



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UG, Guyana Marine Conservation Society Sign MoU to Boost Research and Public Awareness on Sustainable Environmental Practices



University of Guyana's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paloma Mohamed Martin (left) and Vice-Chairperson of the Guyana Marine Conservation Society (GMCS) Board of Directors, Dr. Arianne Harris signing the Memorandum of Understanding at UG's Education Lecture Theatre.

The University of Guyana (UG) and the Guyana Marine Conservation Society (GMCS), on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which paves the way for enhanced research and public education and awareness on environmental issues in Guyana. The MoU which aims to leverage joint resources and expertise to address key environmental challenges and promote sustainable practices was signed at a simple but significant ceremony at UG's Education Lecture Theatre (ELT), Turkeyen Campus in the presence of officials from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Lab Guyana, European Union, Iwokrama, British High Commission, Greater Guyana Initiative and staff and students of the University of Guyana among others.

The signing of the MoU marks a significant milestone towards enhancing local research efforts and environmental awareness in Guyana, particularly along the Barima-Mora Passage (BMP) coastline. The initiative is being supported by funding from IDB Lab.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paloma Mohamed Martin emphasised the pivotal role of UG in tackling environmental issues, highlighting the university's commitment to sustainable environmental practices, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and strategic actions in implementing policies to safeguard the environment.

The VC noted that the signing of the MoU is expected to broaden UG's research capacity thereby enabling students, especially those from the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences (FEES) and the Faculty of Natural Sciences (FNS) to engage in meaningful research endeavours aimed at preserving the planet and safeguarding human existence.

Chairperson of the GMCS Board of Directors, Dr. Marie Correia stressed the significance of the MoU in facilitating local research initiatives and promoting environmental awareness. She emphasised the alignment of this collaboration with the goals of World Environment Day, particularly in addressing land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience.

Speaking on behalf of the IDB in Guyana, Ms. Lorena Salazar highlighted the importance of preserving the Amazon rainforest and emphasised the need for comprehensive approaches to conservation. Ms. Salazar noted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration involving governments, private sectors, and civil society organisations to protect the Amazon's biodiversity and promote sustainable practices.

Along with the signing of the MoU, the GMCS hosted its Second Biannual Symposium which was held under the theme: “Foundations of Sustainability: The People and Resources of the Barima-Mora Passage”. The Symposium provided a platform for researchers to showcase their findings related to the Barima-Mora Passage. Topics ranged from floral species abundance and wildlife monitoring to community involvement in mangrove conservation and advances in mangrove monitoring technology. These presentations shed light on the ecological importance of the BMP and underscored the need for concerted efforts to preserve its ecosystems.

For more information on the Guyana Marine Conservation Society
<https://www.guyanamarineconservation.org/>

About The University of Guyana

The University of Guyana, the national University of Guyana, now in its 60th year, was founded in October 1963, three years before Guyana became independent. “UG” as it is fondly referred to offers over 160 distinct programmes in over 60 disciplines from Certificates, Diplomas, Associate Degrees, Bachelor’s Degrees, Master’s Degrees to Ph.D.’s. These programmes are offered online, face-to-face or in blended formats. UG delivers through a Guyana-based system across eight campuses. This includes its 35-year-old community-based Institute for Distance and Continuing Education (IDCE) and the second major campus at Tain in Berbice celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2025. The University of Guyana’s student population is over 11,000.

Through its 8 Faculties, including an accredited College of Medical Sciences, School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation and the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences which is ranked # 5 globally. “UG” has provided education, training and research for over 60,000 alumni over its 60-year history with significant national and global impact. Other faculties include the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, the Faculty of Natural Sciences, the College of Behavioural Sciences and Research, the Faculty of Education and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences. The University is also home to 10 Research Institutes including the internationally important Centre for Biodiversity, the Institute for Food and Nutrition Security, the Institute for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Institute for Energy Diplomacy, the Green Institute, the Institute for Human Resiliency, Strategic Security and the Future, and the International Centre for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. The mission of the University of Guyana is to discover, generate, disseminate and apply knowledge of the highest standard for the advancement of communities, the nation, and mankind within an atmosphere of academic freedom, transparent accountability, pragmatic innovation and universal respect.

UG's forward-thinking Blueprint 2040 is currently setting the course for the University's future design and institutional response to the changing needs of Guyana, the region and the world. UG is currently celebrating its 60th anniversary with a renewed focus on becoming the leading teaching and research University in Guyana. Visit UG at www.uog.edu.gy.

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