







MCCI

MISSION STATEMENT

To serve and promote the interests of the business community in playing a leading role in the economic development of Mauritius









Council Meetings 2017-2018: Attendance



10

Tribute to Mr Mahmood Cheeroo

S L L L N O O O



Council Members 2017-2018





12

Speech of the President















COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017/2018

President

MCCI

Mr. Azim Currimjee (Industry Group) Quality Beverages Ltd. Royal Road Belle Rose

Vice President

Mr. Marday Venkatasamy CSK (Industry Group) Filao Ltée. Public Road Riche Terre

Industry Group

Mr. Shemboosingh (Beas) Cheekhooree The Mauritius Chemical & Fertilizer Industry Ltd. Fort George Port-Louis

Commerce Group

Mr. Rishaad Currimjee Currimjee Jeewanjee & Co. Ltd. 38, Royal Street Port-Louis

Mr. Charles P. Harel

Harel Mallac & Co. Ltd. 18, Edith Cavell Street Port-Louis **Mr. Cédric Lagesse** Panagora Marketing Ltd, Pont Fer Phoenix

Mr. Sébastien Mamet

18, Édith Cavell Street

Port-Louis

Mr. Junaid Muslun Pick N Eat Ltd. Gentilly Moka

Financial Services Group

Mr. Bertrand Casteres The Mauritius Union Assurance Cy. Ltd. 4, Léoville l'Homme Street Port-Louis

Mrs. Aisha Timol

Mauritius Bankers' Association 15th Floor, Newton Tower Sir William Newton Street Port-Louis

Tourism Group

Mr. Jocelyn Kwok Association des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs – Ile Maurice

(AHRIM) 5th Floor, Barkly Wharf Caudan Waterfront Port-Louis

Logistics Group

Mr. Julien Vitry Audibert Freight & Transit Co. Ltd. Royal Road Pointe aux Sables

ICT Group

Mr. Ganesh Ramalingum OTAM c/o The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry 6, Adolphe de Plevitz Street Port-Louis

Property Development Group

Mr. Joel Bruneau

Omnicane Management & Consultancy Ltd. 7th floor, Anglo-Mauritius House Adolphe de Plevitz Street Port-Louis

Other Business Services Group

Mrs. Marie France Chamary

Association Mauricienne des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprise c/o ISYS Evolution Ltd. 83, Robert Edward Hart Street Rose-Hill Mr. Navindranath Hooloomann Hooloomann & Associates Ltd. 90, St. Jean Road Quatre-Bornes

Mr. Sathiamoorthy Sunassee, G.O.S.K.

Affiliated Associations (Permanent Seats)

Mr. Shehzad Ahmed

Mauritius Chamber of Merchants c/o Abdullasonco Ltd. Louis Pasteur Street Port-Louis

Mr. Lloyd Lai Fak Yu Chinese Chamber of Commerce Suite 206, Jade Court Jummah Mosque Street Port Louis

Co-opted Members

Mrs. Hélène Échevin Suchem Ltd. Allee des Manguiers Pailles

Mr. Sylvan Oxenham

c/o S. Sunassee

Port-Louis

Sir William Newton Street

Association of Mauritian Manufacturers c/o MCCI 6, Adolphe de Plevitz Street Port-Louis

In Attendance

Mr. Raj Makoond G.C.S.K. Business Mauritius MEF-MCCI Building Ébène Cyber City Ébène

ATTENDANCE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2017/2018

NAMES

MCCI

Mr. Azim Currimjee (Quality Beverages Ltd.)

Mr. Marday Venkatasamy (Filao Ltée.)

Mr. Shehzad Ahmed (Mauritius Chamber of Merchants)

Mr. Joel Bruneau (Omnicane Mangement & Consultancy Ltd.)

Mrs. Clara Calou-Veerapatren (Association Mauricienne des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises)

Mr. Rishaad Currimjee (Currimjee Jeewanjee & Co. Ltd.)

Mr. Robert Desvaux (AEL DDS Ltd.)

Mrs. Helène Échevin (Ciel Group)

Mr. André Espitalier-Noël (MOROIL)

Mr. Christopher Hart de Keating (Association of Mauritian Manufacturers)

Mr. Navin Hooloomann (Hooloomann & Associates Ltd.)

Mr. Samade Jhummun (Global Finance Mauritius)

Mr. Jocelyn Kwok (AHRIM)

Mr. Cédric Lagesse (Panagora Marketing Ltd.)

Mr. Lloyd Lai Fak Yu * / Mr. Steeve Li Shun Cheong (Chinese Chamber of Commerce)

Mr. Nicolas Lamusse (New Maurifoods Ltd.)

Mr. Junaid Muslun (Pick & Eat Ltd.)

Mr. Nicholas Park (ENL Group)

Mr. Ganesh Ramalingum (OTAM)

Mr. Sathiamoorthy Sunassee (Indian Traders' Association)

Mrs. Aisha Timol (Mauritius Bankers' Association)

Mr. Raj Makoond G.C.S.K. (Business Mauritius) (In attendance)

Mr. Raju Jaddoo (MCCI) (In attendance)

Mrs. Sarada Moothoosamy (MCCI) (In attendance)

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TRIBUTE TO MAHMOOD CHEEROO

Mahmood Cheeroo, former Secretary-General of the MCCI, passed away on the 17th of November 2017. Mahmood Cheeroo joined the MCCI as Deputy Secretary-General in 1994. In 2000, he was appointed as Secretary-General, a post he held until his retirement in 2013.

During his career at the MCCI, he constantly advocated for excellence and his outspokenness and fairness earned him the respect of his counterparts. Mahmood Cheeroo also contributed actively to strengthen the services offered by the institution. He had a remarkable insight which made him one of the best macroeconomists of the country. Always committed towards his responsibilities, he commanded high respect and his views were well appreciated both at local and international levels.

On the occasion of the National Day 2013, the Republic of Mauritius recognized his contribution in the fields of commerce and industry – he was conferred the honoured distinction of Grand Officer of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (G.O.S.K.).

He is deeply missed.



SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT 2017/2018









State of the Economy Address from the President of MCCI, Mr. Azim Currimjee, on the occasion of the 169th AGM of the MCCI, 29th March 2018, Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port-Louis









MCCI



I am delighted to welcome you to the 169th Annual General Meeting of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Thank you for your continued support to our institution.

I would like to extend my special thanks to the Ministers, the Ambassadors and public sector officials who have always honoured this function with their presence. This is a strong testimony to the synergy that exists between the public and the private sector with the support of international organisations and development partners who have all contributed to the success of our economic model since Independence.

The State of the Economy address of the MCCI is well entrenched in our tradition and that of the country. It is an exceptional opportunity for the private sector to reflect on the Mauritian economy from the perspective of the entrepreneurs. Our role here today is a challenging one!

Policy transitions and stronger business and consumer confidence are today supporting the recovery in the global economy. In 2017, with notable pickups in investment, trade and industrial production, the macroeconomic scenario favoured by the IMF is that growth should rise to 3.7 percent, a marked improvement from the 3.2 percent growth in 2016.

In 2017, some 120 economies, accounting for over three quarters of World GDP showed a pickup in growth – we can confidently assert that the recovery has been broad-based. Advanced economies were faced with more favourable economic sentiment and demand whilst emerging economies experienced the favourable effects of stronger commodity prices.

In Mauritius, the economy showed signs of renewed resilience, with a growth rate estimated at 3.9 percent in 2017, its highest level since 2010. This has been largely driven by internal demand. Consumption Expenditure grew by 3.1 percent whilst investment grew by 5 percent – the first time in the last decade where both public and private sector investments showed positive growths figures.

On the external front, after two years of contraction, our exports of goods and services increased by a mere 0.1 percent.

We are going to be addressing the main macroeconomic indicators in the country throughout this speech. In Mauritius, the economy showed signs of renewed resilience, with a growth rate estimated at 3.9 percent in 2017, its highest level since 2010.

As we celebrate 50 years of independence for Mauritius, allow me to make a quick incursion down memory lane to reflect on the road travelled since independence ...on some of our economic successes as well as on some of our shortcomings.... It is only by reflecting on the past that we can better prepare for the future.

Let us take this opportunity to also celebrate the success of this country, the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation – and most importantly of the men and women who have toiled over the years to make this country what it is today.... a unique Mauritian DNA... that of a can-do attitude......

Let us take this opportunity to also celebrate our Past Presidents and Secretary-Generals, they are those who have helped to shape the future of our country and a special tribute to Dr Mahmood Cheeroo, who has recently passed away.

50 years ago, in 1968, the country had a GDP of Rs. 982 Million, a GDP per capita of \$190. The prospects for this nation were bleak and gloomy.

Nobel laureate James Meade, in charge of a Commission under His Excellency The Governor Sir Colville Montgomery

Deverell, to survey the present economic and social structure of Mauritius – was very concerned by our demographics. He landed in Mauritius on the 12th of March 1960. With a high fertility rate, the population of the island was expected to rise from 600,000 to no less than 3,000,000 by the end of the century – more than 50 percent increase in the labour force over each decade.

This was a country faced with an unemployment rate of more than 20 percent, and with a rapidly growing population

Over the last 50 years, we have defied all predictions – our GDP has been growing at an average rate of more than 5.4 percent, and unemployment is at less than 7 percent today with a population of ... just 1.3 million compared to the dire prediction of Professor Meade.

We are at a watershed moment in our economic history. Whilst we reflect on our progress over the last 50 years, we need to visualise and project ourselves for the next 50 years. We are today not only going through a generational change both globally and locally, but also a change in the economic order.



As we project ourselves in the future, as a high income, innovation driven economy enjoying a sustainable economic model of growth, we need to address and focus on some strategic thrusts which have marked the history of the country and remain our priority over the next few years namely: -

- Demographics
- Industrialisation
- Connecting with the World
- Environment and Climate Change
- Strategic Public Infrastructure
- Doing Business Environment & Strategic Economic Planning
- Innovation & R&D

Let me start our analysis through Meade's priority concerns that of the size of the population and its growth.

Prior to independence, Professor Meade, and Richard Titmuss' reports on Mauritius both raised concern on Population Growth in the country. In fact, Professor Meade entitled his report on Mauritius as "A Case Study in Malthusian Economics". The Chamber itself, at independence, recognised this issue of over-population. With more than 57 percent of the population being less than 21 years old, the situation was pre-occupying and the Chamber raised concerns on the capacity to sustain job creation.

What happened in the following years was a Government policy on family planning, and a deliberate incentive for families to have fewer children. Over 50 years, this policy has been maybe too successful. From a fertility rate of around 6.3 during the years surrounding independence, the country is faced with a fertility rate of only 1.3, whilst the replacement rate is of 2.1.

We are today faced with the complete opposite problem for our population – that of an ageing and decreasing population. According to the United Nations Report on Population, the country's population would be of less than 800,000 by 2100.

We were, last year, amongst the first to raise this issue in our State of the Economy Address. We remain concerned on the country's ageing population and rapidly decreasing workforce.

Yes, the introduction of a separate income exemption threshold for the 3rd child/dependent is a welcome step. But more should be done!

We need to build the environment, which encourages and supports the middle-income class to have more children. Amongst the key components affecting fertility rate is the cost associated to the upbringing of a child. Ten years ago, an individual was allowed to deduct school fees for dependent children – this is critical and should be enhanced to include the education-related costs such as the purchase of textbooks. Most critically, it is time to put an end to Malthusian policy after 50 years of independence. An additional child should not be seen as a burden for the parents in terms of taxation policy. A couple's fourth child should be given equal equivalence in terms of income tax deductions as the first child. We cannot discriminate against those who have more than one child.

This policy to improve our fertility rates is a long term one. We cannot however change our demographic trend overnight. The reality of the situation is that over the next decade, we will be faced with an ageing and receding population. One of the critical issues that need to be resolved is our openness policy.

The opening up of the country to foreign talents through the extension of work permits in a number of sectors has helped ease the difficulties facing a number of Industrials and combat this demographic gap. But it is not enough. It is time that we take a resolute policy decision on the country's stance on foreign talents. We cannot go on having restrictive policies. We must embrace the opening up of the country to foreign talents at all levels.

Firstly, we need to loosen and open up the work and occupation permits completely. Secondly, there is a need to find the necessary policies and incentives to encourage the global talents, global high net worth individuals (HNWI) to come to Mauritius – whether it is through investment opportunities locally or through passporting access to Africa. We need foreign talents to conduct skills transfer to the local population, to be able to innovate in our processes and enjoy a renewed dynamism. Thirdly, we need to further enhance our efforts to attract foreign retired individuals to Mauritius. The opening up of the Retired Individuals Scheme last year is a welcomed step. We should now be conducting targeted approaches to those retired foreigners of various countries who wish to find a peaceful place to spend their retirement.

The opening up of the country to foreign talents through the extension of work permits in a number of sectors has helped ease the difficulties facing a number of Industrialists and combat this demographic gap. Nonetheless, whilst we open up to foreign talents, we cannot forget our local workforce. Today, the bulk of the local unemployed in the country are amongst the 16-25 years old range. In fact, according to latest figures, youth unemployment account for 19,500 or about 48% of the total number of unemployed in the country. According to latest figures, approximately 6,000 students do not pass the Primary School cycle, another 4,000 do not pass the School Certificate, and some 2,000 do not pass the Higher School Certificate.

Whilst the Government is conducting the enabling mechanism through the nine-year schooling, the reforms through the new Higher Education Bill, it is also our responsibility, as the private sector, as entrepreneurs to support those youth through adequate education, training and skills passed on through our enterprises. Let us engage in 'Vocational Trainings', 'Apprenticeships', 'Life Skills Development' & 'Internships' - all the way to the Dual Training Programmes offered to tertiary students. The education and skills development of our youth and allowing them to integrate the job market is a collective responsibility of both the public and private sectors – there needs to be a national public private committee to look at this issue. It starts at the primary education level itself. We cannot move to become a high-income economy with a failure rate of 25 percent at the end of the primary school level itself. Such failure rates not only affect our human capital levels but also accentuates the income inequality gap. The reality is that it is the poor who fail and to combat poverty in the country, only education can be the solution. The Government, through the Nine Year Schooling Reform and innovative new approaches in the ZEP Schools is doing much towards attacking this issue of failure at Primary education. My message is - let us see how we can work together to combat this issue.

The education and skills development of our youth and allowing them to integrate the job market is a collective responsibility...

The second issue I will address today is the country's industrialisation strategy.

At independence, in 1968, our GDP and our economic growth was heavily dependent on a mono-crop economy through sugar production (more than 90 percent of total export earnings) and market access. Meade thus assessed a bleak and gloomy picture for such a country. He also took cognizance of other important barriers to the economic development of the country and held consultations with the Chamber who submitted a Memorandum to the Commission in March 1960 making a case for more local procurement of goods.

