**EITI information sharing and stakeholder engagement session held at the University of Guyana**

The GYEITI held an engagement session with the University of Guyana on Tuesday July 16, 2024 at the Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus, Greater Georgetown.

In keeping with our 2013-2024 work plan, the Secretariat, along with the staff of the University of Guyana, coordinated the event over the course of several months, contingent on the availability of the students on campus.

The event began with a welcome and introduction by Public Affairs and Communications Officer Johann Earle, who gave an overview of the history of EITI and some of the key projects being undertaken in Guyana to ensure EITI compliance.

This was followed by opening remarks by Guyana EITI National Coordinator Dr. Prem Misir, who gave a brief overview of what EITI is, how it originated and why it was important for countries such as Guyana to implement its principles.

He also spoke of the role of Government in the process and stressed the need for greater compliance to the EITI Standard in the face of our upcoming second Validation. Dr. Misir made reference to some of the many initiatives that the Government has undertaken to ensure that there is transparency and accountability in all sectors of the economy including the extractive sectors.

Delivering the main presentation, Earle explained the structure of the EITI in terms of its governance and oversight. He also gave a brief history of EITI implementation in Guyana and a synopsis of ongoing work that is engaging the local EITI Secretariat and Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG).

His presentation touched on the benefits of EITI implementation for countries like Guyana; and the need for effective implementation of EITI in light of the poor score at Guyana’s first validation held in 2021.

following the end of all of the presentations, there was a vibrant question and answer session which yielded a number of interventions from both student body and faculty.

Both the Guyana EITI and the university committed to working together on a number of fronts to engender debate among the relevant stakeholders with regard to transparency within the extractive sectors and how they might play their part in this process.