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THE MAURITIUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
SERVING BUSINESS SINCE 1850

Exports: Trends and Prospects

A focus on investment in Mauritius

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SOMMAIRE

Editorial

Testing Times

Mr. Kiran Juwaheer

As the world is going through the most severe economic crisis since the Great Depression, it is quite natural for everyone in Mauritius to be apprehensive about the future. On the basis of the first impact of the crisis on the country, it is becoming apparent that various stakeholders – business, labour, government and civil society – will be affected in different ways and each will be tempted to develop its own response to the new challenges. Unfortunately, given the magnitude of the threat, separate initiatives to defend specific interests would fail to provide an effective response and might be even counterproductive.

There is an urgent need for a common understanding of the threats and challenges ahead of us; and we need a coordinated response to them. In this endeavour, each stakeholder will have to revisit its positions, past practices and demands on the rest of society.

Government has set the example by putting on hold one of its major policy orientations. The 'Additional Stimulus Package' launched in December 2008 and other fiscal measures have diluted the fiscal consolidation drive contained in previous Budget exercises. The freeze on the trade liberalization policy over the next two years and the suspension of various taxes on business are also departures from the main thrusts of the new economic strategy. So is the significant increase in the resources to provide assistance to the unemployed and the vulnerable, which also runs counter to the policy of 'empower rather than assist'. But together these new measures represent a novel package to counter the adverse impact of the crisis on the economy and society at large.

These measures need to be consolidated. The presentations of two National Budgets this year (to enable the transition to a Budget based on the calendar year from the current July/June one), the first one in May and the second in November, will certainly give Government the flexibility to further adjust its policies to respond to the effects of the crisis as it unfolds.

Yet, all is not well with the above initiatives. One major weakness is the lack of effective capacity to actually implement the measures announced. Devising schemes and allocating resources to them is one thing; realizing them in a timely manner is another story. But the merit of Government is its eagerness to explore new avenues to respond to an unprecedented adverse situation.

The same cannot be said of all other stakeholders.

In some sectors, business is adopting a new approach, accepting an erosion of margins in order not to compromise on quality and level of service. Processes and systems are being improved with a view to adequately equip the organisation to bounce back once the thick of the crisis is over. Business has also been responding to the call of Government to minimize layoffs by participating in new schemes to combine work with training. Other enterprises are undertaking aggressive marketing campaigns to keep their heads out of the water.

However, there are also enterprises electing to adopt a 'wait and see' attitude hoping that the crisis will be short-lived and they would be back to 'business as usual' in a few months' time. This is the "Ostrich" approach. The current economic crisis, irrespective of its duration, will have deep repercussions on markets, the demand for specific commodities and products, and the ways in which products and services will be delivered to consumers. Only a lucky few will be spared from the crisis. Ignoring or underestimating the impacts may turn out into a naïve strategy on their part.

Economic operators should view the economic crisis as an opportunity to critically review their internal processes, their products and their marketing strategy. It they do not react proactively to developments associated to the economic crisis, they run high risks of marginalization and irrelevance.

The implementation of the three projects launched recently with the support of the Delegation of the European Commission, to improve the reading skills of students in ZEP schools and to create employment and combat poverty through assistance to SMEs, represents a major challenge to our Chamber. The value of these three projects compared to the Budget of our Chamber, places our institution in the forefront of private organizations engaged in CSR initiatives.

Labour organizations should also draw lessons from the economic crisis and adjust their strategy accordingly. For years they have been advocating for wages policy that systematically raises real income without any reference to productivity gains and terms of trade. The economic crisis should be a wake-up call for them as its impact on our export-oriented sectors, the balance of payments and public finance should remind everyone that in an open economy like ours we can only distribute income that the country can generate.

It is clear that in these troubled times, labour unions should work with Government and employers to minimize the impact of the crisis on workers by finding appropriate formulae to keep as many workers as possible in employment and to accompany those who would be inevitably laid off to find new jobs through training and re-skilling schemes. Clearly this is no time for confrontational strategies. More importantly, labour organizations should, in the medium term, come to terms with the harsh global reality that sustained increase in real income of workers can only be possible if the level of skills of our workforce rises significantly. That should be the main objective of their future endeavours.

The current economic crisis has also revealed the need for greater solidarity as some segments of society are more affected than others. Resources being limited, especially in times of crisis, they need to be well utilized for those in need. Alongside public assistance, there have been other initiatives by the business sector and NGOs to help the poor. To be more effective there is need for a coordinated approach of assistance funded by the State, through the Empowerment Programme and other public assistance schemes, the CSR programmes of enterprises and the work of NGOs on the ground. Such coordination can make a difference in the current juncture.

What applies to the nation, to Government and other stakeholders, applies also to individual institutions. And our Chamber is no exception. It will have also to meet to the challenges of this new environment.

First, on macro-economic policy orientations: Our Chamber has already contributed directly and through the JEC in the preparation of the 'Additional Stimulus package'. It is also actively involved in the implementation of the ASP in its capacity as Co-Chair or member of the various instruments established for that purpose, including the 'Manufacturing Adjustment and SME Development Fund'.

It will have to continue to reflect on the impact of the economic crisis, as it develops, and provide to Government its proposals to deal with the changing economic environment, especially in the forthcoming two National Budgets, mentioned earlier.

Second, it will have a greater task to sensitize the business community of the implications of the economic crisis and on the need for economic operators to re-engineer their operations to respond to the new situation. This will require a more intense interaction with members of the business community.

Third, it will have to work with Government and other private sector organizations to enhance the market access of Mauritian products and services to new destinations. This will be done both through the negotiations of new preferential trade agreements with targeted countries and promotional missions to these countries. When we consider the trade talks and promotional initiatives already on the agenda, these new initiatives will represent a formidable task for our Chamber, as the private sector organization in Mauritius which is in the forefront of trade negotiations and promotional missions.

Fourth, its initiatives aimed at business facilitation will be heightened to give business the competitive edge. In addition to its own projects in the area of trade facilitation (the Cargo Community System, the Electronic Certificate of Origin, the Business Network Facilitation System, etc.), the Chamber will have to further contribute to a more business-friendly environment.

Fifth, the Chamber must also practice what it preaches in the field of CSR. The implementation of the three projects launched recently with the support of the Delegation of the European Commission, to improve the reading skills of students in ZEP schools and to create employment and combat poverty through assistance to SMEs, represents a major challenge to our Chamber. The value of these three projects compared to the Budget of our Chamber, places our institution in the forefront of private organizations engaged in CSR initiatives.

Finally, as for the national economy, the economic crisis has also negatively impacted on the financial situation of our Chamber. The challenge will be to draw lessons from this downturn to build the resilience of the Chamber over the long term.

These are testing times for our country and for its stakeholders, including our own Chamber. But we are confident that if we have all a common understanding of the challenges that face us, we can work together to overcome them and come out of this crisis stronger than before. As we have done in the past.

Kiran Juwaheer
President

160th Annual General Meeting of the MCCI

The 160th Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 24 March 2009 at the Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel. The outgoing President, Mr. Ahmed Parkar presented his report on the activities of the Chamber during the past year and made the traditional presentation of the state of economy.

Outgoing President Mr. Ahmed Parkar

He underlined the fact that despite the effect of the economic crisis, Mauritius did quite well in 2008 with GDP growth rate of 5.2% which was slightly lower than in 2007. He also pointed out the positive outcome of other sectors, where positive growth rates have been registered with certain exception in some sectors.

He added that foreign direct investment remained almost at the record level reached in 2007 and the overall Balance of Payments showed a surplus of Rs.4.6 billion.

