



In the limelight

Decrease of 5.1 percent in the Business Confidence Indicator

The MCCI released its Business Confidence Indicator for the 3rd quarter of 2016 on Monday 31 October 2016.

The index registered a fall of 5.1 percent (5.0 percentage points) to settle at 93 points. This fall comes after three favourable quarters in the business climate.

According to the last survey, entrepreneurs assert that the current situation has deteriorated as compared to the third quarter of 2015. They are further expecting negative performances in the short to medium term.

The BCI hence 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 third quarter of 2016 was marked by a fall in business confidence in all sectors of activity.

Based on the composite index of the business climate, economic growth is expected to slow down in the third quarter of 2016, with an increase of 3.0% in GDP as compared to 2015. Carry-over growth for 2016 stands at 3.1%.

The full report can be accessed here in [English](#) and in [French](#).

MCCI Updates

MCCI relocating to Anglo-Mauritius House

We wish to inform you that MCCI Head Office is now located on the Second Floor of Anglo-Mauritius House at 6, Adolphe de Plevitz Street, Port Louis.

We can be reached by phone on (+230) 203 4830; fax on (+230) 208 0076 and by email on mcci@mcci.org.

Mauritius-Pakistan Business Meet: New business opportunities to be explored

Successful business meetings were held during the Mauritius-Pakistan Business Meet organized jointly by the MCCI and the Board of Investment on 21 October 2016. The event saw the participation of a 15-member Pakistani delegation which was led by Mr. S.M. Muneer, Chief Executive of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.



Both sides expressed the wish for a stronger business cooperation between members of the business community of Mauritius and Pakistan.

Read full article [here](#).

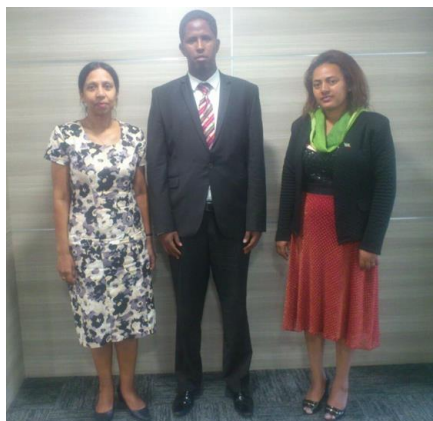
Legend from left to right: Mr. Ken Poonoosamy, Managing Director of the BOI, Mr. S.M. Muneer, Chief Executive of TDAP, Mr. Raju Jaddoo, Secretary General of the MCCI and Mr. Shehzad Ahmed, Chairman of the Mauritius-Pakistan Joint Business Council.

Courtesy visit of the Ambassador of Ethiopia to the MCCI

HE Mr. Mustafe Dek Abdisalam, the Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Mauritius, with residence in Zimbabwe, paid a courtesy visit to the MCCI on Wednesday 26 October 2016.

During the meeting, HE Mr. Mustafe Dek Abdisalam spoke about the avenues of cooperation between Mauritius and Ethiopia.

He stated that the government of Ethiopia is pushing to diversify into manufacturing and services. He also encouraged Mauritian business people to invest in the setting up of the Free Zones in Ethiopia.



The Ambassador expressed the wish that there is further collaboration between the business people of both countries.

Legend from left to right: Ms. Faeza Ibrahimsah, Manager of the Communications and Promotion Division – MCCI, HE Mr. Mustafe Dek Abdisalam and Mrs. Almaz Gebeyaw, First Secretary – Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

MCCI receives the visit of the Honorary Consul General of Switzerland

The Honorary Consul General of Switzerland, Mr. Adrian Wehli, paid a courtesy call to the Secretary General of the MCCI, Mr. Raju Jaddoo, on Thursday 27 October 2016 at the seat of the MCCI. He was accompanied by Mrs. Anita Dietiker, Counsellor – Director Swiss Business Hub Southern Africa.



