

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Council Members and CARILED discuss Local Economic Development



Georgetown, Guyana: Over 75 council members participated in this one day conference, speakers from Canada, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, and the Guyana Association of Municipalities (GAMs). The feature speaker was Councillor Michael Thompson of Scarborough Centre, Toronto, Canada who discussed the role of council

members in promoting local economic development through investments and local development projects. Round table discussions also took place on the role of central government, local government authorities, private sector and civil society groups in developing and sustaining local economic growth.

On July 21, 2014 Councillor Thompson visited the District of Mara, Region 6 and witnessed the formal commissioning of the Mara Agricultural Enhancement Project (MAEP) by the Honourable Norman Whittaker, Minister of Local Government and Regional Development. The project includes providing the Mara Farmers Association with a mini excavator, training in the use of the excavator, training in farm management techniques and business management as well as the establishment and strengthening of the Mara Farmers Association as a Non-Governmental Organization to effectively manage the project for sustainability and growth. The ceremony was well attended by members of the Mara Farmers Association and members of the Mara community.

Councillor Thompson is a volunteer with CARILED's implementing body, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and is also a member of the Program Steering Committee for CARILED. He is visiting the Caribbean to observe the progress of several local economic development initiatives since the launch of CARILED in 2012. Councillor Thompson, representatives from Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada and CARILED team members will also visit other sites that are being supported under the CARILED program before leaving for Trinidad and Tobago later this week.

About CARILED



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The Government of Canada funded Caribbean Local Economic Development Project (CARILED), in collaboration with the Government of Guyana, hosted a national seminar on local economic development for Local Council members today. CARILED is a six year project designed to develop business-friendly environments to support the growth of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) through enhanced capacities of local authorities to lead and support a growth strategy. The project is funded by the Government of Canada, through Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada, formerly CIDA. The project is also supported through in-kind contributions from municipalities in Canada, the Caribbean and other parts of the Commonwealth. For more information on CARILED, please contact cariled@fcm.ca or fkrimcariledgy@gmail.com.



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