He highlighted the sectors that have already been affected by the crisis namely the tourism, property development and construction sector. And the sectors that are under threat such as the textile and clothing, the local manufacturing sector or the local trading sector. However he added that the positive growth expected in ICT, financial intermediation and other services can compensate the potential negative performance in other sectors.

Regarding the strategy that has been adopted to face the crisis, he said that we need to find ways to accelerate the process so that funds can be made available to enterprises at a quicker pace. Finally, he added that our capacity to ride through the crisis and rebound afterwards will depend on the competitiveness of our enterprise and Government should focus on this prime asset.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, the Minister of Industry, Science and Research, Hon. D. Gokhool, the Minister of Business and SMEs, the Hon. M. Gowressoo and the Minister of Consumer Protection and Human Rights, the Hon. S.Tang also attended the function.

Sarada Moothoosamy
Manager
Finance and Administration Division

Members and guests at the AGM.

MCCI'S COUNCIL MEMBERS 2009-2010

President
Mr. Kiran Juwaheer
(Industry Group)
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Vice-President
Mr. Marday Venketasamy
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A. Industry Group
Mr. Ahmed Parkar
Star Knitwear Group
La Clémence
Rivière du Rempart

Mr. Cédric de Spéville
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C. Insurance Group
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D. Tourism Group
(VACANT)

E. Banking Group
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F. Other Services Group
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Air Mauritius Centre
President John Kennedy Street
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Mr. Vincent d'Arifat
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In Attendance
Mr. Raj Makoond
Joint Economic Council
Plantation House
Port-Louis

Mr. Azad Jeetun
Mauritius Employers' Federation
Ebène Cybercity
Ebène

Exports : Trends and Prospects

The collapse in the world demand brought on by the economic downturn linked to the financial crisis has led to a drop in exports for most countries. According to the World Trade Organisation[1], several countries, including dynamic economies like China, have been experiencing a drop in merchandise exports since the last quarter of 2008 and the trend seems to be the same for the beginning of 2009.

The financial crisis has led to a global slowdown of economic activities and it is expected that this will lead to a contraction in demand in our main export markets. However, given that the economic downturn only started towards the end of last year and it is believed that the impact on Mauritian exports for the year 2008 has been minimal and that the real effect of the crisis on our exports will be clearer in 2009.

For Mauritius, there are other factors such as preference erosion due to the end of the Multi-Fibre Agreement and the substantial cut in the price of sugar as well as competition from low-cost producing countries which have negatively affected the value of our exports over the past year.

In 2008, our total exports of goods, which include our domestic exports and re-exports, amounted to Rs 59.4 billion. The figures show that our total exports of goods have fallen by 7.6% 2008 as compared to the previous year as shown in the table below:

Total Exports of Goods (Rs. billion)

	2007	2008	% Change
Domestic Exports	50.5	46.7	-7.5%
Re-Exports	13.8	12.7	-8%
Total Exports	64.3	59.4	-7.6%

The figures indicate that domestic exports accounted for approximately 78% of our total exports in 2007 and 2008. It is to be noted that only the exports of goods are being taken into account and that the value for 'ship's stores and bunkers' is not included in the total export figures.

A detailed analysis of our exports has been conducted to identify and assess the trend for our top twenty products exported and for our main export markets for period 2007 and 2008.

TOP 20 EXPORTS

Our top twenty exports in terms value over 2007 and 2008 are shown in the table below:

Top 20 products exported

Products	2007 (Rs million)	2008 (Rs million)	(%) Change
T-shirts (6109)	12,555	10,412	-17.1%
Raw cane sugar (1701)	9,264	8,267	-10.8%
Preserved tuna (1604)	6,139	6,084	-1.0%
Men's or boys' shirts (6205)	4,083	3,532	-13.5%
Trousers (6203)	2,392	2,429	+1.5%
Telephones for cellular networks and other electrical apparatus (8517)	1,882	2,323	+23.4%
Jerseys and pullovers (6110)	2,150	1,873	-12.9%
Frozen fish (0303)	1,890	1,704	-9.8%
Cotton Shirts (6105)	2,199	1,590	-27.7%
Polished Diamonds (7102)	1,297	1,117	-13.9%
Women's/girls' trousers (6204)	794	975	+22.8%
Live Primates (0106)	811	972	+19.9%
Jewellery (7113)	854	852	-0.2%
Women's/girls' dresses of cotton (6104)	689	729	+5.8%
Medicaments (3004)	462	606	+31.2%
Yarn (5106)	485	465	-4.1%
Fabrics incl. Denim (5208)	465	457	-1.7%
Women's/girls' blouses of cotton (6206)	553	401	-27.5%
Underwear (6212)	387	399	+3.1%
Other women's/girls' blouses (6106)	296	392	+32.4%

The HS Codes (4 digit-level) are indicated in brackets

In 2008, our top three products exported were t-shirts, sugar and preserved tuna. A major drop was observed in the export of certain garments with a 27% and 17% fall noted in the exports of shirts and T-shirts respectively due a significant drop in our exports to the US, UK and French markets. Significant increases were, however, noted in other garments exported such as women's blouses and trousers.

It is also interesting to note that the re-exportation of telephones ranked in the sixth place in our total exports in terms of value and registered an increase of 23% over the past year.

MAIN MARKETS

An analysis by country of destination reveals a general decline in our major export markets during the past year. The countries in the European Union remained the main destination for our products and accounted collectively for about 68% of our total exports in 2008. The United States and countries in the region such as South Africa and Reunion Island also represented significant markets for our exports.

Exports to the European Union

The figures indicate that there has been a decrease in the value of exports to our main markets in the European Union (EU). The table below shows the total value and the main products exported to our top five markets in the EU namely the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Belgium and Spain during the period 2007 and 2008.

Total Exports - Top 5 EU Countries

Countries	2007 (Rs. billion)	2008 (Rs. billion)	% Change	Main Products
United Kingdom	21.7	20.2	-7%	Raw sugar, preserved tuna, garments, silver jewellery, leather wear, electronic micro-assemblies
France	8.9	8.0	-10%	Garments, sugar, medicaments, preserved tuna, leather handbags, sunglasses, medical instruments, watch straps
Italy	3.6	2.7	-25%	Preserved tuna, garments, silver jewellery, raw sugar, cotton waste, denim fabrics, cut flowers
Belgium	2.1	2.0	-5%	Non-industrial worked diamonds, raw sugar, canned tuna, garments, denim fabrics
Spain	2.0	2.0	No change	Preserved tuna, frozen fish, live animals, ethyl alcohol, garments

The United Kingdom remains our main market with a market share of 34% of our total exports to the world. An overall decrease of 7% was noted in our exports to the UK over the past year due to a fall in the value of exports of several products including garments, sugar, jewellery and leather products. However, it is to be highlighted that there was a substantial increase in the total value of our exports of preserved tuna to UK rising from Rs. 2.98 billion to Rs. 3.67 billion representing an increase of 23% over that period.

A significant decline in our exports can also be noted on the Italian and French markets. The decrease in our exports to Italy is mainly attributed to a substantial drop in the exports of garments, preserved fish and ethyl alcohol. Similarly, our exports to France also experienced a decrease due a drop in the export of garments, medical instruments, jewellery and fresh fruits.

Exports to the United States

The United States represented a significant market for our exports with a share of 6.7% of our total exports for the year 2008. However, the figures show that the value of our exports have decreased significantly over the period 2007 and 2008 as shown in the following table.

Exports : Trends and Prospects

Total Exports – United States

Country	2007 (Rs. billion)	2008 (Rs. billion)	% Change	Main Exports
USA	4.8	4.0	-17%	Garments, live primates, preserved tuna, polished diamonds, jewellery, sunglasses

A major fall of 20% was noted in 2008 for our exports of garments, which was the main product exported to the US market, as compared to the previous year. A decrease in the exports of sunglasses, polished diamonds and preserved tuna was also observed during the same period.

