



In the limelight

MCCI elected as 1st Vice Chair organization of the COMESA Business Council

The MCCI has been elected as 1st Vice Chair organization of the COMESA Business Council during the 6th Annual General Meeting held on Friday 25 November 2016 in Lusaka, Zambia.

As the 1st Vice Chairperson of the COMESA Business Council, Mr. Azim Currimjee will assist the President, Dr. Amany Asfour from Egypt.

Established in 2005, under the Treaty of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the COMESA Business Council (CBC) is a business member organization and a private sector institution of the COMESA. The membership of the CBC is mainly composed of private sector national associations representing various sectors of national economies of Member States.

The main objectives of the CBC are to promote private sector representation through facilitation of business interests to all levels of policymaking in the region and to ensure private sector development in growth sectors that contribute to the overall competitiveness of businesses in regional and global markets.

MCCI Updates

Presentation on the Trade Finance Facility of BADEA, Wednesday 7 December 2016, 10hrs, MCCI, Port Louis

A delegation from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) will be on a visit to Mauritius from 3 to 9 December 2016. In this context, a presentation on the theme "Trade Finance Facility of BADEA" will be held on **Wednesday 7 December 2016** at 10hrs at the seat of the MCCI, 2nd Floor Anglo-Mauritius House, Port Louis.

Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) is a financial institution which operates for the strengthening of economic, financial and technical cooperation between Arab and African countries.

BADEA has set up new facilities for private sector enterprises and financial institutions including a Trade Finance Facility to fund imports from Arab countries to Mauritius. Dr. Hesabelrasoul Abbas Elbashir, Chief, Trade Finance and Private Sector Division and Mr. Wadi Abdurahim Yousuf, Principal Engineering Expert, from BADEA will apprise members of the Mauritian business community on the different opportunities that can be exploited through the Trade Finance Facility.

Members who wish to attend the presentation are invited to contact Mrs. Christiane Charlot on Tel: (+230) 203 4830 or by mail on ccharlot@mcci.org to confirm their participation by **Monday 5 December 2016 at latest**.

Increase of 9.5 percent in tourist arrivals over first nine months of 2016

According to Statistics Mauritius, tourist arrivals increased by 9.5 percent in the first nine months of 2016 as compared to the same period in 2015 to reach 880,890.

In this period of 2016, France, our top tourist generating country, registered a growth of 6.2 percent. Tourist arrivals from Turkey increased by nearly 400 percent 546 as a result of new direct flights. A decline of 11.8 percent and 23.3 percent is however noted for China

and Russia respectively due to a decrease in seat capacity.

It is estimated that tourist arrivals for the year 2016 would reach 1,320,000, representing an increase of 9.9 percent over the 2015 figures. The Bank of Mauritius has revised upwards its tourism earnings forecasts for the year 2016 to Rs 56.6 billion, representing an increase of 12.7 percent.

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

Meeting with a high level delegation from Botswana

The President of the MCCI, Mr. Azim Currimjee, received the visit of a high-level delegation from Botswana, led by Hon. Vincent T. Seretse, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry on Monday 28th November 2016.



The objective of the mission was to settle a benchmark for Botswana to enhance its economic development.

The visit was an opportunity for the delegates to have a broader perspective on the contribution of the Mauritian private sector in the economic growth of the country.

Legend from left to right: Mr. Raju Jaddoo, Secretary General of the MCCI, Mr. Marday Venkatasamy, Vice-President of the MCCI, Hon. Vincent T. Seretse, and Mr. Azim Currimjee.

MARC: Promoting Harmonious Employment Relations Through Mediation

The MARC Permanent Secretariat was invited to deliver a presentation on the MARC Arbitration and Mediation Framework on the occasion of a workshop organised by the Commission for Conciliation and Mediation (CCM) on 17 November 2016, at Quatre-Bornes. The presentation was delivered by Mrs. Anjana Chikhuri, Analyst of the MCCI Legal and Business Facilitation Division.

The presentation highlighted the scope for resolution of employment-related disputes through the MARC ADR services, namely under Section 63 and Section 64 of the Employment Relations Act 2008, which provides for 'voluntary arbitration' and 'meaningful negotiations' respectively.

On the occasion, the MARC Permanent Secretariat also announced a forthcoming special mediation package for employment-related disputes, based on the MARC Mediation Rules and on a panel of specialised mediators.

For more information on the special mediation package, please contact the MARC Permanent Secretariat on Tel: (+230) 203 4830.

GS1® Mauritius participates in the 'Potential Exporters Programme' follow-up sessions organised by SMEDA

Following the workshop on 'Potential Exporters Programme' organised by Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) on 27 September 2016, follow-ups sessions were organised for the different sectors namely jewellery, food, printing, furniture, textile, metal and handicraft during the month of November.



