

The holiday season is here! This year, we are especially excited to welcome the holiday lights and the joy of spending time with friends and family that comes with it! We all had a great deal of hope riding into 2021 and though it is certainly not another 2020, we have had our fair share of challenges as any organisation. This against the backdrop of a pandemic which, although manageable this year, simply refuses to peter out. However, we have thrived, buoyed by our exceptional team, our Executive Council, and the cooperation of our member companies and stakeholders. It is now time to let our hair down, and I believe this holiday season is the perfect time for everyone to soak up some cheer and make merry.

As a Chamber, we end the year on a high note and look to the coming year with optimism. We have been inspired and appreciative of the willingness of our member companies to adapt to the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has become part of our lives. I sincerely hope we have passed the worst and look forward to a lot more progress in eradicating the disease entirely.

### **Leading with Thought Leadership**

We listened and levelled up our thought leadership efforts this year, successfully delivering webinars under our “Quarterly Tax Dialogue Series”, “Mandatory Regulatory Compliance for Businesses”, “Doing Business with Ghana”, and West Africa Trade & Opportunities Summit. We also partnered with our members and other stakeholders to deliver webinars on health, project finance, insurance, press freedom, estate planning, land acquisition in Ghana, local content regulation, and debt restructuring. Our partnership with the UK’s Department of International Trade (DIT) continued this year with the Business Support Webinar Series, leading to impactful discussions on opportunities in Ghana’s education, digitalisation, and infrastructure sectors.

I use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to PwC, the Ministry of Finance, the Ghana Revenue Authority, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), the Registrar General’s Department, LMI Holdings, Minkah – Premo & Co., WTS Nobisfields, Prudential Life Insurance, Cal Bank, the Ghana Lands Commission, National Petroleum Authority, the Ministry of Energy, JLD & MB Legal Consultancy, Ernst & Young, KPMG, People’s Pension Trust, FSB Law Consult, the Data Protection Commission, Standard Bank Jersey, the Ghana Free Zones Authority, Absa Bank Ghana, GARIA, the Institute of Financial & Economic Journalists, and Vivo Energy Ghana for helping us share relevant and timely knowledge with our members and the public at large.

### **Physical Activities**

Most of our activities for 2021 were held virtually with a few physical events occurring in the last quarter as travel bans and restrictions on social gatherings were lifted. It was exciting to personally connect with many of you at the SDI/Mövenpick/Diageo Whisky Masterclass and Goldkey Cocktail Properties Networking events. We also organised our first trade mission this year to the African Financial Services International Conference, and GIPC’s Ghana Diaspora Investment Meeting. Our sponsors and partners: The British High Commission here in Accra through DIT, the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), GIPC, Vodafone Ghana, Fidelity Bank, Bank of Africa Ghana, Contracta Construction UK, and Guinness Ghana Plc demonstrated great faith in our capabilities and I can say with a great deal of pride that we delivered beyond their expectations. Thank you for your support! It gets better from here and I can assure you that there will be more of these events in the coming year.

## **Business Impact Survey Report**

Our 2021 Business Climate Survey report was published successfully **early** this year, with the aim to assess the business environment as perceived by UKGCC member companies and the larger business community in Ghana. This was disseminated widely by our media partners. May I also add that the survey questions for our 2022 Ghana Business Climate Survey is out. I entreat you to participate as the results of the survey shapes our advocacy work in the short and medium-term, ensuring that the chamber makes fact - based contributions to Government policies and legislation that culminate in creating a more conducive business environment in Ghana. You may find the questionnaire on the homepage of our [website](#).

## **Support from our Local & International Network**

I would like to acknowledge those whose support helped shape our business and kept the Chamber afloat this year, namely the Ghana High Commission in the UK, the British High Commission, Accra, the AM Group, the UK-Liberia Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Trade & Industry, the Association of Ghana Industries, the Ghana Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and the Ghana Union of Traders Association.

I also extend my appreciation to our media stakeholders, especially the Multimedia Group, The Graphic Communications Group and numerous media houses (Citi FM, GNA, Daily Guide, Business24, B&FT and countless others who kept us in the public's eye. The UKGCC wishes you peace, joy and prosperity throughout the coming year. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to continuing our work with you in the years to come.

As always, our membership of the international network of British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) continued to be an invaluable resource this year and we must thank the BCC team, as well as all the other teams from the Global network for supporting our work.

## **Immense Gratitude**

To all of our Members, **YOU** are our raison d'être- the most important reason for the Chamber's continued existence. We say "Ayekoo" to you for your invaluable support and patronage. You kept faith with us and supported our work. We do not take our commitment to each of you, individually and collectively, lightly.

Our Patrons, HE Harriet Thompson and HE Papa Owusu Ankomah, together with our Executive Council and UK Advisory Board members have supported our work immensely, providing the leadership and the backbone the Chamber needs to survive year in and year out and for that, we are grateful.

The UKGCC team has been amazing- proving to be nothing short of alchemists! They went above and beyond to assist companies maintain a sense of connection through virtual and physical interactions, and in so many other ways, so our members did not have to feel alone as they focused on building back better and stronger after the devastation of the pandemic.

## **New Opportunities; Renewed Focus**

The future may be fickle, but it is certain. The best we can do, as hopeless optimists, is to plan thoroughly for it with a healthy dose of realism. Therefore, I welcome our new members, who have hitched their fortunes with ours, as they prepare for the future. Anything is possible if you have the right support, after all. So, as we offer to our already existing members, we look

forward to a long-lasting relationship that delivers value to both our organisations and commit to deliver on all of our promises to you in 2022 and beyond.

We cannot stop the future, neither can we rewind the past. We can only learn from the past, live fully in the present, and hope for the best. Compliments of the season to you, therefore, as we live in this moment, and I hope for nothing but exciting times in the year ahead. We urge all to exercise caution and adhere to the public-health measures proposed by the Government during the festive season.

Cheers to 2022! Wishing you a Happy Holiday season!