Exports to the region

The export figures confirm the growing importance of the region as an export market for Mauritius with significant growth rates achieved in markets such as South Africa, Reunion Island and Seychelles. The table below depicts our total value of exports to our five main markets in the region.

Total Exports - Top 5 Markets in the region

Countries	2007 (Rs. Million)	2008 (Rs. Million)	% Change	Main Products
Madagascar	3,866	3,515	-9.1%	Yarn, fabrics, soaps and detergents, pasta, medicaments, industrial machines, rum, sanitary towels, medical instruments
South Africa	2,009	2,152	+7.1%	Garments, soaps and detergents, alcohol and beverages, polished diamonds, pasta, sunglasses
Reunion	1,839	2,037	+10.8%	Aluminium frames, telephones, fertilizers, baby napkins, soaps and detergents, garments, cosmetics
Seychelles	579	769	+32.8%	Wheat flour, sunflower oil, medicaments, cartons and boxes, garments, printed books
Kenya	239	246	+2.9%	Alcoholic drinks, baby napkins, mineral waters, sanitary towels, biscuits and wafers, garments

The above figures show that, with the exception of Madagascar, the total exports to our main markets in the region have increased in 2008 as compared with the previous year. Our exports to the South African market have increased substantially over the past couple of years due an increase in the exports of garments and fabrics.

Reunion Island has also become a significant market for our locally manufactured goods with our exports increasing significantly in 2008. It has become a niche market for specialised products such as doors and windows frames of aluminium which amounted to Rs. 257 million in 2008 and accounted for 96% of the total value of our exports for that particular product.

Exports : Trends and Prospects

It is interesting to highlight that our exports to the region take place under various trade agreements namely the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) for goods exported to Reunion Island.

Re-exports

Re-exportation of goods accounted for approximately 22% of our total exports in 2008 and remains an important activity for the Freeport. The top five products re-exported during the last year are given in the table below:

Re-exports - Top 5 products

Products	2007 (Rs. Million)	2008 (Rs. Million)	% Change
Telephones and other electrical apparatus (8517)	1,882	2,323	+23.4%
Frozen fish (0303)	1,876	1,666	-11.2%
T-shirts (6109)	1,452	859	-40.8%
Medicaments (3004)	346	512	+48.0%
Cotton Shirts (6105)	624	448	-28.2%

The re-exports of cellular phones represent a significant proportion of our re-exports with the main market being the United Arab Emirates amounting to a total value of Rs. 1.6 billion in 2008.

It is to be highlighted that the high figures for the re-exportation of garments can be explained by the fact that several local companies export their locally manufactured garments to the EU and US markets through their Freeport companies.

PROSPECTS FOR 2009

The total export figures indicate that there has been a fall in the value of our exports in 2008 and that it is primarily our exports to the EU and US markets which have been affected and that exports to the region have followed a more upward trend.

Forecasts for 2009 indicate the likelihood of a contraction in trade. The WTO[1] estimates that there will be a 9% global decline in trade in 2009. For the WTO, a number of factors will lead to a contraction in demand in 2009 namely a fall-off in demand as all the regions in the world economy are slowing down at the same time, the increasing presence of global supply chains, the shortages in trade finance and lastly, the increase risk of protectionism to save employment. Already, estimates from the Central Statistical Office in Mauritius indicate that there is a significant decrease in exports to our main markets for the beginning of 2009.

A contraction in demand in our main export markets seems to be unavoidable but the extent of the contraction will, to a large, extent depend on the effectiveness of the various fiscal stimulus plans being put in place.

Rooma Narrainen
Manager
Trade Division

Vivagen Amoomoogum
Analyst
Trade Division

[1] *World Trade Organisation (2009). World Trade 2008, Prospects for 2009 – WTO sees 9% global trade decline in 2009 as recession strikes [online]. Accessed on URL: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres09_e/pr554_e.htm*

Stimulus for VAT Paid/VAT Free SMEs

In 2006, MCCI invested in a Vocal Server system to link the Duty free shops with our Airport Counter to expedite our refund operations. However, during 2007 the Customs Department of the MRA decided to enforce an existing legislation which makes it mandatory for Duty Free Shops (as opposed to Vat free shops) to have computerized systems in place. The Chamber thus embarked in an ambitious project to put in place a full electronic system, the MCCI Business Network Facilitation Services (BNFS), not only for duty-free shops but also for VAT shops.

Mr. Franco Tranquili, the Chargé d'Affaires of the delegation of the European Commission presenting a cheque to the President of the MCCI, Mr. Kiran Juwaheer

The MCCI Business Network Facilitation Services (BNFS) is an integrated computerised network whereby Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) registered Duty and VAT paid/free operators can offer secure value added services to tourists. The Information Technology network simplifies back office work whilst ensuring greater compliance with MRA requirements and faster delivery of the Duty and/or VAT refund services at the MCCI counter at the SSR International Airport. Two accesses are offered to operators to connect and transact on the BNFS IT platform: Vocal Server (via telephone) or via PC and modem. As soon as a transaction is registered on the system, the refund amount is automatically calculated together with the date, time and flight number on which the refund is to be made to the tourist.

However, despite almost a hundred shops on the BNFS, a large number of SMEs have been unable to join the BNFS due to high initial costs. Further to a project submitted, specially dedicated to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), MCCI is pleased to announce that it has received a grant from the European Union for its Business Network Facilitation Services electronic platform thanks to a 75% project funding by the Decentralised Cooperation Programme (DCP).

This allows MCCI to provide a special Stimulus Package for VAT Paid/VAT Free SMEs whereby the training costs of 50 VAT shops under the Vocal Server scheme for SMEs as well as the training and equipment costs of 100 VAT shops under the SME LIGHT scheme will be provided free of charge. The scheme operates on a first-come-first-served basis and will stop as soon as the target of 50 and 100 shops are reached for Vocal Server and SME LIGHT options respectively.

SME LIGHT provides a sophisticated IT solution at an affordable cost to SME shops enhance their competitiveness. Upto 300 SME staff is expected to benefit from free training. The target SME shops are engaged in selling high value added goods to tourists (Jewellery, Electronic Goods, Handicraft, Leather Goods, Ship modelling etc.). Their business relies on the VAT refund that the tourist will get at the MCCI counter at the airport. The BNFS offers a modern and quick solution to process those sales in line with the requirements of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and eliminates considerably mistakes of refund calculations based on wrong VAT amounts or exchange rates. It also allows a quick refund when the tourist is at the MCCI counter at the airport. It is professional, secure, transparent, reliable and very rapid.

The new SME BNFS package is in line with the national objective of attracting more tourists and making them spend more during their visits. It encourages more tourists to buy because of VAT paid/ VAT free refunds. Launched on 9 April 2009, the stimulus package has already attracted more than 50 VAT shops under the SME Light package. SMEs are convinced that they need to master ICT tools to provide world class services to their clients. The scheme not only provides training as well as a PC and an ADSL modem free of charge in the SME LIGHT package, but the monthly fee also includes a 256K ADSL 3 GB internet access. This 24/24 access to internet, on top of the access to the BNFS network, is considered as

a major competitive advantage. The attractiveness of the package is that it eliminates the cost constraints of SME shops by funding the training fees, the equipment fees for PC and modem acquisition as well as the telephone line conversion to ADSL. We have even shops that will indulge in VAT free/VAT paid refunds to tourists with the new scheme. That's pretty good news, at a time when a slowdown in the number of tourist arrivals has been forecasted by the Central statistical office (CSO) in 2009 due to the world economic downturn. The scheme proposed can thus help to preserve jobs in the present economic climate and lead to job creation when the economy will rebound.