Amongst the recommendations of the Meade Report were thus measures to support the local industry, in what became known as an import-substitution strategy for Mauritius. In order to encourage manufacturing activities in the economy for import-replacement purposes, legislation was passed in 1964 whereby a host of fiscal and other incentives were provided to encourage the setting up of these ISI industries, through the issue of "Development Certificates".

This import substitution strategy spearheaded the creation of a number of new industrial enterprises, many of which are still here today – whether in the manufacturing of Paints, mattresses, timber, metal, furniture daily products or alcoholic beverages. Many of you will recognise yourselves today. Let me pay tribute to this wave of industrialists who have been the backbone of the country's success since independence.

From 1968 to 2001, the manufacturing sector grew by nearly 17 percent annually, and reached more than 24 percent of GDP. Yet, since the turn of the millennium, growth in manufacturing has been at an average of less than 4.5 percent. In 2017, the sector's share of GDP is of less than 13 percent. Employment in the manufacturing sector, which contributed to 40 percent of total employment at the height of the industrial boom in 1988, today contributes to less than 15 percent of total employment. **MCC**

The manufacturing sector, which was contributing Rs. 128 M in 1968, has grown over the past 50 years at an incredible 12.8 percent annual growth rate to reach more than Rs. 54 BN in 2017.

Why is a small island as Mauritius, having defied pundits from across the socio-economic spectrum, faced with "premature deindustrialisation" – a term first used by Dasgupta and Singh in 2006? One obvious reason is an excessive and too fast liberalisation agenda during the last decade, which has prevented the economy from going through a proper experience of industrialisation. Having no, or little comparative advantage in manufacturing, the country became a net import of manufactured products – reversing a long process of import substitution and self-sufficiency.

De-industrialisation throughout the world is associated with the loss of good jobs, rising inequality, and decline in innovation capacity.

The Chamber is highly concerned by de-industrialisation in the country and over the last decade or so, we have systematically been raising our concerns on the issue. We are thus today in consultations with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Industrial Protection, along with our colleagues from the Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM) for a review of the industrialisation strategy in order to enhance and boost strategic local manufacturing sectors – for the long-term. 50 years after independence, we cannot be a country of deindustrialisation – Industrials are and should remain the backbone of our economic development.

Some may ask - what type of support is needed for our local industrials?

They need support to improve their productivity, enhance their products, and innovate in order to improve their competitiveness. They need support in terms of more competitive administrative charges, and ease of doing business, better access to skilled labour and talents.

At the same time, the Chamber has always been a promoter of an export-led economic development. In its Annual Report for 1968, the MCCI declared, " it is no longer relevant to ask whether export industries should be set up.... The important question is how best to achieve this kind of development". The Chamber, along with the Government were and still are of the view that the local industries could only expand if it extended beyond its natural borders. Thus, the Council for Export Promotion was founded, with the Secretary General of the MCCI acting as secretary to the Council.

The Council was mandated to organise outward missions, trade fairs as well as promoting inward investment. Moreover, the Government at the time, came up with the EPZ Bill, and through a cross-ministerial committee worked in close collaboration with the Chamber and private sector companies to define the Zones. The private sector and the MCCI came up with a novel and innovative arrangement – that of an export processing zone that is "operational" and not physically bound. This arrangement has led to the expansion of the export oriented manufacturing enterprises. The country's exports of goods, which contributed to Rs. 371 M of the total GDP at independence, today contributes to around Rs. 80 BN of our national accounts. It is a remarkable feat of sustaining an average annual growth rate of more than 11 percent over 50 years. Yet, in recent years, since 2006, the country's export of goods has grown by less than a mere 1 percent annually. What is the issue? Where do we go from now?

Yes, we have been suffering from increased competition on our traditional exports from Bangladesh, Madagascar and China. Yes, exchange rate fluctuations are an issue. Yes, we no longer benefit from the Multi-Fibre Agreement and other preferential agreements.

But we are resilient, and we have always been able to adapt to economic circumstances and innovate.

Just as some 50 years ago, the private sector pioneered the operational EPZ concept – We are today proposing and in negotiation for using Mauritius as an outsourced manufacturing destination for Indian products in the context of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CECPA). We can become an outsourced manufacturing destination for the Asian market, just as we can become a distribution centre for Africa.

In order to determine our export strategy over the next decades, we need to identify where the poles of potential growth over the next few years. Analysis by BMI Research at the International Chamber of Commerce's World Federation Congress shows that amongst the countries with highest GDP per capita in 2030 – we have the Czech Republic, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Malaysia, Argentina, China & Turkey.

We have championed the trade liberalisation strategy of Mauritius for many years, whilst always advocating for safeguards to protect and nurture our local manufacturing. In fact, since 1995, the Chamber has been part and parcel of all major trade negotiations for Mauritius – a unique working relationship which is celebrated by major institutions such as the IMF, and the World Bank or the International Trade Centre as a model to be replicated. Let me pay tribute to the past and present men and women from the International Trade Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and their belief in the strength of public-private partnerships in conducting economic diplomacy.

As the proverb goes "We cannot control the wind, but we can adjust the sails"

Today, the Chamber is championing the way towards more Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements, not just on trade. We believe that the future of International Cooperation for Mauritius lies in more Investment Protection Partnership Agreements, agreements on trade in services, and most importantly economic development cooperation.

50 years after independence, last month, we had the pleasure of hosting at the MCCI, Professor Meade's sonin-law, Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, Emiratus Professor of Economics at the University of Cambridge.

Known worldwide as the founder of environmental economics, Professor Dasgupta gave us an insight of the major ramifications of climate change and environmental degradation on small island economies like Mauritius.

In fact, at the Chamber, we have always placed the environmental issues and environment at the heart of the business community and always giving its full support to the Governments on environmental issues. Back in the 1880s, the Chamber donated to the Government a consignment of seeds of eucalyptus and acacia to support its proposed reforestation programme. Green and Sustainable Mauritius has been on the Chamber's agenda since its inception.



From left to right: Raju Jaddoo Secretary General, Hon. S. Bholah, Minister of SME & Cooperatives; Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo, Minister of Foreign affairs, Regional Integration & International Trade, Azim Currimjee, Ashid Gungah, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection, Marday Venkatasamy, Vice-President

MCCI

...there is a dire need for enhanced productivity at the port and for it to happen, we need to engage ourselves with a strategic partner...

We are also working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and particularly the Solid Waste Division on the issue of electronic and electrical waste management.

We also need, after 50 years of nation-building and economic development, to ensure the sustainability of resources. In 2017, our current account deficit is of more than Rs. 100 BN – that is we import about Rs. 100 BN more than we export.

This is mainly Petroleum products which account for more than 13 percent of our total imports – more than Rs. 30 BN annually.

Mauritius should follow the path of countries such as France, Germany, India and others in banning the sale of petrol and diesel engine cars by, let's say, 2028.

We can become one of the first economies in the world to meet most of its energy needs through renewable sources such as advanced solar, offshore and domestic wind power. We can emulate a few European countries – Iceland and Sweden – who are on course to be powered by 100 percent renewable energy.

These are a few of the socio-economic questions, which the Chamber strongly believes in and will closely follow over the next few years.

In practical terms, it is about implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and adhering to the Mauritius National Indicative Programme for sustainable development.

Without the development of strategic public infrastructure, our economic development would not have been possible.

Since its inception, in 1850, the Chamber was at the heart of the public infrastructure development agenda for the country. Amongst its first preoccupations was the re-opening of trade with Madagascar, whose ports were closed since 1845. In fact, the Chamber raised subscriptions amongst its members at the time in order to open up the ports and thus allow import of cattle and raffia. Throughout the years, the Chamber remained closely involved in the development of the port in Mauritius. It advocated as far back as 1854 for the upgrading of port infrastructure on the Quay. It has been a member of the Port & Harbour Committee, and later of the Mauritius Port Authority and the Mauritius Ports Users Council – it is still today represented at the latter. It has continued throughout the last two centenaries to advocate for a modern port, with more commercial vessels as well as the streamlining of procedures at the port and the freight related charges.

The MCCI highly commends the Government on the investment impetus being given to the Port, which should be culminating with Deep Water Quay, which will put Mauritius with a unique selling position – it will be the only port in the Indian Ocean with such a capacity. The Port Logistics facility for Mauritius is one of the most - if not the most - critical component allowing Mauritius to enjoy a dynamic economy in the future. We should position ourselves to become the platform connecting Asia and Africa ... it is even more critical whilst talking of transhipment facilities... We have the potential to become a hub for transhipment facilities in the region.

However, for us to become a strategic logistics hub, we need to address two critical issues. First, there is a dire need for enhanced productivity at the port and for it to happen, we need to engage ourselves with a strategic partner with the necessary expertise and know-how. Today, the average gross crane productivity is estimated at 21 moves/ hour – this figure is way below our expectations. In neighbouring countries such as South Africa itself, the figure is at more than 35 moves/hour whilst the global average is estimated to be around 35 to 40 moves/hour. Achieving a minimum of 30 moves/hour is a must if we expect to become a port of importance in the region.

Secondly, the MCCI has, since a number of years, raised concerns on the fact that there are approximately 57 documents to be submitted at different authorities for a vessel calling at Port-Louis. These need to be streamlined and the processes digitalised in priority. We have also – most importantly – raised the issue of port related charges. In fact, for each container imported or exported, there is approximately \$500 in fees and charges paid. When we compare this to European countries where it is at nearly zero, or other African countries such as South Africa, Egypt, and Kenya where it is at less than \$300, we have an issue to address.

Similarly, for the airport, the Chamber, conscious of the critical importance of air access, has always been supportive of the development of new and regular services to new destinations. One of the most tangible illustration of its contribution concerned the granting of air access rights to Air Mauritius to land in new Delhi. The Chamber's initiative, along with its partners from the Confederation of Indian Industries, bore its fruits and the deadlock was broken during the Joint India –Mauritius Commission in 1996. Today, the Delhi route is a regular bi-weekly one.

The Chamber prides itself in this long-standing mission it has given itself to Connect Mauritius to the World. Through its Budget Memorandums and other advocacy papers, it regularly gives its opinion on the expansion of air access, and new and regular routes to be opened especially in the emerging economies – be it in Africa or Asia – in order to facilitate trade and movement to Mauritius. The Chamber is delighted to note that, further to our advocacy last year, daily flights are now being operated to Nairobi. These are strategic connections, which shall allow us to build a new phase of economic development for Mauritius.

In the same line, it is today important to have daily flights to Mumbai – a destination where we conduct business regularly. We also need to build up our regional connections; a natural example would be Australia. Mauritius needs to become a strategic Air Corridor Hub, linking the three continents of Africa, Europe & Asia. We need to exploit this geographical competitive advantage – and evolve from our traditional Pointto-Point Tourism model to become a strategic platform for business & tourism transit, just like Singapore and Dubai.

Today, making Mauritius a strategic tourism transit destination will allow us to attain higher ambitions for our economy.

From approximately 35,000 tourists in 1970 and contribution to approximately Rs. 24 Million, the country has today achieved more than 1,300,000 tourists. In 1971, realising the numerous challenges facing this nascent sector, the Chamber's council set-up a Committee on Tourism and has been working closely with the Mauritius Government Tourism Office, to finance tourism promotion campaigns abroad. This is today's MTPA – let me recognise and celebrate this partnership here today – a partnership that has remained strong for nearly 50 years now.

In 1983, the MCCI, through its Committee on Tourism, presented to the Ministry of Tourism a Memorandum entitled Views of the Private Sector on Tourism Development and it also pioneered the Duty-Free shop at the airport to allow tourists leaving Mauritius to buy Mauritian made products. Today, the Duty-Free concept for tourists has been a major selling point for the country abroad.

Today, making Mauritius a strategic tourism transit destination will allow us to attain higher ambitions for our economy. Singapore, a country much smaller than us, has approximately 17 Million tourists, Dubai just two times bigger than Mauritius, has more than 80 Million people transiting through its airport annually. We should aim at a minimum of 10 Million passengers annually through our Airport by 2030.

On the business side, through our 'exemption justificatif' which we facilitate through the French Embassy in Mauritius, the MCCI enables businesspersons to benefit from up to 5 years travel justification document to enter the Reunion Island. So far, more than 35 such justificatifs have been delivered since 2015. Today, during the discussions on the Continental Free Trade Area, and the CECPA negotiations with India, the MCCI has made proposals on the movement of business persons.

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For us today, the future of this country's economic development lies in nothing but **Research &** Innovation.

Let me go to the core of the public-private sector partnership – the very reason for our existence as a Chamber. I am here talking of the Doing Business environment – we have always been advocating for a rules-based business environment conducive to business creation and expansion.

In fact, since at least 1962, the Chamber has been making proposals on monetary, fiscal and regulatory policies to the Government during the drafting of the Budget each year. During the first years of establishment, the Chamber made proposals on business licensing which were accepted by the Government. Back in 1995, it submitted to the Government, a report entitled "Features of a business-friendly environment in a context of full employment and economic liberalisation", with a proposed review of existing legislations. Throughout the years, through a constant policy dialogue and various committees, the country has been able to reduce numerous administrative barriers and red tape. We are today ranked 25th in the World Bank Doing Business Report and 1st in the African Region.

It is however not time to be complacent. We need to build on the acquis and what has made the success of Mauritius in the last five decades.

Today, our concerns on the Doing Business Environment are on the freight related charges and documents which are too high and too many for a small island economy as Mauritius. Our Concerns are on the Getting Electricity Indicator where it takes on average 81 days and costs more than 200% of the GDP per capita to get a permanent electricity connection, our concerns are on enforcing commercial contracts where it takes on average 519 days to resolve a dispute in court.

We are today working together with the Economic Development Board and other stakeholders to propose further streamlining of procedures linked to Doing Business. We also reassert our conviction that the long-standing tradition of business consultation before new legislations are introduced should be maintained and enhanced.

What next for the country over the next 50 years? At this critical time in our economic history, we feel that as the Chamber, it is our role - perhaps our duty to be the thought-leaders. It is with much humility that our slogan has been "l'Expérience de l'avenir".

For us today, the future of this country's economic development lies in nothing but Research & Innovation. No doubt about that. The only constant is change.

Today, we are pleased to find that our advocacy on an innovation-led economy is also bearing its fruit. The introduction of the Innovation Box Regime, and the double deduction on R&D Expenses are critically important measures. As much as the upcoming Industrial Property Bill coming in parliament next week. The Chamber has been a strong advocate of the need for such a Bill and for the last two years now, we have been working closely with the Government on the matter. We believe that this Bill shall be a game changer in the protection of IP in Mauritius – paving the way to the adherence of Mauritius to the Madrid Protocol, the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the Hague Agreement.