During the follow-up sessions for each sector, entrepreneurs were explained how to adopt GS1 Standards specific to their sector of activity for national trade as well as for exportation. They also had the possibility of understanding the endless opportunities and the various benefits of adopting GS1 Barcodes for their businesses.

Read more on GS1® Mauritius participation on 'Potential Exporters Programme' workshop [here](#).

Legend: Ms. Fazlee Dhuny, delivering a presentation on GS1 Standards to entrepreneurs in the handicrafts sector.

Local News

21st Century Maritime Silk Road Indian Ocean Islands Conference, 6th - 8th December 2016, Jin Fei

The Indian Ocean Silk Road Conference will be held between 6th and 8th December 2016

at the Conference Centre, Jin Fei.

The conference aims to discuss challenges and explore opportunities in areas of culture, business, economy and international relations.

Members who wish to have more information on the Conference and on the Maritime Silk Road are requested to visit the dedicated website [here](#).

Scholarship opportunities in Australia available to Nationals of Mauritius and Rodrigues working in the public, private and NGO sectors

Australia Awards, a cornerstone of the Australian Government's development assistance program for Africa, provide access to postgraduate education, training and professional development opportunities for suitably qualified Africans from eligible countries.

Since 2011, nationals from Mauritius have been sponsored by the Australian Government through the Australia Awards to Study in Australia. Applicants from Mauritius are eligible to apply for:

- Australia Awards Scholarships (Masters level) - Applications are opened till **15 December 2016**.
- Australia Awards Short Courses - Applications are opened till **15 January 2017**.

Interested members are requested to visit the [website of Australia Awards](#) for more information.

International News

ICC: Greater collaboration key to enhance resource efficiency and economic growth

Scientists, industry-leaders and policymakers gathered in Paris on Friday 25 November 2016 to discuss the economic potential of resource efficiency, as well as its role in limiting global warming and putting the world on a more sustainable, equitable development track.

The event, titled: "Sustainable Resource Management: Business Opportunities and Economic Potential", was organised by ICC, the International Resource Panel and UN Environment and was hosted by the French Ministry of Environment, Energy and the Sea, and the French Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Académie Diplomatique Internationale.

John Danilovich, Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce, said ICC was committed to responsible business conduct. He said the business vision for progress comprised three key concepts: innovation, collaboration and regulation.

Read full article [here](#).

(Source: ICC)

Tapping into digital innovation to promote trade and investment in Africa

Leaders at the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Network World Conference and Awards 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco, on 24-25 November underline the need to manage the rise of digitalization to connect more businesses to markets and to foster inclusive trade.

This biennial conference – hosted this year by Maroc Export under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco in partnership with the International Trade Centre (ITC) – is an opportunity for organizations to forge new partnerships with other similar organizations in their regions and beyond.

ITC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Iranian Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, as well as a letter of intent with the Turkish Exporters Assembly to work with their national trade and investment promotion organizations to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) reach new markets.

ITC agreed to establish an online knowledge-sharing platform to help trade and investment promotion organizations network and share experiences. Additional work will be undertaken to research the economic and social impact of trade and investment promotion.

Read full article [here](#).

(Source: ITC)

Business Opportunities

Trade and Investment

India

A manufacturer of footwear is looking for potential importers in Mauritius.

Contact: Mr. Punit Gala
Email: jyoticorporation65@gmail.com

Pakistan

M/s Tahir Group of Industries, suppliers of surgical, dental & beauty instruments is willing to get into contact with local importers.

Contact: Sh. Tahir Inam
Email: info@tgind.com

Trade Fairs

Egypt

11th Egyptian Furniture & Home Furnishing Exhibition

Date: 2 to 5 February 2017, International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Cairo

More info: <http://www.furnexegypt.com>

Germany

International Trade Fair for Home and Contract Textiles (HEIMTEXTIL)

Date: 10 to 13 January 2017, Frankfurt

More info: <http://heimtextil.messefrankfurt.com/frankfurt/en/besucher/willkommen.html>

Tenders

Digitization of Old Records, Supply, Delivery, Installation of Hardware and Software as designed, Test run and commissioning of E-Permit Issuance System, Republic of Malawi

The Government of the Republic of Malawi is implementing the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach Support Project(ASWAp-SP), which is a single comprehensive programme and budget framework for investments across the agriculture sector.

The Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **digitization of old records, supply, delivery, installation of hardware and software as designed, Test run and commissioning of E-Permit Issuance System.**

Deadline: 6 January 2017 at 14:00 hours Malawi time.

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

For more tender offers, you are requested to go through the [UN Development Business website](#).

Tuesday 29 November 2016

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