Anwar Kaidoo
Operations Manager

Visits of Dignitaries

VISIT OF THE AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE CHAMBER

The Ambassador Designate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Mr. Mohammed Mahmoud Ali Al-Ali, paid a courtesy call on the representatives of the Chamber on the 6th November 2008.

VISIT OF THE HONORARY CONSUL OF MAURITIUS IN ZAMBIA TO THE CHAMBER

Mrs Rekha Parmar, Honorary Consul of Mauritius in Zambia met with Mr.Mahmood Cheeroo, Secretary-General of the MCCI and Ms. Faeeza Ibrahimsah, Manager, Communications and Promotion Division of the Chamber on the 10th November 2008.

VISIT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMPETITION COMMISSION TO THE CHAMBER

Mr. John Davies, the Executive Director of the Competition Commission of Mauritius paid a courtesy call on Mr. Mahmood Cheeroo, the Secretary General of the Chamber and Mr Barlen Pillay, Manager of the Legal and Business Facilitation Division, on Wednesday 4th February 2009.

The Secretary General, Mr. Mahmood Cheeroo and Mr. John Davies, the Executive Director discussed on areas of cooperation between the MCCI and the Competition Commission.

Incoming Delegations

MEETING WITH DELEGATION FROM SHANGHAI FEDERATION OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

A meeting with a delegation from Shanghai Federation of Industry and Commerce was organised by the Chamber on the 3rd November 2008.
The delegation comprising 6 members was led by Mr. Ji Xiaodong, Vice-Chairman Shanghai Federation of Industry and Commerce.
In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the MCCI and the Shanghai Federation of Industry and Commerce

VISIT OF SADC HEADS OF CUSTOMS TO THE CHAMBER

A meeting between representatives of the Chamber and a delegation of Heads of Customs from SADC countries, was held at the Chamber on the 25th November 2008.
This meeting, which is part of a study visit has helped the delegation to better understand the role of CCIM in facilitating trade.

VISIT OF DELEGATION FROM ZAMBIA TO THE CHAMBER

A high level delegation from the Zambian Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry composed of eight members of the Private Sector Development (PSO) Division to Mauritius from the 2nd to the 4th March 2009.
The delegation paid a visit to the Chamber on the 4th March 2009. Mr. Barlen Pillay, Manager of Legal and Business Facilitation Division of the MCCI met with the delegation.
The purpose of their visit was to better understand the participation of the private sector in the business environment reforms that have been implemented in Mauritius in light of the World Bank Doing Business Report.

Information meeting

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN RUSSIA AND MAURITIUS

A Information Meeting on the business opportunities between Russia and Mauritius was organised on Thursday 12 February 2009 at the Chamber. The objective of the meeting was to apprise Members of the business opportunities between Russia and Mauritius.
Mr. Dmitry Turaev, from the Embassy of the Russian Federation, participated at the meeting.

A focus on investment in Mauritius

Among the various problems which Mauritius had to face in its post-colonisation period was the low level of gross domestic output associated to a low level of savings not enough to generate sufficient funds for investment purposes, appallingly needed for economic development. With the high prices obtained for its sugar in the 1970s, the country was however able to diversify its production base by funding the first phase of its industrialisation process and the tourism industry. Therefrom, investment increased in the domestic economy.

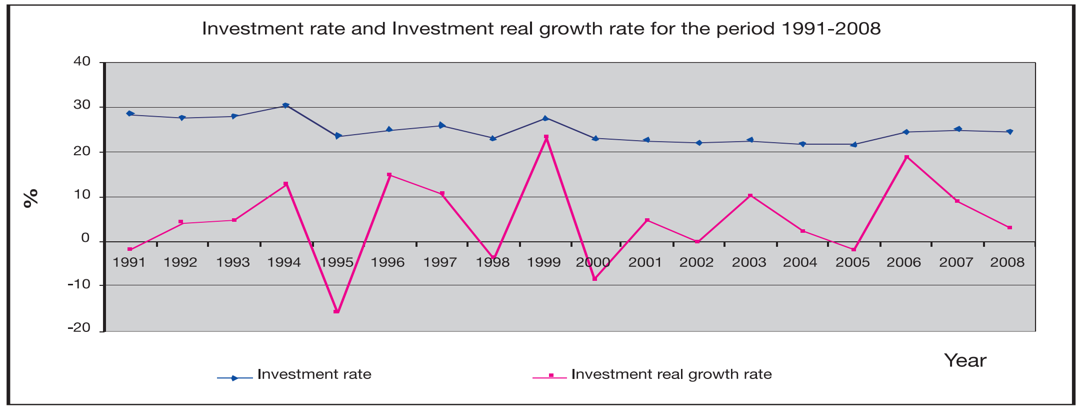
The role of investment is pivotal for any economy's prosperity and progress, even more if, like Mauritius, the economy is comparatively less or not at all endowed with natural resources. In that respect, the volume of capital spending undertaken by businesses is among the mostly examined items of the national accounts of a country. This is because, for the economy as a whole, aggregate investment plays a vital part in the determination of the future productive capacity of the economy, and thus its growth in living standards. The existence of a direct relationship between employment and investment suggested by economic theory further stresses the importance of capital spending to the economy. Also, investment especially on internationally recognised quality standards or world-class innovations has been argued to contribute in bridging the gap with more developed countries through exports and an active participation to international trade. Moreover, the way to continuous improvements in productivity and competitiveness is also strongly linked to investment.

Domestic Investment trends in Mauritius

Investment is almost exclusively the prerogative of businesses and is measured by new capital accumulation (both private and state-owned) over a period of time, mainly through: 'non residential buildings' and 'machinery and equipment'. With regards to Mauritius, its economic development would not have been possible without the massive domestic investments in its leading economic sectors. In particular, it had been argued that the large share of private domestic investment in the EPZ, tourism and financial sectors has protected the country from a large dependency on foreign capital, facilitating along the way joint ventures and technological transfers.

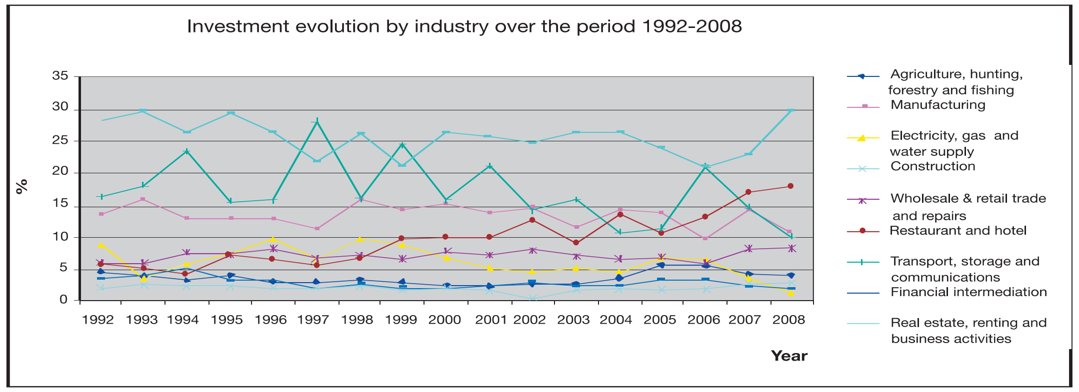
One of the outstanding characteristics of investment, however, is its extreme volatility from very high to very low levels. As such, more than any other component of the national income it is subject to violent fluctuations. An analysis of the local investment trend indeed reveals that the real growth rate of Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation over 1991-2008 which slumped to -16.3% in 1995, registered a growth of 23.1% four years later, decreased again to -8.3% in 2000, picked up to 19.0% in 2006 to fall to 8.6% and 3% in 2007 and 2008 respectively.

