Foreword

Measuring the pace of innovation

It is a recurrent theme that when it comes to measuring performance, what gets measured, gets done! The same would apply to innovation metrics. Innovation measurement is not new in the EU with the EU Innovation Union Scoreboard now being published for several years. A new Indicator for Innovation Output was released last year which assesses performance against a set of 24 metrics. The new indicator focuses solely on:

- Technological innovation measured by patents
- Percentage of jobs in knowledge intensive sectors
- Competitiveness in knowledge intensive sectors
- Employment in fast growing companies in innovative sectors

The MCCI visiting professor under the Fulbright programme, Dr Brynteson, taught us last year how to foster innovation at enterprise level. It is about “pushing the systemic, strategic, and innovative thinking of individuals and groups so that they might reach their goals, dreams, and visions”

Indeed as Bruno Lanvin from INSEAD rightly put it “Beyond the obvious ingredients for innovation - public, private investment, education and R&D – there is an ecosystem that needs to be built around factors that may be more difficult to define and measure, which have to do with the fact that innovation is not just the result of innovation, but it is also a mindset”.

Raju Jaddoo
Secretary General

Podcast

En conversation

Règlement de litiges commerciaux: Mélanie Germain et Patrick Van Leynseele, deux experts du Centre de Médiation et d’Arbitrage de Paris s’entretiennent avec Barlen Pillay sur la médiation commerciale dans le cadre de la Formation à la Médiation, organisée par MARC et qui s’est tenue du 1 au 8 décembre 2014.

In the News
Business Meet with Members of a delegation from Turkey

A high-level delegation, led by Mr. Omer Hakan Beki, Chairperson of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK), will be visiting Mauritius from the 16 to 20 February 2015. In this context, a meeting will be held on the 16 February at the seat of the MCCI.

The visit is a follow-up of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the MCCI and DEIK in August 2014 during an official mission which took place in the context of Izmir International Trade Fair.

The sectors represented are as follows: Textile, Energy, Tourism, Construction, Furniture, Chemicals, Agro-Industry and ICT, Real Estate and Health.

The objective of the visit is to consolidate trade relations with Mauritian business people and also to set up joint-ventures so as to use Mauritius as a hub for the COMESA and SADC market.

The list of the delegation is available at the MCCI.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Christiane Charlot on Tel 208 33 01

Silk Road Economic Belt Cities International Forum

Members are invited to participate at the Silk Road Economic Belt Cities International Forum scheduled to take place from 9-10 April 2015 in the city of Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, China.

The forum will be focused on the construction of international inland port cities along the silk road economic belt, international collaboration among cities, trade and investment facilitation, the construction of logistics and ports, the construction of information infrastructure, financial innovation and e-commerce.

Chinese and international leaders, think tank representatives, expert academics, and commercial representatives from various cities have been invited to explore city cooperation for the development of the Silk Road Economic Belt.

More details on the programme and conditions of participation are available at the MCCI.

Members who are interested to participate at the Forum are requested to contact Ms. Faeeza Ibrahimsah on Tel: 208 33 01 by 20 February 2015 at latest.

9th Expo Pakistan 2015: MCCI leads a business delegation to Karachi

Around 25 companies have confirmed their participation at Expo Pakistan to be held from 26 February to 1 March 2015 in Karachi.

Expo Pakistan is the biggest trade fair in Pakistan, showcasing the largest collection of Pakistan’s export merchandise and services from the leading manufacturers and exporters.

The event will act as one-stop sourcing platform for business alliances and investments through networking and B2B meetings. A booth will be put at the disposal of the Mauritian delegation.

An information session on Expo Pakistan was held at the MCCI on 23 January 2015, with the objective of sensitizing members of the business community on the event.

For more information on Expo Pakistan, please click on the following link: http://expopakistan.gov.pk

Workshop on Safeguards

A workshop on Safeguards was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade on Thursday 15 January 2015 at Domaine Les Pailles.

