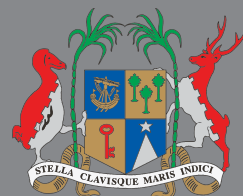


Industry Digest

ISSUE 5



Ministry of
Industrial Development,
SMEs and Cooperatives
(Industrial Development Division)

JUNE 2023

MOVING TOWARDS A DIGITAL INDUSTRY

Enterprises are moving towards digital solutions to improve their operations and productivity with a view to strengthen their resilience



What's inside?



La Grande Foire de L'Indépendance: 55 an Larmoni dan nou Repiblik

[Read More](#) 3



The National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) launched the Enterprise Go Digital Platform

[Read More](#) 6



International Art Exhibition 'Africa Speaks - 54'

[Read More](#) 18



Tribute to late Mr. Ashit Kumar Gungah, Former Executive Director of the NPCC

[Read More](#) 27

VISIT

VISIT OF HONOURABLE SOOMILDUTH BHOLAH, MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, SMES AND COOPERATIVES TO TIANLI SPINNING (MAURITIUS) CO. LTD

04 January 2023



Honourable Soomilduth Bholah at Tianli Spinning (Mauritius) Co Ltd

The Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives effected a site visit to Tianli Spinning (Mauritius) Co. Ltd, an Export Oriented Enterprise (EOE) located in Belle Rive. The aim of the visit was to take cognizance of the engagement of the EOE to meet its orders, especially during the New Year period, and to gain insight into the challenges it was encountering.

Tianli Spinning (Mauritius) Co. Ltd reckons some 20 years of experience in the transformation of imported cotton into yarn. It employs 368 workers, out of which 350 are expatriates from Bangladesh. To ensure a regular supply of cotton required for its spinning operations, the enterprise grows its own cotton in Madagascar.

The yarn produced by the enterprise is sold to major textile export-oriented companies such as World Knits Ltd, RT knits Ltd and CIEL Group. In addition, Tianli Spinning (Mauritius) Co. Ltd directly exports its end products to South Africa under the SADC Trade Agreement.

During the visit, the Honourable Minister underscored the contribution of the enterprise to the Mauritian economy and commended its efforts to further expand its spinning operations. He also took note of the issues faced by the enterprise, including the shortage of labour and spikes in electricity tariffs. He reassured the enterprise of Government's unflinching support to EOE's to overcome such challenges and further build up their resilience to sustain growth.

EVENT

“LA GRANDE FOIRE DE L’INDÉPENDANCE – 55 AN LARMONI DAN NOU REPIBLIK”

03-05 March 2023

In the context of the celebrations of the 55th Anniversary of Independence and 31st Anniversary of the Republic of Mauritius, the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives organised a national market fair namely “*La Grande Foire de l’Indépendance - 55 an Larmoni dan nou Repiblik*”, from 03 to 05 March 2023, in Central Flacq.

The aim of the event was to display the “*savoir faire*” of Mauritian enterprises and give enhanced visibility to our entrepreneurs and their locally manufactured goods.

The event was jointly organised by the three Divisions of the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives with the support of key stakeholders, notably, the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage; Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security; the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping. Industry operators, SMEs and cooperatives seized the opportunity to put on sale products such as garments, food items, soap and detergents, beds and mattresses, furniture, shoes, bags, fresh flowers, potted plants, jewellery and handcraft.



Officers of the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives participating in the Rally in Central Flacq

Prior to the official launching ceremony of the fair on 03 March 2023, a Rally was held with a view to demonstrate the contribution of entrepreneurship in the development of the Mauritian economy.



Welcoming the Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives at the Fair in Central Flacq

The official launching ceremony of the fair was performed by the Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives in the presence of the Honourable Darsanand Balgobin, Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, as well as other eminent personalities.



Honourable Soomilduth Bholah addressing the audience during the Official Launching Ceremony of the Fair

EVENT

“LA GRANDE FOIRE DE L’INDÉPENDANCE – 55 AN L’ARMONI DAN NOU REPIBLIK” (continued)

03-05 March 2023

A cultural programme by local artists and a Fashion Show by the Academy of Design and Innovation were also held on the occasion.