The investment rate, which is measured by the share of GDP devoted to investment, has been fluctuating since 1994 between 20% and 30%. However, over the period 1991-2008 a decrease of 8.1 percentage points has been registered. Nonetheless, the investment rate trend as of 2006 showed higher rates compared to the period 2000-2005.



While 'investment in machinery and equipment' grew on average by 18% between 1983 and 1990, a reverse in the trend was noted in the early 1990s which was at the time incompatible with the necessity to shift towards high value added products. The trend did not change much though because from 1993 to 2008, average annual investment grew by 4.3% only. With regards to buildings and construction work, investment focus also veered away in the past six years from residential towards non-residential buildings.

The evolution of investment by industry, between 1992 and 2008, gives a glimpse of how the Mauritian economy evolved over that period. While domestic investment was mostly devoted to the manufacturing, transport and the real estate sectors in the early 1990s, the situation in 2008 revealed a change in focus.



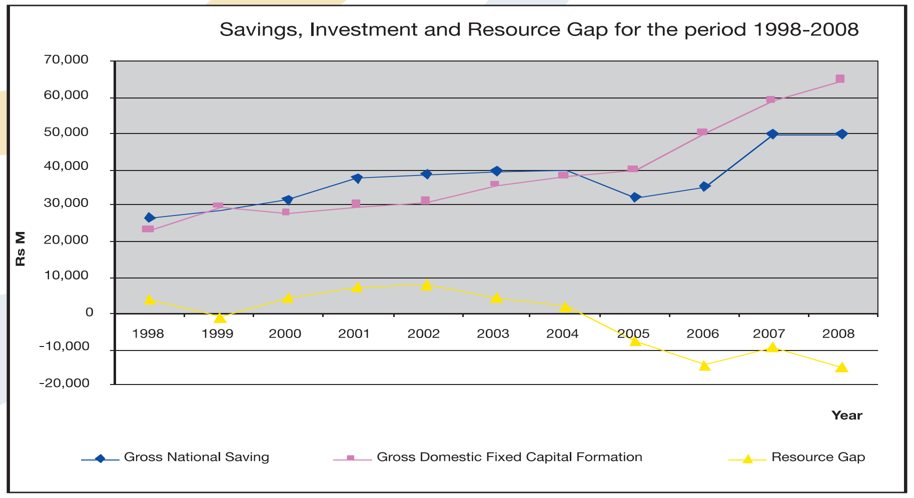
Even though the real estate sector continued to benefit from the bulk of domestic investment (30.0% of GDFCF in 2008 compared to 28.2% in 1992), the investment trend in the sector was not that continuous over the years. Investment in the sector experienced a downward trend in the 1990s, stagnated from 2000 to 2004 to go up in 2006 as a result of incentives bestowed by the government in the property development sector.

With regards to 'Hotel and Restaurant', investment which took off slowly from 5.2% of GDFCF in 1992, increased by 3.5 times to reach 18.1% in 2008. This was mainly due to two factors namely: the approval of additional investment projects in the sector and the opening up of the country's air traffic. Although the contribution of domestic investors to the sector over the past sixteen years was lower in some years compared to others, the trend remained upward in general. In a similar vein, the financial intermediary sector, which experienced progressive changes with regards to the deregulation, liberalization and globalization of the financial market, also benefited massively from local investments which increased by 145% from 1992 to 2008. Moreover, the Information and Communication technology (ICT) sector, through notable initiatives, has also become dynamic in the recent years, attracting as a result major capital spending.

In contrast, capital spending in the manufacturing and the transport sectors were found to be diminishing. Growth and investment in the manufacturing sector were negatively affected by the progressive removal of quotas on China and other countries, increasing competition on export markets and Mauritius' high location cost.

Investment financing: the current situation

The problem of low savings levels not enough to fuel investment which popped up in the early 1970s still makes the headlines in 2008. According to economic theory, these low levels of domestic savings act as constraints on the investment activity, and consequently on the desired levels of economic growth. With regards to Mauritius, the resource gap, which is the difference between savings and investment, contracted in 2007 to widen again in 2008.



This is because savings and investment are different acts, accomplished largely by different people and for different purposes so that the amount businesses wish to invest at anytime may not exactly match the amount that households and businesses wish to save; it may be either lower or higher than investment. And in the case of Mauritius, it is much lower.

The problem here lies in the fact that any level of investment which is greater than savings cannot be sustained in the long run. Further to that, when the level of investment exceeds savings, this may give rise to wrong investments of the economy's saved resources which may, in the worst scenario, lead to an economic crisis. In that respect, Mauritian specialists have warned about the real risk that investment projects in building and real estate that have been financed by credit expansion instead of genuine savings may constitute to the Mauritian economy.

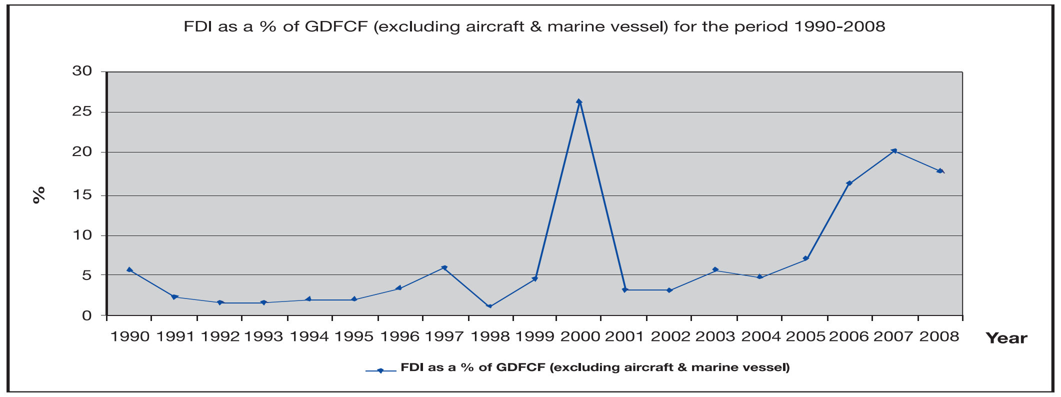
One way to bridge the deficiency of domestic savings over domestic investment has been the country's reliance on foreign direct investment which removes the limits on domestic investment enabling developing countries to launch into a path that would eventually lead to self-sustaining growth.

Foreign Direct Investment trends in Mauritius

In that respect, the FDI inflows which Mauritius started to attract in the mid-1980s were among the various factors contributing to its economic advancement. However, the main reasons for such inflows namely the country's cheap labour, the preferential access of its products on the EU market and the financial and fiscal incentives did not hold in the 1990s. In addition, the country's limited market also constituted a major restraint to investment. Consequently, the government adopted a wide-ranging reform strategy to overcome this situation as well as other investment constraints such as access to finance, redtape and the lack of qualified labour which were later on added to the list. As such major improvements were subsequently achieved like for instance, the waiting period between the initial submission of the relevant documents by investors and the granting of operational permits which virtually took 30 weeks ten years ago, takes three working days now.

Apart from an exceptional surge that occurred in 2000 where 99% of inflows were devoted to the 'Transport, Storage and Communication' sector, the proportion of FDI to GDFCF over the period 1990-2004 proved to be low. Indeed the prime benefits reaped from FDI inflows at the time were the transfer of technology, know-how, management practices, the business network of foreign investors and the work discipline they brought rather than the capital inflows per se. This as such indicates that during all these years investment in Mauritius was largely fuelled by domestic economic players.

