

Meeting 14
Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

Date: Tuesday, 8th September 2009

Venue: Office of the President

Time: 14:00 hrs

Attendance:

Name	Institution
Shyam Nokta	Office of the President
Minister Robert Persaud	Ministry of Agriculture
Minister Pauline Sukhai	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
Andrew Bishop	Office of the President
Michael Brotherson	Office of the President
Leslyn Lowe	Office of the President
James Singh	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
Hilbertus Cort	Forestry Producers Association (FPA)
William Woolford	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
Carvil Duncan	Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG)
Indarjit Ramdass	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Pamela Mendonca	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG)
Jocelyn Dow	International Institute for Environmental Development (IIED)
Vanda Radzik	International Institute for Environmental Development (IIED)
Hymawattie Lagan	Women's Affairs Bureau
Alfred King	Youth Representative
David Singh	Conservation International (CI)
David James	Individual Capacity

Absent/Excused

Dr. Roger Luncheon	Office of the President	Excused
Dr. Dindyal Permaul	Ministry of Agriculture	Excused
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana	Excused
Mimi Fernandes	Guyana Organisation of Indigenous People	Excused
Ashton Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation	Excused
Gerry Gouveia	Private Sector Commission	Excused
Dr. Patrick Williams	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Excused
Gillian Burton	Guyana Trade Unions Congress	Absent
Sydney Allicock	North Rupununi District Development Board	Absent
Jean LaRose	Amerindian People's Association	Absent by Choice

1. Call To Order

Mr Shyam Nokta called the meeting to order.

2. Announcements and Correspondence

Mr. Nokta indicated that His Excellency would not be in attendance. He also indicated excuses from Dr. Dindyal Permaul, Mr. Joe Singh, Mr. Ashton Simon, Mr. Peter Persaud, Mr. Gerry Gouveia and Ms. Mimi Fernandes.

3. Minutes of Meeting 13

The following corrections were identified in the minutes.

- i. In the 1st line in Point 4.1 a typo was identified. The word should be “detail” instead of “details”.
- ii. In the 1st line in Point 4.3 the word “consultation” should be included before the word “organized”.
- iii. In the 1st line of point 6.3 the word “was” had to be replaced with “were” and the word “discussed” was replaced with “decided.”
- iv. In the 2nd line of point 6.4, the word “identified” after H.E was replaced with “suggested”.

The minutes were verified as true and correct by Mr. Alfred King and seconded by Ms. H. Lagan.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

- 4.1 Mr. Shyam Nokta briefed Minister Sukhai about the discussion on the need to have the MoAA, GFC, GGMC examine the Amerindian Act along with other legislation (mining and forestry) in relation to the role the regulatory agencies can play in the oversight of commercial activities on Amerindian lands. The MSSC reiterated the need to have the process move forward.
- 4.2 Enquiry was made as to whether there was any feedback from Mr. Duncan McQueen on the adjustments to the IIED report. Ms. Dow reported that the IIED team is following up on this with Mr. McQueen.
- 4.3 Mr. Nokta referred to an article in the Guyana Chronicle which reported on the event hosted by the Private Sector Commission where His Excellency was invited to address the participants. However, he noted that the Private Sector Commission as a body is yet to submit its written views on the LCDS.

5. Updates and Reports

- 5.1 Mr. Shyam Nokta informed the Committee that the OCC is still awaiting the report of the dialogue series conducted by CI/Iwokrama. Dr. David Singh informed the Committee the report has been sent by email. He informed that copies of Dr. Luncheon’s speech and His Excellency’s remarks at the Dialogue series will be made available to members on DVDs and suggested that these recordings can be placed on the OCC’s website.
- 5.2 Mr. Shyam Nokta informed that the awareness sessions organized by FITUG in Region 2 was successful. Mr. Carvil Duncan reported that Ms. Gitanjali Chandarpal who was the presenter at the session held in Anna Regina, did a good job and the consensus was that participants were able to understand what the LCDS is.

Other Updates

- 5.3 Mr. Shyam Nokta reported that the OCC is awaiting the comprehensive report on mining from the GGDMA.
- 5.4 Ms. Dow reported that the IIED report is almost finished and will shortly be circulated. She indicated that the report would be sent to His Excellency in his capacity as Chairman before it is circulated to the Committee.
- 5.5 Mr. Shyam Nokta reported that the team for the additional I-NGO Awareness Sessions is in Region 7 before moving to Region 8. The team will also attend the Opening of the Takutu Bridge in Region 9 on September 14.
- 5.6 Mr. Nokta reported that the website was hacked for the second time by unknown sources but it is now up and running again.

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 Mr. Nokta reported that the Drafting Committee for the LCDS met twice. Nine Thematic areas were agreed to by the Committee and team with lead persons were identified to review the feedback received. He indicated that the Minutes of the Drafting Committee meeting has been provided to MSSC Members. The Drafting Committee is expected to meet on Friday September 11th for further discussion.
- 6.2 Ms. Dow noted that Nutraceuticals were suggested as a new economic opportunity during one of the consultations and it was not mentioned in the reports. Mr. Nokta said he would look into the issue.

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded.

End of Minutes