and Global standards

- The reintroduction of the Coast Station that has been out of operation for approximately four decades, and
- The re-alignment of the Ports and Shipping Industry to capitalize on the benefits and opportunities of the Oil and Gas Industry.

This plan revives the proposal which was presented to the government several years ago, that included a possible partnership between the private stakeholders of the industry and the Central government in a Public Private Partnership.

It illustrates the need for the establishment of a modern container handling facility, in a suitable new location, in addition to the dredging and then follow-up maintenance of the channel. The massive undertaking by NRG Holdings to develop a shore base at the mouth of the Demerara river is a great compliment to our industry and Port Georgetown's ability to receive large cargo-handling vessels.

The dredging exercises that have

Chairman's Report - continued

already been carried out by NRG has already increased the depth of our channel and with the efforts by the government of Guyana to remove several long-standing wrecks has made it much safer.

Other initiatives like the new Demerara Harbour Bridge and the Linden/Lethem road have vital roles to play in the development of our local Maritime industry and they need to be developed as part of a holistic plan for the Port of Georgetown. With new opportunities from the emerging Oil & Gas industry, several of our SAG members, including Muneshwars Ltd., Gaico Construction and General Service, John Fernandes Ltd. and new member NRG Holdings along with several others have been making significant investments into property and equipment. We hope that other members are able to follow this lead and position themselves to be ready for likely changes that are still to come.

In addition to keeping abreast with local developments, SAG hopes to continue its collaboration with the Caribbean Shipping Association and the Caribbean Maritime Institute to explore avenues where our local Maritime personnel can gain access to industry-specific training.

TRAINING

This is of vital importance now as we anticipate an increase in demand for a knowledgeable labour force. Training has been one of the areas of focus for SAG over the years and we continue our efforts to facilitate training based on the needs of our members locally throughout the year and internationally when opportunities are presented through the CSA. SAG teamed up with the MATPAL Marine Institute this year to develop a comprehensive training programme that covers a wide range of areas such as Fire Prevention and Firefighting, Elementary First Aid, ISPS, Basic Safety, Port Facility and Ship Security Awareness to name a few. To date, three of those programmes have been successfully run off, well attended and well received by our members.

The Oil & Gas industry has increased our awareness of the need for safety training, not only for hazardous cargo but for new challenges such as the handling and storage of radioactive material and the possibility of oil spills. While we are all conscious of a spill 100 miles offshore in the oilfield, there are also those risks for accidents right here in the channel which can result in spills.

On the point of safety, there has been no single greater transformation than in this area in the Port. While we are still getting up to speed with the high standards required for the oil & gas industry, safety standards have increased by leaps and bounds and the level of consciousness is evident in all of our terminals and yards.

During this year, a Tri-Partite Committee comprising the Shipping Association of Guyana, the Maritime Administration Department (MARAD) and the Ministry of Public Works was established to synchronize our ideas. Discussions included Safety and Security, Dredging, Port Development, Pilotage, Maritime Legislation, Demerara Harbour Bridge and the Oil and Gas Sector. We also briefly touched on the lack of Anchorage Points in the Demerara Harbour, an issue which is in dire need of attention.

PORT AUTHORITY ACT

SAG welcomes the development of a Port Authority Act by the Government, as well as the Maritime Insurance and STCW regulations being addressed by MARAD. We also learnt that a Registrar of Ships and Registrar of Seafarers had been hired to ensure that Seafarers were not subject to exploitation. This is indeed a welcome move by the Government.

During the year also, SAG attended two Caribbean Shipping Association's Annual General Meetings, one held virtually during the pandemic season in January, while the other was an in-person event held in Puerto Rico which was well attended by Shipping Executives eager to return to normalcy. At the January meeting, Dr. Desmond Sears, a Trustee of SAG

was elected to serve on the General Council of the CSA for the period 2022 to 2023. Dr. Sears is extremely knowledgeable in Maritime affairs and we fully supported his appointment. SAG's capacity to host the CSA Annual General Meeting in 2023 came into question during the year due in large measure to a request made to us by that body.

