



## In the limelight

### MARC: A Special Mediation Package for SMEs Launched

The MCCI Arbitration and Mediation Center (MARC) has launched a special mediation package for SMEs. The aim is to make alternative dispute resolution services more accessible to SMEs, by providing them at favorable costs with a healthy, transparent and confidential framework for sorting out their disputes privately through the assistance of a MARC mediator, and within the framework of the MARC Mediation Rules.

Under this Package, the MARC Mediation Rules will apply but with a reduced one-off fee of Rs. 5000 perparty (regardless of the sum in dispute) instead of the ediation Scale of Costs currently applicable under the MARC Arbitration and Mediation Rules. The maximum number of mediation hours shall be 10 and the applicant must be registered with the SMEDA.

Read full article [here](#).

For more information, please contact the Legal and Business Facilitation Division at the MCCI on 208 3301.

## Local News

### MCCI Afternoon Coffee: Think IT. Rethink your Business

A presentation on the theme "Think IT. Rethink your Business" will be held on Tuesday 21 June 2016 from 14hrs30 to 16hrs30 in the Conference room of the MCCI, Port Louis.

The presentation will be delivered by Data Communications Ltd. (DCL) and aims at sensitizing SMEs about ICT innovations and its impact on their businesses.

To recall, 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 network around a cup of coffee.

For registration, please contact Mrs. Khadeejah Nobeebux, Tel: 208 33 01; email: [knobeebux@mcci.org](mailto:knobeebux@mcci.org), by Monday 20 June 2016, at latest.

### Coopération régionale : Visite d'une délégation du Conseil Départemental de Mayotte

Une délégation du Conseil Départemental de Mayotte, dirigée par Mme Fatima Souffou, 1ère Vice-Présidente, a eu une session de travail avec les représentants de la MCCI le 8 juin 2016 au siège de l'institution à Port-Louis. La réunion était présidée par M. Azim Currimjee, le Président de la MCCI.



L'objectif de la mission est de voir quelles sont les possibilités de coopération entre Maurice et Mayotte dans le cadre du programme INTERREG océan Indien 2014-2020, qui constitue

la cinquième génération de programme communautaire de coopération régionale pour La Réunion. Mayotte y est associée pour la première fois, ayant acquis le statut de Région ultrapériphérique (RUP) en 2014.

Relevant de la politique de cohésion, INTERREG V contribue à la mise en œuvre de la stratégie Europe 2020 en faveur d'une croissance intelligente, durable et inclusive.

Le présent programme aborde à la fois les orientations en matière de coopération transfrontalière de La Réunion ainsi que les orientations en matière de coopération transnationale de La Réunion et de Mayotte.

### **Increase of 12.5 percent in tourist arrivals over first quarter of 2016**

According to Statistics Mauritius, tourist arrivals increased by 12.5 percent in the first quarter of 2016, as compared to the same period in 2015, to reach 327,836.

In the first quarter of 2016, France, our top tourist generating country, registered a growth of 4.7 percent. Tourist arrivals from Turkey and Poland increased by 546.4 percent and 212.4 percent respectively, as a result of new direct flights. A decline of 3.4 percent is however noted for China due to a decrease in seat capacity.

It is estimated that tourist arrivals for the year 2016 would reach 1,240,000, representing an increase of 7.7 percent over the 2015 figures. The Bank of Mauritius has revised upwards its tourism earnings forecasts for the year 2016 to Rs. 55 billion, representing an increase of 9.6 percent.

## International News

### **GS1 Launches Major Update to Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN)**

On 31 May 2016, GS1 announced the successful global launch of GDSN Major Release 3, an update to the Global Data Synchronisation Network™ (GDSN®) standard.

GDSN is a network product data sharing system that is managed by the GDSN standard. It contains over 20 million products. This standard ensures that information, like pricing or product data, exchanged among networked trading partners is accurate.

The launch brings a new level of speed, efficiency and information-sharing flexibility to the nearly 40,000 organisations worldwide that rely on GDSN to share trusted product data with their business partners in an automatic and immediate way.



With enhancements like richer product information sharing, industry-specific functionality and better regulatory compliance features, the release of GDSN Major Release 3 empowers organisations to respond to new and emerging marketplace demands like never before.