And we have been a catalyst of change and innovation throughout our existence. I am given to understand that the Chamber was the first to have the telegram and the fax, a service it has been proposing to its members. In collaboration with the Government, we established the Mauritius Network Services (MNS), a pioneer in putting into place the first electronic data interchange network in Mauritius for the electronic declarations of Bills of Entry through a technology transfer partnership with a Singaporean company. Most recently, last year, I am pleased to announce that the Chamber has launched its e-certificate of origin, a first in the region. We are also in the process of launching the first e-commerce platform at the MCCI regrouping artisans, and tax-free shopping commerce operators.

We are however not resting on our laurels.

We are today in the process of finalising the setting up of a technology platform at the Chamber, through assistance from the European Union. We will be working with our extensive network of Chambers worldwide on this project. At the Chamber, we firmly believe that with higher levels of innovation and technology, Mauritian businesses will be able to re-invent themselves and produce high-end and innovative products and services.

Before I conclude, let me take this opportunity to reassert the Chamber's historic role as a pre-eminent body of thought leadership in our country on big policy issues. The Chamber has shaped for itself a unique presence in advocacy and business facilitation. It has the dual mandate of not only promoting business interest, but to also make sure that our policy makers have their finger on the pulse of the concerns and the priorities for the country, but also for the world.

We have had the privilege – over the last 50 years now – to deal with public authorities and policy makers who have understood the necessity of a permanent policy dialogue between the public and the private sector.

Our force has been our ability to always maintain our credibility, independence and autonomy. We are convinced that the Chamber, as a private sector institution recognised worldwide for its role in the country, we cannot be confined to only defending and promoting the interests of our Members, but we have a critical role to play in the economic development process of the Republic of Mauritius.



This is why we strive to always live by our Coat of Arms – and our source of constant inspiration "Non Nobis, Sed Patriae" – Not for Ourselves, but for Our Country".



Thank you for your attention!





THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017/2018















TRADE OBSTACLES ALERT MECHANISM





THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017/2018

Overview

MCCI

Through the many initiatives geared towards extending its outreach further to its membership and being in closer contact with the business community, the MCCI has once again succeeded in carrying out its mission by defending and promoting the best interests of the Mauritian business community.

In 2017, MCCI has remained at the spearhead of economic development and business facilitation through evidence-based and pro-active advocacy with the Government and Public Authorities.

Through its lobbying role, the MCCI has also made several proposals to a series of regulations affecting businesses. Be it in collaboration with other sectoral associations to raise awareness on the GDPR, or its contribution on the possibilities of the launch of a Mauritian satellite, the MCCI has also proved its forward-looking involvement towards an innovationled economy.

Our revamped Tax-Free Shopping digital platform – soon to-be an e-commerce website – as well as the e-certificate of origin, bear testimony to our increasing dedication towards the use of technology in delivering e-services.

Furthermore, through our tailor-made business enablers, the MCCI has continued to provide an unfailing support to local entrepreneurs. With a range of expanded services from GS1 Mauritius, the continuous contribution of the MCCI to the SME sector, and a strong-rooted arbitration and mediation centre (MARC) of international standards, the MCCI is more than ever well-anchored to service the Mauritian business community.

The MCCI has also brought about a significant change to its communication and marketing strategy by consolidating its presence on both the written press and digital media. Moreover, on the bilateral stance, the MCCI has been at the forefront of major trade negotiations, such as the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with India, alongside the Government, to further improve market access which would benefit our operators in their drive towards market diversification.

At the global level, we have also deepened our collaboration with private sector institutions as well as international business promotion agencies, such as the International Trade Centre. As a member of the ICC WCF General Council, the MCCI has been able to unbolt numerous opportunities of networking and scopes of international policy-making to its members.

Over the years, the MCCI has successfully evolved into an organization that can take in its fold all new emerging sectors.

Membership

Over the years, the MCCI has successfully evolved into an organization that can take in its fold all new emerging sectors. Last year, the MCCI welcomed new Members from the main sectors of the Mauritian economy. In addition, the MCCI continued its active partnership with the sectoral associations, namely; the Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), the Outsourcing Telecommunications Association of Mauritius (OTAM) and the Association Professionnelle des Transitaires (APT).



Governance

Internal Audit

The Audit Committee for 2017 was chaired by Vice-President of the MCCI, Mr. Marday Venkatasamy.

The Audit Committee continued its work on the financial management and risk assessment started in 2016 by Ernst and Young, our internal auditor. A report on the IT control processes was submitted to the Audit Committee.

An audit of the financial procedures of the Head Office was also conducted and the report was examined by the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee examined the different reports and the recommendations of the Internal Auditor. The management also submitted an action plan for the various reports which are being followed.

Finance

In 2017, MCCI has focused on its Arbitration and Mediation Services (MARC), which has started to expand rapidly with various marketing and investment plan worked out.

As to the Tax Tourist Refund Counter, in addition to the on-going advertising campaign, it has embarked on the refund of tax to Mauritians as announced in the last Budget.

MCCI has invested a lot in terms of sensitization campaign to inform departing Mauritians of the new measure. Furthermore, it has worked with the different shops to encourage them to join the refund scheme. This measure will significantly increase business transactions for affiliated shops.





Economic Policy

From its inception in 1850 onwards, the MCCI, as the lead private sector organisation, endeavours to unceasingly defend and promote the interests of its Members and the business community to play a leading role in the economic development of the country. The MCCI remains at the forefront of national economic policy formulation through its evidence-based advocacy and a constant policy dialogue with public authorities.

State of the Economy Address

The State of the Economy address is enshrined in the traditions of the MCCI, where the President, conducts a critical analysis of the country's state of the economy, highlighting the opportunities, the barriers faced by entrepreneurs, as well as the economic challenges facing the country.

The President's Speech in March 2017 shared the MCCI's outlook on the economy, at Horizon 2050. Emphasising on the MCCI's analysis of a new world economic order, the speech centred on the challenges facing the country in the decades to come – the most pressing being the continuously decreasing fertility rate which will impact the country's working population. The need to attract foreign skilled labour and the opening of the economy was highlighted.

decreasing fertility rate

The Speech further centred on the importance of R&D and Innovation in our quest for sustained economic development and made the case for the provision of an Innovation Box Regime and the enactment of an Industrial Property Bill, which makes provision for the signing of the Patent Cooporation Treaty (PCT), the Madrid Protocol and The Hague Convention. The MCCI's concern was raised on the proposed opening of the economy to parallel imports.

foreign skilled labour

R&D

Innovation Box Regime

MCCI Memorandum on the Budget 2017/2018

The MCCI presented its Memorandum for the Budget 2017/2018 to the Prime Minister, highlighting its Members views on key levers to boost the economic development of the country. The MCCI Budget Memorandum provides fiscal policy measures on Corporate and Personal Income Taxation through the Innovation Box Regime, the introduction of Negative Income Tax Regime as well as rationalisation of non-direct taxes and levies affecting businesses.

The MCCI provided measures for institutional reforms with several measures for public sector rationalisation – the setting-up of an Economic Development Board and a Single Licensing Authority – as well as ease of doing business measures. Furthermore, a few proposals were made to enhance the country's productivity and competitiveness to expand our market share, open the country to the world and undertake major labour reforms.

Bilateral meetings were held with high-level public officials and with the Prime Minister to discuss on MCCI proposals, prior to the Budget Speech.

±80% of MCCI proposals have been retained in

the Budget 2017-2018.

MCCI sector-wise policy contributions

iolesale



Manufacturing

Financial services

Tourism

Other Policy Contributions

Reports were prepared on:

- Non-Recoverability of Input VAT on Banking Services
- The need for demand-side stimulus to the economy
- The setting-up of an Accelerated Technology Transfer Platform at the MCCI
- The establishment of an Economic Development Board to rationalise institutions and para-statal bodies.

Life Sciences

ICT/BPO

Education





Economic Publications

Economic Review 2016

The <u>Economic Review</u> is an MCCI publication which gives an assessment of the global and local economic situations for 2016.

The review also gave an outlook of the economic prospects for 2017.



MCCI Business Confidence Indicator

The <u>MCCI Business Confidence Indicator (BCI)</u> is a leading quarterly business intelligence survey based on an OECD methodology, which allows for an instant estimation of the morale of entrepreneurs in the country. For the first time since the launch of this economic tool, the BCI witnessed a rise over all quarters. The index settled at 123.0 points in the fourth quarter of 2017, its highest level ever reached.

The BCI reports includes, since 2013, an economic barometer-based on a CESifo methodology. It allows an analysis of the evolution of the 2 BCI variables, that is, the arithmetic mean of the assessments of the current situation and the economic expectations for the short term.

At the end of 2017, the economic barometer was situated in the *upturn* quadrant, reflecting a situation of a better present and positive expectation of the future by entrepreneurs.

FUTURE



MCCI Economic Outlook

Using a range of econometric techniques, mathematical tools and statistical inferences, the MCCI provides insights to economic operators on the present state of the economy and its future evolution. <u>The MCCI Economic Outlook</u> forecasts growth in GDP, consumption, investment and exports for the years 2017 and 2018. Moreover, inflation and unemployment are forecast for the current and upcoming year.

These analyses allow a better gauging of the dynamics of the economy and complement forecasts from Statistics Mauritius.

The MCCI Economic Outlook 2017/2018, published in November 2017, predicted a GDP growth rate of 4.0% for the year, a slight increase from 2016 performance, which was 3.8%.



The BCI also provides for annualised and quarterly GDP Growth forecasts. In its latest publication, the MCCI estimates Year-on-Year GDP Growth for the 4th quarter of 2017 to be of 4.5% and the annual GDP Growth rate for 2017 is hence estimated at 4%.

ADVOCACY



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Industry

50 years after it achieved independence, the Mauritian economy has evolved from a mono-crop economy to reach a well diversified model of economic development. The MCCI believes that the backbone of such an economy remains its manufacturing sector, and continues to actively defend and promote the interests of its Members through pro-active and evidence-based advocacy on the industrial development of the country.

The MCCI remained at the forefront of advocacy efforts for the manufacturing sector through constant consultations with the local Mauritian Government and at international level. Our working relationship with the Ministry of Industry has been further strengthened and the MCCI continues to advocate for a buoyant industry through numerous policy papers and other representations on committees.

Jewellery

The MCCI forms part of the Jewellery Advisory Council, which is under the aegis of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection, where it offers its views and proposals for the promotion of the local jewellery sector. Budgetary proposals were submitted to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection prior to the Budget 2017/18, including measures on training of jewellers, promotion campaigns as well as regulatory and fiscal incentives.





Special Economic Zone for Manufacturing - Pharmaceutical & Biotechnology Cluster

The MCCI prepared and submitted a Policy Paper in February 2018 to the Director of the International Trade Department (ITD) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. The Paper highlights the Mauritius position to leverage on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with India to use Mauritius as a manufacturing platform for the pharmaceuticals and biotechnology sectors for onward supply to both India and Africa. Further to this Policy Paper, the concept was proposed and added to the Economic Development Cooporation Chapter of the CECPA negotiations by Mauritius.



Support to Enterprises

The MCCI forms part of the coordinating committee on Support to Enterprises to monitor the performance of manufacturing companies which are in a difficult situation and provide remedial solutions. The Committee identified challenges faced by the manufacturing sector and prepared recommendations which were submitted to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Consumer Protection.



Industrial Waste

The MCCI formed part of a Joint Public–Private Steering Committee for the implementation of an Industrial Waste Assessment Project under the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) Initiative. The project, which is piloted by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection, in collaboration with UNIDO, involved the capacity building of some 25 enterprises in industrial waste characterisation. In September 2017, Cabinet was apprised of the final report *Industrial Waste Assessment - Opportunities for Industrial Symbiosis*. It is expected that a Steering Committee would be convened soon to discuss the way forward.



Innovation and Technology

At the forefront of an innovation-led economic model for Mauritius, the MCCI is currently involved in pro-active advocacy with the Government as well as the initialisation of facilitation services to assist the business community in moving towards higher-end products and services.

Accelerated Technology Transfer Platform Consultancy Services under EU Trade Cooperation Facility

The MCCI was invited by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED) to submit its project for technical assistance under the Trade Cooperation Facility (TCF) of the European Union. In this context, a Project entitled *Consultancy Services to the MCCI for the implementation of an Accelerated Technology Transfer Platform* was submitted to the MOFED and the EU delegation in August 2017 and is under finalisation. The Assistance of a maximum of EUR 300,000 aims at supporting the MCCI in improving the knowledge and expertise on IPR and its benefits as well as encourage technology transfer agreements between Mauritian and EU companies through an Accelerated Technology Transfer Platform

Project 92.2° East

Areport entitled *Project-92.2°East-On the 50th Independence* of *Mauritius* was prepared and submitted to the Indian High Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in December 2017 with insights on the avenues and possibilities for the launch of a Mauritian satellite. This would allow Mauritius to make a quantum leap in the development of the Indian Ocean Region, most particularly in the digital and telecommunications spheres.

Promotion and diffusion of Innovation between ACP and EU Countries

The MCCI participated in the first EU-ACP Non-State Actors Forum, *Towards the ACP We Want: The Role of Non-State Actors,* in Brussels in October 2017, during which the Secretary-General of the MCCI submitted a project proposal for the setting-up of a technology transfer platform between EU and ACP countries.

COMESA Accelerated Technology Transfer Platform

The MCCI prepared a project proposal in September 2017 which was submitted to the Secretary-General of the COMESA on the setting-up of an intra-COMESA Technology Transfer Platform, under the EDF 11 Regional Indicative Programme Funding of the EU to the COMESA Secretariat. The platform would be implemented and managed by the MCCI.

EU Mission on Research & Innovation

In the context of a mission of the European Union (EU) to Mauritius on 10th-12th May 2017, to assist the country in its Research and Innovation strategy and implementation of policies, the MCCI was designated to coordinate a meeting with private sector stakeholders to assess the impediments and opportunities present for EU Support to Research & Innovation in Mauritius.



Innovate UK 2017

Considering its leading private sector role in promoting Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer in Mauritius, the MCCI was invited by the British High Commission to participate in the Innovate 2017 Conference held on the 8th and 9th of November 2017.

Australia Mauritius Research & Innovation Forum 2018

The MCCI participated in the Advanced Technologies panel of the first *Australia Mauritius Research & Innovation Forum*, organised by the Australian High Commission in Mauritius, on 19th February 2018. in the margins of the forum, the Secretary-General of the MCCI held bilateral meetings with the representatives of Monash University and La Trobe University to explore avenues of collaboration in training and technology between the institutions.



ADVOCACY



Trade

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Last year, the MCCI has been collaborating closely with the public sector to support its Members' interests on a broad range of topics including trade policy issues, business facilitation measures and new trade regulations. Trade Facilitation has also been one of the priorities for the MCCI and it has participated in various committees aiming at simplifying and streamlining the application and processing of import and export permits and clearances, amongst others. The MCCI has been extremely dynamic at defending Members' interest on several regional and international platforms.