As members will recall, Mauritius enacted the Trade Act (Anti-dumping and Countervailing Measures) in 2010 to mitigate the effects of dumped and subsidised imports. To complete the set of trade remedies, a Safeguard legislation is due to be finalised soon. Trade Remedies aim at protecting domestic industries from foreign competition and consist of Anti-dumping, Countervailing and Safeguard measures.

Mr. Gustav Brink, Consultant and Trade Remedies expert, elaborated on the differences between the three trade remedies and the practical application of Safeguards. Some 30 participants from the public and private sector were also briefed on how to use the Trade Defence Portal to find information to initiate an investigation.

The presentations of the workshop can be accessed on the following links: Overview of Trade Remedies & Procedures and Application for Safeguards.

Fostering Mauritius-UK trade relations: UK Trade and Investment Commissioner meets with Members of the business community

An interactive session was held on 28 January 2015 between Members of the business community and the UK Trade and Investment Commissioner, Mr Andrew Henderson.

The objective of the meeting was to share views on ways
and means to push for further collaboration between the two countries.

The UK Trade and Investment office at the British High Commission of Mauritius was officially launched on 27 January 2015. Its mission is to provide expert international trade advice and practical support to UK-based companies who want to grow their business overseas. Members of the business community expressed satisfaction regarding the opening of UKTI in Mauritius. They were of the view that UKTI can assist them in terms of advice, market development and business and investment opportunities.

For more information on UK Trade Investment, please click on the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-trade-investment

**Barcoding:**

GS1® Mauritius celebrates its 20th anniversary by offering even more benefits

Since its creation in 1994, GS1 Mauritius has continued to strengthen its core activities to develop innovative ways to help companies and industries. As GS1 celebrate its 20th anniversary, it is also keeping abreast of recent changes so that added benefits can be brought to the business community.

A Membership Certificate has been introduced to be issued to GS1 Subscribers. As GS1 Mauritius grants a subscriber a non-exclusive non-transferable licence to use the GS1 Global Company Prefix, this Certificate is the proof that the subscriber is the unique authorised licensee of the GS1 Global Company Prefix allocated to him.

Furthermore, our full support is being offered to GS1 Subscribers to assign and confirm their Global Location Number (GLN), which identifies their organisation and physical location. The rationale is that GS1 Barcodes and Global Location Number (GLN) are the first steps towards providing product traceability solutions, which are at the forefront of industry concerns and regulations around the world.

As GS1 grows, it looks forward to continuing to serve the business community through the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world.

For more information, please contact GS1 Secretariat on 208 3301 or by email secretariat@mcci.org

**MCCI ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTRE (MARC)**

First Meeting of the Strategy and Development Commission: Discussions on the need for a legislative framework held

The Strategy and Development Commission of the MCCI Arbitration and Mediation Center (MARC) held its first meeting of the year on Monday 2 February. Main discussions were on the necessity for harmonised contract drafting practices with regard to resolution, especially in construction contracts where the Government and a private sector operator are involved. Members also discussed about the need for a legislative framework for mediation in Mauritius, in order to enable the business community to optimise benefits from this out-of-court conflict-solving technique which is gaining increasing popularity in developed countries. The Singapore model was considered as a good example. Singapore, which has recently launched its Singapore International Mediation Center, is hailed as a leader in the field of international ADR and has over the years refined its arbitration and mediation institutional framework with various legal tools.

Another topic of discussion was the need for structured training and sensitisation programmes targeting both the business and legal communities, as well as the need for continuous professional development courses for arbitrators.

The MARC Permanent Secretariat announced its forthcoming training programmes in mediation and arbitration for the year, as well as new eligibility criteria for admission on the MARC Panel of Arbitrators, which will be implemented as from March 2015. For more information, please contact Mrs. Arjana Chikuri on tel.: 208 3301

**International:**

**Launching of the Singapore International Mediation Centre**

Singapore launched its Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC) in November 2014. Speaking at the launch event, which was attended by about 230 guests including members of the judiciary as well as local and international mediators, arbitrators, dispute lawyers, corporate counsel, and representatives of chambers of commerce, the Chief Justice of Singapore said, “These are exciting times for cross-border trade and investment. However, with every commercial transaction, complex or otherwise, there comes the risk of disagreement and dispute and SIMC will take its place among other service providers working to meet the needs of consumers in this environment.”

