



MCCI News
BRINGING BUSINESS INSIGHTS

Foreword

WE ARE LIVING IN FINANCIAL TIMES



The business fabric of our country has undergone a major stress test following the recent local black swan effect. Indeed, from the regulatory, institutional, financial and public policy perspectives, there are useful lessons to be drawn. Openness of our economy imposes upon us a much greater degree of transparency and enhanced governance at all levels.

The recent events have shown the vital importance of having truly independent regulatory bodies whose mandate should transcend the normal political cycle to ensure long term predictability, a key ingredient to foster private sector investment and in attracting much needed foreign direct investment.

Confidence and trust are the major underpinnings of any financial centre of repute, and after many years spent by all stakeholders to establish our country on the world map, we will need to find the pathways that will lead us further

Raju Jadoo

Secretary General

In the News

Trade Statistics for 1st Quarter 2015

Total trade for the first quarter of 2015 amounted to Rs. 62.3 billion, representing an increase of 11% from the corresponding quarter in 2014.

In particular total exports from January-March 2015, which added up to Rs. 23 billion, showed an increase of 14% compared to the same quarter in 2014. This has been engendered mainly by a rise in re-exports of mobile phones by Freeport operators. An analysis of our export markets for the first three months of 2015 illustrates that the European continent has maintained its position as our main market with a share of 42% of our exports. It is worth noting that for the same period, total exports to the UAE accounted for Rs. 4.1 billion mainly attributed to the re-exportation of mobile phones - thereby making it our main buyer with a share of 19% of total exports.

Total imports increased by 9% from Rs. 35.6 billion in the first quarter of 2014 to Rs. 38.9 billion in the same quarter in 2015. During this period, imports from Asia accounted for Rs. 22.3 billion, representing 57.4% of the total imports. Our main supplying markets were: China (18.9%), India (17.9%), France (6.5%) and South Africa (6.4%).

According to Statistics Mauritius, total exports for the year 2015 are expected to amount to Rs. 106 billion against Rs. 185 billion for imports.

The detailed statistics can be obtained by clicking [here](#).

US Senate approves the Extension of The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

On 14th May 2015, the US Senate approved the "Trade Preference Extension Act of 2015" that includes the re-authorisation of the AGOA for the next 10 years.

The main revisions in the draft AGOA bill are as follows:

COMESA Regulations on Non-Tariff Barriers

COMESA Member States have adopted the COMESA Regulations on Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) as an initiative to consolidate intra-COMESA Trade. The Regulations build up on the existing mechanism for reporting non-tariff barriers online through the Tripartite online NTBs Monitoring website: <http://tradebarriers.org/>

In particular, prescribed forms and other online methods will be available for reporting barriers encountered when trading with COMESA countries. Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade will act as the National Focal Point to facilitate the removal of NTBs and report on their elimination. A National Monitoring Committee comprising relevant stakeholders from the public and private sector will also be set up for efficient implementation of the mechanism.

A copy of the Regulations, which also provides a general categorization of NTBs, can be accessed [here](#).

- A long-term extension till 30 September 2025 is provided and this also includes the continuation of the third-country fabric derogation for the same time horizon.
- The new bill also caters for increased flexibility and advance warning for a country whose eligibility is under review.
- The Senate legislation requires the United States Trade Representative to report on plans for negotiating reciprocal trade preference programs within a year and to notify Congress of any African country that has expressed an interest in establishing a Free Trade Agreement.

The legislation still needs to be voted in the US House of Representatives. A copy of the 'AGOA Extension and Enhancement Act 2015' can be accessed from: <https://www.congress.gov/114/crpt/hrpt101/CRPT-114hrpt101.pdf>

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Labour Force

Latest figures released by Statistics Mauritius for the year 2014 show that the Mauritian labour force increased by 4,500 in 2014 to reach 575,700, with the biggest share of employment coming from the tertiary sector. The country's unemployment rate fell from 8.0 percent to 7.8 percent in 2014, a slight decline from an otherwise sustained upw ard trend since 2008.

Tourism

Tourist arrivals for the first three months of the year increased by 10.6 percent to reach 291,329. Increases in tourist arrivals were observed from all of the country's main markets with growth rates of 30.1 percent and 24.8 percent observed from the United Kingdom and China respectively. With direct flights to Stockholm and Helsinki, some 4,800 additional tourists were observed from Sweden and Finland. However, earnings per tourist declined by 6.9 percent from Rs 43,738 to Rs 40,717, in the first quarter of 2015.