Local Trading Environment

Trade Regulatory framework

In line with its advocacy mandate, the MCCI has been regularly in consultation with its Members on several trade legislations that came into operation in 2017, particularly regarding:

- the control of safety requirements for domestic & electrical appliances
- the labelling of regulated domestic appliances.

In 2017, the MCCI organised 2 awareness sessions on these legislations to ensure that its Members were fully aware of the provisions of the new regulations. Representatives from the different regulatory bodies and MRA Customs were invited to apprise Members of the procedures and documentations involved to comply with the regulations.

The MCCI submitted a list of recommendations to the various Ministries responsible for the implementation of these regulations for facilitating the compliance procedures for operators.

Consultations were held with Members on draft legislations including the mandatory labelling of the country of origin on all products and the banning of incandescent lamps. The MCCI submitted its recommendations based on the private sector position to the relevant authorities.

Business Facilitation Act

The new Business Facilitation Act 2017 was passed by the National Assembly in May 2017. The Act contains several provisions to facilitate the application and processing of import permits, including the removal of several products from the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations which no longer require an import permit. The Business Facilitation Act 2017 also makes provision for maximum timeframes for the processing of import permits by different government agencies.


Improving the Trading Across Borders Index

In view of improving Mauritius' rank in the *Trading Across Borders* index of the World Bank Doing Business indicator 2018, several committees were held at the level of the Board of Investment to identify areas where improvements were needed.

As such, a list of products which no longer required export permits were eliminated from the Consumer Protection (Export Control) Regulations and the requirement for *Pre-Market Approval Certificate* was eliminated on a few food items.

National Export Strategy

The National Export Strategy (NES) document for Mauritius was officially launched on 31st March 2017. The NES document aims to boost the export capacities of the country's private sector and step up its trade with regional and global markets. As a member of the core team, the MCCI has actively participated in the elaboration of the export strategy for the country.

It was developed on the basis of the process, methodology and technical assistance of the <u>International Trade Centre (ITC)</u> within the framework of its Trade Development Strategy Programme. The document can be downloaded <u>here</u>.

The document sets out 5 key cross-sector focus areas that will support export development and competitiveness

Several sub-committees were set up on each key cross-sector to make proposals and recommendations to the main committee of the NES. The MCCI has been appointed as the chair of the sub-committee on Branding'. ADVOCACY



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Trade Facilitation

Trade Obstacles Alert Mechanism

The Trade Obstacles Alert Mechanism (TOAM), which was launched in 2015, has been one of the main trade facilitation projects initiated by the MCCI in collaboration with the International Trade Centre and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

The <u>TOAM online platform</u> offers the opportunity to private operators to report non-tariff barriers they faced while conducting their day-to-day business operations.

The TOAM has been very successful so far in resolving trade impediments and as at February 2018, +85% of the reported obstacles have been tackled and others are in the process of being resolved.





The Mauritius TradeLink

Last year, the MCCI continued its active participation in the Technical Committees set up to oversee the implementation of the Mauritius TradeLink, which is the online Single Window platform for the application of import and export permits.

As at February 2018, there were 5 government agencies involved in the issuing of import and export permits, which are already connected to the system and it is expected that other government agencies will join the system on a phasewise approach.

To ensure a smooth implementation, the MCCI has been in regular consultations with its Members to identify areas where improvements were needed on the online platform.

International Trading Environment

Bilateral Trade Negotiations



CECPA

The 3rd round of negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between Mauritius and India was held in January 2018 in Mauritius. With regards to negotiations in the Trade in Goods sector, both sides discussed the draft text for establishing the trade agreement and exchanged a list of products of export interest which would serve as a model for negotiations. Mauritius indicated that products such as garments, rum, sugar, jewellery, medical devices, amongst others were of key export interest and requested the Indian side to give positive consideration thereto. The products which are sensitive to both countries' industries were also identified. Regarding Trade in Services, both sides discussed the proposed text and substantial improvements were made. The MCCI has been in regular consultations with its Members to identify products and services of export interest. The 4th round of negotiations is scheduled for the end of April 2018.

Economic Partnership Agreement

At the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) committee held in October 2017 in Madagascar, the EU and the 5 interim EPA Signatory states (Mauritius, Comoros, Seychelles, Madagascar and Zimbabwe) agreed to deepen and widen the Interim EPA. Accordingly, the five iEPA signatory States harmonised and coordinated their positions on priority areas to be discussed with the EU side during a meeting held in February 2018 in Mauritius. Several areas were identified, including the rules of origin, capacity building, trade facilitation, and customs cooperation, amongst others.

It is to be noted that Comoros became the 5th ESA State to have signed the iEPA in June 2017. The MCCI was the main private sector institution involved in the discussions among the 5 iEPA states to harmonise our positions.



Regional Trade Negotiations

At the regional level, the MCCI continued its major role in promoting the export interest of its Members through advancing regional trade integration process in SADC and COMESA region. In 2017, the focus has been on the trade negotiations for setting-up of the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the Continental FTA. Several meetings were held, and significant progress has been made in the discussions on rules of origin and other market access issues.



The Continental Free Trade Agreement

The negotiations to set up a Continental Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) among all the African countries were launched in 2017 and have already reached an advance stage. The main objectives of the CFTA are to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments. It will also expand intra-African trade through better harmonization and coordination of trade liberalization and facilitation and instruments across the RECs and across Africa in general. The CFTA is also expected to enhance competitiveness at the industry and enterprise level through exploitation of opportunities for scale production, continental market access and better reallocation of resources.



Total Exports: Rs **17** billion

Total Imports: Rs **22** billion



The Tripartite Free Trade Agreement

Mauritius became the 21st Member State to have signed the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement in October 2017. The Tripartite Free Trade Agreement encompasses the 26 Members States of the three Regional Economic Communities, namely COMESA, SADC and EAC. This enlarged trading block will allow exporters to obtain preferential access to a bigger market. It is to be noted that the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement will only come into force after the conclusion of the outstanding technical work and the ratification by 14 of the 26 parties to the agreement. The MCCI is the main private sector institution which forms part of the national negotiating team that participates in trade talks at bilateral, regional and international levels.



Other Policy Interactions

Supporting business and economic development for Mauritius, the MCCI regularly collaborates with international organisations and submits its recommendations and comments on Country Reports for Mauritius.

Throughout the year 2017, the MCCI held working sessions on the country's macro-economic analysis and trade policy issues and produced recommendations, including the following:

September **2017**

• "Mission d'analyse macroéconomique et risque pays de l'AFD"

January **2018**

- Review of the EU Growth and Jobs Compact (GJC) for Mauritius
- Mid-term Review of the Ten-Year Strategy (TYS)
 African Development Bank



COMESA Regional Payment Systems

The MCCI hosted the visit of the COMESA Secretary-General, Mr. Sindiso Ndema Ngwenya and made representations for the inclusion of multi-currency payment systems, including the Mauritian Rupee through the REPSS, which would allow for lower cost of trading across the COMESA Region.







SADC Payment System Project

The MCCI formed part of a public-private sector delegation on the SIRESS Awareness Programme held in Johannesburg between the 5th and 8th of December 2017. An awareness action plan was devised and validated by public and private stakeholders to apprise government, businesses and consumers on the offerings and benefits of using the SIRESS Payment System.

SADC Consultative Workshop – Industrialisation Programme under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF)

The MCCI participated in a public-private sector Consultative Workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa on the 9th-10th May 2017 on the development of the programme to *Support Industrialisation and the Productive Sectors (SIPS)* in the SADC region under the European Development Fund 11.

The workshop follows the approval of the Costed Action Plan for the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063) by the SADC Ministerial Summit on 18th March 2017.

SADC/SABF Joint Working Groups

The MCCI forms part of various regional Southern African Development Community/ Southern African Business Forum (SADC/SABF) Working Groups on soft-border issues, agro-processing and pharmaceuticals. Through its active contributions to the committees, the MCCI promotes the Mauritian industrial sector and advocates for value-addition to integrate and access the regional market at the SADC level.







ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

ASSOCIATIONS







Outsourcing & Telecommunications Association of Mauritius

As part of its advocacy initiatives, the MCCI has set up a number of sectoral and cross-sectoral commissions as a platform where economic policies and business issues can be devised and resolved in a participatory and consentual approach.

MCCI COMMISSIONS

Commerce Sector

Following the Council's decision to set up a Commission on Commerce, chaired by Mr. Cedric Lagesse, Council Member of the MCCI, to provide a platform for structured discussions on sectoral and cross-sectoral trade issues, a meeting of the Commission was held on 4th September 2017 to discuss and follow-up on trade issues:

MCCI is a board member - issues on consumer rights, marking of shell-life, prices of live goats and sheep, were raised. Draft of the new Consumer Protection Bill prepared by the Ministry of Commerce is to be circulated soon to Members.

Trade regulation amendments are being brought to streamline the process for import and export permits.

Economic Policy and Strategy

In line with its role as a strategic actor for the economic development of the country, the MCCI has set up its Commission on Economic Policy & Strategy under the Chairmanship of Mr. Azim Currimjee, current President of MCCI. The Commission, launched in February 2017, is a unique platform regrouping representatives of the public and private sectors. The Commission aims to address the macro-economic issues facing the economy through participatory approach to policy-making.

The first theme of the Commission is a complete review of fiscal policy for Mauritius following the recent introduction of the OECD multilateral agreement.

Manufacturing

Established in 2015, the MCCI Manufacturing Commission, chaired by Mr. Azim Currimjee, continued to play an important role in the advocacy initiatives in the Industrial Development of the country.

The Commission discussed on issues and impediments facing the sector and brainstormed on proposals which were included in the MCCI's proposals for the Budget.

Life Sciences

The MCCI Commission on Life Sciences thus aims at encompassing the different sectors and eco-systems linked to the Industry and creating the synergy between the private sector and the public authorities in devising the necessary support mechanism for the expansion of the sector.

Since 2015, the MCCI has set-up a Working Group of stakeholders of the Biotechnology and Medical Devices to discuss on the main issues faced by the sector and propose ways and means to overcome the challenges. The committee has been involved in inputs of the MCCI Vision 2030 Blueprint, and the Budget 2016/2017 and 2017/2018. This has allowed a multitude of measures to be announced for the sector.





A N N U A L R E P O R T 2 0 1 7 / 1 8

MCCI Tax Tourist Refund Service



Operations at the Airport

The MCCI Tax Tourist Refund Service ended the year with a greater number of transactions than 2016. 2017 turned out to be our second best year during our 21 years of operations.

China remains the top country in terms of Tax Tourist Refund ratio with respect to tourist arrivals (14%) in year 2017. However, the share of Chinese tourists in Tax Free Shopping (TFS) dropped to 20.8 % in 2017. On the other hand, France now tops the table in TFS with an increase in share from to 22.4% in 2017.

| Ranking 2017 | Country | 2017 |
|--------------|--------------|-------|
| 1 | France | 22.4% |
| 2 | China | 20.8% |
| 3 | Reunion | 11.3% |
| 4 | India | 5.8% |
| 5 | South Africa | 4.4% |





New and additional flights introduced in 2017 such as Saudi Airlines, Austrian Airlines, KLM Royal Dutch Airline and others contributed to a 4% share in TFS.

For the past 3 years, the MCCI Tax Refund counter has serviced on average 50,000 passengers compared to around 20,000 in 2012.



Operations at the Port

Sale 6

MCCI continued its TFS services at the port for the handling of both tax tourist refunds and deliveries on board cruise ships. The MCCI continues to maintain its good working relationships with the cruise ship handlers and agents. The number of shops selling to cruise passengers has increased as well as the number of passengers claiming refunds and taking deliveries. MCCI sustains its efforts to gain greater visibility in the port sector through our brochures and other adverts.



DEVELOPMENT IN SERVICES





Tax Free Shopping to Departing Mauritians

The MCCI Budget Memo recommendation to provide TFS opportunities to Departing Mauritians was adopted as a 2017-2018 budgetary measure. Departing Mauritians, holding a valid passport and ticket travelling by air or sea to a foreign airport or port, are entitled to purchase tax free goods in registered stores around the island, effective as from 1st October 2017.

MCCI also came into a partnership with the Mauritius Post Ltd. to provide a courier service to shop operators for delivering the tax-free purchases to the airport at a competitive rate.

Since its implementation, MCCI has launched an intense marketing campaign advert on:













MCCI partnered with the Mauritius Post Ltd. to provide a courier service to shop operators for delivering the tax-free purchases to the airport at a competitive rate.





As part of its marketing strategy, MCCI has participated in the Business Connect Programme of the MBC.

Marketing of the TTR Digital Platform

MCCI concentrated its efforts to increase its visibility among tourists and encourage visitors to make more taxfree purchases. The <u>TTR digital platform</u> gives visibility for shopping malls and tax-free shops in Mauritius. Our revamped portal now includes a dedicated section for Tax Free Shopping for Mauritians as well as a dedicated section for handicrafts. There are now more than 500 shops/artisans on the portal.

Alongside, information sessions were organised for operators and other marketing efforts were put in to create awareness for TFS to Mauritians and enrol more shops in the scheme.

Existing Duty/VAT Free operators were very enthusiastic about the budgetary measure and were thrilled to increase the number of transactions to Mauritians.

Our network of shops offering the Vat/Duty free service keeps on increasing and has doubled since the last three months. The total number of shops providing TFS to Departing Mauritians has almost doubled from 69 in October 2017 to 128 in February 2018.

Launch of Creative Mauritius

On 22nd of May 2017, the MCCI launched Creative Mauritius, a new section on <u>www.taxfreeshopping.mu</u>, meant to promote and support genuine local handicraft operators with a tourist segment. The project followed the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the SMEDA and the MCCI in September 2016. Around 120 operators from Mauritius and Rodrigues were registered at the launch of the project. The MCCI also seized the opportunity to announce the adding of an e-commerce option to the website.

Moreover, the MCCI will partner with SME Mauritius Ltd. to enable handicraft operators in the Creative Mauritius section to benefit this service.

In parallel, our <u>Facebook page</u> has reached more than **9,500** in January 2017. The Facebook campaign targeted to countries such as Madagascar, Reunion Island, France amongst others.

The total number of shops providing Tax Refund Service has also increased from 1065 at end December 2016 to 1123 at end December 2017 – showing a 5.4% increase. The 2017 version of the Tax Refund brochure has experienced a major design transformation to reflect a modern and more user-friendly look. Over 40,000 brochures have been distributed to a much wider and targeted audience including Foreign Exchange dealers, Car Rentals on top of Hotels, Destination Management Companies and shops/ shopping malls.





New Strategic Direction

Following the GS1 General Assembly 2017 where the Key Strategic Initiatives for 2017 – 2018 were presented, GS1 Mauritius has defined its new strategic direction.



Consolidating relationship with existing Members.