Audience during the Cultural Programme



Glimpses of the Cultural Programme



Fashion Show during the Official Launching Ceremony of the Fair

The fair attracted many visitors over the three days. The objectives of the fair were met and feedbacks gathered from the participants indicated that they have successfully achieved their sale targets. They have also expressed their willingness to be part of similar forthcoming events organised by the Ministry.



Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Honourable Darsanand Balgobin, Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, officials and guests visiting the entrepreneurs at the Fair



Officers of the Industrial Development Division at the Launching Ceremony of the Fair

MAURITIUS ACCREDITATION SERVICE (MAURITAS)

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FORUM (IAF)

28 January 2023

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF), founded on 28 January 1993, is a worldwide association of accreditation bodies and other bodies specialised in conformity assessment activities in areas such as management systems, products, services and personnel.

The IAF aims to develop a single worldwide program for the accreditation of bodies dealing with conformity assessment with a view to harmonising and ensuring that certification of products, processes or services in one region or country be accepted in other regions or countries.

MAURITAS became a member of IAF in the year 2000 and is currently recognised by IAF under the following schemes:

- Quality Management System, and
- Food Safety Management System.

To mark its 30th year of existence, the IAF came up with a brand-new logo.

RECRUITMENT OF NEW ACCREDITATION OFFICERS AT MAURITAS

05 January 2023 and 21 February 2023

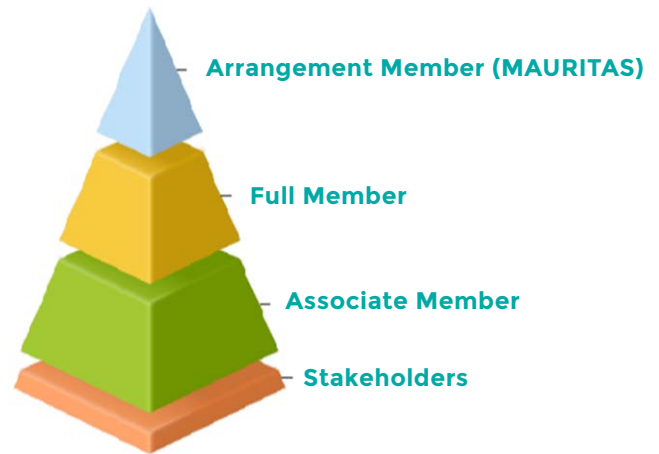
MAURITAS welcomes two new Accreditation Officers in its team, Mrs. Bibi Neelofer Shaikh Abdoolla and Mr. Akash Nundloll, who joined the Department on 05 January 2023 and 21 February 2023, respectively.



Mrs. Bibi Neelofer Shaikh Abdoolla,
Accreditation Officer



Mr. Akash Nundloll,
Accreditation Officer



New logo of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

ACHIEVEMENTS OF MAURITAS

July 2022 to March 2023

MAURITAS Statistics (July 2022-March 2023)	
Types of accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies	24 General Testing Laboratories 3 Calibration Laboratories 7 Medical Laboratories 1 Certification Body
Number of Laboratory parameters accredited	917
Number of Certification Body scope sectors accredited	36
Number of visits carried out	32
Number of complaints investigated	2
Total Revenue Generated	Rs 2,569,750



LAUNCHING THE NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL (NPCC) LAUNCHED THE ENTERPRISE GO DIGITAL PLATFORM

28 April 2023

Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, officially launched the online platform of the 'Enterprise Go Digital' project on 28 April 2023 at the Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Tower in Ebene. The event was held in the presence of high-profile dignitaries, officials of the Government and the NPCC.

The 'Enterprise Go Digital' project is spearheaded by the NPCC. It was initiated in March 2022 with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Japan. It aims to provide a virtual platform to act as a 'one-stop-shop' to enterprises who are seeking digital solutions to improve their operations and productivity with a view to strengthen their resilience. The project supports the development of a conducive business environment to facilitate access to the right information for decision-making and empowers human resources at enterprise level. An awareness campaign through a series of webinars was held to sensitise Mauritian organisations about the importance of digitalisation in enhancing productivity and competitiveness.

The 'Enterprise Go Digital Platform' was developed by Zapproach, a local Information and communication technology solutions service provider.