After some rigorous research by our team, we thought that maybe we should plan for 2025 when our hotel industry would have been more than capable of accommodating the more than three hundred and fifty to four hundred delegates and their spouses expected to visit Guyana for that event.

Also worthy of mention is the fact that Ms. Alpha Wiggins, Special Envoy to Barbados' Prime Minister, paid a courtesy call on the Association, an opportunity which Ms. Wiggins used to learn more about the SAG, and to invite SAG to the Barbados Agricultural Festival, held earlier in the year.

SAG was also involved in discussions and negotiations with the Private Sector Commission where the proposed Single Window system was discussed. This solution has been discussed for a few years now and we are anxious to see it come to the point of implementation. It is our view that such a system is very much needed in Guyana, in order to modernize business and trade in and out of Guyana by improving its efficiency.

These are indeed exciting times. A time to embrace the hard work that presents itself, a time to be bold and brave but careful and measured. This is Guyana's time.

People working in the maritime industry are among the most extraordinary people. They are brave explorers, dreamers and pioneers. I am proud to have chaired a team of SAG members who are committed to our industry and to Guyana and I look forward with hope to discussing our country's success with them in the years to come.

Highlight of President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali's Remarks at SAG Dinner

Guyana's President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has called on members of the Shipping Association of Guyana (SAG) to work together to build the shipping industry which is on an upward trajectory as the country's economy expands.

Speaking at the 10th Annual Dinner of the SAG at the Guyana Pegasus, President Ali told attendees that as the local economy expands shipping, logistics and the maritime sectors will be key in capitalizing on the opportunities of the transformative industry.

"If we are to build an economy with small population and small capital formation we have to learn to work in consortium, we have to learn to come together. We are not competing against each other and this is an important decision businesses need to make in Guyana. Why is it we cannot sit together at the table to see whether maybe this is a model in which we can raise capital from our diaspora, from the local population, from local equity fund, and maybe look at the building of an indigenous national shipping company," President Ali said.

According to the President, there is need to quickly modernize the sector with new laws in keeping with international standards, ensure that the private sector and human resources are in a position to benefit from the spinoff through adequate training and certification.

President Ali said that plans are in place to make Guyana an important regional shipping hub.

"We cannot understand the importance or the strategy of developing the maritime sector in Guyana if we do not understand where the region is going and where

the world is going.

You hear from time to time that Guyana is strategically located geographically but we have never really taken advantage of it. We will use our geographic position to build a maritime sector, a shipping sector, a logistic sector, a trade sector, an economic zone that is second to none in Latin America and the Caribbean," he added.

The Head of State said this is the path the country must take because many international companies are already positioning themselves to make Guyana a manufacturing hub so the government is working with the shipping association and maritime and national companies to come up with a solution that is sustainable, viable and economically feasible.

President Ali said, the government has invested heavily in the removal of wreckage in the Demerara River and he called on the private sector to place an important role in the establishment of a Deep Water port. "We believe strongly that the private sector must play an important role in the establishment of any Deep Water port wherever its located. We have already reached out to many of the local players in putting together a consortium for us to work on the development of the Deep Water Port.



H.E. President Mohamed Irfaan Ali

For all the models that we have seen the government may have to play a role as a partner in capitalizing this transformative post. We are not building a Deep Water port for only one sector," President Ali emphasized. He said a deep water port that is deeply integrated with the transformation of the economy and the diversification of the economy, can create a massive logistic chain through Guyana.

The President noted that the Blue Economy is not only for the shipping industry. "It will be how our water ways and oceans are treated in the context of climate change. It will be adaptive measures that are important for the ocean to survive."

He said while Guyana is pursuing an Oil and Gas sector it is simultaneously pursuing a development trajectory

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali's Remarks - continued

and remains a leader in the carbon credit market.