Increasing the adoption of GS1 standards in novel sectors namely healthcare, traceability as well as GS1 Cloud.



Signing the Agreement on Intellectual Property and Data Management to comply further with GS1 Global Office requirements on the use of the Global Marks as well as data management under this licence.

New services to better serve members

Consultancy services have been introduced to better support members to address specific challenges in integrating GS1 standards in their operations, to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and implement traceability.

Consequently, Members have adopted GS1 standards to a wider extent by identifying pallets, assets such as vehicles; which enable an efficient flow of information and goods.

GS1 Mauritius' consultancy services have also been provided to parastatal bodies, namely the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA), to implement GS1 Global Coupon Numbering on the discount voucher issued upon arrival to all individuals holding foreign passports.

The GS1 Global Coupon Numbering which enables serialisation of each individual voucher renders each coupon unique whilst enabling an efficient management of the system.

Visibility and Awareness campaigns on new areas

GS1 Mauritius participated in various workshops to promote the importance of barcodes for SMEs, agro-businesses as well as for exports.

In addition, GS1(MAURITIUS) LTD will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with SME Mauritius Ltd in March 2018.

Under this MoU, SME Mauritius Ltd. will finance 100% of the Registration Fees and Training fees for eligible MSMEs to acquire GS1 Barcodes. The beneficiaries of this scheme will be required to pay only the Annual Membership Fees to demonstrate their commitment. Furthermore, GS1 Mauritius organised meetings with operators in the healthcare sector:

Presentations were delivered to:



To further increase the brand equity of GS1 Mauritius, the marketing materials have been revamped. These collective activities have led to increasing the membership of GS1 Mauritius by 120.

Combating counterfeit

To protect its Members against counterfeited barcodes and fraudulent use of barcodes, GS1 Mauritius has deployed much effort to collaborate with stakeholders, namely supermarkets, and with legal advisors.

Furthermore, following a meeting held with the Secretary-General of COMESA, Mr. Sindiso Ndema Ngwenya on Thursday 14th August 2017 to discuss *how GS1 standards and solutions* are adopted to combat counterfeiting globally, a paper on GS1 Standards and Traceability Solutions to combat Counterfeiting' was submitted to COMESA.

Providing support to join GS1 Cloud

Other than providing Members with an international visibility through GEPIR, GS1 Mauritius has been providing its Members with the opportunity to join GS1 Cloud – the largest source of trusted product information in the world. Support has been given to assist Members to provide their data and to upload them in the GS1 Cloud.

E-Waste Management System

Following consultancy work undertaken which was co-financed by l'Agence Française de Development (AFD), several reports were submitted, and strategies proposed during meetings with various stakeholders. Green Mauritius, a wholly-owned subsidiary of MCCI, was incorporated.

The <u>project</u> being a public-private partnership, representatives of MCCI met with the Prime Minister to apprise him of the development undertaken. Meetings were also held with other public institutions regarding the collection of e-waste and the sensitization of the population.

Following the provision made in Section 17 of the Finance (Miscellaneous) Act 2016 for the amendment of the Environment Protection Act, the E-Waste Regulations have been finalised at the level of the E-Waste Technical Working Group. Furthermore, a Partnership Agreement between the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development and the MCCI to operationalize the E-Waste Management System is well underway.



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New Governance Structure

In 2017, MARC successfully launched its new governance structure, with the setting-up of a MARC Court, presided by the world-renowned arbitration expert, Mr. Neil Kaplan and the MARC Advisory Board, chaired by Ms. Sarah Grimmer, actual Secretary-General of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Center was also set up.

The MARC Court consists of 13 international arbitration experts.



The main tasks of the MARC Court include:



By setting up the MARC Court, MARC brings itself in line with international best practices in arbitration, to better serve the business community.

The MARC Advisory Board consists of 14 renowned experts in the field of arbitration. The Board will be consulted on matters relating to MARC's development policies and best practices as well as on projects and initiatives to further the development of ADR methods as effective trade and business facilitation tools.

Arbitration cases

In 2017, a total number of 10 arbitration cases has been handled by the MARC Permanent Secretariat.

The increase in the number of arbitration cases has been constant in the past 5 years and shows growing confidence in the services provided by the MARC.

With the implementation of the new MARC Governance Structure, the caseload is expected to increase even more in the next five years as MARC extends its services to the Region and beyond.

MARC now also has a dedicated hearing centre, with hearing and break-out rooms for arbitral proceedings, and a MARC Documentation Center, providing arbitrators, counsels to the public at large with specialised texts and case law materials on arbitration.

Other Business Support Services

Data Protection

The new Data Protection Act was adopted by the National Assembly in 2017. An update was necessary to comply with European Standards General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

In this context, the MCCI organised 2 workshops on Data Protection:

• in December 2017, with Dr. Peter Tobin as main speaker.





 in collaboration with OTAM, AHRIM, MBA and Global Finance in October 2017. Mr. Raul Rikk, Estonian expert in Data Protection E-Governance and Cybersecurity and Mrs. Drudeisha Madhub, the Data Protection Commissioner of Mauritius, were the guest speakers during the event.

Resale Price Maintenance / Competition Rules

The MCCI made a general survey about certain retail trade practices and their compliance with the provisions of the Competition Act. A lack of understanding of the rules governing the principles of Resale Price Maintenance (RPM) was noticed. Discussions were carried with the Competition Commission to investigate the issue and find a way forward.

Penalties for non-compliance is 10% of the turnover over a maximum of 5 years.

The commission proposed an Amnesty Programme for operators who believed they were not compliant with the Act in respect of RPM and benefit from immunity for fines under certain conditions. 102 operators benefitted from the Amnesty programme.

The RPM Amnesty Programme was valid for a period of 6 months from 17th May to 17th November 2017.

The collaboration was successful for the MCCI acting as a responsible trade institution promoting regulatory compliance and good governance in doing business.





ATA Carnet

In 2017, the MCCI provided continued support to the business community for the duty-free temporary exports of professional equipment, commercial samples, and goods meant for exhibition at trade fairs or client meetings, through the issue of the ATA carnets.

Goods exported under ATA carnets were mostly jewellery and garment samples.

Australia, France, Germany and UK were the main countries of temporary export.



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



International Chamber of Commerce

ICC is the world business organization, helping businesses of all sizes and in all countries to operate both internationally and responsibly. With a global network of over 6 million Members in more than 100 countries, the ICC work to promote international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation through a unique mix of advocacy and standard setting activities – together with market leading dispute resolution services.



ICC WCF Council

Member of the ICC World Chambers Federation General Council, the MCCI represented by its Secretary-General, Mr. Raju Jaddoo, participated in the WCF General Council Meeting held on 18th September 2017, in Sydney, prior to the opening of the World Chambers Congress.

MCCI to become the founding member of ICC National Committee for Mauritius

The MCCI is working towards setting up the ICC National Committee for Mauritius by being its founding member. The ICC National Committee for Mauritius will open the doors for Mauritian companies to contribute to the policy advocacy of the world's largest business organization as the leading business voice in the World Trade Organization and other international forums – including the G20. ICC works to champion evidence-based policies to shape the multilateral trade and investment agenda as a driver of growth, jobs and development.



ICC World Chambers Congress

The MCCI participated in the 10th World Chambers Congress, held on 19th-21st September 2017 in Sydney, Australia, which saw the participation of more than 1000 business leaders and Chamber of Commerce Members from more than 100 countries. The threeday congress covered discussions about sustainability, workplace diversity, SME finance, media trust to leadership, the world of tomorrow and the 4th industrial revolution. MCCI was represented by Mr. Raju Jaddoo, Secretary-General of the MCCI, and Ms. Rooma Narrainen, Manager - Trade Division, MCCI.





COMESA Business Council

The 7th CBC Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on the 9th and 10th October 2017 and was centred on the theme *Promoting inter-trade and economic integration between COMESA Countries*. Mr. Azim Currimjee, Vice-President of the COMESA Business Council and President of the MCCI, was present during the event.



Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce

In line with broadening its network, the MCCI is now a registered member of the Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce. SRCIC is a transnational business confederation mainly composed of national commercial associations of the Silk Road countries. Currently SRCIC has over 100 organizational Members from 75 countries, including state-level organizations and correspondents, as well as millions of enterprises affiliated, forming up a community of shared interests, shared responsibilities and a shared future

Digital regional business platform

The MCCI has been selected to lead the setting-up of a regional digital business platform project. The digital platform which is expected to be launched in 2018 is a project the Union of Chambers of Commerce of the Indian Ocean and is financed by the Agence Française de Developpement (AFD). The objectives of this platform are to strengthen the communication and collaboration amongst the Chambers of Commerce & Industry of the region namely Mauritius, Reunion, Madagascar, Comoros, Mayotte and Seychelles, and to consolidate economic cooperation amongst regional businesses of these countries through the provision of various services.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Cooperation Agreements

Last year, the MCCI has kept up its endeavour to strengthen its collaboration with different institutions. As such, several Cooperation Agreements were inked for stronger collaboration and commitment to create more scopes of trade and investment as well as to facilitate businesses between the different countries.





FORUM & MOU SI





International Trade

Union des Chambres de Commerce, d'Industrie et d'Agriculture des Comores







Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Switzerland

A high-level Swiss delegation, led by H.E. Helene Budliger Artieda, Ambassador of Switzerland to Mauritius, had a working session with representatives of the MCCI on the different trade and investment opportunities available in the country on 14th November 2017.

Bangladesh

A high-level delegation from Bangladesh had a working session with the President of the MCCI, Mr. Azim Currimjee, on 3rd October 2017. The delegation was led by Mr. Faizur Chowdhury, Secretary, Government of Bangladesh. They were accompanied by Hon. Abdul Howlader, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Mauritius.





Malaysia

A delegation from the Malacca Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Malaysia, led by Mr. M. S Mahadevan, the State Deputy Chairman and Exco Member of the Malacca State Assembly, visited the MCCI on 3rd July 2017.

Incoming Missions

For foreign businessmen and institutions, the MCCI remains the focal business organization in Mauritius. As such, the MCCI facilitated several Business-to-Business meetings throughout the year.

Pakistan

Members of the MCCI met with a business delegation from the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Wednesday 28th February 2018, at the seat of the MCCI.

Poland

Mr. Andrzej Krezel, Head of the Trade and Investment Promotion Section from the Government of the Republic of Poland and Ms. Marlena Wysocka, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Pretoria, had a working session on the business opportunities available between Poland and Mauritius with Members and representatives of the MCCI on 18th October 2017.





ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



Belgium

<u>GS1 Global Forum 2018</u> was held on 26th February to 2nd March 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. This forum is the annual event to align the GS1's strategy and to inspire and strengthen the GS1 staff around the world.

With 53 engaging workshops, 5 plenaries, 40 industry-leading speakers, over 20 meetings with Member Organisations and Global Office, 1 market place expo and 5 days of networking, the forum offered numerous opportunities for participants to learn from leading innovators, to share best practices and to drive the implementation of GS1 global standards.

Miss Fazlee Dhuny, Strategic Executive of GS1(MAURITIUS) LTD, who participated in the event had the opportunity to network further with GS1 colleagues around the world and share knowledge.

The Global Forum 2018 was attended by 836 delegates from 96 countries.

Outbound events

In the course of the year 2017, the MCCI was invited to participate to several outbound events organized by international peer organisations.

Sri Lanka

The MCCI has participated in a capacity building workshop for membershipbased Trade Support Institutions organized by the International Trade Centre (ITC), a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, within the framework of its engagement in trade-related technical assistance.

The workshop was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 11th and 12th July 2017. The MCCI was represented by Ms Faeeza Ibrahimsah, Manager of the Communications and Promotion Division.

Thailand

The Symposium was organised by UN Economic Social and Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) with the objective of providing an international platform for a multi-stakeholder dialogue about the possibilities and limitations faced by policymakers, negotiators, private sector and consumers for achieving more inclusive benefits from preferential trade agreements. Mrs. Rooma Narrainen, Manager of the Trade Division (seated second from the left), was invited as panellist to share insights of the African private sector in the implementation of trade agreements.



Courtesy Visits

The MCCI received the visit of mainly dignitaries during the year.





















REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Events

Working lunch with Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta

The MCCI hosted a working lunch session themed *The relevance of GDP in measuring the wealth of nations* on 19th February 2018, with Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, Emeritus Professor of Economics at the University of Cambridge in the presence of the British High Commissioner, Mr. Keith Allan. The working session regrouped high level officials from the public and private sector.

Discussions focused on alternative measures of measuring the wealth of nations, including the sustainability of natural resources and its management. The case for a global environment and carbon tax was further discussed, where Mauritius could be a champion of the green economy.

From left to right: Mr. Azim Currimjee, President of the MCCI, Prof. Sir Partha Dasgupta, and Mr. Keith Allan





Roundtable with Hon. Tony Smith MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

A roundtable discussion with Hon. Tony Smith MP (centre) was held at the MCCI on 12th January 2018 at the seat of the MCCI.

The objective of the roundtable was to promote Mauritius as a Business destination and hub for Africa.

Presentation on the DIT and UK offer

The MCCI welcomed Mrs. Elena Williams, UK's Trade Director for Southern Africa (right), and Mr. Keith Allan, High Commissioner of UK to Mauritius (centre) on Tuesday 21st November 2017. Members were invited for an informative session on the opportunities offered by the Department for International Trade (DIT) in the UK on this occasion.



SME Innovation Award 2017

The MCCI was a member of the Technical Assessment Committee (TAC) of the SME Innovation Award (SIA) 2017, held on the 24th November 2017. Organized by the Ministry of Business, Enterprises and Cooperatives, the objectives of the SIA are to enhance the competitiveness and productivity of the SME sector; and encourage local SMEs to adopt innovative practices that would lead to business transformation.

Joint event with CIArb Mauritius

MARC teamed up with the Mauritius Branch of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) for a networking event on 13th July 2017 at the seat of the MCCI in Port Louis. Themed An Evening with Neil Kaplan, the event was meant to shed light on the main issues in international arbitration. It was followed by a networking cocktail.



Presentation on CEPA, IORA

A presentation session on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement within the IORA, was delivered by Dr. Siswo Pramono, Head/ Director General of Policy Development and Analysis Agency of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia (second on the left). The event was held on Thursday 21st September 2017 at the MCCI.

Meeting with BADEA

Representatives of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) delivered a presentation on the Trade Finance Facilities offered by the bank on 23rd August 2017 at the seat of the MCCI.



SME Innovation and Technology Fair 2017

The MCCI was the official private sector partner in the SME Innovation and Technology Fair 2017 held on the 12th-14th May 2017 at the SVICC. Organized by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), the event aimed to serve as an effective platform connecting several foreign and local technology providers and their innovative ideas to SMEs and investors.



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



Launching of MARC45

The President of the MARC Court, Neil Kaplan, launched MARC45 on 12th July 2017, at the MARC seat in Port Louis.

