



Foreword

The Age of Agility...

We still have a major national hang-up about vocational education despite the common rhetoric. We have been aware of this for a long time and yet we have still not really got over it in a meaningful way. We continue to admire foreign models from afar but do not emulate them, and yet, we continue to anticipate skills shortages.

The economy could grow by billions if our "underachieving" youngsters all obtained basic skills at school and boys and girls reached similar levels of educational attainment.

The mismatch in skills should and can be addressed by the education and business sectors working much closer together. Providing working experience at an early stage to our youngsters will also help towards improving attitudinal skills which are critical in a world where the nature of work itself is rapidly changing.

At a higher level, devising work experience platforms and summer placements for our undergraduates would allow all university students to taste work whatever they are studying. More and more the "Future of work" will require people to be agile – in the sense of applying their skills and abilities in different ways and contexts, being prepared to tackle new things and embrace new challenges, being willing to learn continuously and having the emotional intelligence and social skills to forge good relationships at different levels.

With the advent of new technology, certain jobs will not disappear... they will instead morph, leading to new tasks and business models.

The Future is Now and the Challenge is Ours.

Raju Jadoo

Secretary General

In the News

ECONOMY

GDP Growth

Based on latest figures on key sectors of the economy, Statistics Mauritius has revised downwards its GDP Growth forecast to 3.6 percent for 2015.

Growth figures for agriculture and the public administration are expected to be lower due to an expected drop in food crops production and a lower than expected number of new recruits in the civil service. Moreover, the construction sector is expected to contract for a fifth consecutive year, with a decline of 2.6 percent predicted for the year 2015, due mainly to delays observed in the implementation of private projects.

Unemployment and Inflation

On inflation, the headline rate for the second quarter of 2015 worked out to 1.7 percent, as compared to 4.0 percent at the same time last year. This is mainly explained by lower prices of vegetables, air tickets, as well as lower interest rates on housing loans.

As for employment, figures for the second quarter of 2015 were also released and it is estimated that the unemployment rate is at 7.8 percent, with around 60 percent of those being females. Nearly half of those registered as unemployed, 43 percent, are aged below 25 years. The expected rate of unemployment for the year 2015 is projected at 8 percent of the working population, higher than the rate of 7.8 percent for the year 2014.

As a reminder, MCCI's [Economic Perspectives 2015](#) has predicted a 3.8 percent inflation rate and a 7.5 percent unemployment rate for the year 2015.

International Economic update

The IMF, in its latest projections, predicts a 3.3% global growth rate for 2015, marginally lower than in 2014, with a gradual pickup in advanced economies and a slowdown in emerging market and developing economies.

A setback to activity was observed in the first quarter of 2015, mostly in North America, with an unexpected output contraction in the United States, with attendant spillovers to Canada and Mexico. Nevertheless, the underlying drivers for a gradual acceleration in economic activity in advanced economies remain intact.

In emerging market economies, the continued growth slow down reflects several factors, including lower commodity prices and tighter external financial conditions, structural bottlenecks and economic distress related to geopolitical factors in some countries. A rebound in activity in a number of distressed economies is expected to result in a pickup in growth in 2016.

Trade

Trade Obstacles Alert Mechanism (TOAM): MCCI appointed as the National Focal Point

The MCCI has been appointed as the National Focal Point of the "Trade Obstacles Alert Mechanism", which was officially launched by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Hon. Étienne Sinatambou, at a workshop held at the Westin Turtle Bay Resort and Spa in Balaclava on 10 September 2015.

This online platform, which has been developed by the International Trade Centre, provides businesses with a single channel through which they can report the trade obstacles they face. Furthermore, the Inter-Agency Protocol, which has been signed by Government and trade-related agencies, demonstrates the latter's commitment to facilitating trade and improving the business environment.



As the National Focal Point, the MCCI is responsible for management of the platform and will ensure the prompt transmission of information between public and private actors to maintain confidentiality.

For more details on the TOAM, you may wish to download the brochure [here](#).

Legend: Mr. Raju Jaddoo, Secretary-General of the MCCI signing the Inter-Agency Protocol.

Trade Regulatory Impact Assessment (TRIA): Workshop held to sensitize policy makers to a more efficient legislative framework

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, in collaboration with the MCCI, organised a workshop on the Trade Regulatory Impact Assessment on Wednesday 2nd of September 2015.

The Trade Regulatory Impact Assessment (TRIA) project, which is funded by the European Union, provides a framework for businesses and policy makers to assess the benefits, costs and effects of changes in the regulatory environment. It therefore aims to increase transparency, accountability and efficiency.

