

2026

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM

PRESENTED BY THE FALKLAND  
ISLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Prepared by:  
Falkland Islands  
Development  
Corporation  
(FIDC)

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# WELCOME MESSAGE



**What happens when oil arrives?** What industries get created when telecommunications improve? What conservation efforts must be in place? These are existential questions for the Falkland Islands, which sits on the precipice of great change.

## FUTURE OF FALKLANDS INDUSTRY

The Falkland Islands is poised to become an oil economy, the result of the forthcoming Sea Lion Island project that will sustain for the next 30-40 years, pumping billions into the economy. This massive economic shock will be commensurate with the improvement to telecommunications and opening up the economy to whole new industries previously impossible to operate in this part of the world.

Becoming a part of the most important global commodity market while improving the telecommunications sector means the Falkland Islands will have to prioritize its environment, and conservation efforts, in a manner it has yet to fully grasp.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2026

Building on the inaugural Economic Development Forum, which focused on traditional industries of agriculture (wool), maritime, and tourism, the second Economic Development Forum will look to future industries to come for the Falkland Islands.

FIDC will see the second Economic Development Forum bring together a group of experts to workshop alongside the entire Falkland Islands public and private sectors, and consider what the future holds for the Falkland Islands and the industries of oil / hydrocarbons, telecommunications, and environmental conservation / sustainability.

# 2026 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM

## DATE & LOCATION

### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Falkland Islands Chamber of Commerce for Chamber members

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Harbourlights Cinema & Events Room \*

## ADMISSION

### **Chamber of Commerce Day 1**

For Chamber members only

### **Economic Development Forum Day 2**

Free, and open to the public

Email confirmation required for Day 2 of Economic Development Forum at Harbour Lights Cinema due to limited seating

### **Workshops Days 3 - 5**

Free, and open to the public

*\* Food and beverages to be served (free) throughout the week*

# PROPOSED SCHEDULE



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2026

Monday 6th April 2026

### Day 1


Exclusive Chamber of Commerce Engagement  
Chamber of Commerce Building

**Attendance is reserved  
for businesses that are  
members of the  
Chamber of Commerce.**

**PRESENTED BY THE FALKLAND  
ISLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



17:00 - 17:30	Introduction from the Economic Development Forum Speakers
17:30 - 18:15	Q&A with Chamber of Commerce Membership
18:15 - 19:00	Network with the Economic Development Forum Speakers

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# PROPOSED SCHEDULE

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2026

Tuesday 7th April 2026

### Day 2

Economic Development Forum  
Harbour Lights Cinema

Attendance is free, and open to public.  
Events room at Harboursights will be used  
for lunch, smoko and tea throughout the  
day during the break periods.

9:00 - 9:30	FIDC Welcoming Remarks / Presentation
9:30 - 10:00	FIG State of the Economy
10:00 - 10:30	Break
10:30 - 12:00	Kathy Smith, President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 14:30	Genève Phillip-Durham, Principal Consultant of R.E.A.C.H. Global Consulting
14:30 - 15:00	Break
15:00 - 16:30	Targ Patience, Chair of the Gibraltar Association for New Technologies
16:30 - 17:30	Audience / Speaker Meet & Greet

**Email confirmation sent to [communications@fidc.co.fk](mailto:communications@fidc.co.fk) is required for Day 2 of Economic Development Forum at Harbour Lights Cinema due to limited seating**

# PROPOSED SCHEDULE



## WORKSHOPS

LOCATION: HARBOURLIGHTS CINEMA EVENTS ROOM

Workshop attendance is free, and open to public. Each table during workshop should include a designated FIG representative, Member of the Legislative Assembly, member of FIDC, and representatives from the associative bodies (Chamber of Commerce, FIFCA, FITA, RBA).

**Day 3** Wednesday 8th April 2026, Conservation / Sustainability Workshop  
Led by Genève Phillip-Durham, Principal Consultant of R.E.A.C.H. Global Consulting

9:30 - 10:00	Welcome Remarks / Scene Setting
10:00 - 12:00	Conservation / Sustainability Workshop
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch

**Day 4** Thursday 9th April 2026, Telecommunications Workshop  
Led by Targ Patience, Chair of the Gibraltar Association for New Technologies

9:30 - 10:00	Welcome Remarks / Scene Setting
10:00 - 12:00	Telecommunications Workshop
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch

**Day 5** Friday 10th April 2026, Oil / Hydrocarbons Workshop  
Led by Kathy Smith, President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry

9:30 - 10:00	Welcome Remarks / Scene Setting
10:00 - 12:00	Oil / Hydrocarbons Workshop
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch

# ABOUT FALKLAND ISLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**Representing the interests of our business community to drive development of the Falkland Islands economy and growing private sector.**

We act as a balance to Governmental departments and policies, expressing views and opinions that would otherwise not be heard, in order to ensure that our private sector can continue to flourish.