The MARC45 Committee collaborated with the MARC Team to set up two successful events, under the banner of the *MARC45 Arbitration Spotlight Event*. An informal Q&A session was organized during which a renowned arbitration practitioner is invited to share his or her experience and knowledge. Ms. Aisha Abdallah from Kenya and Mr. Roger Wakefield from South Africa, both Members of the MARC Court, where the guest speakers at these events.

Arbitration in Mauritius & South African Foreign Direct Investment

MARC collaborated with the South African Chamber of Commerce in Mauritius for the organisation of an informative breakfast session, giving exclusive insights on arbitration in relation to South African Foreign Direct Investment and on Mauritius' advantage of positioning itself as a preferred arbitration hub in the region.

Roger Wakefield, director in Werksmans Attorneys' Litigation and Dispute Resolution Department since 1996 and a member of the MARC Court, was the Special Guest Speaker at this event.





MARC Conference on *Efficiency in Arbitration Proceedings*

Themed *Efficiency in Arbitration Proceedings*, the MARC Conference 2017, held on 12th July 2017, addressed some of the main issues arbitrators, counsels and parties face when involved in arbitration proceedings and possible solutions on how to address these issues. The main speakers of the event were Neil Kaplan, Jalal El Ahdab, Cheng-Yee Khong, and Jamsheed Peeroo on emergency and expedited proceedings.

The event was attended by over 90 participants, mainly lawyers, judges, arbitrators and other ADR specialists.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In the year 2017, in an attempt to get closer to its Members, the MCCI has established its presence on Social Media, mainly on Facebook.





Since August 2017, The MCCI Facebook page features updated business news and also showcases the different aspects of the services offered by the institution. Interactions have been made easier for its Members.

MCCI E-News



The bi-monthly newsletter of the MCCI has been revamped to become more readerfriendly. Fully responsive, the MCCI E-News is sent to more than 3,500 readers and it features up-to-date news of both local and international business world. Business opportunities, trade fairs and tenders are also available.



LINKEDIN

The MCCI has also launched its official LinkedIn page in March 2018, in order to get closer to the professionals using this platform.



100% Challenge

100% Challenge is back in 2018, after the registration of 100% Challenge as a company. The MCCI is coming forward with a whole new concept and a new logo for the programme.





MCCI BUSINESS SCHOOL



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



The MCCI Business School has made a major turn around the last three years and has today set the foundation for a dynamic and modern institution that stands out as a school with a *tradition of excellence* in the present tertiary education landscape.

The MCCI Business School has consolidated its position this year with an increased number of students which has led to excellent financial outcome.



New Approach for Training for New Challenges

The school has aggressively pursued new strategies to adapt to evolving circumstances, while demonstrating distinction in all its academic endeavours.

The objective of the MCCI Business School is to prepare new generations of employees with a solid sense of professional excellence and corporate responsibility.

Today, business leadership view their companies' success in terms that go beyond mere financial profits. The School has thus a commitment and an opportunity to groom a new era of leaders who take the notions of professionalism and accountability as their leitmotiv, and who understand that firms are communities of people. The MCCI Business School Strategic Plan approved last year has indeed set out the key objectives for the coming 3 years focusing on the theme: *achieving excellence in teaching and learning.*

With the school offering programs in a variety of fields, our institution further extended its programs' global reach. We aim for a balanced focus on high-quality teaching and management and soft skills that can have a transformational impact on students and companies.

Portfolio of Programmes

Our portfolio of programs continues to grow and to attract students from diverse backgrounds, countries, and cultures. The first batch of *Alternance* students came out in 2017 and most of the students and have been recruited by their sponsors.

Portfolio of Programmes

Undergraduate

Post Graduate

Professional

Collaboration with Duke CE

Representatives from the Duke CE, in collaboration with the MCCI Business School and with the support of the MCCI, met Member companies in March 2017. Meetings and presentations were focused on a 3-Step Design Approach for corporate, designed by Duke CE. These meetings were followed by an event by a 1-day Design Thinking School by Justin Ferrell, an international reputed speaker in the field in May 2017, attended by some 35 Members. Another event in collaboration with Duke CE: the BankSeta Leadership Programme which gathered some 20 delegates from 4 leading banks in South Africa, was organised on 12th-14th June 2017 in Mauritius, in the premises of local companies, on different panel themes.

Duke CORPORATE EDUCATION

The objective of the MCCI Business School is to prepare new generations of employees with a solid sense of professional excellence and corporate responsibility.

MCCI BUSINESS SCHOOL



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



Award of Certificate Ceremony 2017

The award of certificate ceremony was held on the 8th of December 2017 at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute Auditorium in Moka where a record number of 147 students were rewarded.

The 2017 ceremony welcomes the very first cohorts of graduates in *BTS Communication* and the *Licence de Tourisme* as well as the first batch of *Alternance* students in Management and Banking. The award ceremony saw the presence of high-level public and private officials as well as dignitaries.

Institut de la Francophonie pour l'Entrepreneuriat

The MCCI Business School is also partnering with the University of Mauritius and the Agence de la Francophonie to revamp the Institut de la Francophonie pour l'Entrepreneuriat. The main objective is to establish a Centre of Excellence for Entrepreneurship and to promote an entrepreneurship ecosystem that will serve the country, the Indian Ocean Region as well as the African continent. The first meeting of the IFE Foundation Council was held this year under the chairmanship of Mr. Jaques D'Unienville from Omnicane.

Ébène Premises and Student Life

The MCCI Business School is very concerned with customer satisfaction regarding the level of service-oriented facilities available on its premises. Thus, the amenities are constantly being reviewed to improve our efforts in terms of customer care. Plans to upgrade the building are presently being studied.



Marketing

The improvement of the visibility of the school, both at the local and international level is a matter of growing concern for the school. Therefore, our website is constantly being reviewed and updated. The use of social media has also become one of our major marketing tools.

Furthermore, the school is regularly present in the major training fairs both in Mauritius and in the region. Talks and presentations are also organized in secondary schools.



Asserting our presence in Rodrigues

The MCCI Business School has also launched since September 2017 courses in IT in Rodrigues in collaboration with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. A first batch of 14 students have been enrolled and following their courses at the ICT Centre of Excellence in Port Mathurin. The inauguration ceremony was presided by the Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues, Mr. Serge Clair, and the Chairperson of the Education Commission, Mrs. Franchette Gaspard-Pierre-Louis.



PROSPECTS

2018 will be the year to leverage on the several opportunities that have been unshrouded up since last year. As you have all witnessed, 2017 has been another exceptional year in terms of innovative services and membership growth across all sectors. The range of subjects covered and the number of trade agreements currently being negotiated is substantial. Right now, a country like Mauritius with a 1.3 million population is negotiating two Free Trade Agreements with India and China with a combined population in excess of 2.6 billion - the market potential is just enormous. We therefore need to renew our efforts to take advantage of such opportunities by leveraging on FDI, skills and technology transfer to be able to significantly expand our export capacity both in terms of goods and increasingly services.

Business Expansion is the order of the day and the MCCI will be deploying new services and tools to better equip our entrepreneurs consolidate and further expand into foreign markets while providing adequate support to our Strategic local enterprises as well by converting the comparative advantage we have enjoyed for so many years into a competitive one.

Innovation will be at the heart of our endeavours to provide the necessary mechanism for our entrepreneurs to acquire the necessary technology and knowledge transfer to embark upon their next phase of development. Since 1850 and following our independence, the MCCI has played a very significant role by serving thousands of entrepreneurs through its varied services, and now, through its technology platforms for trade facilitation and the cargo community at large. We are now gearing ourselves for the digital world and will soon be launching our e-commerce platform to continue to be of service to our members and the business community in general. We will also be providing new traceability tools through GS1 Mauritius to major local producers and complete the supply chain with more valueadded consumer information at the other end. The Financial Services sector will greatly benefit from the new Global Legal Entity Identifier services of GS1 Mauritius as the latter completes the formalities to become an accredited issuing agent.

The MCCI will further build on its acquis to develop its arbitration and mediation services through MARC with a growing international presence and the hosting of some flagship events to be held in the course of 2018.

The MCCI is also working towards setting up the ICC National Committee for Mauritius, which will avail Mauritian operators the opportune platform to be part of the highest level of policy advocacy.

On a personal note, I would like to place on record my thanks to the Vice President, Mr. Marday Venkatasamy, Members of the Council as well as Members of the MCCI, for all their support during the past year. Finally, a special word of thanks to the Secretary-General and the whole team working under his competent leadership.

> Azim Currimjee President



ECONOMIC AND TRADE REVIEW 2017















The International Context

Policy transitions and stronger business and consumer confidence are supporting the recovery in the global economy. In 2017, with notable pickups in investment, trade and industrial production, the IMF expects a global upswing in economic activity, with global growth projected to rise to 3.7 percent, a marked improvement from the 3.2 percent growth in 2016.

With some 120 economies, accounting for over three quarters of world GDP showing a pickup in growth, global economic output in 2017 has been higher than expected. This shows that the recovery from the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) has been broad-based. Faced with more favourable global conditions and stronger economic sentiment, advanced economies have shown an upside growth from 1.7 percent in 2016 to 2.3 percent in 2017. With stronger private investment, and external demand, the U.S. economy is estimated to grow by 2.3 percent in 2017, a marked improvement from the 1.5 growth rate in 2016. In the United Kingdom, growth was at a mere 1.5 percent, on the back of low business investment performance linked to Brexit.

In emerging markets, growth continued to firm up at a rate of 4.7 prercent in 2017. In the Eurozone Area, stronger momentum in domestic and external demand especially in Germany, Italy and the Netherlands have contributed to a growth rate of 2.4 percent in 2017, higher than the 1.8 percent achieved in 2016. Whilst growth in China is expected to continue to moderate, pick-up in economic growth in India and higher growth forecasts for Poland and Turkey are contributing to the firming up of economic activity in the developing countries.

Elsewhere in the world, Brazil and Russia are starting to show signs of stabilisation as stronger commodity prices start to have favourable effects on those commodity-exporting countries. Both economies show positive growth at 1.1 and 1.8 percent respectively, after a number of years in recession. Activity in the Sub-Saharan Region showed a slight pickup to reach 2.7 percent with more stable commodity prices and domestic conditions.

Average global inflation remained moderate in 2017, below central bank targets in most countries. In advanced economies, the increase in fuel prices has raised headline inflation to 1.7 percent but wage and core-price inflation remain weak. Among emerging market economies, headline and core inflation have picked up slightly in 2017 after declining earlier in the year.



Local Context 2017

MCC

After a moderate growth cycle between 2009 and 2015, the Mauritian economy showed signs of renewed dynamism, with economic growth rate at market price of around 3.9 percent in 2017 according to latest figures from Statistics Mauritius, higher than the 3.8 percent achieved in 2016.

Economic activity in the country continues to be driven by internal demand. On the one hand, consumption expenditure grew by 3.1 percent, higher than the 2.9 percent rate in 2016. Consumption expenditure was largely balanced between a 3.0 percent increase in household expenditure and a 3.6 percent increase in government expenditure.

On the other hand, investment grew by 5 percent, the second consecutive year of positive growth after 5 years of contraction. Public sector investment expanded by 1.4 percent compared to a contraction of 2.8 percent in 2016. With a recovery of 6.2 percent in 2017, private sector investment remained the largest driver of investment in the country at 75.3 percent of total investment.

On the external front, faced with uncertainties, low exchange rates and the introduction of new international norms, our exports of goods and services increased by a mere 0.1 percent, after two years of contraction.

With the pickup in commodity prices, most especially petroleum products, and an increase in domestic demand, inflation started to bounce back, reaching 3.7 percent in 2017.


Over the past 50 years since Independence, the Mauritian economy has witnessed considered progress, moving from a GDP of Rs 841 Million to achieve over Rs 406 Billion in 2017. In fact, the country has been growing at an average rate of 5.4 percent since 1968, while undergoing a constant transformation in its econmic structure, from a mono-crop economy with a high reliance on sugar to a well diversified economic model based on services and innovation.

While growth rates have been moderate since the GFC, the country has demonstrated exceptional performance and dynamism, through a combination of forward-looking policies from the Government and the pro-activity of the private sector.

GDP (Rs million)

50 Years of growth



MCC

Business Confidence Indicator



The MCCI Business Confidence Indicator summarises, in a single variable, the simultaneous changes of several variables and thus allows an instant estimate of the morale of entrepreneurs over a short time period.

For the first time since the launch of the economic tool, the MCCI Business Confidence Indicator witnessed a rise over all quarters to settle at 123.0 points in the fourth quarter of 2017, its highest level ever reached. The indicator is firmly in the dynamic territory, reflecting a situation of a better present and positive expectation of the future by entrepreneurs.



Sectoral growth rates (%)







| GROWTH (2017) | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| FTSE | 9 | | | | | |
| NASDAQ | 28.24 | | | | | |
| DOW JONES | 25.08 | | | | | |
| NIKKEI | 19.1 | | | | | |
| SEMDEX | 21.77 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Trade Data

MCC

Total trade (Exports + Imports) has increased from Rs 185 billion in 2007 to reach Rs 252 billion in 2017 representing an increase of 36%. Over the same period, total exports (domestic exports and re-exports) registered a growth of 13% to reach Rs 72 billion in 2017. Over the period 2007 to 2017, domestic exports registered an increase of 12% till 2012 and remained stagnant for 3 years before experiencing a slight drop in the years 2016 and 2017.

Our main exports over the same period were garments, sugar, preserved fish and jewellery. Preserved fish registered a growth of 64% while knitted T-Shirts experienced a decrease of 58% from 2007 to 2017. Other products such as medical devices, pasta, live animals, watch straps and fish meal have emerged as new exports over the period 2007-2017.

As regards to re-exports, there has been an increase of 29% over the period 2007-2017. In 2017, re-exports accounted for 25% of total exports. 'Mobile phones' and 'medicaments' were the main products re-exported from the freeport over this period.

On the importation side, there has been a substantial increase in imports figures of nearly 50% from 2007 to 2017. Petroleum products remained our main imported item representing nearly 13% of total imports in 2017. The other main items imported included frozen fish, motor vehicles and cotton.