Both parties are of the view that there are many untapped opportunities of cooperation between the two countries which can be further developed, namely in the sector of Innovation, Biotechnology and Ocean Economy.

Legend from left to right: Mr. Adrian Wehli, Mr. Raju Jaddoo, Mrs. Anita Dietiker and Ms. Faeza Ibrahimsah.

Mauritius ranked 49th in the World Bank Doing Business Report 2017

The World Bank Doing Business Report measures aspects of regulation that enable or prevent private sector businesses from starting, operating and expanding. In the 14th edition of the report, Mauritius is ranked 49th out of 190 countries. New Zealand is the economy with the highest ranking in 2017, taking over from Singapore, and is closely followed by Denmark.

The Doing Business environment is measured through 11 indicators. In Mauritius, we note an improvement in the cost of starting a business which has decreased from 2.0% to 1.8% of per capita income, mainly due to recent decreases in trade fees.

Moreover, the cost of construction permits remains high, at 0.6% of the warehouse value, whilst it still takes on average 156 days to get all permits.

The Doing Business Report further shows an increase in the effective tax rate in Mauritius from 21.5% in 2015 to 21.8% in 2016, with CSR contributions and an increase in fuel taxes.

In Mauritius, the costs related to export, excluding the freight and inland transport are at \$431 and the costs related to import is at \$538. In 18 countries, including Austria, Denmark, France, and Italy, the cost is zero.

To access full analysis of the report, click [here](#).

Review of the FTA between Mauritius and Turkey

Following the setting up of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Mauritius and Turkey in 2013, the first meeting of the Joint Committee between the two countries will be held in Mauritius on 17-18 November 2016. The main objective of the meeting will be to assess the status of implementation of the FTA as well as to address any specific problems faced by operators in the implementation of the Agreement.

In view of the forthcoming Joint Committee, Members are requested to inform the MCCI of any issues faced when exporting to the Turkish market and also to submit their request for new products in the agro-industrial sector which they would wish to export to Turkey.

All submissions should reach the MCCI by mcci@mcci.org, by Thursday 3 November 2016.

Signature d'une nouvelle convention entre la MCCI Business School, l'UoM, et l'AUF

Un accord de partenariat a été signé entre la MCCI Business School, l'Université de Maurice (UoM) et l'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) avec pour objectif de mettre en place un centre d'excellence pour l'entrepreneuriat par la promotion de la culture entrepreneuriale et par la construction d'un écosystème qui servira non seulement Maurice, mais aussi la région de l'Océan Indien et le continent africain, notamment l'Afrique francophone.



Le but de cet accord entre la MCCI, l'UOM et l'AUF avec le soutien du Ministère de l'Éducation mauricien est de construire des relations de travail et de promouvoir les interactions entre le monde académique et le monde des affaires, en restructurant la gestion et les activités de l'Institut de la Francophonie pour l'Entrepreneuriat (IFE).

« Si un pays veut être compétitif, on doit veiller à ce qu'un grand nombre de sa population soit sensibilisé à l'esprit entrepreneurial. » souligne Hélène Echevin, Présidente du Conseil d'Administration de la MCCI Business School.

Légende, de gauche à droite : Mme. Hélène Echevin, Présidente du Conseil d'Administration de la MCCI Business School, Prof. Jean-Paul De Gaudemar, Recteur de l'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Prof. Romeela Mohee, Vice-Chancelière de l'Université de Maurice

GS1® Mauritius delivers a customised training at Paspak Ltd on 'Essential GS1 Barcoding Toolkit for Printers'

The team of GS1 Mauritius delivered a training 'Essential GS1 Barcoding Toolkit for Printers' addressed to the personnel of Paspak Ltd, a print service provider member of GS1 Mauritius, on 7 October 2016.



The aim of this customised training is to ensure that print service providers are equipped with a good working knowledge of the GS1 Standards and the correct implementation thereof.

