



**MCCI News**  
BRINGING BUSINESS INSIGHTS

## In the limelight

### Increase of 0.9 percent in the Business Confidence Indicator

The MCCI released its Business Confidence Indicator for the 1st quarter of 2016 on Tuesday 03 May 2016. The index registered an increase of 0.9 percent (0.8 percentage points) to settle at 94.2 points, its highest level since 2012.

According to the last survey, entrepreneurs assert that the current situation has deteriorated as compared to the first quarter of 2015. Nonetheless, they are expecting positive performances in the short to medium term.

The BCI however remains in static territory below its long-term average of 100 basis points. Entrepreneurs pointed to the deterioration in the global economic environment as the principal factor having a negative incidence on their business performances.

On a sectoral level, the first quarter of 2016 was marked by a strong increase of business confidence in the services sector, by 6.7 points while the manufacturing sector experienced a slight growth by 1.7 points. On the other hand, the commerce sector experienced a decrease of 5.7 points in its index after stagnation in the last quarter of 2015.

Expectations of investment and employment for the next twelve months are also positive, while a slight increase is expected in the price levels in the second quarter of 2016.

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

## Local News

### MARC: Formation à la Médiation pour Notaires

MARC, l'Association des Notaires de l'île Maurice (ANM) et l'Institut de la Médiation dans l'Espace Francophone (IMEF) s'associent pour proposer une formation de haut niveau destinée à contribuer à bâtir une culture de la médiation parmi la communauté des notaires à Maurice et dans la région Océan Indien.



La formation, conçue comme une initiation à la pratique de la médiation, sera animée par M. Daniel Courbe, médiateur agréé par le Ministère de la Justice de Belgique, et se tiendra du **1 au 2 juillet 2016**, à l'**Hôtel Voilà Bagatelle, Moka**.

Bien que destinés aux notaires, cette formation reste ouverte à tous professionnels intéressés par l'esprit et la pratique de la médiation. Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez contacter Mme. Anjana Khemraz-Chikhuri du Secrétariat Permanent de MARC sur [akhemraz@mcci.org](mailto:akhemraz@mcci.org) ou sur le (+230) 208 3301.

### Introduction of Permits for Imports of Steel Products in the EU

Exporters of steel and steel products to countries of the European Union including Reunion Island are hereby informed that the European Commission has issued a regulation to

introduce a prior Union Surveillance System on the imports of steel products into the European Union.

Prior Union surveillance is a system under which importers of steel and steel products into the European Union are required to apply and to submit an import license to EU customs prior to clearance. The issuing of such licences is fully automatic and has no limitation in terms of quantities or prices. The system will apply to products from all origins (with the exception of the countries of the European Economic Area).

The regulation introducing the system has entered into force since 29 April 2016 and would last till 2020. Imports without an import licence will be allowed for 21 days from the entry into force of the Regulation in order not to prevent the importation of products already on their way to the Union and to allow sufficient time to importers to request the necessary documents.

More information can be obtained by clicking [here](#).

### Consumer Price Index for first quarter of 2016

According to Statistics Mauritius, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 4.2 points during the first quarter of 2016 to reach 111.1 points in March 2016.

The main reasons for the net increase in the CPI from December 2015 to March 2016 were higher prices of vegetables, washing materials and softeners, tuition and university fees and personal care goods. These were partly offset by lower electricity prices and lower prices of gasoline, diesel and air tickets.

The headline inflation rate for the twelve months ending March 2016 is estimated at 0.9 percent compared to 2.4 percent for the twelve months ending March 2015. The headline inflation rate was 1.3 percent for the year 2015 as compared to 3.2 percent for the year 2014.

*(Source: Statistics Mauritius)*

### Air Corridor: New African destinations launched

The National Mauritian airline is expanding its network by launching direct flights to Maputo and Dar es Salaam this week.

These additional flights to Africa form part of the strategy of Mauritius to position itself as a hub between the African and Asian countries. In the context of the Air Corridor, launched in March 2016, these flights will feed the links between the two hubs, Mauritius and Singapore.

