**EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OUTREACH Linden (Region Ten)**

On Friday, March 17, the Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GYEITI) held an Education and Awareness Session in collaboration with the Linden Chamber of Industry, Commerce and Development. This session was held in the Chambers of the Linden Town Council.

The three-hour session was attended by 41 participants from 12 stakeholder groups who actively engaged the GYEITI panel with queries. Questions were adequately addressed by staff of GYEITI’s National Secretariat and Miss Loretta Fiedtkou, a Multi Stakeholder Group (MSG) member from Civil Society.

**The areas covered by the session are outlined below:**

1. What is EITI (Extractive Industries Transparent Initiative) versus GYEITI?

2. How is the process of GYEITI done?

3. Who is involved and what are their roles?

4. Why is GYEITI important?

5. What are the next steps?

6. Recap and feedback

**Mr. Renrick Ramgobin of the GYEITI National Secretariat elaborated on some key points as follows:**

* The role and functions of the EITI
* The importance of GYEITI
* The process - who are involved and their level of involvement
* Guyana’s first validation and the outcomes
* The need to empower stakeholders and the people of Guyana with the necessary information to help them understand the process, so that they can make informed decisions and understand what role they can play

**Some of the questions asked by the participants are outlined below:**

1. What does the failed validation grade mean?

2. Who is policing on the ground?

3. What sanctions can a country face due to the temporary suspension and failure to complete the report and what are the impacts on the private sector?

4. What is the timeframe for the completion of the report?

**Other Concerns:**

1. The interest of the private sector to be a member of the Multi-Stakeholder Group.

2. Clarity sought on verified and unverified data, and information and its impacts on the validation scores.

3. Unequal distribution of the low carbon credits, where the Indigenous communities were granted funds. It was highlighted that communities in Region Ten such as Kwakwani, Mautario, Ituni, etc., are not beneficiaries.

All questions were adequately addressed and the participants indicated an overall satisfaction of 89 percent with the session based on feedback from the evaluation.

<https://eiti.gy/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/GYEITI-Newsletter-Issue-1-1-1.pdf>

**EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OUTREACH Ministry of Natural Resources, Youths in Natural Resources**

On Wednesday, March 22, the GYEITI National Secretariat hosted the youths from the Ministry of Natural Resources’ Youth in Natural Resources Apprenticeship Programme. It was the first time the participants were given a holistic overview of the EITI and GYEITI. The interactive session was held at the Ministry’s building at 55 Main Street, Georgetown, and focused not only on transparency in the extractive sector but also the role of EITI and the work that Guyana is doing to support the implementation of the initiative.

The session commenced with welcome remarks by GYEITI Communications Officer, Mr. Johann Earle, followed by GYEITI National Coordinator, Dr. Prem Misir who gave a brief presentation on the background and the aims and objectives of the EITI. He also explained the process of data collection and the reporting requirements to which Guyana is bound.

Following Dr. Misir’s remarks, Mr. Earle delivered a presentation outlining the following:

• The history of EITI in Guyana

• The roles of the following:

* The EITI governing body o The MSG - and the committees
* The role of the Ministry of Natural Resources

• The legislative framework within the extractive sector

• A brief overview of the work of the National Secretariat

The presentations were well received by the participants and all questions were adequately answered.

<https://eiti.gy/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/GYEITI-Newsletter-Issue-1-1-1.pdf>

**EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OUTREACH Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI)**

On Tuesday, July 18, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) benefitted from an education and awareness engagement session on the EITI’s principles, requirements and standards. Participants were allowed to attend the session in-person or virtually via Zoom and Facebook. Presenting on behalf of the GYEITI National Secretariat, National Coordinator, Dr. Prem Misir set the context of the presentation within Guyana’s brief history with the EITI.

The following were outlined:

• The EITI was established following a conference in South Africa in 2002.

• Guyana’s EITI membership process began as early as 2010 during which a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Guyana and the EITI International Secretariat.

• Dr. Misir explained that the objective of EITI is to protect countries with an abundance of Natural Resources from the potential of the resource curse.

• He explained that there is a lot for the GYEITI to implement with the help of several external agencies, following the failed grade that Guyana received following the Validation which was done for the years 2017 to 2021.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Dr. Misir answered questions from members of the GCCI and provided clarifications in the following areas:

• Guyana’s suspension

• Environmental requirements

• The reconciliation of revenues

The session was well-received by all participants and all questions were adequately answered.

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