Read full article [here](#).

### **African Union set to launch e-Passport in July Summit**

The African Union (AU) is prepared to launch the electronic passport (e-Passport) at the next AU Summit tabled to take place in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016. This flagship project, first agreed upon in 2014, falls squarely within the framework of Africa's Agenda 2063 and has the specific aim of facilitating free movement of persons, goods and services around the continent – in order to foster intra-Africa trade, integration and socio-economic development.

The first group of beneficiaries will include: AU Heads of State and Government; Ministers of Foreign Affairs; and the Permanent Representatives of AU Member States based at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Countries such as Seychelles, Mauritius, Rwanda, and Ghana have taken the lead in ensuring easier intra-Africa travel by relaxing visa restrictions and in some cases lifting visa requirements altogether. The scene seems to be set to realize the dream of visa-free travel for African citizens within their own continent by 2020.

Read full article [here](#).

### **EU signs Economic Partnership Agreement with Southern African countries**

The European Union and six countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland, signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) – the first of its kind between the EU and an African region pursuing the objective of economic integration. The signature took place in Botswana on 10 June 2016.

The EPA with these six countries is a development-oriented free trade agreement. Other regional agreements could also soon be signed with West Africa and the East African Community.

The EPA takes account of the different levels of development of each partner. It guarantees Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, and Swaziland duty-free, quota-free access to the European market. South Africa will also benefit from enhanced market access, going beyond the existing bilateral arrangement.

Read full article [here](#).

(Source: Tralac)

## WTO opens online registration for the 2016 Public Forum

Online registration for the 2016 Public Forum is now open on the WTO website: [www.wto.org/pf16](http://www.wto.org/pf16). The Forum will be held at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva from 27 to 29 September.

Under the theme "Inclusive Trade", it will be an opportunity for participants to discuss how a wider range of individuals and businesses can participate in the global trading system and how WTO rules can help to ensure everyone benefits from trade.

NGOs, representatives of governments, civil society organizations, businesses, trade unions, legislators, academics, students and the public at large are welcome to participate in the Forum.

To attend the event, participants must complete an online application form: [www.wto.org/pf16](http://www.wto.org/pf16).

**Registration closes on 18 September 2016.**

# Business Opportunities

## Trade and Investment

### Turkey

Company supplies PET Packaging, thin wall plastic containers, food cans, twist caps, aerosols, etc.

**Contact:** Mr. Fatih Ceri - Sarten Ambalaj Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S.; **Email:** [faithceri@sarten.com.tr](mailto:faithceri@sarten.com.tr)

### India

Export of FMCG products, agro products, spices, fresh fruits and vegetables, foodstuffs, etc.

**Contact:** Mr. Paresh Patel - HYS Developers LLP; **Email:** [paresh.patel@hysdevelopers.com](mailto:paresh.patel@hysdevelopers.com)

Export of kitchen hoods, built in gas hobs, cooktops, stainless steel kitchen sinks, ovens, etc.

**Contact:** Mr. Sabyasachi Chand - Franke Faber India Private Ltd.; **Email:** [sabyasachi.chand@franke.com](mailto:sabyasachi.chand@franke.com)

## Trade Fairs

### India

Source India 2016

**Date:** 13 to 14 August 2016, Surat, Gujarat

**More info:** <http://www.mcci.org/media/139047/source-india-buyers-brochure.pdf>

### Ethiopia

25th Edition of Addis

Trade for Development

**Date:** 19 August to 10 September 2016, Addis Ababa Exhibition Center

**More info:** <http://www.centurypromotion.com>

### **Tenders from UN DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS**

#### **Supply, delivery, installation, commissioning of IT equipment related accessories and training in Gambia**

The Government of Gambia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the West Africa Regional Communications Infrastructure Program (WARCIP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract **Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning of IT Equipment, Related Accessories and Training**.

The WARCIP now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders as defined in World Bank "Procurement Guidelines".

**Deadline: 28 July 2016**

For more information, please contact Mrs. Arline Sookahet at the MCCCI.

More tenders are available at: <https://www.devbusiness.com>.

18 June 2016

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