A focus on investment in Mauritius



As of 2005 however FDI in Mauritius increased 5 folds largely because of a higher degree of openness to foreign professionals and capital transfers, the incentives associated to the IRS, reduced tax levels and more simplified procedures.

An analysis of FDI by industry reveals that the Integrated Resort Scheme, which was introduced in the 2002/03 budget with the hope of boosting foreign direct investment in the tourism sector, was largely favoured along with the banking sector. The offshore industry also attracted foreign capital inflows because of its wide network of double tax treaties. Its commitment towards the Financial Action Task Force (TATF) on money laundering issues is seen as an advantage rather than a limitation.

Over 2008, the same FDI trend was sustained as the major share of inflows was mainly directed to the 'Tourism' (35%), 'Financial intermediation' (40%) and 'real estate' (17%) sectors, compared to 2001 where foreign spending was mostly on the construction and the financial intermediation sectors.

One important issue however, is what will be the impact on foreign investments when there will be no more villas available for sale under the IRS? Or if the double taxation treaties in the offshore sector are reviewed to our disadvantage? Most probably, this will entail a significant fall in foreign capital inflows but as it has been long claimed by some, it is not the volume but the quality of the capital inflows that matters - as long as it is useful to the production apparatus and improves productivity. For now however, FDI in these particular fields have been bringing in appreciable know-how to the local labour force which has resulted in an upgrade of our standards to internationally recognised ones.

Investing in Mauritius in the time of the crisis

While the pre-emptive intervention of the Mauritian government - through the announcement of a series of measures under the Additional Stimulus package in December 2008 - to shore up economic performance is much to its credit, the expectations of the local business community remain low given the presently inauspicious business environment on the international front. Moreover, even if one of the main focus of this package is to accelerate private sector investment over the period 2009-2010, the sentiment among many players is that the provisions offered under the package are not as decisive as those given by other countries in this time of crisis.

With regards to FDI, capital inflows in 2007 and 2008 have remained high despite the financial and credit crises which emerged in the second semester of 2007. This was because in 2007 the crisis was confined to the US and had not yet hit other economies. Now that this is not the case anymore, investment whether domestic or foreign will be put under considerable pressure given the fog of uncertainty which is reigning over the overall business community. This is because demand expectations are utterly important to the investment process of firms and the latter will only invest if they expect orders to be sustainable in the long-term. But since uncertainty is the only certainty presently, the probability of capital spending is consequently dim. As such, even though past history has shown that the common feature of all crises is that they do end, investment decisions in the meantime will move at the turtle's pace until more visibility is observed.

Laura Shock Torap
Analyst
Economic Analysis and Industry Division

Brainstorming Session on the Implications of a SADC Customs Union for Mauritius

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) provides for the establishment of a Customs Union in 2010, which is the third stage in the integration process of a regional trade agreement. Since the year 2000, Member States of SADC have engaged in a tariff liberalisation process with different tariff phase down schedules for various product categories. Last year, customs duties were eliminated on 85 percent of goods traded within the SADC Member States when the Free Trade Area was launched.

In view of sensitising the private sector on the implications of Mauritius in joining the SADC Customs Union, our Chamber, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, organised a half-day brainstorming session to discuss the implications for Mauritius to join the SADC Customs Union on Monday 2nd March 2009 at Sir Harilall Vaghjee Hall, Port Louis.

A presentation was made by Mr. Matthew Stern, who is a consultant for Development Network Africa (a consulting group based in South Africa), on the findings of his study entitled 'Evaluation of an appropriate model for the SADC Customs Union'. Following the presentation, a panel comprising public and private sector experts including Mr. Ali Mansoor - Financial Secretary, Mr. Assad Bhuglah - Director Trade Policy and Mr. Mahmood Cheeroo - Secretary General of our Chamber led the discussions on finding the appropriate formula for Mauritius to join the SADC Customs Union.

The study of Mr. Stern is available on the website of the Chamber: www.mcci.org

Workshop on NTBs Online Monitoring Mechanism

Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) such as import licensing, pre-shipment inspection, strict competition policies, health and safety requirements or technical barriers can be important obstacles to international trade.

At regional level, the Tripartite Task Force, COMESA, SADC and EAC, have developed a common online mechanism for monitoring and eliminating NTBs. The NTB website incorporates information on Member States with comprehensive details on the NTBs faced by the business community when trading in the region.


Presentation of the COMESA-EAC-SADC NTB Online Reporting Mechanism to Dr. the Hon. A. Boolell and representatives of the Ministry and of the MCCI

In view of sensitising the business community on how to identify and report NTBs in the region, our Chamber in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade organised a Workshop on the COMESA-EAC-SADC NTB Online Reporting Mechanism held on Thursday 23rd April 2009 at the MEF-MCCI Building in Ebène. In his speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Dr. the Hon. A. Boolell, underlined the importance for Government and the Private sector to put up a common front and adopt a synergistic approach to identify and prevent the emergence of NTBs.

Prior to a presentation on an overview of NTBs, the SADC and COMESA Free Trade Areas were presented to the participants, both from the public and private sectors. A training session was also held to assist and encourage the business community to report NTBs online.

Vivagen Amoomoogum
Analyst
Trade Division

Competition Policy in Mauritius

The competition policy of Mauritius is embedded in the Competition Act 2007, which was adopted by Parliament in late 2007. Last year, part I and part II of the Act were proclaimed to come into operation in October 2008. Shortly after, Mr John Davies, the Executive Director of the Competition Commission, was appointed. He took office in January and is currently working to set up the Competition Commission and to draft the guidelines which will be used to determine cases subject to review and penalties or remedies imposed under the Act, as well as the procedural rules which the Commission will follow to carry out its functions.

Mr. John Davies, Executive Director of the Competition Commission of Mauritius addressing the audience at the workshop

In this context, the Chamber organised on the 5th March 2009, an information workshop for its members. Mr John Davies was the main speaker and he presented salient aspects of the Act and the main functions and powers of the Commission, which is expected to be fully operational within six months of the appointment of Commissioners (expected shortly). He also emphasised the importance of maintaining close dialogue with business operators, throughout and after the process of setting up the Commission and drafting the guidelines and procedural rules.

Mr Ahmed Parkar, President of the Chamber, said in an introductory speech that the new Competition Act, with its awaited guidelines and institution, will undoubtedly change our commercial landscape and practices and that a genuine Competition Policy which is based on rules, transparency and good governance can renew the trust of business operators, consumers and stakeholders in the economic system. He reminded that the Chamber has been one of the initiators of a competition framework in Mauritius, and is strongly convinced that a market regulated by fair and transparent rules administered by independent institutions is much more efficient than a market subject to all types of administrative interventions including price control.


Guests and Members of the MCCI at the workshop

Mr Hosany, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives also addressed the audience and reminded that competition policy is pro-business and has the objective of stimulating growth in commerce and industry. There is no doubt, he said, that competition leads to greater welfare as it directs resources to their most productive uses in the economy and motivates firms to adopt the most efficient processes of production.

Main functions of the Commission under the Competition Act 2007 will be to conduct hearings, determine the existence of restrictive business practices, and impose penalties and remedies thereon. The Act defines four main types of restrictive business practices, namely (I) Collusive agreements (III) Non-collusive agreements (II) Abuse of monopoly situations and (IV) Abuse of merger situations.

Collusive agreements include bid-rigging and vertical agreements involving resale price maintenance. Non-collusive agreements include collusion by competitors to supply 30 per cent or more, or acquire 30 per cent or more of goods or services on the market and may be subject to review where the Commission has “reasonable grounds” to believe that it has the object or effect of preventing, restricting and distorting competition.