From left to right: Mr. D. Appalswamy, Director Capacity Development, Corporate Services and Operations of the NPCC; Ms. A. Serumaga, UNDP Resident Representative for Mauritius and Seychelles; His Excellency, Mr. Kawaguchi Shuichiro, Ambassador of Japan to Mauritius, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Late Mr. A. K. Gungah, Former Executive Director of the NPCC and Mr. S. Busgeeth, Chairman of the NPCC

The interface of the platform comprises functionalities which assist end-users to save time and resources when conducting their tasks or activities, thereby, improving organisational efficiency and effectiveness. The following applications are integrated as digital solutions to enterprises on the online platform, namely:

- Sales Automation: This application allows users to create, manage leads, maintain customer database, send quotations and invoices, amongst others;
- Inventory Management: This feature helps to track and monitor stock;
- Production Management: This application is based on lean manufacturing practices giving a flexibility and agility to enterprises to manage their production efficiently; and
- Enterprise Marketing Management: This module provides features such as developing a marketing plan, creation of marketing content and customer support.

The features of the platform have been duly tested in ten pilot enterprises, which took a proactive approach in incorporating digitalisation in their processes to improve productivity. The NPCC is now inviting enterprises from all economic sectors to join the virtual platform and leverage on the proposed digital applications to increase their productivity and competitiveness.

ADI ACTIVITIES

FASHIONSHOWBYTHEACADEMYOFDESIGN AND INNOVATION AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE 'SALON DE L'INDUSTRIE LOCALE'

01 December 2022



ADI students presenting their collections during the Fashion Show

A Fashion Show was held by the Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) at the launching ceremony of the 'Salon de l'Industrie Locale' which was organised by the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division) from 02 to 04 December 2022 at the Swami Vivekananda International Conference Centre, Pailles. The theme of the Fashion Show was 'Innovation des Couleurs' and the event was an occasion for the students of the ADI to showcase their collections.

CERTIFICATE GIVING CEREMONY FOR THE 'FESTIVAL D'ARTS CONTEMPORAINS DES COMORES'

22 December 2022

The Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) organised a Certificate Giving Ceremony on 22 December 2022 for students who represented the institution at the 5th edition of the 'Festival d'Arts Contemporains des Comores (FACC)' which was held from 14 to 19 November 2022 in the Comoros Islands.



The two winners of the FACC, Mr. M. Seegobin and Ms. S. Chedumbrun, being awarded a Certificate of Participation by Dr (Mrs.) S. D. Ramsamy-Iranah, Director of ADI and Mrs. Z. Muthy, Managing Director of ZeeArts (December 2022)



The two winners of the FACC with the First Lady of Comoros, Her Excellency Mrs. Ambari Darouche (November 2022)

ADI ACTIVITIES (continued)

PARTICIPATION OF THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN AND INNOVATION AT THE MAURITIUS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAREER EXPO

10-12 February 2023

The Mauritius International University Career Expo is an annual event organised by the Rotary Club of Grand Baie at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Pailles. The event regroups both local and international Universities and other tertiary institutions on a common platform to inform students of the availability of different courses and possible career orientations. It is highly publicised through various press and social media communication channels.

This year, the three days' event attracted some 15,500 visitors including 10,000 HSC students from 100 colleges.

The Expo was an opportunity for ADI to sensitise and present the new brand name of the Academy, along with its new logo, in its promotional booth to the general public and students.



Mrs. Kobita Jugnauth visiting ADI booth with Dr. (Mrs.) S.D. Ramsamy-Iranah, Director, ADI and Mr. Y. Nubee, Admission, Examination and Students Affairs Executive

WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED BY THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN AND INNOVATION

February/March/April 2023

The Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) conducted an Induction Design Workshop on 08 February 2023 for 70 teachers and technicians, working in the fields of art, technology, communication and textile. Initiations were made on the different aspects of design such as fashion design concepts, basic architectural draughting, experimental paper making, textile printing and dyeing techniques, craft and product design using coconut shell.

In March and April 2023, the ADI extended the scope of the design workshops to upgrade skills and knowledge of teachers working in secondary schools.



