

DECEMBER 2024

**BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
UGANDA**

THE CRANE'S VIEW

BCCU Administrator's Welcome

Welcome to the BCCU's first newsletter.



What a busy few months it has been! My family and I arrived in Kampala back in the early days of August, on the day the BCCU had its launch event at the British High Commissioner's residence as it happens! So I rather hit the ground running, and haven't stopped since working to grow our Chamber and make it successful. You can read more about our events later.

We have a wonderful, experienced and dedicated Board of directors, and unwavering support from the British High Commission. We've had a great start! Here's to a bright and successful 2025 for us all.

Sarah



BCCU Chair Sanjay Rughani at Networking Drinks in October

Who are the BCCU?

The British Chamber of Commerce Uganda (BCCU) launched in August this year with the primary objective to champion UK-Uganda economic growth. We do this through promoting trade between Britain and Uganda across all industry sectors and through connecting and facilitating relationships between businesses, resources and people.

The BCCU have adopted three core values which will be integral to all our work:

- Member focus: In close collaboration with our members and partners we develop, improve and deliver value.
- Value driven: Every interaction with our members is characterized by our standard of excellence.
- Community: We seek connections, start conversations, build relationships, and take part in our community.

Our overall vision is to be the trusted voice of British business in Uganda, advocating for our members' interests, facilitating networking and collaboration, and contributing to economic prosperity of both nations. We will only achieve this with the collective voices of all our members and the wider business community. Thank you for joining us. We now have 28 members of the BCCU with interest from many others. Together we are stronger.



From the British High Commissioner HE Lisa Chesney

I'm delighted to be introducing the first ever newsletter from the BCCU to its members! The UK government is putting mutual, inclusive and sustainable growth right at the heart of all we do. Here in Uganda, the BHC is working together with government on the foundations for continued growth, such as sound public financial management; a diversified tax-base; and supported priorities that unlock growth ranging from development support on agricultural productivity to increasing access

to climate finance to helping young climate entrepreneurs develop their businesses. As some of you will have first-hand experience of, Uganda is currently UK Export Finance's 6th largest market in Africa with £500m invested over 6 years and the 11th largest market for British International Investment (our development finance institution), with \$195m invested in 2023. I know we can do more.

It has been fantastic over my first two months as HC to see what a vibrant British-linked business community we have here and to hear from my early conversations that British-linked business has a reputation for being responsible, competent players; for employing and building local capacity; and caring about ESG standards. The rejuvenation of the British Chamber of Commerce is a real highlight of 2024 and I'm delighted to hear how quickly membership has grown - it now spans 15 sectors, 28 businesses, and employs thousands of people across the country. I've had the opportunity to meet many of you and from what you tell me, the BCCU is a great forum to swap best practice; share challenges and opportunities; be a voice and champion for the private sector. I am keen to keep the conversation going on in 2025 where we at the British High Commission can support the BCCU community. Look out for some of the opportunities outlined in this newsletter and I'm looking forward to meeting those of you I have not yet had the chance to meet in the New Year. In the meantime, I wish you, your families and teams all the very best for Christmas and 2025.



In November, not long after she had arrived in country, the BCCU Board met incoming HC HE Lisa Chesney with representatives from the BHC. We discussed many topics including how closely our goals align and how the BHC and the Chamber can work together. Lisa frequently reiterates her commitment to work with the Chamber notably at King's Birthday Party (we made it in to her speech!) the Business Breakfast in November and at the Christmas Party last week.

Thank you Lisa for your support and for championing the needs and concerns of the business community.

Meet the BCCU Board

The BCCU's Board of Directors works tirelessly to make the BCCU effective and member focussed. Here's a bit more about them.



Chairman – Sanjay Rughani

Sanjay Rughani is an accomplished business leader with over 25 years of experience in banking across Africa, Asia, and Europe. As CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Uganda since 2022, he has led transformative change, focusing on digital innovation, sustainability, and operational excellence.

Beyond banking, Sanjay holds leadership roles, including Chairman of the Professional Accountants in Business Advisory Group (IFAC) and Director of TradeMark Africa, with past positions in Tanzania, Ghana, and the UK. His expertise in corporate governance and strategic leadership drives his commitment to fostering collaboration and sustainable growth across industries.

A Chartered Accountant and Fellow of ACCA, Sanjay is known for his strong focus on empowering people, driving innovation, and creating lasting value in business. As Chair of the British Chamber of Commerce Uganda, he is dedicated to advancing economic ties and supporting members in navigating the evolving global business landscape.



Vice Chair – Judy Rugasira

Judy Rugasira is an accomplished CEO in the real estate industry, renowned for her strong commercial acumen and technical expertise. With a career spanning over 30 years across East Africa and the UK, she has established herself as a results-driven and decisive leader. Currently, Judy is the Managing Director of Knight Frank where she leads a team of 120 professionals. In addition to her role at Knight Frank, she is a significant member of the Knight Frank Global Valuation Board and the Africa Valuation Audit Committee. Her expertise in valuation and advisory services has been instrumental to numerous high-profile institutions, including banks and multinational organizations in Uganda, Rwanda, and Southern Sudan.