The workshop was conducted by two experts, Mr. Gustav Brink from BKP Development and Mr. Giacomo Luchetta from Economisti Associati. A total of 50 senior public officials and private sector operators attended the workshop and were trained on how to use RIA as a policy analysis tool to produce high-quality regulation and as comprehensive approach to analyse data and options before taking decisions.

A manual on how to conduct RIAs was also launched by the two experts. The manual provides step-by-step guidelines on the RIA process that can be applied in Mauritius.

Information Session on the Consumer Protection (Safety Requirements) Regulations 2015

In view of the forthcoming Consumer Protection (Safety Requirements) Regulations 2015 to control the safety standards on household and electrical appliances, the MCCI organised an information session to apprise its members of the provisions of the upcoming legislation. The information session was held on 24 September 2015 at the seat of the MCCI, Port Louis.

Mr. B. Cunniah, Manager of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Laboratory at the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB), and Mr. G. Mungroo, Team Leader at MRA Customs, were invited to make presentations on the new compliance procedures and customs formalities respectively:

- [MSB Presentation on Safety Regulations](#)
- [Presentation on Customs Formalities](#)



Mr. K. Seegoolam, Acting Head of the Consumer Affairs Unit (CAU) from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection was also invited to brief members on the role of the CAU in the implementation of the regulations.

The information session was attended by about 25 members who operate in the domestic and electrical appliances sector. It is expected that the Consumer Protection (Safety Requirements) Regulations will enter into force early next year.

Copies of the Safety Standards can be obtained at the MSB (Tel: 433 3648).

World Trade Organisation releases new forecast for trade growth

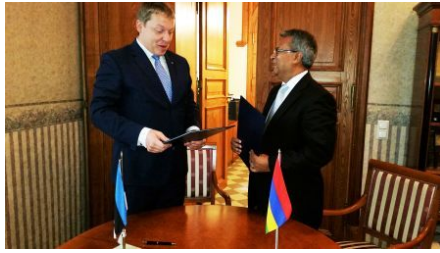
The WTO's latest forecast of world merchandise trade volume growth for 2015 has been revised to 2.8%, down from the previous estimate of 3.3%. This downward revision by WTO economists incorporates several factors that have impacted negatively on the world economy.

Foremost, import demand from emerging markets such as China and Brazil has declined considerably. The falling price

of oil and other primary commodities, coupled with uncertainty over monetary policy in the United States, has also contributed to a bleak outlook for trade growth for the second half of this year.

The Director-General of the WTO, Roberto Azvêdo, has called upon WTO members to come up with concrete results in the December Ministerial Conference in Nairobi; he is of the view that bolstering trade growth in the current environment governed by uncertainty can lift prospects for global economic growth, development and poverty alleviation.

Regional and International Cooperation



Memorandum of Understanding signed between the MCCI and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Estonia

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the MCCI and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Estonia on 30 September 2015 in Estonia. The objective of the MoU is to promote trade and economic relations between the two countries and especially to enhance business collaboration in the ICT sector.

Mr. Mait Palts, Director General of Chamber of Commerce of Estonia and the Secretary-General of the MCCI, Mr. Raju Jadoo are of the view that this collaboration will set the beginning of a promising business venture between business communities of both countries.

The meeting took place in the context of the mission of a high-level public/private sector delegation, led by the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation, Hon. Sudarshan Bhadain to Estonia. The objectives of the mission are to increase awareness on Cyber Security and to develop cooperation between ICT companies for setting up e-services in Mauritius, among others.

Legend: From left to right: Mr. Mait Palts, Director General of Chamber of Commerce of Estonia and the Secretary-General of the MCCI, Mr. Raju Jadoo.

Tallinn, one of the main IT centre of Europe, seen as a laudable model for Mauritius

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 30 September 2015, in Tallinn, Estonia, by Mr. Arvo Ott, Executive Director of e-Governance Academy of Estonia, and Mr. Jean-Claude de l'Estrac, Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), in the context of the implementation of the regional programme of digital connectivity to be financed by the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for the period of 2016-2020. The programme aims at improving communication services as a means of ensuring economic growth and social progress between its Member States.

The focus of the cooperation is on executing the exchange of national data and on widening digital identity, basic registries and databases for the Republic of Mauritius and for the countries of the IOC. In addition, the creation of an e-Governance Academy as a hub for the Member States of the IOC and for the Southern and Eastern African countries is being supported by both parties.

