



Foreword

Visions for Tomorrow

90 percent of the firms in the world are SMEs, be it in the USA or in Burkina Faso. With an expansion in Global Trade, SMEs are increasingly participating in Global Value Chains. 80 percent of Global Trade moves through Global Value Chains with an SME participation of 14 percent. 92 percent of goods sold and exported through E-bay are from SMEs. With 7.2 billion people now using the Internet, the possibilities for Digital Trade are significant.

There is a move from physical to digital supply chains with a higher level of disintermediation provided by disruptive technology and Innovative SMEs. "Printing a product" using additive manufacturing (or 3D printing) will bridge geographical distances by having a product at the point of need almost instantly. The Internet will continue to provide further disintermediation and help to reduce costs for SMEs embracing innovative practices from the start. In Mexico, the initiative to distribute tablets with Free Internet to SMEs loaded with all the necessary business information and software tools to run a small company with the possibility of accessing future cloud services is real innovation in action allowing the Entrepreneurs to focus on what they know best: Create.

Raju Jadoo
Secretary General



ECONOMY

Economic Update

According to latest National Accounts Estimates published at the end of June, Statistics Mauritius revised downwards the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of the Mauritian economy to 3.8% for 2015, significantly lower than the 4.1% forecast made in March 2015. GDP growth for the first quarter of 2015 over the corresponding quarter of 2014 is estimated at 3.7%. Growths were registered in all sectors except Agriculture and Construction, which registered negative rates of 4% and 7% respectively as compared to the previous year.

Total final consumption expenditure in real terms increased by 2.5% in the first quarter of 2015, lower than the 3.3% growth in the fourth quarter of 2014 while investment picked up slightly by 0.2% in the first quarter of 2015 after the declines observed across all four quarters of 2014. Both exports and imports of goods and services registered high positive growths during the first quarter of 2015.

On employment, a significant rise in the number of people unemployed was observed in the first quarter of 2015 with the rate of unemployment estimated at 8.7% as compared to 8.0% at the first quarter of 2014. Statistics Mauritius projects an unemployment rate of 8.0% for the year 2015 higher than the rate of 7.8% for the year 2014.

As a reminder, the MCCI had released its Economic Perspectives 2015 with a forecasted GDP growth of 3.7% for 2015. However, the country's production potential remains relatively low for 2015, with a potential GDP growth rate of 3.6% only.

Increase in the Business Confidence Indicator for the 2nd quarter of 2015

The MCCI Business Confidence Indicator for the 2nd quarter of 2015 was released on 3 August 2015 during a press conference. The index experienced a slight increase to stand at 89.9 points, following two previous quarters of improvements.

The report also considers cross-sectoral confidence levels and analyses the situation for enterprises of



different sizes. Factors influencing the level of confidence are also included. More details can be found in the [report](#).

From left to right: Mr. Renganaden Padayachy, Manager - Economic Analysis and Industry Division, Mrs. Hélène Echevin, President and Mr. Raju Jaddoo, Secretary General



Développement du Secteur Privé francophone: Participation de la MCCI aux Académies de la Coopération Consulaire

La ville de Reims a accueilli du 30 juin au 4 juillet 2015 plusieurs manifestations consacrées au développement du secteur privé francophone et africain à l'occasion des rencontres du réseau de la Conférence Permanente des Chambres Consulaires Africaines et Francophones (CPCCAF). La MCCI était représentée par Mr. Sanroy Seechurn, Analyste de l'« Economic Analysis & Industry Division ».



Ces rencontres étaient articulées dans le cadre des Académies de la Coopération Consulaire, Ateliers de la Coopération Consulaire et des Rencontres Territoriales de la Francophonie Economique, respectivement :

Des formations consacrées à l'amélioration de l'offre de service aux PME grâce aux outils et méthodes de l'intelligence économique, en matière d'appui, de formation et d'accompagnement international ont été dispensées. Ces rencontres étaient co-organisées et soutenues par l'International Trade Centre.

Deux grandes thématiques ont été présentées : la préparation de la mandature 2016-2018 et la préparation de la deuxième vague du programme de compagnonnage consulaire.

Des rencontres ont été organisées en partenariat avec l'Association Internationale des Régions Francophones (AIRF) et le Conseil régional de Champagne Ardenne concernant le développement de programmes.

Pour rappel, la CPCCAF est une association à but non lucratif dont l'objet est de contribuer au développement du secteur privé africain par la coopération entre les chambres consulaires membres de son réseau. L'action de la CPCCAF se fonde sur le rôle central que doivent jouer les chambres consulaires africaines en matière de développement économique local.

