



3 State-of-the-Art Computer Training Centers

GUYANA POLICE FORCE SECURES HUGE DONATION

From Jay Sobhraj



- ▼ Felix Austin Training College
Berbice
- ▼ Richard Faikal Training Center
Essequibo Coast
- ▼ Eve Leary Training Center
Demerara



**CRIME IS A GLOBAL SCOURGE.
I'LL DO MY PART TO FIGHT THIS BATTLE.**
....Jay Sobhraj, Senior Vice-President, ZARA Realty Inc.,

A FIRST IN BERBICE



Thanks: Minister Rohee

JAY Sobhraj and his donor team, consisting of his wife Sylvia Sobhraj, New York based IT consultant Nardeo (Naresh) Singh, and Sravan Budhu, worked around the clock. They overcame all hurdles to complete the state of the art computer video training centre at the Felix Austin Police Training College in Adventure, Berbice just in time for the official launching. At the official opening on Sat., June 2nd, 2012, it was crowded by senior ranks of the Guyana Police Force, the business community, community leaders, teachers, and

Written By

Nardeo Singh



students. Mr. Sobraj considers himself a coward for leaving Guyana in early 1960, but has now returned to pay his debt. He mentioned that so far, the Zara group has completed a total of ten state of the art computer centres, four in New York and six in Guyana. The group has also established three state of the art computerized libraries. The Zara principals, George Subhraj, Ken Subhraj and Jay Sobhraj have been making many charitable contributions in health care and education for over 20 years, starting with the Guyana Watch group and now their own personal involvement. Mr. Jay Sobhraj promises to continue doing this in other needy communities.

Jay is contemplating teaming up again with the Guyana Police Force for a similar center on the Essequibo

Scenes at the Commissioning: Top, Min. of Home Affairs, Clement Rohee; The new units and a plaque for the donors

AT FELIX AUSTIN

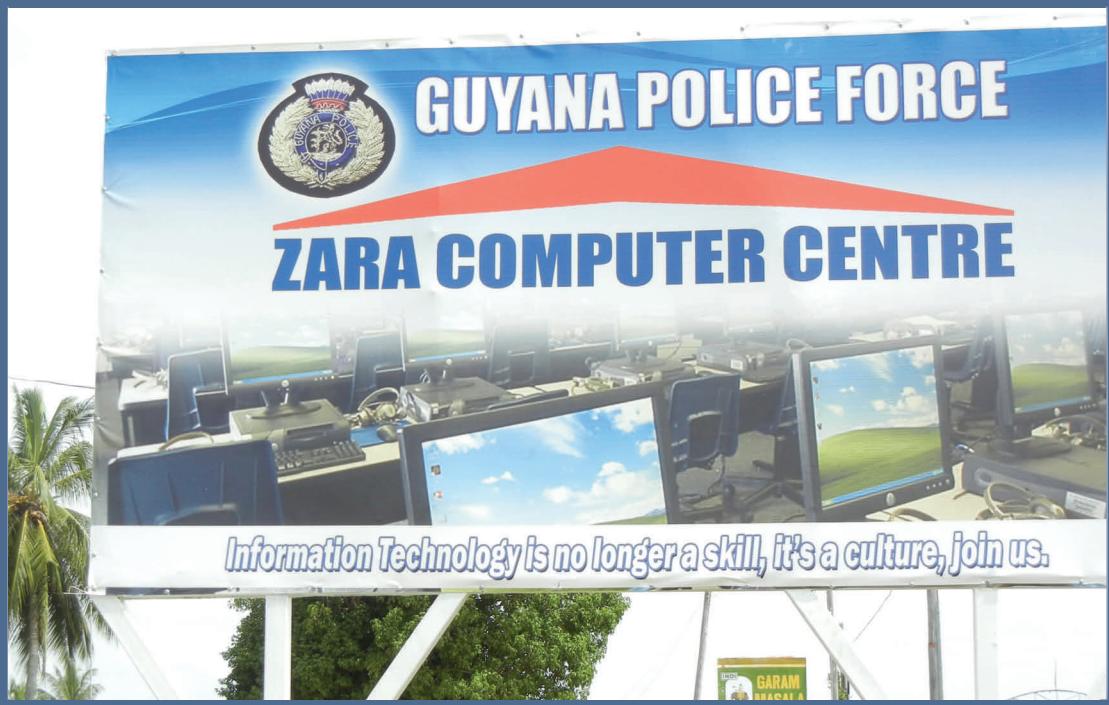
county of Guyana. He also says, "We have done the easy part of the job that is to build the centre. The hardest part is to make full use of it." He urged the police force to hold classes seven days a week. IT computer consultant Nardeo (Naresh) Singh said, "Technology is available to everyone, good and bad people. But if the Guyana Police Force doesn't have access to the technology, in time to come, the criminals will work smart not hard and the police will work hard not smart. Who will win the war on crime?"

The Zara donor team is assisting the police force in accessing the cutting edge technology needed to prevent crimes as opposed to solving them. He also mentioned two years ago, when the team opened a computer centre at the Central Islamic organization in Georgetown, that their motto to the Guyanese nation was, "work smart, not hard."