"The Blue economy will bring opportunities and challenges and the shipping industry is a subset of

it that is indispensable to the global economy. The SAG is on the right track when it begins to do its own future development in the context of the Blue Economy. The Shipping Industry cannot be built outside of

the construct of the Blue Economy because you are now going to build an industry that is sustainable and functional in the economy 2030 and beyond," President Ali concluded.

GYSBI Commissions Mobile Crane "Commander-in-Chief" The first of its kind in Guyana

Guyana Shore Base Inc. (GYSBI), a member of the Shipping Association of Guyana has forged into new frontiers with the commissioning of its landmark new Mobile Crane "The Commander-in-Chief" and the expansion of its facilities at Houston, East Bank Demerara in February 2023.

The company has invested over US\$25 million over the past two years and the Mobile Crane, the first of its kind in Guyana was procured through a US\$4 million deal with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in October 2022.

The Commissioning ceremony was attended by Guyana's President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, government ministers and other dignitaries.

President Ali lauded the investment



President Mohamed Irfaan Ali joins Mr. Robin Muneshwer, Executive Director of GYSBI and other dignitaries during the cutting of the ribbon.



The expansive GYSBI Complex at Houston, E.B.D.

as part of the Local Content initiative and added that it will increase the benefits of the oil and gas sector.

Executive Director of GYSBI, Mr. Robin Muneshwer said the two new berths which is added to the other four berths already in operation is the height of a rapid expansion programme of the Company that

started operations in Guyana just over five years ago.

GYSBI has been providing services to ExxonMobil local subsidiary, Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited (EEPGL).



Mr. Komal Singh

SAG Vice Chairman Mr. Komal Singh now heads the Private Sector Commission

Mr. Komal Singh, Vice Chairman of the Shipping Association of Guyana was recently elected Chairman of the Private Sector Commission (PSC).

Mr. Singh, Managing Director of GAICO Construction and General Services Inc., was elected to serve for the period 2023-2024 following the PSC's Annual General Meeting held

on April 18th, 2023 at the Marriott Hotel.

The PSC is a non-profit organisation that represents the interests of the private sector in Guyana and it is made up of leading private sector organizations including manufacturers, service providers, retailers and exporters.

Dr. Sears appointed to Serve on the General Council of the Caribbean Shipping Association



Dr. Desmond Sears

Dr. Desmond Sears, a Trustee of Shipping Association of Guyana (SAG) was elected to serve on the General Council of the Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA) for the period 2022-2023.

Dr. Sears, a former Chairman of the SAG and Private Sector Commission (PSC) was described by current Chairman of the SAG, Mr. Philip Fernandes as extremely knowledgeable in maritime affairs and his appointment was fully supported by the local body.

The General Council headed by Mr. Marc Sampson is the CSA highest-level decision-making body with 14 members serving on the Council. Dr. Sears is a representative of Group A.

MATPAL Conducts Security Awareness training for SAG Members

Security threats posed to shipping and port facilities came into focus when the Shipping Association of Guyana (SAG) in collaboration with MATPAL Marine Institute hosted a one-day Port Facility and Shipping Security Awareness training programme for members of the SAG at the Institute's Training Centre in Lamaha Gardens, Georgetown.

The programme was declared open by Major (retd.) Dwain Nurse, Chief Port Security Officer of Maritime Administration Department (MARAD).

MARAD is the designated local authority for the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS). The ISPS code provides a framework through which ships and port facilities can cooperate to detect and deter acts which pose a threat to maritime security.

Major Nurse told participants that there are many serious threats that are prevalent but Cyber threat is one of the emerging risks to port security worldwide.

"Security risks are always new and emerging, the newest of them being Cyber threats. We must be aware of those emerging threats because, while some might be around for a while some of these threats might be new to your environment. It is our job to mitigate and minimize these dangers and threats," he added.

He encouraged the security officers to be aware of their environment, of their role and what is expected of them.

Mr. Philip Fernandes, Chairman of the SAG said the course is timely and important at this time of heightened focus on Guyana.