Chairman of SIMC’s Board, Mr Edwin Glasgow QC said, “Mediation is fast gaining popularity across the world as an efficient and effective way of resolving disputes. It can be used on its own or as a complement to court litigation and arbitration and can be used to resolve disputes that may be non-legal in nature, but which should be constructively suitable to their business interests and real needs. SIMC will provide a platform to help its users bridge the gaps between them and their business partners as well as navigate between other dispute resolution options.”

The launching of the SIMC is a good signal to the international business world as to the increasing popularity and significance of mediation as a dispute-resolution mechanism.

Students and ADR Professionals all set for the biggest ever ICC mediation week

HUNDREDS of business and law students from around the world are set to compete in the 10th edition of the International Chamber of Commerce’s (ICC) biggest educational event, the ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition, on 6-11 February in Paris.

The competition, together with the 2nd International Mediation Roundtable on 5 February, makes up ICC’s Mediation Week - a “must-attend” event on the international dispute resolution calendar. This year will be the biggest yet,
The ICC Mediation Competition Week is a valuable event in many ways. The objective is to train a new generation of mediation-wise lawyers and business people who learn how to solve disputes effectively. The aim is also to support the development of a worldwide network of mediators who use the ICC Mediation Competition to exchange experience and know-how.

5th Edition of the Annual Investment Meeting, 30 March to 1st April 2015, Dubai

The Fifth Edition of the ANNUAL INVESTMENT MEETING will be hosted from 30th March to 1st April 2015, at the Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre.

An initiative of the UAE Ministry of Economy, the fifth Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) will take place under the theme “Sustainable Development through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) - Induced Innovation and Technology Transfer” and is set to gather some of the world’s leading academics, experts and practitioners.

Participants will consider how FDI can support investment policies that are needed to attract and retain sound investments and take a look at the internationalization of research and development activities by transnational corporations.

AIM’s mission is to provide all participants, from the public and private sectors from around the globe, with a prestigious forum to learn, discuss, exchange views and experiences and above all, AIM offers cross-industry project developers a safe and sound platform to present their projects and schedule G2B and Express B2B meetings with institutional, corporate and individual high-net worth individuals seeking lucrative and reliable projects for their capital.

More information can be downloaded from the following link: www.aimcongress.com

Members who are interested to participate at the event are requested to contact Mr Irene Obarra on: irene.obarra@aimcongress.com

Initialling of EU Trade Agreement with Ecuador

Ecuador has initialled a trade agreement, incorporating Trade in Goods, Trade in Services and Government Procurement, with the EU on 12 December 2014.

The agreement will allow Ecuador to benefit from improved market access to the EU for its main exports, notably, fisheries, bananas, flowers, coffee, cocoa, fruits and nuts. The agreement also provides for enhanced market access to Ecuador for EU exports such as alcoholic beverages and the automotive sector. The next step involves ratifying and implementing the trade agreement. The text of the trade agreement can be found on the European Commission website.

Souhaits de construction d’une Bourse

En mars 1866, la Chambre des Courtiers résolut de ne plus utiliser le local de la Chambre de Commerce pour la vente des actions, à cause d’un manque d’espace. La séparation serait de courte durée, les deux Chambres ayant signé une pétition au gouvernement pour la construction d’une Bourse plus en harmonie avec l’importance prise dans le pays par le commerce. On ne pensait pas que le gouvernement agréerait cette requête sans la garantie d’un remboursement des dépenses encourues. Il ne pouvait pas affecter une somme considérable à un but particulier, comme réclamé par les commerçants et les courtiers, la Bourse à construire devant être réservée à la communauté commerciale.

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.