Dr. (Mrs.) S. D. Ramsamy-Iranah, Director, ADI addressing the educators from the different Secondary Schools

ADI ACTIVITIES (continued)

PARTICIPATION OF THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN AND INNOVATION AT THE 'SALON DE L'EMPLOI, DE L'ÉDUCATION ET DU LIVRE'

24-25 February 2023

The Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) participated at the 'Salon de l'emploi, de l'éducation et du livre' at the Caudan Arts Centre from 24 to 25 February 2023. The staff of ADI disseminated information on study and career paths related to different types of design (e.g., fashion, graphic, digital, interior, etc.) and associated fields such as art and jewellery making.



Staff of ADI with prospective students

PARTICIPATION OF THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN AND INNOVATION AT THE 'TRAINING AND CAREER GUIDANCE EXHIBITION 2023' IN RODRIGUES

02-03 March 2023

The Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) was invited by the Commission for Vocational Training to participate, from 02 to 03 March 2023, in the 'Training and Career Guidance Exhibition 2023', an annual event organised by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

The main objective of the event was to provide students, school leavers, youngsters and the general public with information pertaining to possibilities of continuous learning and training to enhance their employability in the public or private sector.



Students visiting ADI Booth at the exhibition in Rodrigues



Staff of ADI with students from Secondary Schools in Rodrigues

MSB ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

08 March 2023



The General Manager and staff of MSB celebrating Women's Day

The Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) celebrated the International Women's Day on 08 March 2023 to honour and recognise the commendable achievements and contributions of lady officers in the organisation particularly at senior management level for the effective delivery of services.



VISIT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION (FAO) EXPERTS AT MSB

09 March 2023

On 09 March 2023, Dr. D. Bittisnich and Mr. D. Eboku, experts from FAO, visited the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) to present the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool. They were accompanied by Mr. Y. Gaungoo, the National Project Coordinator and Mr. F. Jawaheer, a National Consultant.

The FAO/WHO assessment tool is a unique instrument which has been designed to assess the national food control system in a country in a systematic and comprehensive manner. It examines the entire food chain, including production, distribution, the retail market and the consumers. The tool is useful in evaluating the ability of regulatory authorities, such as MSB, to monitor and assess food safety risks.

During the visit, Mrs. D. Boygah, the General Manager of MSB and her team briefed the experts about the pivotal role of the Bureau in the chain of food safety management.

Other pertinent issues discussed included measures to be put in place to use the assessment tool and building up the capability of laboratories to provide accurate and reliable testing services on food products. With a view to streamlining procedures, Mrs. S. Goundan-Gobalakisnin, Acting Manager of the Food Microbiology Laboratory at MSB, was nominated as the Focal Point to compile and collect relevant data to feed in the assessment tool. The evaluation of the institution through the assessment tool will ensure that enhanced safety and quality food standards are established in the country.



FAO Experts with MSB team

EVENT

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS TO MARK THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

10 March 2023



MSB staff

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE MAURITIUS STANDARDS BUREAU

A flag raising ceremony was held on 10 March 2023 at the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB), Moka to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Independence and the 31st anniversary of the country's accession to the status of Republic.

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN AND INNOVATION

The Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) also celebrated the National Day at its premises in Ebene where a flag raising ceremony was held and the message of the Honourable Prime Minister was read to the staff.



Dr (Mrs.) S. D. Ramsamy-Iranah, Director of ADI reading the message of the Honourable Prime Minister



ADI staff singing the National Anthem during the flag raising ceremony



VISIT

VISIT OF A TEAM OF CAP BUSINESS INDIAN OCEAN (CBIO) AT THE MAURITIUS STANDARDS BUREAU

23 March 2023



Members of CBIO interacting with technicians at the Chemical Technology Laboratory during their visit at MSB

Cap Business Indian Ocean (CBIO) is an association regrouping chambers of commerce and industry as well as professional organisations in six regional islands, namely, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte, Reunion and Seychelles. The association aims to promote cooperation among various regional economic players.

On 23 March 2023, the members of CBIO visited the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) and met its General Manager and the Chairman of the Standards Council. They discussed about the services offered by the Bureau, its contribution to the development of the national economy and the potential avenues of collaboration and partnerships that could be set up. They also got the opportunity to visit the laboratories at MSB, interact with the laboratory technicians and exchange experiences on the tests and processes being conducted at the Bureau.

The visit marked a stepping stone to initiate a working relationship between the two organisations to promote cooperation and economic growth in the Indian Ocean region.