Major (Ret'd) Dwain Nurse

"The security of our shipping terminals is not only the concern of the businesses in the industry or the owners of cargo. It is of national importance that everyone plays a part to ensure the safety and integrity of our port facilities to uphold the reputation of our country as a safe and secure destination," Mr. Fernandes said.

Mr. Ian Hutson, Senior Lecturer of the MATAAL Marine Institute who conducted the training outlined the various threats posed to shipping and port facilities. These include terrorism, piracy, stowaway, drug trafficking, sabotage, civil unrest, kidnapping and human trafficking.

Mr. Andrew Astwood, Trustee of the SAG also made brief opening remarks at the programme.

The participants were Shane Kendell, Alton Sauers (Muneshwers Ltd.) Colin Henry (GNSC), Tracy Miller, Onika Duncan (John Fernandes Ltd.), Paul De Freitas, Enroy Bobb (NAMILCO), Amechi Chiawa (GNIC) and Vidianand Sandhu.

The Shipping Association of Guyana (SAG) is a non-governmental organization that serves as the advocate for the entire shipping industry in Guyana representing ship owners, shipping agents, terminal operators, cargo haulers and transporters (road, air and river).

SAG recognizes Women in the Shipping Industry



(From left – right) Jennifer Prashad, Lucia Desir, Dominique Van Sluytman, Glenis Hodge and Nalini Jumuna.

The Shipping Association of Guyana has honoured five industrious women who have made significant contributions to the work and development of the shipping industry in Guyana. The honourees are Mrs. Jennifer Prashad, Ms. Domonique Van Sluytman, Mrs. Glenis Hodge, Ms. Nalini Jumuna and Ms. Lucia Desir.

MRS. JENNIFER PRASHAD

Jennifer Prashad joined C&V Caribbean Shipping Ltd. in 1998 and has served for 24 years culminating in her role as Executive Director. She graduated with honours from both Queen's University in Canada with a degree in Economics and from the University of West Indies with her Master's Degree in Business. Her passion for continued learning has placed her on the doctoral path, where she is currently a candidate for graduation in 2024. For the past 18 years, she has served on the Board for United Women for Special Children.

Jennifer also served as an alternate to Mr. Richard Van Sluytman on the Managing Committee of the SAG, as well as on several Sub-Committees. She enjoys photography and traveling.

MS. DOMONIQUE VAN SLUYTMAN

Domonique Van Sluytman has been the Director of Guyana Freight Services Inc. since 2016.

She has followed in the footsteps of her Father. Her journey in the shipping industry started in 2001 as Operations Admin Assistant at C&V Caribbean Shipping Limited. In 2006 she became Office Manager of sister company Guyana Freight Services before becoming Director. Her passion for personal and professional development saw her obtaining her Masters in 2008 followed by several other certifications in her field. One of her greatest accomplishments would be building the company to where it is and representing major lines such as ECU Worldwide, CFL Agencies and numerous NVOCCs. Her 21-year journey in this industry has been one of true commitment, dedication and love.

MRS. GLENIS HODGE

Mrs. Glenis Hodge, in her capacity as Country Manager, a position she stills holds, spearheaded the start-up of Tropical Shipping in 2003, whose local agent is Paragon Shipping and Logistics. In 2013, in recognition of her resourcefulness, vision and outstanding

achievements as a Female Business Executive in the Guyana Maritime Industry, she received the Outstanding Business Executive Award from the Shipping Association of Guyana.

Glenis has 39 years of experience in this sector. She began her career at the Guyana National Shipping Corporation in 1993. Eleven years later she joined Tecmarine, an international shipping line which came to Guyana in 1994 and was later purchased by Tropical Shipping. This appointment broadened her horizon to include serving additional ports in the USA, Canada, the Caribbean and South America.

Having collaborated extensively with private sector businesses in Guyana, Glenis continues to increase the number of robust partnerships between Tropical Shipping and local companies. An astute Manager, she leads a Team of Agency and Support Staff in the promotion and management of the Company's unique service.