Since its formation in May 1993 the Falkland Islands Chamber of Commerce has been passionate about ensuring Falkland Islands businesses have a voice within the local and worldwide business community. Areas where the Chamber has had an impact include:

1. Joint working with the Falkland Islands Government on updating the revised 2017 Economic Development Strategy which was due to expire in 2025
2. Creation and operation of the DHL courier service.
3. The Banking review and subsequent consequences.
4. Code of practice for procurement by the oil industry, and improvements to FIG procurement policy


In supporting the Economic Development Forum as main sponsor, the Chamber of Commerce looks forward to encouraging open dialogue around new and developing areas of activity and to seeing increased connections between the Falkland Islands and international partners.

Whether you have an established business, a newly started enterprise in the Falklands, or are seeking to do business here, let us assist you in meeting the right people and obtaining the information you need to develop your business into the future.

**We listen to our members on issues which affect their business and take action. We want you to have a voice.**

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# ABOUT FALKLAND ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (FIDC)



As the national economic development agency for the Falkland Islands, the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) drives sustainable economic growth and assists in the creation of new jobs and opportunities, providing various forms of financial support and business assistance to the Falkland's business community.

FIDC is one of the principal partners delivering the Economic, Rural and Tourism Development Strategies across the Falkland Islands, and the lead for the Innovation Strategy.

FIDC operates as a quasi-autonomous government-funded body with an annual budget of approximately £1m per annum.



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# MEET THE TEAM



**Zachary Franklin**  
Managing Director



**Louise Ellis**  
Deputy Managing  
Director



**Sam Cockwell**  
Strategic Projects  
Manager



**Janet McLeod**  
Financial Controller



**Kelly Stevens**  
Financial  
Accountant



**Susana Faria**  
Personal Assistant  
to the Managing  
Director



**Clare Guest**  
Business  
Development  
Officer



**James Marsh**  
Business  
Development  
Officer



**Jane Clarke**  
Marketing &  
Communications  
Officer



**Lane Mckay**  
Marketing &  
Communications  
Assistant



**Amy Thorsen**  
Asset &  
Administrative  
Co-ordinator

# WHY A FORUM?

FIDC works with the Falkland Islands Government (FIG), the business sector, and other partners to promote sustainable and diversified economic growth. It does this by (1) horizon scanning and robust analysis of the business climate and new opportunities, (2) initiating major economic developments that benefit the Falkland Islands, and (3) helping new and smaller businesses to develop and grow.

FIDC is mandated to host an open economic development forum in conjunction with the various other business associations – i.e., Chamber of Commerce and Rural Business Association – and relevant FIG directorates to discuss economic themes and initiatives that would be both “forward thinking” and relevant to the Falkland Islands.



# PROPOSED SPEAKERS

## KATHY SMITH

### **President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

Mrs. Kathy Smith is the first woman President Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI). She previously served as the Senior Vice President, Secretary, and she was the Chairperson of the Chamber's Petroleum Committee as well as the Human Resource Management and Capacity Building Committee. Mrs. Smith is the Managing Director of Dynotech Construction Chemicals.

In 2015 ExxonMobil discovered oil reserves potentially worth more than \$100bn (£80bn) – a find big enough to economically transform the South American country of fewer than one (1) million people. Since then, Guyana has emerged as a significant contributor to growth in the global supply of crude oil, making it the third-fastest growing non-OPEC producing country. In 2022, Guyana's GDP grew by 62 percent (%), the highest real GDP growth in the world that year.

Mrs Smith will be able to offer insights into the rapid transformation of her country's economy and the lessons that the Falklands can learn in anticipation of the development of the Sea Lion project.



# PROPOSED SPEAKERS

## GENÈVE PHILLIP-DURHAM

### **Principal Consultant of R.E.A.C.H. Global Consulting**

Dr. Genève Phillip-Durham is a political scientist, policy consultant, and academic leader specialising in governance, institutional capacity-building, and sustainable development in small island contexts. She holds a BSc in Public Sector Management, a Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations, an MSc in Global Studies, and a PhD in International Relations.

With more than 15 years of experience across Caribbean and international policy spaces, she has held senior academic, administrative, and advisory roles in the public, private, and multilateral sectors. She is Principal Consultant of R.E.A.C.H. Global Consulting, advising on policy, governance, institutional strengthening, and development strategy.

Dr. Phillip-Durham has served as Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University College of the Cayman Islands, Dean of Academics at the University of St. Martin, and Lecturer in International Relations at the University of the West Indies. She has also consulted for organisations including UN Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

A recognised voice in Caribbean public policy and island studies, she serves as Associate Editor of the Island Studies Journal and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Island and Marine Studies, and has published widely on governance, climate resilience, economic diversification, artificial intelligence, and development pathways for small island developing states.



# PROPOSED SPEAKERS

## TARG PATIENCE

### **Chair of the Gibraltar Association for New Technologies**

Targ Patience is the current Chair of the Gibraltar Association for New Technologies (GANT), which aims to foster cooperation between members of the association, and stimulate the interest and participation of the new technology industries, including Gibraltar's blockchain, financial technologies (fintech), and distributed ledger technologies.

Mr Patience currently sits on the Gibraltar Financial Services Resolution and Compensation Committee (FSRCC).

Additionally, he is a regulatory specialist and expert, having previously led a compliance and regulatory consultancy company in London focused on assisting financial institutions.

Mr. Patience is expert on how technological advances play transformational roles for societies, especially U.K. Overseas Territories.



# SPONSORSHIP CONTACT



## FALKLAND ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (FIDC)



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