



Indian Diaspora Council

Indian Diaspora Council International

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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PRESS RELEASE

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INDIAN DIASPORA COUNCIL SUPPORTS DIGITAL ARCHIVING OF GUYANESE AND CARIBBEAN FESTIVALS, LITERATURE AND CULTURE

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) and its global affiliates commend the **University of Guyana (UG)** in hosting a Colloquium on the Development of the Digital Archive of Guyanese and Caribbean Festivals, Literature and Culture on March 27 and 28, 2024.

IDC places high priority on sustained efforts to preserve, digitize, and make accessible the historical records of history, literature, arts and culture from all available sources, particularly those records from the eras of slavery and indentured servitude to present day, and including First Peoples. These records reflecting the diverse influences of Africa, India, China, Portugal and the UK on Caribbean history and culture, and consistent with Guyana's 2024 budget and plans for a National Museum as the central repository of Guyana's history.

IDC supports safeguarding the rich and diverse heritage of the Caribbean. These records are not only historical artifacts but also serve as a testament to the cultural and social evolution of the nation, influenced by various arrival groups, including Africans, Indians, Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch, French the British.

In particular, preserving these records ensures that present and future generations, researchers, historians and artists can easily access authentic historical data, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of Guyana's unique cultural tapestry. This project further enhances better understanding and support for the Guyana's "ONE GUYANA" programmes.

IDC endorses UG's objectives "to introduce a spectrum of archives in Guyana containing materials related to Guyanese festivals, literature, and culture; and to explore expectations for the Digital Archive of Guyanese and Caribbean Festivals, Literature, and Culture". IDC concurs with UG's Librarian, Mrs. Gwyneth George, to "give prominence to the very topical issue of digitisation and digital libraries and information centres that is trending in today's world due to the impact of the application of modern information technology".

In addition, IDC applauds UG's vision of providing "a much-needed database for retrieving, preserving, and disseminating materials representative of these defining aspects of Guyanese and Caribbean heritage, creativity, aspiration, and innovation".

IDC congratulates the University of Guyana on these continuing efforts to preserve and promote Guyana's rich, vibrant and enduring history, and conveys its best wishes for continued progress.

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The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997 and headquartered in New York, USA, is an international non-profit, non-political and secular organization with global affiliates, chapters and membership in 21 countries, with the objective to embrace, engage, and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations, and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.