Mrs. Hodge also serves as a member of the Tropical Shipping (USA) Corporate Giving Committee, Director on the Board of the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association and on the

SAG recognizes Women in the Shipping Industry, continued

Management Committee of the Shipping Association of Guyana. She holds a Master's degree in Small and Medium Enterprise Management and a diploma in International Shipping and Logistics.

MS. NALINI JAMUNA

Ms. Nalini Jamuna started working with the DDL Group in August 2008 in the Finance Department as Assistant Accountant. She was later transferred to Demerara Shipping Company Limited, as an Accountant in a sister company within a group of companies in 2011. Her astute leadership was recognized by the Company and this resulted in her progressing to the level of General Manager, a position she has held since September 2016. Nalini is ACCA qualified. She is a mother of a four-year-

old son who occupies all of her available time when she is not at the DSCL Terminal. She is currently a member of the Management Committee of the Shipping Association of Guyana.

MS. LUCIA DESIR

A highly respected and successful Logistics Executive for over 41 years, Lucia founded D&J Shipping Service in 1988 and holds the position of Chairperson in the Company that specializes in freight forwarding, customs brokerage, and now full-service Logistics, serving dozens of clients in various industries.

Lucia began her journey with Alfred Sanmogan at Medas Shipping, gaining the ground roots of this complex

Industry, we all have grown to love. She has broad leadership and experience in Ocean, Origin Management, Consolidation, Air, Drayage, and freight forwarding, having gained a diploma from the Jamaica Maritime Institute. Through perseverance, she overcame various challenges of a male-dominated Industry and has been recognized for her work by organizations like the GMSA, Empretec, and UNDP in Geneva, Switzerland, among others. With the goal of seeing the development of more female-led entrepreneurs in Guyana, Lucia has founded the Little Girls, Big Dreams Foundation, a charitable group with which she, and other experienced Entrepreneurs, mentor young women in Guyana to help them along their entrepreneurial journey.

President of the Caribbean Maritime University visits Guyana



Professor Andrew Spencer (right) with Professor Paloma Mohamed Martin and Mr. Andrew Astwood.



Professor Andrew Spencer pays keen attention during the meeting with Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana Prof. Paloma Mohamed Martin also in attendance - SAG Trustee Mr. Andrew Astwood.

Professor Andrew Spencer, President of the Caribbean Maritime University visited Guyana from January 15-18, 2023 and held wide ranging discussions with key stakeholders in the shipping industry and educational institutions. Professor Spencer met with Mr. Philip Fernandes, Chairman and Executives of the Shipping Association of Guyana (SAG.)

He had discussions with Mr. Stephen Thomas, Director General of the Maritime Administration

Department (MARAD), Dr. Ivor English, Principal of Critchlow Labour College, as well as officials of the MATPAL Training Centre.

Professor Spencer also paid a courtesy call on Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana Professor Paloma Mohamed-Martin and was hosted at a Lunch Meeting by the Executives of the SAG.

Mr. Andrew Astwood, Trustee of the SAG acted as liaison during Professor Spencer's visit here.

Meanwhile, following the recent visit to Guyana by Professor Spencer, the University of Guyana and the Caribbean Maritime University signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under which programmes are to be offered to train employees in the maritime sector.

Both institutions also plan to exploit opportunities to provide policy guidelines on maritime matters for regional governments and businesses.

SAG Applauds MARAD on Acquisition of Pilot Vessel

The Shipping Association of Guyana (SAG) has applauded the Maritime Administration Department (MARAD) on the acquisition of its new pilot vessel **PB Arapaima** which was commissioned by His Excellency President Mohamed Irfaan Ali at the National Coast Guard Headquarters at Ruimveldt in April 2023.

The vessel was custom-built for MARAD by Ocea Shipbuilding Limited of France at a cost of \$535M. Ten persons were trained and certified in the operation of the boat.