La MCCI est membre du réseau CPCCAF depuis décembre 2014.

TRADE

Elimination of Duties on Imports from Réunion Island

As from 1st July 2015, all imports originating from Reunion Island are exempted from duty as per the [Customs Tariff \(Amendment of Schedule\) Regulations 2015](#). Details on the conditions applicable to benefit from duty-free access can be obtained [here](#).

Review of Rates for "Octroi De Mer"

The rates for the "Octroi De Mer" and the "Octroi de Mer Régional", which are payable at importation in Reunion Island, have been reviewed since 1st July 2015. The new rates can be accessed on: [Tarif Externe d'Octroi de Mer](#)

Freight Rebate Scheme – 25% rebate on the freight cost

Since 10 July 2015, operators can benefit from a 25% rebate on the freight cost (up to a maximum of 300 USD) per 20 feet container exported to Reunion Island. The Freight Rebate Scheme is managed by Enterprise Mauritius and the details on the conditions applicable can be obtained [here](#).

New Customs Tariff Schedule as at 01 July 2015

Members are notified that the Customs Tariff Schedule has been updated on 1st July 2015. A copy of the updated document can be accessed on the link: <http://www.mra.mu/index.php/import-export-others/tariff-information>

Mauritius joined the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA)

In July 2015, Mauritius formally joined the Trade in Services Agreement talks, bringing the number of participants to 25, when including the 28 EU nations as one party. The group now includes Australia, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, the EU, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Switzerland, Turkey, the US, and Uruguay. Mauritius is the first African country to join the TiSA initiative and has confirmed its intent to request a seat at the negotiating table in March 2015.

TiSA participants have been discussing proposals and market access on 17 disciplines including financial services, air and maritime transport, transparency, telecommunications, and government procurement, to name a few.



Claim on Export of Waste PET Bottles/Flakes or Waste PET Bottles Recycled into Re-Usable Goods

Following the announcement in the Budget 2015, members are informed that, as from 1st July 2015, a refund of Rs. 5 per kg can be obtained on exports of waste PET bottles/PET Flakes or waste PET bottles recycled into reusable goods. Eligibility criteria to benefit from the claim can be obtained [here](#).

MARC

Table Ronde sur le développement de l'arbitrage à Maurice

MARC, en collaboration avec le Mauritius Bar Association, a tenu le lundi 6 juillet 2015 une Table Ronde sur le thème « Développer la pratique de l'arbitrage à Maurice - Les avantages pour les opérateurs économiques ».

Cette Table Ronde visait à animer le débat autour des défis et opportunités que représente l'arbitrage commercial à Maurice. Les principaux intervenants étaient le Dr Jalal El Ahdab, avocat, arbitre et expert en arbitrage international, Me Antoine Domingue, Président du Mauritius Bar Council, et Me Avinash Sunassee, avocat spécialisé dans les contentieux commerciaux et financiers.

Destiné aux opérateurs économiques, aux juristes, aux professionnels de divers secteurs (RH, ingénierie, finances, construction, assurances, etc.), cet événement s'inscrivait dans le sillage de la semaine de formation à l'arbitrage que MARC avait organisée conjointement avec le Centre de Médiation et d'Arbitrage de Paris (CMAP).



Dr Jalal El Ahdab avait animé cette formation du 6 au 10 juillet pour un groupe de 18 participants, dont des avocats réunionnais qui avaient fait le déplacement de l'île sœur pour y participer. La bâtonnière du barreau de St Pierre, Me Fernande Anhila y participait également et exprima, lors de la Table Ronde, son appréciation du rapprochement qui s'est effectué entre les juristes mauriciens et réunionnais autour du thème de l'arbitrage, et a exprimé son souhait de continuer à collaborer dans cette direction.

Launching of Fulbright workshops on 'Fostering an ADR Culture in Mauritius'

The MCCI Arbitration and Mediation Center (MARC), in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy held a Launch Event on 4 August 2015, to mark the official launching of a series of workshops on arbitration and mediation, which are currently being held under the aegis of MARC with the collaboration of ADR expert, Dr Craig Beles.

Her Excellency, US Ambassador Shari Villarosa, who launched officially the event, expressed her appreciation of the initiative of the MCCI and MARC in leading this project.

In her opening speech, Mrs. Echevin, President of the MCCI, mentioned that it is only through greater awareness and training that the business community and other stakeholders can make optimum use of alternative dispute methods such as arbitration and mediation. She thanked the U.S. Embassy for its support and collaboration through U.S. Fulbright Programme.