"Tallinn is a laudable example of modernization and concrete business facilitation for our economies that is easy to replicate," said Mr. Raju Jadoo, Secretary-General of MCCI, who was part of the Mauritian delegation led by the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation, Hon. Sudarshan Bhadain.



This high-level delegation also comprised representatives from the public sector, representatives of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and telecommunication experts from Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar.

Legend: Second from left is Mr. Raju Jadoo, Secretary-General of MCCI, and second and third from right are Mr. Jean-Claude de l'Estrac, Secretary-General of IOC and the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation, Hon. Sudarshan Bhadain, respectively, in presence of representatives of e-Governance Academy of Estonia during the meeting held in Tallinn.

Courtesy visit of the new High Commissioner for Pakistan to the MCCI

The new High Commissioner for Pakistan to Mauritius, His Excellency Major General (Retd) Raza Muhammad, paid a courtesy call on the president of the MCCI, Mrs H el ene Echevin, on the 29 September 2015.

H.E Major General (Retd) Raza Muhammad spoke about the developments taking place in Pakistan namely the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor, which will connect Pakistan with China and Central Asian countries, making it a hub of transit trade in the region. He was of the view that Mauritian business people can use Pakistan as a gateway to capture the market of the neighbouring countries. He also made a presentation on the products that can be of interest to the Mauritian and African markets.

Mrs. H el ene Echevin recalled that the relations which exist between the business communities of both countries have been strengthened since the signing of a Joint Business Council between the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the MCCI in 2004. She also



She added that there are further avenues of cooperation between the business people which can be explored through the Preferential Trade Agreement signed in July 2007.

Mr. Shehzad Ahmed, President of the Mauritius-Pakistan Joint Business Council, was also present at the meeting.

underlined that the participation of Mauritian companies in the Expo Pakistan, the biggest trade fair in the country, has become a regular feature.

Both parties agreed that there should be more exchanges between their respective business communities.

Legend: H.E. Major General (Retd) Raza Muhammad presenting a gift to Mrs. Hélène Echevin, President of the MCCI

MCCI receives the visit of a Djiboutian delegation

In line with the Djibouti Week organized by the Africa Centre of Excellence (ACE), a delegation from Djibouti, comprising members of the public and private sectors, paid a visit at the MCCI on the 1st October 2015.

The objective of this meeting was to promote Djibouti as a potential investment destination to Mauritian companies. Members of the delegation elaborated on the potential business opportunities and investment projects in Djibouti. A presentation on the MCCI was also delivered on this occasion.

The President of the MCCI, Mrs. Hélène Echevin, talked about the strong collaboration between the public and private sectors in Mauritius. She highlighted the role of the MCCI in the economic development of the country.



Both parties hoped for further cooperation and were of the view that future business ventures will be beneficial for both countries.

Commission Mixte Maurice-Réunion: Vers la concrétisation des ambitions communes

Le premier Comité Économique de la Commission Mixte Maurice-Réunion s'est tenu le 9 septembre 2015 sous la présidence de l'Hon. Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo, Ministre des Finances et du Développement Économique.

Ce premier Comité Économique de la Commission Mixte a eu pour objectif de jeter les bases d'une nouvelle étape dans la consolidation de la relation bilatérale Maurice-Réunion, suite à la visite à La Réunion du Ministre Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo en juin 2015.

La délégation France/Réunion, présidée par M. Laurent Garnier, Ambassadeur de France à Maurice, était composée de M. Didier Robert, de M. Maurice Barate et des représentants des organismes publics.

Le Comité Économique a procédé à un premier exercice de mise en cohérence des acteurs publics et privés et d'une accélération des ambitions communes, autour des thèmes suivants : la coopération stratégique et technique sur les thématiques prioritaires de l'agriculture raisonnée, l'innovation, les technoparcs, la biotechnologie, l'énergie, l'intensification des échanges, la libre circulation des biens et des personnes, les investissements croisés et la stratégie africaine.



Le Comité s'est notamment félicité de la mesure qui sera mise en œuvre dans les prochaines semaines entre l'Ambassade de France à Maurice et la MCCI pour émettre une attestation nominative permettant l'exemption de la plupart des documents usuels à fournir par les hommes et femmes d'affaires mauriciens à la Police des Frontières à la Réunion.

Le Ministre des Finances a invité une délégation d'entreprises réunionnaises à se joindre à la délégation mauricienne qui se déplacera au Ghana en novembre.