A monopoly situation is defined in the Act as one where in relation to the supply of goods or services of any description, (i) 30 per cent or more of those goods or services are supplied or acquired on the market by one enterprise; or (ii) 70 per cent of more of those goods or services are supplied or acquired by 3 or fewer enterprises. The existence of a monopoly situation in itself is not illegal. However, should the Competition Commission rule that the enterprise in the monopoly situation is engaging in conduct that has the object or effect of preventing, restricting or distorting competition, or in any other way, constitutes exploitation of the monopoly situation, then sanctions may apply.

A merger situation is defined as the bringing together under common ownership and control of two or more enterprises. One of the instances where it may be subject to a review by the Commission is where all the parties to the merger, supply or acquire goods or services of any description, and will following the merger, together, supply or acquire 30 per cent or more of all those goods or services on the market.

Penalties for these anti-competitive practices include directions given by the Commission to terminate or modify the restrictive agreement, and financial penalties of up to 10 per cent of the turnover of the enterprise in Mauritius during the period of the breach and for up to a maximum period of 5 years.

The Competition Act 2007 repeals the Competition Act 2003, which was never enforced. However, the regulation of competition in Mauritius can be related to several other pieces of legislation, such as the provisions of the Civil Code on contracts and torts, the Fair Trading Act 1980, the Consumer Protection Act 1991, the Supplies Control Act 1974, the Protection against Unfair Trade Practices Act, and the Hire Purchase Act 1964. All these legislations contain disparate provisions regarding the safeguard of consumers against traders or of traders against traders in the conduct of business, in view of ensuring fair trade, and ultimately high quality products at low prices, safeguards which are also the basic aims of competition rules. Policy decisions such as reforms to external tariff regimes, liberalization of certain sectors, and reduction in the number of goods subject to price control are also in line with the promotion of a competition culture.

Economic theory demonstrates that welfare is greatest when there is “perfect competition”. Competition policy and laws are the means whereby states intervene in a free market to prevent abuses which would tend to increase prices and reduce the availability and quality of goods and services offered to the consumer. At national levels, a governmental authority is set up to enforce the competition rules, and at regional or international levels, collaboration between individual national authorities provides a measure of harmonization and coordinated action.

The origins of modern competition laws can be traced back to the Sherman Antitrust Act which was the first United States Federal statute to limit cartels and monopolies. But the control of restrictive commercial practices reaches back to the Roman Empire. The business practices of market traders, guilds and governments have always been subject to scrutiny, and sometimes severe sanctions. Since the twentieth century, competition law has become global. The two largest and most influential systems of competition regulation are currently the United States antitrust law and the European Community competition law.

Mauritius has, no doubt, yet a long way to go as far the implementation of a successful competition culture is concerned. A lot will depend on the independence of the Competition Commission, fair and transparent rules and a thorough understanding and mastery of the new context by all stakeholders.

Anjana Khemraz
Analyst
Legal and Business Facilitation Division

19th Annual Dinner of the MCCI

The 19th Annual Dinner of the MCCI was held on 20 March 2009 at Hilton Hotel.

H. E. Mrs C. Wiedey, Head of Delegation of the European Commission

The Guest Speaker, on this occasion was H. E. Mrs. Claudia Wiedey, Head & Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Mauritius, Comoros and the Republic of Seychelles. The theme of her speech was ‘Mauritius and the EU - a proven partnership during a period of global turbulences’.

In her speech, Mrs Claudia Wiedey recalled that ‘We are living in turbulent times which are characterised by an almost unprecedented economic downturn.’ According to her ‘We are faced with a global problem and we need a global and coordinated response.’ She expressed her satisfaction concerning Mauritius which is one of a few African Countries where the private sector continues to play a distinctly positive role in issues such as poverty eradication, environmental protection and corporate social responsibility.

Luvna Arnassalon
Analyst
Communications and Promotion Division

*The speech is available on the Chamber’s website: www.mcci.org

The Head Table

The President of the MCCI Mr. A. Parkar and Mrs. A.Parkar with the vice-President of the MCCI, Mr. K. Juwaheer

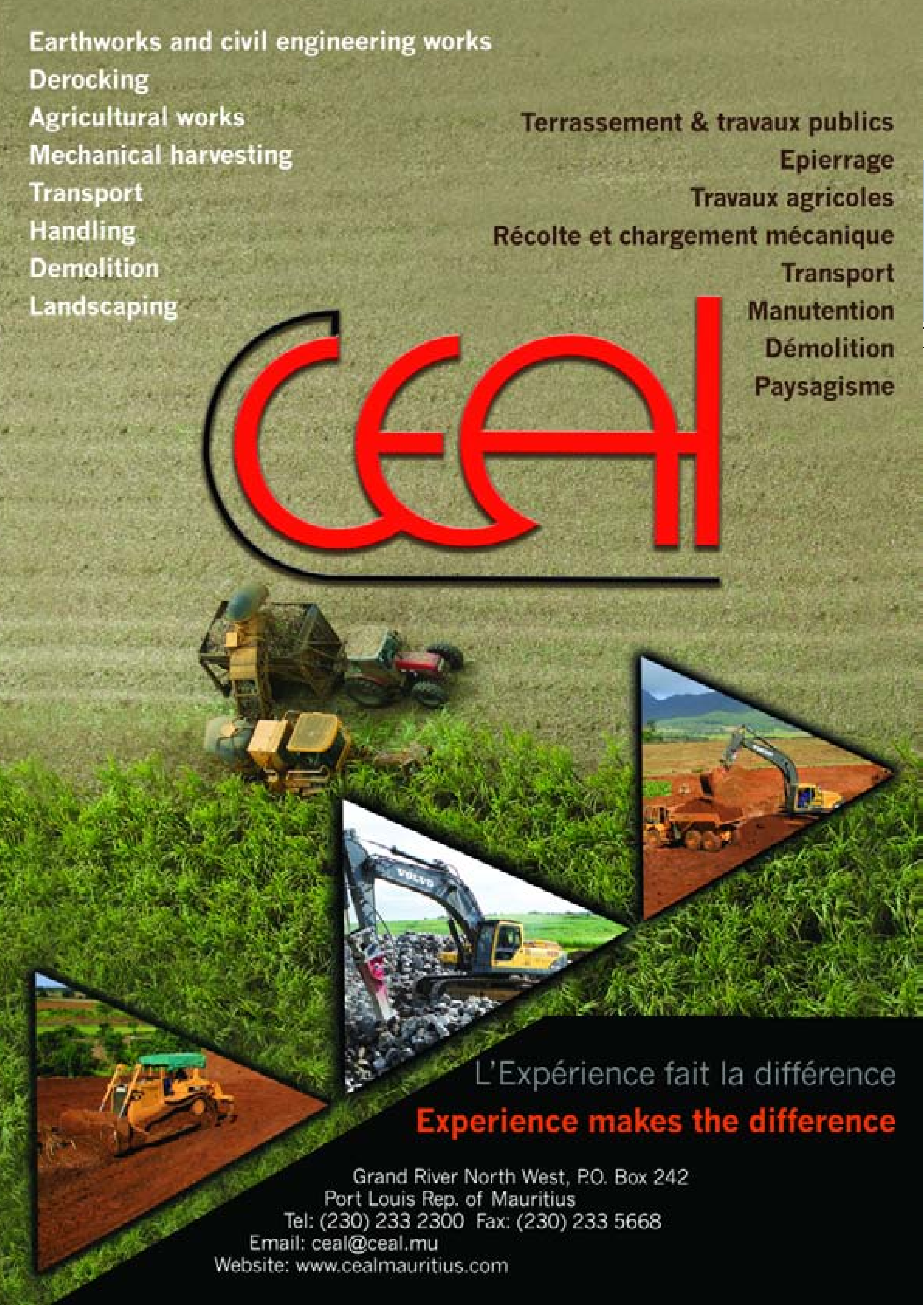
Mr. M. Cheeroo, Secretary General of the MCCI welcoming The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Dr. Arvin Boolell