Inflation

Concerning prices, a headline inflation rate of 2.2 percent was observed for the twelve-months ending April 2015, lower than the corresponding figure for the previous month. This is mostly explained by a significant decrease in the prices of vegetables offsetting other increases. These contributed to the Consumer Price Index reaching 110.0, compared to 107.7 a year before.

Growth Rate

Finally, a 4.1 percent growth in the economy for 2015 has been forecasted in the latest update of national account estimates, while Statistics Mauritius confirmed the 3.5 percent GDP growth estimate for 2014.

Secteur des TICs - Rencontre avec l'Ambassadeur de l'Estonie, Son Excellence Jüri Kahn

Une présentation sur la connectivité numérique dans l'Indianocéanie a été organisée à la MCCI le vendredi 17 avril 2015. C'est l'Ambassadeur de l'Estonie, Son Excellence, Jüri Kahn, qui a animé cette session qui a réuni les opérateurs du secteur des TICs.

Son excellence Jüri Kahn était en visite à Maurice dans le cadre de la conférence de la Commission de l'océan Indien sur l'amélioration de l'infrastructure et des services de haute bande passante au service d'une meilleure compétitivité et connectivité numérique dans l'Indianocéanie. Lors de cette conférence, l'Estonie était présentée comme un centre d'excellence européen en gouvernance numérique et déploiement des services numériques publics.



En effet, L'Estonie, un petit pays comme Maurice, a fait des progrès considérables sur le plan de la connectivité numérique.

La rencontre était aussi l'occasion pour les opérateurs du secteur d'échanger les idées sur l'amélioration de la connectivité numérique dans la région

Visit of delegation from Indonesia



From left to right: Ms. Faeza Ibrahimsah, Manager – Communications and Promotion Division, MCCI, Mr. Salim Joonas, Honorary Consul of Indonesia, Mr Lasro Simbolon, Mr. Raju Jaddoo, Secretary-General, MCCI and Mr. Ardhya Erlangga Arby, Minister Counsellor.

A high-level delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, led by Mr Lasro Simbolon, Director for African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, paid a visit to the Secretary-General of the MCCI on 13 May 2015.

Discussions focused on the following: investment opportunities, cooperation in the fields of ocean economy, tourism, and development of SMEs.

The Secretary-General of the MCCI, Mr Raju Jaddoo, felt that Indonesia's vast experience can be tapped with regards to Ocean economy and that Mauritius can learn from the country's expertise in this field as the ocean economy encompasses port activities, aquaculture, and pearl culture that can be explored.

For his part, the Director for African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Mr Lasro Simbolon, said that Indonesia wishes to develop substantive relations with Africa through Mauritius, which is strategically located in the Indian Ocean.

Model contracts for SMEs – Providing Legal Support to entrepreneurs

The MCCI has jointly published with the International Trade Centre a Guide to 'Model Contracts for Small Firms' earlier this year.

In an endeavour to provide legal support to entrepreneurs, the guide is being presented during the GS1 Awareness Campaign to the business community, more specifically to the small and medium entrepreneurs and stakeholders supporting the SMEs, namely Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority, Enterprise Mauritius, Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute and Mauritius Standards Bureau.

The objectives of the guide are to provide business people, particularly the SMEs and those businesses who have limited access to legal resources, with the necessary tools and information in order for them to optimize business opportunities and to comply with international practice.

These standard model contracts for key business activities such as the sale of goods, distribution, service provision, joint ventures, etc are a concrete, practical way to secure international deals involving small firms.

The guide is on sale at MCCI. For more information, please contact Miss Sandrina Rasen on 208 3301 or by mail: srasen@mcci.org

GS 1

Awareness Campaign on 'Discover the Endless Opportunities with the GS1 System'

GS1® Mauritius has launched an awareness campaign on 'Discover the Endless Opportunities with the GS1 System'. The objectives of this campaign are:-

- to remind the business community and entrepreneurs that GS1 Mauritius, as an arm of MCCI, has the responsibility to allocate GS1 Barcodes;
- to inform the business community that we also provide technical support and training;
- to promote the benefits of adopting GS1 Barcodes and GS1 Standards; and
- to create awareness of the 'Endless Opportunities with the GS1 System'

This campaign has been launched to educate entrepreneurs and business operators that with ONLY ONE prefix allocated to them, they have the opportunity to identify not only products; but also logistics units, pallets, assets, documents and services. Participants were also explained that GS1 Barcodes and Standards are international and that they could export without any hassle.

Furthermore, it was also an opportunity to create awareness about GS1 Solutions such as Traceability and Product Recall as well as how GS1 Standards have been adopted by other sectors like Transport & Logistics and Healthcare.