Légende: De gauche à droite : M. Maurice Barate, Secrétaire Général de la Préfecture de la Réunion, M. Didier Robert, Président de la Région Réunion, Laurent Garnier, Ambassadeur de France à Maurice, Hon. Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo, Ministre des Finances et du Développement Économique, Hon. Etienne Sinatarbou, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, de l'Intégration Régionale et du Commerce Extérieur, et Mme Fanchette Pierre Gaspard Louis, Vice-Commissaire de l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues.

MARC



Growing interest of Mauritian companies in the use of arbitration and mediation for resolving business disputes

The series of events and workshops held by the MCCI Arbitration and Mediation Center (MARC) and led by Dr. Craig C. Beles, U.S. Fulbright scholar, has been a success in terms of knowledge dissemination, awareness-building and training of professionals in the techniques of arbitration and mediation.

Dr. Beles conducted a total of 7 workshops, including a 3-day workshop on arbitration and mediation.

He also participated in an interactive Launch Event on 4 August 2015, animated a mock mediation session, and held meetings with the MARC Team for advice on business development.

His expertise and knowledge of the ADR field has definitely helped the MARC towards its objective of 'Fostering an ADR culture in Mauritius'.

Participants overall have shared positive appreciation about the workshops. One participant, Mr Saleem Abdulatif, Barrister-At-Law and Senior Manager-Legal at CIM Finance took part in the 3-day workshop on 'Basics of Arbitration' and wrote:

"... I was sharing with my colleagues that it was certainly not 'Basics to Arbitration' like the title provided but was really an intensive course on Arbitration. I am sure we will all be using all the knowledge we got in our day-to-day work. I have been to a lot of training sessions but I must say this is the best I have been to. Very practical and always interactive."

day workshop on arbitration, one-day workshops dedicated to alternative dispute resolution for the financial services sector, the construction sector and for SMEs, and finally a half-day session tailored for the top management team of GML Management Ltée.

Legend: Craig Beles delivering a half-day training at GML Ltée.

GS1

Awareness Campaign on 'Discover the Endless Opportunities with the GS1® System' addressed to the Registrar of Companies

GS1® Mauritius has pursued its awareness campaign on 'Discover the Endless Opportunities with the GS1 System'. A presentation was delivered to the staff of the Registrar of Companies, as they are involved in the registration of businesses and deal with entrepreneurs and business operators. The purpose of the presentation was:

- to remind the audience that GS1 Mauritius, as an arm of MCCI, has the responsibility to allocate GS1 Barcodes;
- to inform that GS1 Mauritius also provides technical support and training; and
- to promote the benefits of adopting GS1 Barcodes and GS1 Standards.

Furthermore, due to the nature of the Registrar of Companies activities, it was also an opportunity for GS1 Mauritius, to create awareness of the 'Endless Opportunities with the GS1 System' for their specific requirements.

For more information on the Endless Opportunities with the GS1 System, members are kindly requested to contact Miss Fazlee Dhuny on 208 3301 or by mail (fdhuny@mcci.org).

GS1® Mauritius celebrates the 3rd Anniversary of its Training Course 'Basic Principles of GS1 & Bar Coding'

GS1 Mauritius celebrated the 3rd anniversary of its MQA Approved Course 'Basic Principles of GS1 & Bar Coding'. The main purpose of this course is to ensure that participants are equipped to save their business time and money by getting their barcodes right and to protect their business against possible retailer rejection of their products.

The number of participants is growing annually and as at date, some 352 participants have followed the training. Participants include new and existing GS1 Subscribers, solution providers involved in quality control, logistics, supply chain management, printing and even commercial activities like supermarkets. A certificate of attendance is given to participants and the course is HRDC Refundable. Regular feedback from supermarkets has revealed that the printing and quality of barcodes have improved tremendously contributing to less scanning errors and less waiting time at Point of Sale.



Legend: Participants of the Training with our 2 MQA Approved Trainers (Centre).

Due to the success of the course and increase in demand, this year has also witnessed the registration of the second MQA Approved Trainer in GS1 Standards, Miss Sandrina Rasen.

Members interested to participate in the Training Sessions are kindly invited to contact Mrs. G. Bertrand at GS1 Mauritius Secretariat, MCCI on 208 3301 or mail secretariat@mcci.org and visit the MCCI website: www.mcci.org



"Smart City Projects and Scheme": Business prospects available

A presentation on the business opportunities concerning the "Smart City Projects and Scheme" was organized by the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port-Louis on 15 September 2015. The presentation was delivered by Mr. Gaëtan Siew, Chairman of State Land Development Company Ltd.