The training covered various topics namely how to construct the barcode for products, outercases and pallets. In-depth explanations were also given on the appropriate GS1 symbols to be used to capture the information and included EAN-13, ITF-14 as well as GS1-128.

Participants also learned how to construct GS1 Databar and GS1 QR Code, as both these symbols are gaining ground quickly on both international and national levels, as they can capture more information such as expiry date, batch number and much more. These are highly adopted for traceability and product recall purposes.

For more information on GS1 Mauritius training, [contact us](#).

Local News

Official Mission to Brussels: Mauritius-EU partnership discussed

A high-level delegation led by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, went on mission from 24 October 2016 to 27 October 2016 to Brussels, the capital the European Union (EU), one of the most important and reliable development partners of Mauritius.

The purpose of the visit was to have exchanges on the state of play of the Mauritius-EU partnership which goes beyond the logic of traditional development cooperation and spans over key areas like Trade, Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals, Maritime Security and Fisheries, among others.

The Minister had a frank discussion with key EU decision-makers on the EU tax initiatives especially in the light of global developments in the financial services sector, particularly in

the areas of transparency and exchange of information.

Read full article [here](#).

(Source: GIS)

Amendments to the Freeport Act 2004

The Freeport Act has been amended by GN No. 195 of 2016 to allow for Freeport companies involved in any manufacturing activity to export its manufactured goods to the extent of at least 95 per cent of its annual turnover, of which at least 50 per cent shall be exported to Africa; and the remaining percentage may, upon approval by the Board of Investment, be put on the local market.

Under the same regulations, amendments have been made for Freeport activities to also include providing Freeport related services outside Mauritius for advisory, marketing, engineering, project management, technical support and related services through a company incorporated in Mauritius.

The regulations are in force since 27 September 2016.

Amendments to the Excise Act 1994: MRA to issue Certificate of Age for Rum

The Excise Act 1994 has been amended by Government Notice No.89 of 2016 to empower the MRA Customs to issue "Certificate of Age" for matured rum, matured agricultural rum or matured local rum.

Exporters who would wish to have their consignment of rum accompanied by a "Certificate of Age" are requested to contact MRA Customs on (+230) 202 0500 for the application procedures.

The regulations are in force since 3 October 2016.

Amendments to the Consumer Protection (Control of Fairs) Regulations 2016

The Consumer Protection (Control of Fairs) Regulations 2016 have been amended by deleting the definition of 'international trade fair' and 'trade fair' and replacing them by the following definitions:

"International trade fair" means a fair, organised under a theme specified in the 2nd column of the First Schedule, where local participants and one or more foreign participants, or foreign participants display and sell the goods and provide the services specified in the corresponding 3rd column of that schedule.

"Trade fair" means a fair, organised under a theme specified in the 2nd column of the First Schedule, where local participants display and sell the goods and provide the services specified in the corresponding 3rd column of that schedule.

The First Schedule of the Regulations has also been amended by adding the theme 'Leisure and Tourism'.

The regulations are operational since 5 October 2016.

Amendments to Property Development Scheme 2015

Further to the announcement made in the 2016/2017 Budget Speech, the Property Development Scheme (PDS) Regulations 2015 have been amended as follows:

- (i) the maximum size limit of 50 arpents has been removed;
- (ii) the requirement to sell at least 25 percent of residential units to Mauritian buyers has been removed;
- (iii) the current maximum permissible land size for a villa has been reviewed from half an arpent (approx. 2110 metre sq.) to 1.25 arpent (approx. 5276 metre sq.).

International News

Entry into force of the Preferential Trade Agreement between MERCOSUR and SACU

South Africa has completed all the administrative processes to facilitate the implementation of the SACU (Southern African Customs Union - Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland) and the MERCOSUR (Common Market of the South - Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) Preferential Trade Agreement as from 21 October 2016.