Mauritius **Exports**



EVOLUTION OF EXPORTS FROM 2007 TO 2017



MAIN EXPORTS - BY CHAPTER (2007-2017)

| 17) | Rs million | | |
|--|------------|--------|--|
| | 2007 | 2017 | |
| Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted | 18,964 | 10,511 | |
| Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted | 8,384 | 10,263 | |
| Preparations of meat, of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic intervertebrates | 6,197 | 10,183 | |
| Sugar and sugar confectionary | 9,657 | 8,753 | |
| Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates | 1,977 | 4,088 | |
| Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles, thereof; imitation jewellery; coin | 2,556 | 3,829 | |



EXPORTS OF MAIN PRODUCTS (2007-2017)

| | Rs million | | |
|---|------------|--------|--|
| | 2007 | 2017 | |
| Prepared or preserved fish, caviar and caviar substitutes prepared from fish eggs | 6,194 | 10,182 | |
| Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose in solid form | 9,577 | 8,734 | |
| T-shirts, singlets and other vests, knitted or crocheted | 12,523 | 5,290 | |
| Men's or boys' shirts, woven | 4,082 | 4,754 | |
| Men's or boy's shirts, ensembles, jacket, blazers, trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts (other than swimwear) | 2,388 | 3,784 | |
| Diamonds, whether or not worked but not mounted or set | 1,286 | 2,167 | |



EXPORTS OF SELECTED PRODUCTS (2007-2017)

Mauritius Imports







MAIN IMPORTS - BY CHAPTER

Rs million 2007 2017 Minerals fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, bitumious substances, mineral waxes Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery 11,127 and mechanical appliances Electrical machinery and equipment and parts, sound recorders and 9,084 reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers and parts and accessories of such articles Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock and parts and accessorie Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and 6,698 other aquatic invertebrates Cotton 6,176

Rs million

IMPORTS OF MAIN PRODUCTS (2007-2017)

| | | | | | | | | | 2007 | 2017 |
|------------------|--------|--|---|-------------------|---|----------------|--|--|--------|--------|
| | 30,000 | | | specified or incl | uded, coi | ntaining by we | eight 70 % or mo | als, other than crude preparations not elsewhere re of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from ents of the preparations; waste oils. | 18,969 | 24,237 |
| RS MILLION (CIF) | 25,000 | +28% | Fish, frozen, excluding fish fillets and other fish meat | | | | 6,076 | 10,274 | | |
| | 20,000 | | | | | | rincipally designe Igons and racing | d for the transport pf persons (other than those cars | 2,879 | 8,156 |
| | 15,000 | 000 apparatus for communicatio +69% +183% | Telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks; other apparatus for the transmission or reception of voice, images or other data, including apparatus for communication in a wired or wireless network | | | | | 2,678 | 4,315 | |
| | 10,000 | | | 4.0/ | | | Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses or in forms or packings for retail sale. | 1,902 | 3,829 | |
| | 5,000 | | +61% +101% + | +115% | Petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons | 1,482 | 3,189 | | | |
| | _ | 2007 2017 2007 2 | 2017 200 | 07 2017 2007 20 |)17 20 | 007 2017 | 2007 2017 | | | |

World Bank Commodities Price Forecast (nominal US dollars)













Outlook 2018

On the international scene, the economic performance of advanced and developing economies in 2017 regained momentum. Looking ahead, the IMF predicts global economic activity to pick up pace in 2018 and 2019, with the expected impact of the recently approved U.S. tax policy changes. Nonetheless, there are a number of downside risks linked to a faster than expected increase in core inflation and interest rates in advanced economies as demand accelerates. Inward-looking policies in some main advanced economies, and continued political uncertainties in other economies also pose downside risks.

Amidst a rebound in the world economy, growth in Mauritius is expected to pick-up slightly with the latest figures from Statistics Mauritius and IMF forecasts for Mauritius both pointing towards a 4.0 percent growth rate in 2018.

Higher rates of economic growth in the Mauritian economy will largely depend on a renewal in public and private investment, driven by the kick-start of large-scale projects such as the Smart Cities, and the Metro Express as well as a number of fiscal incentives given to entrepreuners to invest in high-value added activies. Moreover, demand-side measures such as the introduction of the Negative Income Tax, the National Minimum wage, and the reduction of the Key Repo Rate are expected to further boost consumption, which is one of the most critical determinants of economic growth in the country.



MCCI Economic Barometer

The MCCI's latest Economic Barometer shows that the country is in an Upturn, with a sustained improvement in the current economic situation over 2017. Entrepreneurs in general remain positive in regards to the future economic prospects for the economy in 2018.

Nevertheless, both internal and external risks remain as the country is faced with the combination of negative externalities with the effect of climate change and weather disruptions, delays in the implementation of public infrastructure projects as well as persistent uncertainties in the global economy and rising commodity prices. Mauritius needs to makes full use of its monetary, fiscal and structural policy levers to sustain its economic development agenda.



MCCI AUDIT COMMITTEE 2017/2018



















TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Role of the Audit Committee is to establish formal and transparent arrangements for considering how it should apply the financial reporting and internal control principles and for maintaining an appropriate relationship with the company's auditors.

It is useful that the Audit Committee has written terms of reference which deal clearly with its authority and duties.

The following Terms of Reference are thus proposed:

1. Membership and attendance

- 1.1 The Committee shall be appointed by the Council and shall comprise of a Chairman and at least 3 other Council members, who should be clearly independent of management and, as far as possible, free from any direct conflict of interest.
- 1.2 The Chairman of the Council shall not be a member of the Committee.
- 1.3 The Chairman of the Committee should have relevant financial knowledge.
- 1.4 In the absence of the Committee Chairman, the remaining members present shall elect one of their numbers present to chair the meeting.
- 1.5 The Committee may ask the Council Chairman, Secretary General, Finance Officer and any relevant senior management to attend meetings.

2. Secretary

2.1 The Audit Committee shall appoint the Secretary to the Committee who shall not be the Secretary-General.

3. Quorum

3.1 The quorum necessary for the transaction of business shall be 3.

4. Frequency of Meetings

- 4.1 The Committee shall meet quarterly and at such other times as the Chairman of the Committee shall require.
- 4.2 Meetings will be arranged to tie in with the publication of the Chamber's financial statements, prior to its presentation to the Council Meeting where accounts or financial statements are to be approved.
- 4.3 Meetings can be requested by the external or internal auditors if they consider one is necessary.

5. Notice of Meetings

5.1 Meetings of the Committee shall be summoned by the Secretary of the Committee at the request of any member thereof.

5.2 Notice of each meeting confirming the venue, time and date together with an agenda of items to be discussed, shall be forwarded in advance to each member of the Committee and any other person required to attend.

6. Proceedings at Meetings

- 6.1 The Secretary shall minute the proceedings and resolutions of all meetings of the Committee, including recording the names of those present and in attendance
- 6.2 The Committee Members shall declare their interest as soon as a conflict or potential conflict of interest arises.

7. Reporting Responsibilities

7.1 The Chairman shall report to the Council and make whatever recommendations the Committee deems appropriate.

8. Annual General Meeting

8.1 The Chairman of the Committee shall attend the Annual General Meeting and any other meeting where issues of relevance to the Audit Committee are likely to be raised.

9. Duties

- 9.1 Internal Control and Risk Assessment
- 9.1.1 The Committee shall keep under review the effectiveness of the Chamber's financial reporting and internal control policies and procedures for the identification, assessment and reporting of risks as well as the management of those risks by the Chamber.
- 9.2. Internal Audit
- 9.2.1 The Committee shall consider applications for the post of and recommend the appointment of the internal auditors; any dismissal of the post holder should be considered by the Committee.
- 9.2.2 The Committee shall consider and approve the terms of reference of the internal audit function, and shall be advised of the planned programme of audits and the reason for any change or delay in the programme.
- 9.2.3 The Committee shall review the management of financial matters and focus upon the independence allowed to the internal auditors.



- 9.2.4 The Committee shall review promptly all reports on the Chamber from the internal auditors.
- 9.2.5 The Internal Auditors shall be given the right of direct access to the Chairman of the Committee.
- 9.3 External Audit
- 9.3.1 The Committee shall consider and make recommendations to the Council as regards the appointment and re-appointment of the Chamber's external auditors.
- 9.3.2 The Committee shall meet with the external auditors at least twice each year, once at the planning stage, where the scope of the audit will be considered, and once post audit at the reporting stage, and shall ensure that any auditor's management letters and management's responses are reviewed.
- 9.3.3 The Committee shall keep under review the relationship with external auditors including (but not limited to):
 - 9.3.3.1 the independence and objectivity of the external auditors;
 - 9.3.3.2 the consideration of audit fees which should be paid as well as any other fees which are payable to auditors in respect of non-audit activities; and
 - 9.3.3.3 discussions with the external auditors concerning such issues as compliance with accounting standards and any proposals which the external auditors have made vis-àvis the Chamber's internal auditing standards.
- 9.4 Financial Statements
- 9.4.1 The Committee shall keep under review the consistency of accounting policies on a year-to-year basis.
- 9.4.2 The Committee shall review and challenge where necessary the Chamber's financial statements taking into account:
 - 9.4.2.1 decisions requiring a major element of judgment;
 - 9.4.2.2 the extent to which the financial statements are affected by any unusual transactions;
 - 9.4.2.3 the clarity of disclosures;
 - 9.4.2.4 significant adjustments resulting from the audit;
 - 9.4.2.5 the going concern assumption;
 - 9.4.2.6 compliance with accounting standards; and 9.4.2.7 compliance with legal and regulatory requirements in so far as they relate to financial issues.

9.5 Other Matters

- 9.5.1 The Committee shall be responsible for co-ordination of the internal and external auditors.
- 9.5.2 The Committee shall oversee any investigation of activities which are within its terms of reference.
- 9.5.3 The Committee should, on a regular basis, review its own performance, constitution and terms of reference to ensure it is operating at maximum effectiveness and make recommendations thereon to the Council.
- 9.5.4 The Audit Committee shall take up, on an ad-hoc basis, specific issues connected with Finance and referred to it by the Council. In such cases, other Members of the Council may be co-opted on the Committee, with representatives of Management.
- 9.5.5 On a yearly basis, the Audit Committee will take cognisance of the financial status of the investments of MCCI which will coincide with finalisation of yearly accounts

10. Annual Report

10.1 A section of the Annual Report of the Chamber will be devoted to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee and its composition.





MEMBERSHIP LIST AS AT 05.05.2018





















AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

Chinese Chamber of Commerce Indian Traders' Association Mauritius Chamber of Merchants

INDUSTRY GROUP

Africasia Electronics Manufacturing Ltd. Ajanta Pharma (Mauritius) Ltd. Aldes Mauritius Ltd. Allied Aluminium Products Ltd. APEXHOM Aquarelle Clothing Ltd. Association of Mauritian Manufacturers Avipro Co. Ltd. Bella Amigo Co. Ltd. Bijem International Ltd. Blue Liquors Ltd. Butter & Dairy Enterprises Ltd. Calcium Products Co. Ltd. Cernol Chemicals Ltd. Cie. Mauricienne de Textile Ltée. CIEL Ltd. Corson Tea Estate Co. Ltd. Creasim Ltée. Distillerie de Labourdonnais Domaines et Terroirs Ltée. E. C. Oxenham & Co. Ltd. Eminence Marketing Ltd. Empak (Africa) Ltd. Esko & Co. Ltd. Esquel (Mauritius) Ltd. Fast Foods Ltd. Filao Ltée. Floreal International Ltd. Florecold Industry Ltd. Food Canners Ltd. Forges Tardieu Group Gamma Construction Ltd. Gaz Carbonique Ltd. General Construction Co. Ltd. Gravs Inc. Ltd.

Gumboots & Protectivewear Manufacturing Ltd. Historic Marine Ltd. Innodis Ltd. Inter-Kable Ltd. International Distillers (Mauritius) Ltd. J & P Coats (Mtius) Ltd. Jack Tellor (International) Ltd. Kolos Cement Ltd. L S P Ltd. Les Bruleries de la Fournaise Ltée. Les Gaz Industriels Ltd. Les Moulins de La Concorde Ltée. Livestock Feed Ltd. Margarine Industries Ltd. Mauriflex (Flexo Printing and Packaging) Ltd. Maurilait Production Ltée. Mauristea Investment Co. Ltd. Mauritius Chemical & Fertilizer Industry Ltd. Mauritius Cosmetics Ltd. Mauritius Oil Refineries Ltd. Mauvilac Industries Ltd. Meaders Feeds Ltd. Medine Distillery Co. Ltd. Mer des Mascareignes Ltée. Metal Can Manufacturers Ltd. Miroverre Ltd. NATEC Medical Ltd. Neel Construction & Industries Ltd. New Goodwill Co. Ltd. New Maurifoods Ltd. Nidomac & Co. Ltd. Nivra Enterprises Ltd. Nova Industries Ltd. Nundun Gopee Co. Ltd. **Omnicane Management & Consultancy Ltd.** Palm Step Electronics Ltd. Paper Plus Ltd. Phoenix Beverages Ltd. Plastic Industry (Mtius) Ltd. Powertech Ltd. Precigraph Ltd.

INDUSTRY GROUP (CONT'D)

Princes Tuna (Mauritius) Ltd. Profilage Ocean Indien Ltée. **Quad Printers** Quality Beverages Ltd. Rehm-Grinaker Construction Co. Ltd. Resiglas Co. Ltd. Saba Maintenance Ltd. Saveurs Végétales Ltée. Sign Art Ltd. Soap & Allied Industries Ltd. Sofap Ltd. Sotravic Ltée. Star Knitwear Group Ltd. Sun Packaging Co (Mauritius) Ltd. T & T International Foods Ltd. Tamak Textile Ltd. Terragri Ltd. Te-X-Pert International Ltd. The United Basalt Products Co. Ltd. T-Printers Co. Ltd. Trait D'Union Ltée. V. Parmar Wind Power Ltd. Wally Plush Toys Ltd.

COMMERCE GROUP

A. Abdul Rahim Oosman & Co. (Magasin Bleu) ABC Motors Co. Ltd. Abdullasonco Ltd. Al Hisra International Trade Ltd. Alcohol & Molasses Export Ltd. Aricsons & Co. Ltd. Aurs & Co Ltd. Avess Ltd. Ayoob Cassim & Co Ltd. Batimex Ltd. British American Tobacco (Mauritius) PLC. Card Logic Ltd. Caunhye Bijoux Ltd. CFAO Motors Chue Wing & Co. Ltd. Cie. des Magasins Populaires Ltée. (MONOPRIX) Cie. Mauricienne de Commerce Ltée. CMT International Trading Ltd. Coroi Maurice Ltée. Currimjee Jeewanjee & Co. Ltd. Dando Pub & Co. Ltd. Desbro Trading Ltd. Domaine de Labourdonnais Ltée. E. G. H. Co. Ltd. & Cie Edendale Ltd. Emcar Ltd. Engen Petroleum (Mauritius) Ltd. **ENL Group** Fine Foods Marketing Ltd. FTM (Mtius) Ltd. Gazella Ltd. GNP Wear Co Ltd. Grewals (Mauritius) Ltd. H. Vaulbert de Chantilly Ltd. Happy Tower Ltd. Happy World Ltd. Hardy Henry & Cie. Ltée. Harel Mallac & Co. Ltd. (Harel Mallac Group) Hong Kong Store Ltd. IBL Ltd - BrandActiv (New Cold Storage Co. Ltd.) IBL Ltd - HealthActiv (Medical Trading Co. Ltd.) IBL Ltd. Ibrahim Edoo & Sons Ltd. Ideas Ltd. Indian Ocean Export Ltd. Indian Ocean Spirit Ltd. Indian Oil (Mauritius) Ltd. Inspace International Ltd. Intergraph Ltée. Intermart Mtius Ltd. J. Kalachand & Co. Ltd. J. Rujbaully Trading Co. Ltd. Joonas & Co. Ltd. Knight Trading Agency Co. Ltd. La Trobe Co. Ltd. Lafarge (Mauritius) Cement Ltd.