During the event, Mr. Siew explained that the Smart City Projects aim at developing a city whereby different sectors of the economy will be integrated in a coherent platform.

Mr. Sachin Mohabeer, Assistant Director of Smart City and Real Estate at the Board of Investment (BOI), elaborated on the regulatory framework and fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to members of the business community for the development of smart cities across the island.

The presentation was attended by around 70 participants. The presentation of Mr. Siew is available upon request at the MCCI. Contact Person: Mrs. Christiane Charlot. Tel: 208 3301.

MCCI Afternoon Coffee with Microsoft: Business Anywhere for SMEs

The MCCI Afternoon Coffee hosted its third edition with



Microsoft presenting its solutions to businesses on the theme "Business Anywhere for SMEs."

Taking into consideration the fact that technology is changing the shape of business and that today, more than ever, people are working outside the office on a range of mobile devices, the presentation aimed to show participants how their team could work together anywhere with the same familiar experience across PCs, tablets, and mobile devices whilst reducing their costs. All this is done by accessing information, getting work done and collaborating with other team members from virtually anywhere, on their favorite devices.



It is to be recalled that the MCCI Afternoon Coffee is an informal event meant to keep members informed of various topics of benefit to their businesses. It is also the opportunity for them to do some networking around an afternoon coffee break.

Legend: Microsoft presenting its solutions to businesses during the MCCI Afternoon Coffee.

MCCI Business School

Nouvel élément pour la Rentrée 2015 des BTS

La MCCI Business School accueille 158 nouveaux étudiants en BTS pour la rentrée 2015. Les cours comprennent cette année un nouvel élément, notamment le BTS en alternance.

En effet, la MCCI Business School propose des formations en alternance à l'intention des étudiants, des employés et des entreprises. Cette formule, combinant formation académique et insertion professionnelle, permettra aux jeunes de mieux s'intégrer au monde du travail et décrocher en même temps un BTS, diplôme d'État de l'enseignement supérieur français délivré par le Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale par le biais de l'Académie de la Réunion et reconnu internationalement.

L'école propose le BTS en alternance dans les spécialités suivantes:

- Services Informatiques aux Organisations - Informatique
- Management des Unités Commerciales - Marketing
- Assistant de Gestion PME-PMI – Gestion
- BTS Banque
- BTS Communication

À préciser que les BTS Banque et Communication sont deux filières de formation nouvellement introduites en 2015.

Pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter Mr. Ashraf Joomun, Directeur de la MCCI Business School sur le 454 8950.

Graduate Training for Employment Scheme (GTES)

Following the Budget Speech 2015-2016, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research is setting up a Graduate Training for Employment Scheme (GTES).

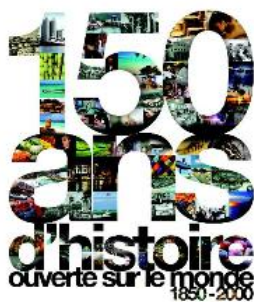
The targeted group of the scheme consists of unemployed graduates registered under the Youth Employment Programme and at the Employment Service of the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training.

The main objective of GTES is to provide unemployed graduates with skills necessary as per the job market requirements through tailor-made training programmes. Ultimately, after having followed the training, their employments are ensured through placement.

More information can be obtained at the special desk of the HRDC on 454 4009 or by email at gtes@hrdc.intnet.mu.

Related documents, such as the [Manual of Procedures](#), are available [here](#).

Dans l'histoire de la MCCI



Le quatrième congrès des Chambres de Commerce de l'Empire

À la fin d'octobre 1899, après réception d'une invitation, faite par M. Kenric B. Murray, secrétaire de la Chambre de Commerce de Londres, au quatrième congrès des Chambres de Commerce de l'Empire, après ceux de 1886, 1892 et 1896, et fixé au mois de juin 1900, date choisie pour coïncider avec la tenue de l'Exposition de Paris de 1900, il fut décidé que, cette fois encore, la Chambre pourrait être représentée par MM. J. A. Ferguson et R. W. Chamney. Les représentants pressentis furent dûment informés. Plus tard, M. Chamney, qui avait été nommé membre du comité organisateur de la Chambre de Commerce de Londres, devait décliner cet honneur, tout en promettant de veiller aux intérêts de la colonie.

Extrait du livre sur la MCCI intitulé '150 ans d'histoire ouverte sur le monde' de Norbert Benoît. Le livre est disponible en vente à la MCCI et dans les librairies