The SACU-MERCOSUR PTA was signed in the City of Salvador, Federative Republic of Brazil, on 15 December 2008 on the side of MERCOSUR, and in the City of Maseru,

Lesotho, on 3 April 2009 on the side of SACU. MERCOSUR was the last party to notify completion of its internal processes on 19 December 2015.

SACU offered concessions on 1 062 tariff lines and MERCOSUR offered concessions on 1 052 tariff lines. In either case, the preference margins range between 100 - 10%. SACU offered a Tariff Rate Quota for four agricultural products, which will be accessible on a first come first serve principle with no permit requirements. The tariffs will be reduced immediately on entry into force of the Agreement.

Read full article [here](#).

(Source: *Tralac*)

ICC Expert opinion: How technology can catalyze sustainable development

Considering emerging technologies to be only beneficial for facilitating high-tech business processes and improving lifestyles for those in developed countries is a common misconception that could limit the potential benefits of these innovations for developing economies.

A new paper by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on the Internet of everything brings to light how new technology can be leveraged by developing countries to address fundamental sustainable development issues and needs.

This paper offers recommendations for governments and businesses looking to harness and benefit from emerging technology.

Read full article and access the paper [here](#).

(Source: *ICC*)

GS1 Industry & Standards Event 2016: Transforming business together

The GS1 Industry & Standards Event which was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Brussels, Belgium from 3-7 October 2016 had 320 participants from 32 countries worked together to transform business at a record speed and pace.

In plenary presentations, panel discussions, working groups meetings and industry-specific workshops, global business leaders and trading partners worked together to find solutions to common business challenges and to simplify and streamline today's complex global supply chain.

Among the key achievements were business leaders from industry and representatives from GS1's Global Office and many of its Member Organisations kicked off work on the next version of the Global Traceability Standard.

Read full article [here](#).

Business Opportunities

Trade and Investment

Comores

Une entreprise comorienne d'agro-alimentaire recherche l'expertise pour l'installation et l'opérationnalisation de ses outils de production de chips.

Contact: M. Fakriddine Y. Abdoulhalik - Secrétaire Général de l'UCCIA

Email: fakri68@yahoo.fr

South Africa

South African company offers services such as B2B matchmaking, South African industry research and inward international trade and investment business events.

Contact: Mr. Dalu Cele

Email: dalu@ndosics.co.za

Mozambique

Exporter of frozen beef from grasslands in Maputo and Gaza provinces is looking for potential importers from Mauritius.

Contact: Mr. Allan Foighel

Email: allanfoighel@gmail.com

Moldova Republic

Company from Moldova specializing in the growing of mushrooms in special designed tunnels after the Dutch modern technology is looking for a local partner - their products are 100% organic/bio.

Contact: Mr. Buzu Alexei – from Histrios SRL
Email: buzu.alexei@gmail.com

Trade Fairs

India

CII Agro Tech 2016 - 12th edition of India's Premier Biennial Agro Technology & Business Fair

Date: 19 to 22 November 2016, Parade Ground, Sector 17, Chandigarh
More info: <http://www.agrotech-india.com>

Singapore

Asia Pacific Food Expo 2016

Date: 18 to 21 November 2016, Singapore Expo Hall 4
More info: <http://www.asiapacificfoodexpo.org.sg/>

Tenders

Consultancy services as Manufacturing Technology Partner for the footwear sector, India

The Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to express their interest in providing the Services as Manufacturing Technology Partner for the footwear sector (MTP-P7).

Interested consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a subconsultancy to enhance their qualifications and they must mention the nature of association, whether Joint Venture or Subconsultancy, in their Expressions of Interest.

Deadline for submission: 15 November 2016

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

More tender offers can be accessed on the website of [UN Development Business](#).

Tuesday 1 November 2016

6, Adolphe de Plevitz Street, Port-Louis, Mauritius. Tel: (230) 203 4830 Fax: (230) 208 0076 www.mcci.org

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