Air Mauritius will have a total of 26 weekly flights to Africa following the addition of the two new destinations. The launching of the direct flights to Maputo and Dar es Salaam has taken place on 4th and 6th May 2016, respectively.

## International News

### New Global Collaboration between GS1 and IHTSDO

GS1 and the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) have signed on 22 April 2016 a new collaborative agreement that supports interoperability in health information systems globally. The agreement between GS1 and IHTSDO follows an initial Memorandum of Understanding that both parties signed in 2010.



GS1's global trade item numbers (GTIN) are global standards for automatic product identification (through barcodes), used for patient safety and traceability. IHTSDO's SNOMED CT is a global standard that ensures semantically accurate clinical terminology for consistent use across health systems and services. Ensuring that these two standards can work together will facilitate the link between clinical information in the patient record and the correct product administered to the patient at point of care, enabled by barcode scanning.

Read full article [here](#).

### 16 countries now in COMESA Free Trade Area

The number of member States participating in the COMESA Free Trade Area (FTA) has

risen to sixteen following the passage of the required law by the Democratic Republic of Congo to join the regional economic community. Two other countries are expected enlist any time soon.

The accession to the FTA will be done through a three-year phase down approach starting in 2016 with a 40% reduction on duty followed by a 30% reduction in 2017 and another 30% in 2018. This will eventually bring the charges to 0% which is a requirement for a country to fully participate in the FTA.

The 16 participating countries are Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Read full article [here](#).

(Source: COMESA)

## Business Opportunities

### Trade and Investment

#### India

Company is looking for local partners for joint ventures and technology transfer to set up a processing plant to produce recipes of green fodder such as animal feeds.

**Contact:** Mr. Harinder Singh - Tel: +91 99143 38223 - Email: [singh001h@gmail.com](mailto:singh001h@gmail.com)

Company wishes to get into contact with local importers of potatoes.

**Contact:** Mr. Prakash Desai - Tel: +91 99796 77565 - Email: [exports@rkdagroexports.com](mailto:exports@rkdagroexports.com)

Kriya Exports is willing to export brass parts to Mauritius.

**Contact:** Mr. Alpesh Patel - Tel: +91 99799 29078 - Email: [kriyaexports7@gmail.com](mailto:kriyaexports7@gmail.com)

#### Pakistan

Company dealing with electric fans, rice, auto body parts, etc wishes to export their products.

**Contact:** Mr. Mirza Abdul Ghani - Tel: +92 321 774 5400 - Email: [ittefaq.traders52@yahoo.com](mailto:ittefaq.traders52@yahoo.com)

### Trade Fairs

#### South Africa

Source Africa: 4th African Textile, Apparel & Footwear Trade

**Date:** 8 to 9 June 2016, Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town

**More info:** <http://www.sourceafrica.co.za/>

#### India

Power-Gen India & Central Asia

**Date:** 18 to 20 May 2017, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

**More info:** <http://www.power-genindia.com/index.html>

### Tenders from UN DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS

#### **Small and Medium Agribusiness Development Fund (SMADF) project, Uganda**

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is seeking for the services of a competent Business Development Services Management Company (BDSMC) to be in charge of the BDS operations under Small and Medium Agribusiness Development Fund (SMADF). The focus is to strengthen the business capacity of the agribusiness companies in which the Fund will invest. Matching grants will be provided to these companies through the BDS provider as per their identified needs.

The contracted BDSMC shall be in charge of the overall management of the BDS operations under the SMADF, including: (a) the management of technical aspects of the BDS provision to the investee companies; (b) the financial oversight of the matching grant operations; and (c) the procurement of competent BDS providers.

To have access to the tender documents and submit a proposal, the company must be registered on the portal United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) at: [www.ungm.org](http://www.ungm.org).  
**Deadline for submission: 1 June 2016.**

Interested members are invited to contact Mrs. Arline Sookahet at the MCCI for more information.

Please note that more tender offers are available at the following website at: <https://www.devbusiness.com>

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