During his intervention, Dr Beles stressed upon the importance of arbitration and mediation as an indispensable part of every counsel's toolbox.



He mentioned a recent EU funded study, which concluded that the time wasted by not using mediation (based on a claim of €200,000) is estimated at an average of between 331 and 446 extra days in the EU, with extra legal costs ranging from €12,500 to almost €14,000 per case. He also mentioned that mediation scores settlement rates of 60% to 80%, with benefits such as helping to maintain business relationships, and reducing business interruption.

A presentation of the MARC Arbitration and Mediation Framework was also made during the event by the MARC Permanent Secretariat.

GS1

Awareness Campaign on 'Discover the Endless Opportunities with the GS1® System' addressed to Women Entrepreneurs

During the month of July, GS1® Mauritius pursued the awareness campaign on 'Discover the Endless Opportunities with the GS1 System'. Presentations were delivered to some 90 women entrepreneurs at two centers of the National Women Entrepreneur Council, namely at Triolet and Phoenix.

During the presentation, the participants were apprised 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. The benefits of adopting the GS1 Standards were also elaborated namely: lower costs through improved efficiencies (inventory management); increased sales through increased product availability; increased check-out efficiencies; improved working relationship across the supply chain; exporting without any additional costs or hassle; increased visibility across the supply chain and traceability.



For more information on the Endless Opportunities with the GS1 System, members are kindly requested to contact Miss Fazlee Dhuny on 208 3301 or by mail fdhuny@mcci.org



International: 28th Global GS1 Healthcare Conference

The Global GS1 Healthcare Conference, which will be held on 20–22 October 2015 at Budapest, Hungary, is a key event for sharing information to the GS1 Healthcare community. Healthcare leaders from private industry and government agencies will present the progress of worldwide efforts to implement GS1 standards that



improve patient safety, supply chain security and efficiency.

The event combines plenary sessions, reality sessions and work lunches, which will provide opportunities for a comprehensive insight to the power of global standards in healthcare. The conference will also be an ideal platform to network.

The conference will include examples of GS1 Standards implementations in hospitals, which demonstrates the benefits of global standards bring to providers as well as patients. Participants will learn how the traceability of products across the healthcare supply chain helps reduce counterfeit medicines, improves patient safety and complies with regulations. Sessions will also provide the latest developments on Unique Device Identification around the world and other track and trace initiatives for medical devices.

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

MCCI Afternoon Coffee

Présentation pour les PME sur l'importance de l'assurance et proposition d'un plan de pension

Lors de la dernière édition du MCCI Afternoon Coffee qui a eu lieu le 30 juin 2015, c'est le thème sur 'L'importance de l'assurance pour les PME' qui était débattu. Cette discussion thématique visait à aider les PME dans leur démarche de gestion des risques en les informant sur l'utilité d'avoir une assurance adaptée en vue de préserver leur patrimoine humain et matériel. C'est la Mauritius Union qui a animé cette session en présence des membres PME de la MCCI issus de différents secteurs.

La présentation a abordé les différents risques auxquels la PME fait face et les produits d'assurance associés ainsi qu'une proposition de plan de pension pour PME faite par Feber Associates Ltd. Les chefs d'entreprises ont aussi pu bénéficier de conseils pratiques en termes de lecture et de décryptage des principales dispositions d'un contrat d'assurance.

Pour rappel, le MCCI Afternoon Coffee est une plate-forme conviviale et interactive d'échanges et de partage ayant pour but d'informer les membres sur des sujets variés liés aux affaires. Il privilégie les échanges entre l'animateur et les opérateurs ou entre les opérateurs eux-mêmes sur le thème abordé.

MCCI Business School

Bravo et bon vent aux diplômés de la MCCI Business School

Comme chaque année, le début du mois de juillet 2015 a été encore une fois très riche en émotion pour notre institution. En effet, après deux années d'études supérieures, les étudiants attendaient avec impatience leurs résultats aux examens du Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS). Les délibérations qui se sont tenues à l'Île de la Réunion ont tenu les étudiants en haleine jusqu'à la publication officielle sur le site de l'Académie de l'Île sœur. L'émoi était à son comble lorsque le corps enseignant et les étudiants ont appris le taux de réussite de 95 % en Management des Unités Commerciales, 80% en Informatique de Gestion et de 94% en Assistant de Gestion PME-PMI. Ces chiffres démontrent l'excellent niveau de la MCCI Business School.

La prochaine échéance sera en octobre prochain pour ceux qui préparent les diplômes de Licence et de Masters avec l'IAE de Poitiers.