Judy holds an honors degree in Land Management, an MSc. in International Real Estate from the University of Reading, UK, and a Diploma in Shopping Centre Management from the University of Pretoria. As a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and a member of various professional bodies, she has contributed significantly to the surveying profession in Uganda, including her recent term as Chair of the Surveyor's Registration Board. Beyond her professional life, Judy is dedicated to community service, serving on several boards, including St. Andrew's School Turi and Britam Holdings Plc. She is also involved in mentoring youth and has been recognized as one of Africa's Most Influential Women in Business and Government.

Outside of work, she is a devoted mother of two and enjoys reading, sports, and traveling with her family.



Treasurer - Eric Olanya

Eric Olanya is the Country Director for Gridworks Development Partners LLP, a position he has held since January 2022. He was previously the Country Director for the UK's Department for International Trade since 2009.

Eric has had a long experience in advising UK businesses in accessing the Ugandan and East African market mainly in the sectors of infrastructure, energy as well as a range of other sectors of UK interest. He has supported the development and financing of UKEF projects in Uganda including the Kabalega International Airport Project (£270m), Namanve Industrial Park (£250m) and the Solar Powered Water Pumping Systems (£94m).

Eric has an MBA (University of South Wales, UK), PGDip in Internationalisation and Management (Open University, UK), PGCert in Project Finance (Middlesex University, UK) and Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering.

He is currently responsible for developing key projects in electricity transmission and distribution with Gridworks Development Partners LLP.

A self-proclaimed Afrophile, Sarah and her family recently moved to Uganda. Previously she lived in Zambia where she worked at the British High Commission in Lusaka. She is a teacher by profession, and taught Business and Economics for many years at a girls school in west London. Before that she spent time travelling, including extensively in eastern and southern Africa. She is excited about how far the BCCU can go and the tangible achievements it could make that have the potential to benefit huge numbers of Ugandans. Sarah is married with a son and a daughter. She loves to travel, camp and cook, and is delighted to be able to call Uganda home.



Secretary - Lars Jensen

Lars Jensen is the Country Manager of COLAS Construction Uganda Ltd in Uganda, part of the global COLAS Group specialising in construction, maintenance, rehabilitation and management of roads, highways, airports and railways.

Lars is a Chartered Engineer, well known in the international construction industry with over 35 years' experience of managing complex infrastructure projects across Africa, UK, Scandinavia and the Arctic.

He grew up in Tanzania, and Africa has been home for over 25 years of which the last ten years have been spent in beautiful Uganda.

In his spare time Lars is also a published author.

Administrator - Sarah Bickers



A focus on CSR – calling all members!

Recent Member feedback reminded us of the importance of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and the role the BCCU can play in promoting this important aspect of business.

In response, the BCCU would like to spotlight the CSR policy of our members in future newsletters, on our website and on our media channels. Please reach out to Sarah if you'd like the BCCU to profile and champion what your company is doing. Email bccuganda@outlook.com.

The BCCU has also chosen to give back to our community through the sponsorship of a chosen charity at our Christmas party and throughout December - Sanyu Babies Home. More details later.

In the new year the BCCU will look more closely at CSR to ensure the Chamber is doing all it can to be responsible and give back.



COMMUNITY
WORKPLACE
MARKET PLACE
ENVIRONMENT

EVENTS

The Chamber has had a busy few months since launching in August. Here's a summary of what we have done.

August - BCCU Launch

A sparkling launch of the Chamber hosted by the outgoing HC HE Kate Airey and attended by a range of UK/Uganda businesses across varying sectors. Including a welcome from the British Chambers of Commerce in the UK.



September - The Opportunities and Benefits of a UK / Uganda Partnership

BCCU Member's KMPG kindly hosted a breakfast and panel discussion about the economic ties between the UK and Uganda and touched on some of the exciting opportunities that are presenting. Panelists included:

October - Networking Drinks



Ugandan Breweries (Diageo) kindly sponsored the drinks at our social networking event held at the Skyz hotel in Naguru - what a great view from the balcony! A chance to meet, connect and collaborate. Well done to all the winners of the mini quiz!

EVENTS

November – King’s Birthday Party

All BCCU Member’s were invited to attend the King’s Birthday Party celebration at the High Commissioner’s Residence. A great night of powerful speeches, fashion prfiling British themed food and drink, networking and dancing



November – Business Breakfast - meet the HC

Hosted by DBT (the Department of Business and Trade, BCCU members and the wider UK/Uganda Business Community attended a breakfast to talk through pertinent issues for business. At the end, the Chamber collected a word cloud of issues that have been shared and will form the basis of some of our work next year



December – Christmas Party and Awards



Last week we had a great, festive get together. A night of eating, drinking, laughter and celebration of what we have achieved so far. Congratulations to all our awards winners - more on that below!