Mr. M. Cheeroo, Secretary General of the MCCI welcoming our guest speaker, Mrs C.Wiedey, Head of Delegation of the European Commission and Mr. C.Wiedey

Mr Ahmed Parker, President of the MCCI addressing the guests

Mrs. A.Parkar presenting a gift to Mrs C.Wiedey

Dr The Honourable A. Kasenally, Minister of Housing & Lands, Mr M. Cheeroo, Secretary General of the MCCI and Mr. Azim Currimjee, former President of the MCCI



Corporate Social Responsibility

The Chamber's dedication to the ZEP project since 2007

The Reading sessions in ZEP schools, sponsored by the Decentralised Cooperation Programme was officially launched on the 3rd December 2008 at the MCCI in the presence of Mrs. Claudia Wieday, Mr Dansinghani and Mr Ahmed Parkar.


H. E. Mrs. Claudia Wiedey presenting a cheque to Mr. Ahmed Parkar

In this context of the ZEP project, the Chamber has been working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Human Resources and Culture. With the objective of raising the level of English and French in ZEP schools, our institution had made a request to the Decentralised Cooperation Programme for the financing of reading sessions in these schools in August 2008. The cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 5,600,000. The application has been approved by the Decentralised Cooperation Programme in December 2008. A Project Implementation Committee was created to organize and start working on the project.

The aim of the project 'Reading Sessions in ZEP schools' is to improve the academic performance of students and increase the success rate at CPE through the reading and writing sessions.The project targets 5,800 pupils facing academic difficulties in the 27 ZEP schools. The project also aims at improving the level of education by helping the ZEP school pupils facing serious academic difficulties.

In April 2007, the Chamber has taken over from the JEC the Management of the private sector participation in the 'Zones d'Education Prioritaires' (ZEP) project. The project is based on the reinforcement of factors required to create a fovorable learning environment for children living mostly in less developed regions. The project aims at combating inequalities by providing equal opportunities to all primary school children.

In June 2008, the MCCI renewed the MOU with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources for ZEP schools and launched a ZEP brochure.

Participation in the ZEP initiative can be done in several ways: - a company can sponsor a ZEP school and initiate development projects. In this case, a 'Company Delegate' should be appointed to keep track of projects.

In the case of a company that wants to support the PTA, but that does not necessarily have the time or staff to deal with them directly, it can make a financial contribution on a voluntary basis to our institution. This funding will allow the MCCI to increase its involvement in social issues.

For further information please contact Ms. Faeeza Ibrahimsah at the Chamber.

Luvna Arnassalon
Analyst
Communications and Promotion Division

100% Challenge: Le magazine de l'entreprise

L'émission de télévision '100% Challenge', co-produite par la Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Maurice et la Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation a été présentée en avant première aux journalistes lors d'une conférence de presse qui a eu lieu le 13 avril 2009 au siège de la CCIM.

M. Ahmed Parkar, M. Kiran Juwaheer, Mlle. Martine Luchmun et M. Mahmood Cheeroo au lancement de 100% Challenge

'100% Challenge', le magazine mensuel de l'entreprise, est destiné au grand public. Il a pour objectif de montrer les différentes facettes de l'entreprise, en mettant en avant son histoire, les hommes et les femmes qui y travaillent et ses produits. C'est une immersion dans l'île Maurice qui produit, qui crée de la richesse, des emplois.

Pour le Président de la CCIM, Monsieur Kiran Juwaheer, l'initiative de produire cette émission a été motivée par la constation d'un véritable fossé qui existe entre, d'une part, le constat très positif fait par les partenaires, consultants et visiteurs étrangers sur la qualité de nos entreprises locales – la qualité de nos produits, la technologie et le process, ainsi que l'environnement général; et d'autre part, la perception du public mauricien des entreprises opérant dans une certaine opacité, faisant prévaloir leurs intérêts étroits sur d'autres considérations plus larges, telles que la satisfaction du consommateur, le respect des normes ou encore la préservation de l'environnement.

Martine Luchmun, responsable de la programmation à la MBC, se réjouit de ce partenariat et dit que la station de télévision nationale est là comme un service public pour apporter le meilleur aux téléspectateurs.

L'émission a pu être réalisée grâce à la collaboration des sponsors dont Ireland Blyth Ltd., Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd., Mauritius Sugar Producers' Association, Star Knitwear Group, Taylor Smith Group et the United Basalt Products Co. Ltd.

100% Challenge, est d'une durée de 26 minutes. L'émission en 7 épisodes, sera diffusée sur la MBC 1 le troisième mardi de chaque mois (avril-octobre) à 20h20 et sur la MBC 3 le dimanche suivant à 18h30.

La première émission a été diffusée le 28 avril 2009. La prochaine émission est prévue pour le 26 mai 2009.

Faeeza Ibrahimsah
Manager
Communications and Promotion Division

Cérémonie de remise de diplômes aux lauréats du Centre d'Etudes Supérieures

Les lauréats de la cuvée 2008 de notre Centre d'Etudes Supérieures ont été récompensés lors des cérémonies de remise de diplômes organisées respectivement en novembre et décembre 2008.

L'Hon. Dr. V. Bunwaree, remettant un diplôme à un étudiant du CES

La première s'est tenue le 7 novembre 2008 à la salle de conférences de la cybertour No 1 d'Ebène et concernait ceux ayant complété avec succès le Brevet de Technicien Supérieur dans les spécialités suivantes :

- Informatique
- Gestion
- Marketing

Ces formations sont organisées dans le cadre d'un partenariat impliquant le Ministère Français de l'Education Nationale par le biais de l'Académie de l'île de la Réunion, le Rectorat de la Réunion et le Lycée La Bourdonnais.

Ils étaient 44 (soit un taux de réussite de 85%) à avoir reçu leurs diplômes des mains de l'Hon. Dr V. Bunwaree, Ministre de l'Education, de la Culture et des Ressources Humaines et de Son Excellence M. Jacques Maillard, l'Ambassadeur de France.

Dans leurs allocutions les deux personnalités ainsi que le Président de la CCIM, M. Ahmed Parkar, ont rappelé toute l'importance de la formation professionnelle pour le développement des entreprises et du pays en général.

La deuxième cérémonie de remise de diplômes a eu lieu le 12 décembre 2008 au siège du Centre d'Etudes Supérieures à la Cybercité d'Ebène. La cérémonie était destinée à ceux ayant terminé :

- la Licence de Sciences de Gestion
- La Licence Professionnelle de Commerce Electronique

Ces deux formations sont organisées en partenariat avec l'IAE de Poitiers et l'IUT de St Pierre de la Réunion respectivement. 22 étudiants ont recu le diplôme de la Licence de Gestion alors que 5 autres ont obtenu celui de la Licence de Commerce Electronique. L'invité d'honneur était le Directeur de l'IAE de Poitiers.

Ces cérémonies ont été l'occasion de mettre en valeur la coopération entre des institutions éducatives françaises et notre institution. Démarrée en 1989, le bilan est appréciable, avec une offre de formations académiques d'excellence délivrant des diplômes de l'Etat français allant de BAC+2 à BAC+5.

Ashraf Joomun
Directeur
Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de la CCIM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