9th World Chambers Congress 2015

The 9th World Chambers Congress was held from 10 to 12 June 2015, Torino, Italy. The presence of over 1100 participants from more than 100 countries were noted at the Congress. Thirty sessions, animated by more than 140 speakers, and an exhibition area that hosted 42 exhibitors, presented the ideal occasion to participants for a massive exchange of ideas and networking. The MCCI was represented by the Secretary General, Mr. Raju Jaddoo.

Four plenary sessions in relation to various topics including the changing nature of world trade, the impact of migration and the availability of skills, how chambers can help businesses adapt to the challenges of climate change and the need for business input from local contexts into the Millennium Development Goals were showcased.

Some of the main constraints and opportunities that businesses face nowadays were additionally discussed in the 25 workshops established. The main highlights concerned SME financing, global mobility and sustainable business development:

- **Sustainable business development**

Business sustainability is often defined as managing the triple bottom line - a process by which companies manage their economic, social and environmental risks, obligations and opportunities in a balanced and healthy way. These three

impacts are sometimes referred to as profits, people and planet. It is achieved by the internal incorporation of sustainable business practices in corporate strategies and management, and also by the external integration such as contributing in policies of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

• Investing in SMEs

Nowadays, SMEs are considered as the engine of the economy mainly because employment opportunities are created which add an accrued value in the economy. However, SMEs are quite exposed to numerous financial challenges, such as: human resources assistance; need for innovation and improvement in the procedures and quality of products and services proposed and low accessibility to technology, commercialization facilities and management development. Proposed solutions discussed during the congress stir towards making SMEs the fulcrum of economic development through 3 Es:

- Enhance their ability to identify and meet development challenges (Capacity Building);
- Empower through the introduction of new avenues so that products and services are easily accessible on the market (Commercialization);
- Enrich by providing convenient ways through investors to startup firms and small businesses with perceived long-term growth potential (Access to capital, finance and banking).

• Global mobility

Global mobility is ascending, and a passport filled with foreign-nation stamps boosts personal growth and career development for some employees. Increasingly, they are in search of expatriate, commuter, rotational or other alternate assignments to construct their resumes. International coursework are massive career growth tool and, simultaneously, assist organizations to deal with talent shortages and secure skill gaps.

The full list of presentations made at the 9th WCC can be viewed on <http://www.worldchamberscongress.org/Programme/Session-presentations/>

Legend: Official opening of the 9th World Chambers Congress at Lingotto Congress Centre

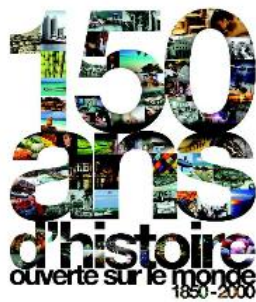
UNCTAD – “Unlocking the Potential of Africa's Services Trade for Growth and Development”

The launching of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Economic Development (UNCTAD) Report in Africa took place on 9 July 2015. The report titled "Unlocking the Potential of Africa's Services Trade for Growth and Development" highlights the rising importance of the services sector in the continent and its potential to drive overall growth in the future.

The fastest growing service subsectors were identified to be transport, storage and communications. Regional trade services also increased considerably in finance, telecommunications and retail. Limitations on ownership and control of investment and employment decisions were cited as being obstacles to liberalization of the financial services sector.

The recommendations of the report included proactive policy response from governments with measures tailored to support the services sector; improving infrastructure quality within the continent; enhancing cooperation and regional integration; incorporating services trade in regional trade agreements and formalizing the informal sector to enhance productivity.

Dans l'histoire de la MCCI



La vérification du rhum

Une décision de la douane fut au centre des discussions à la rencontre du 25 juillet 1890. Elle concernait la seconde vérification, faite par la douane, du rhum sortant de la ferme des rhums, après la première effectuée à la ferme. A la moindre différence de degré en moins, $\frac{1}{4}$ ou $\frac{1}{2}$, décelée, la douane mettait l'embargo sur la marchandise. Un comité, nommé pour demander au gouvernement l'abolition de la vérification à la douane, souligna que comme la distillation du rhum était la plus importante industrie de Maurice après celle du sucre, le gouvernement lui devait protection et encouragement, qu'une seule vérification était suffisante et, enfin, que l'officier de douane devait apposer des scellés en plomb à toute caisse de rhum quittant la ferme.

Extrait du livre sur la MCCI intitulé '150 ans d'histoire ouverte sur le monde' de Norbert Benoît. Le livre est disponible en vente à la MCCI et dans les librairies



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