COMMERCE GROUP (CONT'D)

MCCI

Lampotang & Co. Ltd. Le Warehouse Ltd. Leal Group Li Wan Po & Co. Ltd. Linea Pharmaceuticals (Int) Ltd. Lineo Ltée. Lising & Co. Ltd. Lising International Export Co. Ltd. Litchquor Ltd. Love & Love Boutik M. S. Lauthan (MSL) Ltd. Mado Parfums & Co. Ltd. Manan Co. Ltd. Marketing Plus Company Ltd. Master's Trading Co. Ltd. Maurco Ltd. Mauritius Duty Free Paradise Co. Ltd. Mauritius Sugar Syndicate Mayflower Centre Ltd. Mechanization Co. Ltd. Medical Eye Centre Ltd. Metex Trading Co. Ltd. Miel'Or Ltd. Mimosa Co. Ltd. Mitosis Co. Ltd. Mitrosh Co. Ltd. Mobilenet Solutions Ltd. Monochrome Ltée. Motor Vehicle Dealers Association MSJ Ltd. - Unicorn Nestle's Products (Mtius) Ltd. Nirvaved 5 Lotus Enterprise Ltd. Onsiong Bros & Co. Ltd. Osteosurg Company Ltd. Panagora Marketing Co. Ltd. Pick and Buy Ltd. (Winner's) Pick N Eat Ltd. PNL Raffray Brothers & Co. Ltd. Rentacolor (Mauritius) Ltd.

Rey & Lenferna Ltd. Robert Yip Tong Enterprises & Co. Ltd. (Kawai Music Centre) Rogers & Co. Ltd. S K C Surat & Co. Ltd. S K R Communications Ltd. SCETIA Ltée. SCOMAT Ltée. Scott & Co. Ltd. Self Catered Mauritius Ltd. Shoprite (Mauritius) Ltd. Siebel Enterprise Ltd. Sik Yuen Ltd. Somags Ltée. Sonvigo International Ltd. Sotracom Ltée. Suchem Ltd. (Member of Harel Mallac Group) Sugarex Ltd. Super Hi Foods Ltd. Superdist Ltd. Supintex Ltd. Tea Blenders Ltd. Tectonic Ltd. Tek International Ltd. TheBrandHouse Ltd. Tires Specialist Tiremaster Ltd. TNS Tobacco Co. Ltd. Tornado Ltd. Total (Mauritius) Ltd. Toyota (Mauritius) Ltd. Trimetys Ltée. Udis Ltée. Universal Development Corp. (Pty) Ltd. Vivo Energy Mauritius Ltd. Wendover Retail Co. Ltd. Woolworths Mauritius Ltd. World Tropicals Ltd. Yiptong & Sons Ltd. Young Bros (Plastics) Co. Ltd.

FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP

ABAX Corporate Services Ltd. **ACCA Mauritius** Allfinanz Consulting Ltd. Baker Tilly Alliance Associates Bank of Baroda Bank One Ltd. Banque des Mascareignes Ltée. Barclays Bank Mauritius Ltd. Cheribinny Ltd. CIM Finance Ltd. Credit Guarantee Insurance Co. Ltd. Crowe Horwath (Mur) Co. Ecocredit Finance Ltd. Ernst & Young Ltd. Everstone Capital Ltd. **Global Finance Mauritius** Grant Thornton Ltd. Habib Bank Ltd. Harel Mallac Global Ltd. **HLB Appavoo & Associates** India Capital Management Ltd. Inside Capital Partners Ltd. Invest Place Ltd. Juris Tax Ltd. Kutowaroo Arun M2M.tax Training Solutions Ltd. MauBank Ltd. Mauritian Eagle Insurance Co. Ltd. Mauritius Bankers Association Ltd. Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd. Mauritius Union Assurance Cy Ltd. Moollan and Moollan Ltd. **Moore Stephens SANNE Mauritius** Standard Chartered Bank (Mauritius) Ltd. State Bank of Mauritius Ltd. Swan General Ltd. Swan Life Ltd. Tailored Financial Solutions Ltd. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. Thomas Cook (Mauritius) Operations Co. Ltd. Warwyck Private Bank Ltd.

TOURISM GROUP

Air Mauritius Ltd. Association des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs IIe Maurice (AHRIM) Atom Travel Services Ltd. Bonny Air Travel & Tours Ltd. Concorde Tourist Guide Agency Ltd. Hennessy Park Hotel La Nouvelle Bonne Marmite Ltée. Mauriplage Investment Co. Ltd. Pingouin Car Silver Wings Travels Ltd. Tropical Paradise Co. Ltd. YU Lounge (Mauritius) Ltd.

LOGISTICS GROUP

AEL DDS Ltd. Airocean Logistics Ltd. Associated Container Services Ltd Association Professionnelle des Agents Maritimes Mauriciens Association Professionnelle des Transitaires D H L (Mauritius) Ltd. Damco Logistics (Mauritius) Ltd. DSV Air & Sea Ltd. Expolanka Freight Ltd. Freight and Transit Co. Ltd. (FTL) Freightnet Cargo Services Ltd. Image Concept Ltd. Inchcape Shipping Services (Mauritius) Ltd. Louis Serge Christian Davy Maersk Mauritius Ltd. Magnum Cargo Pvt Ltd. (Mauritius) Mauritius Freeport Development MCL Freight Services Ltd. Mediterranean Shipping Company (Mauritius) Ltd. Megatrans Ltd. MS Warehousing & Logistics Ltd.

LOGISTICS GROUP (CONT'D)

SKVA International Co. Ltd. Snehan Freight Ltd. Somatrans SDV Ltd. Southbond Shipping Agency Ltd. Taylor Smith & Co. Ltd. Union Shipping Ltd. United Africa Feeder Line Velogic Haulage Services Ltd. Velogic Holding Co. Ltd.

ICT GROUP

Adalabs Ltd. AM WEB Solutions Ltd. Avarts Ltd. BDO IT Consulting Ltd. Bhumishq Technologies Ltd. Blanche Birger Co. Ltd. Canal+Contact Ltd. Compuspeed Ltd. Crains Technologies Ltd. CSL (Call Services Ltd.) Data Communications Ltd. Easv Net Emtel Ltd. EURO CRM Mauritius Ltd. FRCI (Formation Recrutement et Conseil Informatique Ltée.) Hanoomanjee & Venkatasawmy Partners Infini Tech Ltd. iTelligence Consulting Ltd. Lithe Solutions Distributor Ltd. MITIA Navigation and Geocoding Technologies Ltd. OTAM **PYX4** Rosemees Company Ltd. SD Worx (Mauritius) Ltd. State Informatics Ltd. Team Synthesis (Mauritius & Africa) Ltd. Uniconsults Ltd.

Web Digital Ltd. Westcon Africa (Mauritius) Ltd. Zethical Ltd.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Bhuniun & Sons Ltd. BlueLife Ltd. Coprim Ltée. Davyland Consultants Ltd. De Nassau Gestion Ltée. Enatt Ltd. **Estate Agents Association** Evaco Ltd. Home Builders Ltd. Landscope (Mauritius) Ltd. Mauritius Jinfei Economic Trade and Cooperation Zone Co. Ltd. Real Estate Association (Mauritius) Ltd. Realty Lane Ltd. Reds Ltd. Shandi Estateman Co. Ltd. Tayelamay and Sons Enterprise Ltd. Tower Bridge Projects Mauritius Ltd. Two Futures Ltd. V. d'Unienville & Associates Co. Ltd. Visio Architecture Ltd. (LS-ARCHITECTS)

OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES GROUP

5 St James Court Advantedge Public Relations & Corporate Events Ltd. Agence Emeraude Immobilier Agence Presse Media Ltd. Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd. Alentaris Ltd. Alpha Facilities Group Ltd. Aqualia DPI Ltd. Archemics Ltd. Ariscend Ltd. Asea Brown Boveri Ltd. Asia Today Ltd. Association Mauricienne des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprise



OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES GROUP (CONT'D)

Association of Communication Agencies of Mauritius Atol Internet Services Ltd. (trading as JUMIA House) AW International Ltd. Big 5 Holdings Ltd. Blast PR & Events Ltd. Blended Services Ltd. Bridges Ltd. Brink's (Mauritius) Ltd. Bureau Veritas S.A. MAURITIUS Cargo Handling Corporation Ltd. CEAL Ltd. CFO Centre Ltd. Chambers of A.R.M.A. Peeroo SC GOSK Change Act Circus Advertising Company Ltd. CMA CGM (Mauritius) Ltd. Consultancy Co. Ltd. (CCL) Continuity Mauritius Co. Ltd. Coral eSecure (Mtius) Ltd. Cread & Co. Ltd. DCDM Management Services Ltd. DCDM Marketing Research Ltd. Deco Design Group Ltd. DESC Investment Group Co. Ltd. Direct HR Solutions Ltd. (CAPFOR Mauritius) DN Chamroo Investment & Trade Consultants Ltd. Dry Cleaning Services Ltd. e Conseil & Assistance **EMS** Consulting Event Creators Ltd. Everial Ltd. F. Hossen (Opticians) Ltd. Finnova Ltd. Freelance Biscuit Making Ltd. Freight Academy Ltd. Genuine Services Ltd. Geroudis Ltd. Green Design Ltd. Gung Ho Ltd. Hooloomann & Associates Ltd.

i2i Optometrist Ltd. IPvocate Africa Law Firm Cabinet d'Avocats JurisTax Outsourcing KPMG Kalexius (Mauritius) Ltd. Kreno & Co Ltd. (Nautilus) Kreston Management Ltd. Lapidus Azuri Consulting Ltd. Lemex Products Ltd. Live It Now Ltd. Logos Publicity Ltd. Lottotech Ltd. lpconsulting Magilyn Ltée. Marshal (PVT) Investment Ltd. Maurice Publicite Ltée. Mauritius International Trust Co. Ltd. MC Vision Ltd. Minerva Fiduciary Services (Mauritius) Ltd. MMCO Storage Ltd. Multiedge Consultancy Services Ltd. Odysseus Consultants & Public Relations Ltd. One Valdus Co. Ltd. Optissimo Ltd. Orbit Health Care Services (Mauritius) Ltd. Petredec (Mauritius) Ltd. Pex Hydraulics (Mtius) Ltd. Plastinax Austral Ltd. Publi-Promo Ltd. PwC QuEnSH Dynamics Ltd. R&J Chettiar Enterprise Co Ltd. Rajasthan Handloom House Ltd. Rajasthan Works Ltd. Rent A Sign Ltd. Research Confidential Ltd. Resilience Consulting & Services Ltd. RHT Holding Ltd. Sakeenah Co. Ltd. Sandbox Seven Amps Ltd.



OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES GROUP (CONT'D)

SGS (Mauritius) Ltd. Sièges et Bureaux (Maurice) Ltd. Soge International Co. Ltd. Solutions Eau et Environnement Ltée. Sphere Media Technologies Co. Ltd. Studio 44 (Mauritius) Ltd. Systems Building Contracting Ltd. Tex Services Ltd. The Competency Co. Ltd. The Talent Factory Co. Ltd. Thibaut & Associates **TNS Analysis** Transfroid Ltd. Transinvest Construction Ltd. Union Corporate Ltd. United Docks Ltd. Vildac Cie Ltée.





DELEGATES AND ADVISERS 2017/2018





















Statutory Bodies

Court of the University of Mauritius Information and Communication Technologies Advisory Council

Jewellery Advisory Council

Mauritas Advisory Council Dangerous Chemicals Advisory Council Mauritius Standards Bureau

Minamata Initial Assessment Project (2018)

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Foundation Board

Port Productivity Committee

Port Users' Council

UOM Consultative Committee

Delegates / Advisers

Ashraf Joomun Ganesh Ramalingum / Barlen Pillay

Dr. Renganaden Padayachy*/ Azeem Salehmohamed

Raju Jaddoo / Anwar Kaidoo

Anwar Kaidoo

Renganaden Padayachy* / Anwar Kaidoo

Anwar Kaidoo Ashraf Joomun

Dr. Renganaden Padayachy*/ Azeem Salehmohamed

Raju Jaddoo / Dr. Renganaden Padayachy*/ Azeem Salehmohamed

Raju Jaddoo / Toriden Chellapermal

Standing Committees

APEI Committee COMESA Committee on Industry

COMESA Trade and Customs Committee

COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Technical Committee on Industrial Development (TTCID)

Construction Industry Development Board: International Development Committee

Joint Working Group - Turkey

OTAM Committee

OTAM/MITIA/CCIFM/MCCI Committee

National Ocean Council

National Price Consultative Council

MRA Stakeholders Meeting

Public/Private Coordination and Coherence Committee on Africa Strategy

SADC Committee for the Development of an Industrial Strategy and Roadmap

SADC National Committee

Single Window Technical Committee

Tripartite Trade Nogotiating Forum and Technical Working Groups WTO

Joint Working Group (JWG) - Pakistan

Joint Working Group - Tunisia

Delegates / Advisers

Raju Jaddoo / Rooma NarrainenDr. Renganaden Padayachy*/
Azeem SalehmohamedRooma NarrainenDr. Renganaden Padayachy*/
Azeem SalehmohamedRaju Jaddoo/ Barlen PillayRooma NarrainenBarlen PillayBarlen PillayRaju JaddooRaju JaddooRaju JaddooRaju JaddooRaju JaddooRaju JaddooRaju JaddooRooma NarrainenDr. Renganaden Padayachy*/

Azeem Salehmohamed Rooma Narrainen Rooma Narrainen Rooma Narrainen

Rooma Narrainen Rooma Narrainen

Rooma Narrainen

Standing Committees

SADC Trade Negotiating Forum Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA)

- Consumer Protection Issues
- Hire Purchase Committee
- Local Trade Committees

Delegates / Advisers

Rooma Narrainen Rooma Narrainen Rooma Narrainen Rooma Narrainen

Private Sector Bodies

Business Mauritius

Delegates / Advisers

Azim Currimjee / Raju Jaddoo

Private Companies

Mauritius Network Services Ltd. GS1 Mauritius

Maurinet Investment Ltd. Société de la Chambre et de la Fédération MCCI Business School Board MACCS LTD 100% Challenge

Delegates / Advisers

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