Senior Minister of Public Works Hon. Bishop Juan Edghill, Minister within the Ministry of Public Works Hon. Mr. Deodat Indar joined other dignitaries at the commissioning ceremony of the vessel. The Head-of-State delivered the featured address at the ceremony.



The MV Arapaima being commissioned.



President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali and officials of MARAD during the Commissioning Ceremony.

SAG Awards GYSBI, JFL and GAICO

Guyana Shore Base Inc. (GYSBI), John Fernandes Limited and GAICO Construction and General Services Inc. were recognized for their exemplary contributions to the shipping industry at the Shipping Association of Guyana 10th Annual Dinner.

GYSBI was honoured for its continuous expansion and development to meet the growing needs of the maritime sector in the oil and gas industry.

John Fernandes Limited was acknowledged in recognition of its establishment of strategic partnership

in response to the demand of the shipping industry, while the award to GAICO Construction and General Services Inc. was in recognition of its innovativeness in response to the needs of the shipping industry.

SAG 10th Dinner Awards Photos



Andrew Astwood inducted to CSA's Silver Club



Mr. Andrew Astwood receives his Award at the CSA Event.

Trustee of the Shipping Association of Guyana, Mr. Andrew Astwood was formally inducted into the Caribbean Shipping Association's (CSA) prestigious Silver Club at the November 2022 Annual General Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The honour was in recognition of his outstanding service to the Shipping Industry in Guyana and the Caribbean for over 25 years. The Award is the highest given by the Caribbean Shipping Association, which has been the umbrella body for all agencies and organizations involved in the Maritime Industry in the region. Mr. Astwood is the fourth member of the Local Shipping Association to have achieved this distinction. Other distinguished members are Mr. Christopher Fernandes of John Fernandes Ltd, Mr. Clinton Williams of Guyana National Industrial Corporation (GNIC) and Dr. Desmond Sears of Delmur Shipping, all former Chairmen of the SAG.

Mr. Astwood is the former Managing Director of the Guyana National Shipping Corporation Ltd., where he served for forty-three (43) years up to the time of

his retirement in 2021. He is also a past Chairman of the Shipping Association of Guyana (SAG), having served in that capacity for the period 2006-2013, and represented the Association at several Local and International Conferences. He participated in several Workshops/Presentations with International Organizations (including CSA, IDB, US Coast Guard, World Bank) and led discussions on behalf of the Association and Guyana Shipping Industry to recommend, review and establish Policies in the Maritime Sector. He represented SAG at the Private Sector Commission and served on several sub- Committees and as Honorary Secretary for the Commission for the period 2010 – 2012.

Mr. Astwood continues to work extensively with stakeholders in the Maritime Sector in establishing strategies for Port Development and improvement of the Trade Facilitation process in Guyana and the Caribbean and is currently a serving member of Guyana's National Committee on Trade Facilitation and a member of the National Steering Committee on the Establishment of an Electronic Single Window aimed at simplifying trade procedures in Guyana.

SAG hosts follow-up Port Security Training



Lecturers Major (Ret'd) Dwain Nurse and Mr. Eion Oudkerk with participants at the Port Security Training Seminar.

During the month of June, the Shipping Association of Guyana (SAG) hosted a supplementary Port Security Training programme at its Secretariat.

The presenters were Major Dwain Nurse, Chief Port Security Officer of MARAD and Mr. Eion Oudkerk, Consultant.

Topics included Principles of the I.S.P.S Code, Requirements of the Code and Assessments, Port and Ship Security officers' involvement, Declaration of Security and its levels, Critical areas of Ports and Strategies, the necessity of drills and exercises and Monitoring the security at ports. The Participants were Mark Vigilance, Claude Chapman,

Kentis McPherson (GNSC), Nickel Gildharie, Onika Duncan, Ivor Reynolds (JFL), Nickon Pinkerton (GAC Logistics), Oswin Clarke, Andrew Macey, Andrew Collins (GNIC) and Darcel Harris (DST Guysuco).