During the month of May, tailor-made presentations have been delivered to stakeholders, namely Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority, Enterprise Mauritius, Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, Mauritius Standards Bureau, National Institute Cooperative Entrepreneurship and Agricultural Marketing Board. Participants included mainly staff as well as entrepreneurs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvQB9QKrOU>

Members wishing to organise a presentation on the 'Discover the Endless Opportunities with the GS1 System' are kindly requested to contact Miss Fazlee Dhuny on 208 3301 or by mail fdhuny@mcci.org

GS1 General Assembly 2015



The President and CEO of GS1, Mr Miguel Lopera (right)

The GS1 General Assembly was held on 18-21 May 2015 in Sydney, Australia. The General Assembly is where key decisions for GS1's future are made.

As the global organisation performance is monitored and its strategic direction is formulated, the event is attended by key industry players, global decision-makers of global companies and GS1 Member Organisations. This year, the event was attended by delegates from over 65 countries.

The President and CEO of GS1, Mr Miguel Lopera, stated that the Key Strategic Priorities for 2015 – 2016 will be focused on sectors such as Retail (GTIN Allocation Rules), Healthcare (Unique Device Identification), GS1 Digital (on the Web and Digital Image Recognition), GS1 Global Branding and GS1 Data (Global Data Synchronization Network).

For more information, please visit: <http://ga.gs1.org/>

MARC

Award ceremony and Networking Event for MARC certified mediators

An award ceremony for MARC's first batch of Certified Mediators was held on 18 May 2015, at the MCCI, Port Louis. The certified mediators had successfully completed the 6 day intensive training and assessment on mediation which took place from 1 to 8 December 2014. The training was delivered by Melanie Germain and Patrick Van Leynseele, and had been organized by MARC and the Centre de Médiation et d'Arbitrage (CMAP) in collaboration with the Mauritius Bar Association.

The event was followed by a networking cocktail attended

27th Global GS1 Healthcare Conference



The 27th Global GS1 Healthcare Conference was held on 21 – 23 April 2015 in Mexico City, Mexico. This user group is convened twice a year, bringing together all Healthcare Supply Chain stakeholders, including manufacturers, distributors, healthcare providers, associations and regulators.

The Conference kicked off with examples of how countries like France, Ireland, Columbia and Argentina implemented GS1 Standards in hospitals, and they demonstrated the benefits global standards bring to providers as well as patients. During plenary sessions, participants had also the opportunity to learn more on bedside scanning, traceability in the Healthcare Sector, Unique Device Identification and other initiatives regarding track and trace for medical devices.

To view presentation slides and for more information, please visit: <http://www.gs1.org/mexico2015>



by MCCI members, members of the Mauritius Bar Association, and members of the MARC Commission for Strategy and Development.

Mieux appréhender la mission d'un arbitre - Formation du 6 au 10 juillet 2015

MARC s'associe de nouveau avec son partenaire stratégique, le Centre de Médiation et d'Arbitrage de Paris pour une formation à l'arbitrage du 6 au 10 Juillet 2015.

MARC et le CMAP proposent à tous ceux que le sujet intéresse ou passionne d'élargir leurs compétences et de renforcer leur expertise en contentieux international, en participant du 6 au 10 juillet à une formation intensive destinée à l'apprentissage des principes et les techniques de l'arbitrage afin de pouvoir mieux en maîtriser la procédure! La formation durera 30 heures et sera lancée au siège du Mauritius Bar Association.

MARC offre ainsi l'opportunité aux juristes, aux opérateurs et à tout professionnel d'ajouter une nouvelle corde à leur arc, grâce à une formation intensive et de qualité, animée par un expert international en arbitrage. A travers une pédagogie alliant théorie et pratique, droit comparé (notamment mauricien et français) et droit international, cette formation a pour objectif de permettre aux participants de comprendre les spécificités d'une procédure d'arbitrage, de saisir les techniques et stratégies propres à cette procédure et de mieux appréhender la mission d'un arbitre. A l'issue de cette formation, les participants seront évalués et recevront un certificat de formation du CMAP et de la MCCI.

Les inscriptions peuvent se faire en ligne sur le site de la MCCI: www.mcci.org

Pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter B. Pillay ou A. Chikhuri sur le 208 33 01 ou par mail: akhemraz@mcci.org.



Marc Commission: Position paper on improving ADR practices in the construction industry to be presented

MARC and BACECA (Building and Civil Engineering Contractors Association) are currently collaborating to present a common position paper on improving ADR practices in the construction industry.