Here at the opening of the GPF-Zara computer centre, the motto is "information technology is not a it's a culture. Join us," simply because a culture is a way of life. It has no age barriers. He further explained how a 60 year old woman from one of their computer training centres was able to use Google to find out that a medication she was using was able to use Google to find out that a medication she was using was causing severe muscle pain, as such whenever taking the medication, she would have to follow it by taking pain



Crime fighter: Jay Sobhraj



The students volunteered to install and configure the computers in the centre. Top, Jay Sobhraj, SVP Zara Realty.

GPF CRIME FIGHTING



Comm. Leroy Brummel

capsules. When the doctor asked about how she found this out, she replied, "I Googled it."

When asked, after the opening ceremony, his opinion on Government of Guyana One Laptop Per Family(OLPF) programme, Mr. Singh said, "GOG should halt the distribution of the netbooks until better and more effective and state of the art computer training centres are in place regionally to train the recipients." He also recommends a public private partnership be

part of the deployment process to create jobs for unemployed adults. If not, the project could fail miserably and it will cause a severe negative effect on the nation and the economy. If this happens, it will be too late and costly to correct the failure and other neighboring English speaking countries will take away the outsourcing opportunities available to Guyana.



Cadets and Officers at the opening



He believes the GOG should use some of the money to build regional career development centres, which can include a computer video/audio centre similar to the Guyana Police Force-Zara computer Centre. He also thinks that the program should be called ONBPF (One Netbook Per Family) not One Laptop Per Family because they are giving away netbook computers as opposed to laptop or notebook computers. There is a big difference. A notebook computer has more features than a netbook, such as a CD-

Members of the GPF. Top, Commissioner Leroy Brummel.

GETS MASSIVE BOOST

Rom drive.

Following Mr. Singh's speech was the Crime Chief or the currently promoted Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Seelall Persaud. He applauded the donor team and said, "When they visited the Police training college, Jay pulled out a sheet of paper in no time and drafted out the layout of the lab. In 48 hours, he received an electrical layout of the centre." What he forgot to mention is he also received a Memorandum Of Understanding, along with a rendering drawing of the centre. Mr. Persaud continued by explaining some of the program's plan for the centre, including training for the various surrounding communities, students, and adults at no cost to them. This was one of the requests in the MOU by the donors. He also said the computer centre will help close the gap between the police force and the communities. The Crime Chief also spoke

about the center providing training take full advantage of the donation.

The final speaker was the honorable Minister of Home Affairs, Clement Rohee. He publicly announced the promotion of Acting Commissioner Brumell to Deputy Commissioner and Crime Chief Persaud to the Deputy Commissioner. The minister spoke about the various cyber crimes training programs that the department will go through and also said that the



Crime Boss;Seelall Persaud



Senior members of the commissioning ceremony

Top, Crime Chief Seelall Persaud. Unveiling of Plaque

MINISTER ROHEE



Good job: Singh and Jay

government has made a substantial investment in the One Laptop Per Family (OLPF) program as well as other IT initiatives.

The program continued with the presentation of certifications of appreciation awards to the IT students at Hindu College by the Police Commissioner and the Crime Chief. The students volunteered to install and configure the computers in the centre. The students were chosen from a group of 20

students that were in a special one week training program hosted by Mr. Singh and their IT instructor, Sham Pachant. The donors also received special gifts from the Director of Food for the Poor, Mr. Alex Foster. Mr. Foster feels that this is the most modern computer centre he has seen in the Berbice County and it is a good model to adopt. He took a Japanese donor agency representative to visit the centre and she was impressed. There was also a special commendation awarded to Mr. Singh for a job well done.



Mr. Budhu in foreground with new computers



Scenes at the opening



Mr. Persaud hands over certificates to volunteers

Finally, there was the unveiling of the plaque with the donor's names carved in marble. This is another way the GPF showed their appreciation to the donors. Mr. Sobhraj and his wife's names were inscribed followed by Zara Realty Holding, then Sravan Budhu. Mr. Singh chose to make his contribution in honor of his children's grandfather the late Cyril Naaw.

COMMENDS JAY & TEAM

Bridgemohan who was proud resident of Ankaville, Port Mourant, Berbice. The last two donor's names were Runicka Gurbatri Singh, Nardeo's spouse and Mr. Noor Mohamed, the local project manager for the computer centre, acting on behalf of the Zara donor team. During the entire program, the crowd was entertained by the Guyana Police Band. The band played Mr. Sobraj's favorite Indian song, Suhaane Raat, followed by the title song from the movie Kuch Kuch Hota Hai.

The program came to an end with the cutting of the ribbon and the opening of the computer centre. It was a historic day for the county of Berbice in the field of Information Technology and Telecommunication. The attendees were extremely impressed with the computer centre and were very grateful to the donors. One donor said "even the curtains for the centre they provided" and he echoed "May God bless them and their family".

Information Technology
is not a skill,
it's a culture...



Prayer starts proceedings



The Felix Austin Training College, Berbice, Guyana



Singh receives token



Sarwan Budhu and Comm. Brummel

More
Opening
Scenes Pics

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spoke about
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'It was a historic day
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