We also proudly gave a platform to Sanyu Babies home to fundraise for their good cause. Thank you for all the kind donations.

BCCU AWARDS 2024

At the Christmas party last week we announced some member awards and recognitions for 2024. Some fun, some more formal! Please find them all here.

Congratulations to all our recipients!



If you weren't there to collect your certificate in person, Sarah will get it to you ASAP after the holidays.

congratulations to all our recipients!



If you weren't there to collect your certificate in person, Sarah will get it to you ASAP after the holidays.

Congratulations to all our recipients!



If you weren't there to collect your certificate in person, Sarah will get it to you ASAP after the holidays.

FUTURE EVENTS

Here is an overview of events planned for the first few months of 2025. More details to come. All details subject to change.

<p>January (w/b 20th Jan)</p>	<p>Webinar: UK Uganda Bilateral Trade and Introduction to the British Chambers of Commerce International Network</p> <p>Speaker - William Bain British Chambers of Commerce Head of Trade Policy (based in the UK) TBC</p>
<p>February (w/b 17th)</p>	<p>Climate event - panel discussion</p>
<p>March Date TBC</p>	<p>TBC</p>
<p>April (w/b 7th)</p>	<p>Ease of doing businesses in Uganda - Tax Panel with EY</p>
<p>May (w/b 12th)</p>	<p>Networking drinks</p>

Please contact Sarah (bccuganda@outlook.com) if you could offer some sponsorship or a venue for any of our events. It would be much appreciated.



DRIVING INTERNATIONAL TRADE
CONFERENCE 2025

20 MARCH 2025
CENTRAL LONDON

FIND OUT MORE

British Chambers of Commerce
GLOBAL BRITAIN

To register interest for the BCC's Conference in London please visit <https://www.britishchambers.org.uk/events/driving-international-trade-conference-2025/>

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Rainbow International School, in Kampala are the BCCU's only Platinum members (so far). Thank you for supporting the Chamber and for working with us.



RAINBOW

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL UGANDA

Rainbow International School Uganda, with over 30 years of experience, offers high-quality British education focused on developing well-rounded, resilient, and ambitious learners. Alongside academic success, pupils benefit from diverse extracurricular activities and programs that promote teamwork, respect, and cultural awareness.

The school embraces Ugandan culture through its Outdoor Learning Programme, allowing pupils to explore the country's history, heritage, and development. Rainbow also collaborates with universities, with its BTEC programme recognized as a pathway for higher education. Committed to sustainability, Rainbow leads initiatives like tree planting and recycling.

With small class sizes, dedicated staff, and specialist support for learning difficulties, Rainbow ensures every child thrives. Embracing modern technology, the school remains a top choice for Ugandan and international families.



The BCCU Charity – Sanyu Babies Home



The BCCU chose to support Sanyu Babies Home in the run up to Christmas 2024.



At last week’s Christmas party their Director Barbara Matagubya gave a moving talk about the excellent and important work they do to help abandoned babies. The Babies’ Home is the oldest one in Kampala and was set up in 1929. They care for babies from birth to 4years. Many of the babies in their care are found abandoned on garbage heaps, in pit latrines, ditches, etc. You can read more about their work on their website: www.sanyubabies.com.

If you would like to make a donation to make a wonderful difference to Sanyu’s young people, please do so by either bank transfer or mobile money to:

Stanbic Bank Uganda Limited,
Account title: Sanyu Babies’ Home, Account number: 9030005856247 (UGX)
Equity Bank Uganda Limited
Account title: Sanyu Babies’ Home, Account number: 1039200896243 (UGX)

Thank you on behalf of all the children at Sanyu Babies’ home.

Member Badges



We have now sourced some lovely pin badges for our members to wear with pride. These were given out at the Christmas party and were well received. If you missed the party, please contact Sarah to get yours. Additional badges can be bought for 12,000UGX each (cash only).

Members’ Contributions

If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, perhaps in the member’s spotlight, to profile your CSR, any market insights or to showcase a product or event. Please contact Sarah at BCCUganda@outlook.com. All member contributions are very welcome!



Season's Greetings from all of us at the British Chamber of Commerce Uganda.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

We look forward to working with you in 2025 and hosting some interesting and exciting events!



Contact Us & Follow Us

Phone: +256 706 987835

Email: bccuganda@outlook.com

Web: www.bccuganda.com

X: @BritChamUg

LinkedIn: British Chamber of Commerce Uganda

Instagram: @british_chamber_of_commerce_ug



standard
chartered



Gridworks

A British
International
Investment company



RAINBOW
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL UGANDA



Grant Thornton



NEXUS GREEN



VOLCANOES



SAFARIS

25 YEARS