This was discussed at the second meeting of the MARC Commission for Strategy and Development held on 18 May 2015. The other topics discussed included the introduction of legal framework for mediation. Such a framework would contribute towards reinforcement of a mediation culture in Mauritius, besides additional benefits such as enforcement mechanisms for mediation agreement, protection of confidentiality.

YU Lounge Mauritius celebrates grand opening of new business jet hangar at SSR International Airport

During an official ceremony, the Yu Lounge Mauritius launched its new hangar at the SSR International Airport. The event was held on 6 May 2015 in the presence of the Prime Minister, the Hon. Sir Aneerood Jugnauth.

The YU Lounge Mauritius is a state of the art private terminal located away from public terminals and encompassing a luxury lounge designed for discerning passengers travelling on commercial airliners and private jets. It is a one of a kind concept and experience in airline travel combining the finest in hospitality and travel services all the way to the footstep of an aircraft.

- Fare Type Preferential rates Arrival or Departure Lounge Euros 110 per person + VAT from 12th May 2015 to 30th June 2015 (Included) with the following facilities:

- Personalised Signage with name of the passenger
- Welcome by concierges at the door step of the aircraft
- Transfer from Main Terminal to YU Lounge in Porsche Cayenne, Audi Q5 and Hyundai H1



- Immigration, Custom, Health and Agriculture Officer present in Lounge for handling all administrative and control procedures- Gourmet food & beverage service
- A la carte Duty-free service prior arrival + Duty-Free shop at YU Lounge
- Parking facilities free of charge under CCTV surveillance for a period of 15 days

MCCI participates in MCB's Trade Finance event

The MCCI participated in a Trade Finance event organized by the Mauritius Commercial Bank. This event was held on 27 April 2015 at the MCB St Jean offices and had for theme 'How to secure your transactions in International Trade and avoid hidden cost traps?'. Barlen Pillay, manager of the Legal and Business Facilitation division made a presentation on the MCCI Arbitration and Mediation services (MARC). Other speakers included Koen Vanheusden, member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Expert Group on Incoterms and chairman of the ICC Task Force International Sales Contract and Baudoin Theodore, CEO of the Assurance Universelle Group France.



MCCI Afternoon Coffee : Securing your Business with the MCCI

The MCCI launched its new networking event: The MCCI Afternoon Coffee on 20 May 2015.

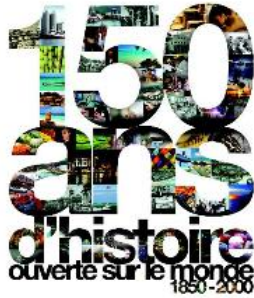
The MCCI Afternoon Coffee is a dynamic and interactive platform meant to keep members informed of various topics



of benefit to their business. It is also the opportunity for them to discuss and exchange ideas and practices on a specific theme, as well as do some networking around an afternoon coffee break.

This first edition had for theme 'Securing your Business with the MCCI' and saw participants from different sectors, making the session highly fruitful and interactive. The speakers were Barlen Pillay and Anjana Chikhuri from the Legal and Business Facilitation division and Priya Seewoosoorie from the Business Development division who presented the services offered by the MCCI in order to help the business community secure their business, when doing local transactions but also when expanding regionally and internationally.

Dans l'histoire de la MCCI



Visite du duc et de la duchesse d'York et de Cornouailles

On annonça bientôt la visite prochaine du prince George Frederick Ernest Albert, duc d'York et de Cornouailles, et de la duchesse. Les membres de la Chambre se réunirent le vendredi 28 juin 1901 pour discuter de l'adresse à leur présenter. Dans ce document, les membres souhaitaient que le séjour donne au duc et à la duchesse l'occasion d'évaluer la productivité du sol de l'île, le travail de ses habitants, leurs efforts incessants à marcher de pair avec les autres colonies de l'Empire et le progrès du commerce britannique dans le pays, où malheureusement un manque de facilités pour le prompt service des navires visitant le port freinait le progrès.

L'adresse fut présentée au duc et à la duchesse le 5 août 1901, le lendemain de leur arrivée à Maurice à bord de l'Ophir, commodore A. L. Winsloe. Dans sa réponse, le prince remercia les membres de la Chambre de Commerce, en même temps que ceux des autres instances qui lui avaient présenté des adresses. Il leur promit de transmettre au roi Édouard VII, son père, leur assurance de loyauté au Trône et à sa personne.

Référence: Extrait du livre 150 ans d'histoire ouverte sur le monde publié par la MCCI. Ce livre est disponible en vente à la MCCI et dans les librairies

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