AWARD

THE 'AFRICA KAIZEN AWARD 2022' OFFERED TO ARCHEMICS LTD AND NABRIDAS LTD AT THE NPCC

15 March 2023

A ceremony was held on 15 March 2023 at the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) in the presence of His Excellency Mr. Kawaguchi Shuichiro, Japanese Ambassador to Mauritius; Mr. S. Busgeeth, the Chairman of the NPCC; late Mr. A. K. Gungah, the Former Executive Director of the NPCC; NPCC Council Members; Mr. S. Watanabe, Aid Coordination Adviser; a delegation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); and experts from the Japan Productivity Centre.

The aim of the ceremony was to hand over prizes and certificates of the 'Africa Kaizen Award 2022' to the two Mauritian winners, namely, Archemics Ltd and Nabridas Ltd.

The Africa Kaizen Award, organised annually under the African Kaizen Initiatives, aims to recognise excellent organisational practices in improving quality and productivity. The African Kaizen Initiatives was established in 2017 by JICA and the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development, to promote the Japanese Kaizen management of quality and productivity techniques in the African continent.

Archemics Ltd is a manufacturing enterprise, which specialises in the production, sales and distribution of chemical products such as household/industrial detergents, cosmetics, and textile dyes.

The company, which represented Mauritius in the large-scale organisation category, won the 'Excellent Award'. The project, presented by Archemics Ltd at the Africa Kaizen Award 2022, consisted of reviewing the current formulation of its hand sanitizer product.



Representatives of Archemics Ltd and Nabridas Ltd proudly holding their certificates along with His Excellency, Mr. Kawaguchi Shuichiro, Japanese Ambassador to Mauritius and High Officials of NPCC

The company conducted a research study and was able to develop an enhanced version of its hand sanitizer product as per the guidelines of the World Health Organisation.

Nabridas Ltd is an enterprise that specialises in fibreglass ware and is engaged in the design, manufacture, installation of equipment related to swimming pools and spa. It presented a project on the efficient use of raw materials in the manufacture of swimming pools for the Africa Kaizen Award 2022 and received the prize for Kaizen Achievements.

The support of international partners, notably, the Government of Japan through the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry as well as JICA have been crucial to continuously sustain the drive of productivity and quality movement in Mauritius.

PRESS CONFERENCE

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE HONOURABLE SOOMILDUTH BHOLAH ON THE PERFORMANCE OF EXPORT-ORIENTED ENTERPRISES

22 May 2023

Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives held a Press Conference on 22 May 2023, to report on the performance of the Export-Oriented Enterprises (EOE) sector for the period January to March 2023.

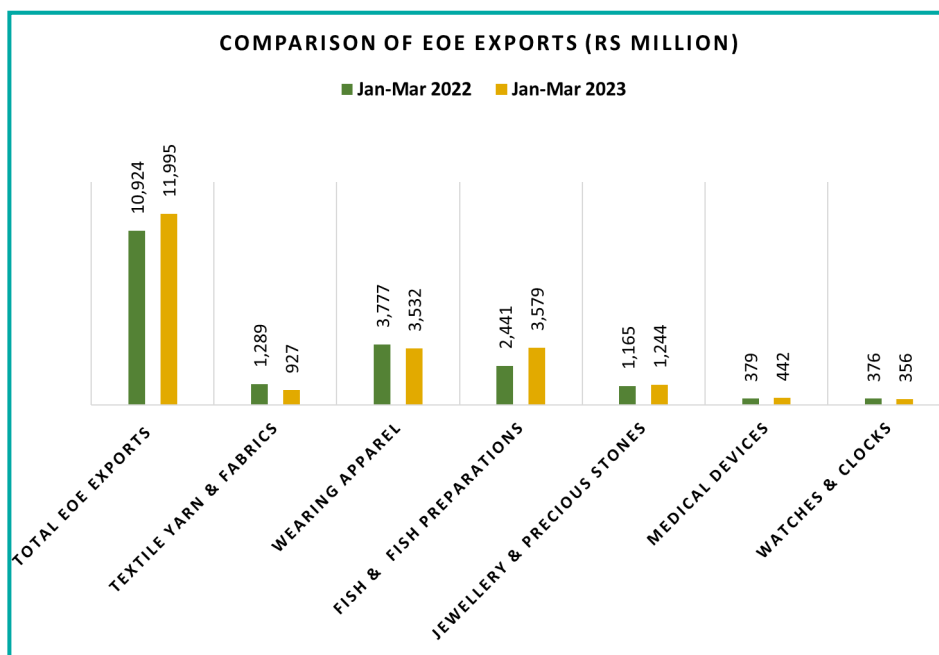
He stated that during the first quarter of 2023, EOE exports increased by **9.8%** compared to the corresponding period in 2022. In absolute terms, EOE exports stood at around **Rs 12.0 billion** as compared to **Rs 10.9 billion** in January to March 2022.



Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives

COMPARISON OF EOE EXPORTS

A comparative analysis of the export performance of major sub-sectors within EOE for the first quarter of 2023 is depicted in the graph below:



PRESS CONFERENCE

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE HONOURABLE SOOMILDUTH BHOLAH ON THE PERFORMANCE OF EXPORT-ORIENTED ENTERPRISES (continued)

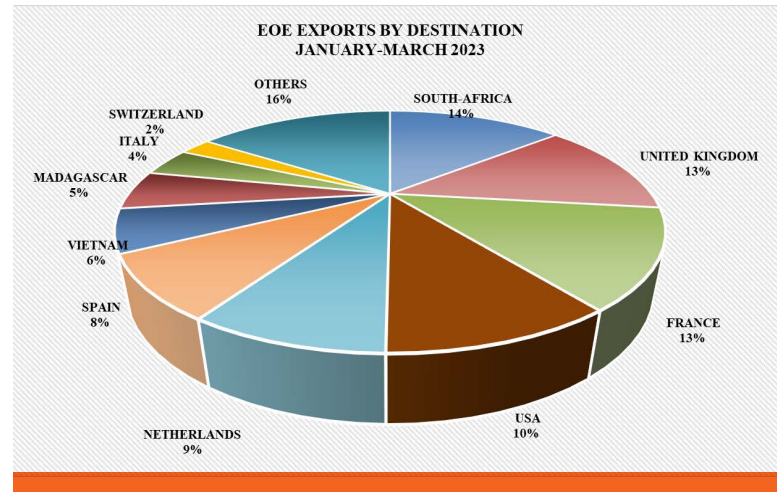
22 May 2023

The Honourable Minister highlighted that, in terms of export destinations, South Africa has maintained a leading position, followed by the United Kingdom, France and the USA. He further stated that our strong foothold in these markets could be strengthened through ongoing and future export promotion campaigns of the Economic Development Board (EDB). In particular, he referred to the recent Trade and Investment Roadshow carried out in South Africa which is expected to bring meaningful outcomes. He also apprised that EDB is in the process of mounting similar events in France, USA, Germany and Africa. The Honourable Minister re-iterated the need to further diversify our markets to rebalance exports. In this perspective, he emphasised the prospects in Japan and Australia, amongst others, which should be explored to broaden our market outreach.

'MANUFACTURING 4.0' PROJECT

On another note, the Honourable Minister elaborated on the 'Manufacturing 4.0' Project, which is currently being implemented by the Ministry with the assistance of the Commonwealth Secretariat to help manufacturing enterprises adopt advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Industrial Internet of Things, Robotics and Cloud Computing.

He mentioned that the Project will be implemented in three phases: namely a study to assess the level of digitalisation of manufacturing enterprises, followed by a capacity-building programme for eligible enterprises in their quest to adopt 'Manufacturing 4.0' technologies and finally a study tour in a technologically advanced country to learn from its experience.



The Honourable Minister concluded that despite all ups and downs, the EOE sector is poised to maintain its upward export performance in 2023, on the basis of the optimism expressed by industry operators.

He reiterated that Government will continue to assist export enterprises through various support programmes in an endeavour to sustain their growth trajectory.

NAMIBIAN DELEGATION

A NAMIBIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION EMBARKED ON A BENCHMARKING TOUR TO MAURITIUS: EXPLORING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

18 May 2023



On 18 May 2023, the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives hosted a delegation from Namibia who came on a study tour to learn from the Mauritian model of economic development. The delegation comprised Members of the National Assembly of Namibia, namely Honourable Mathias Mbundu, Head of Delegation, Honourable Reginald Raymond Diergaardt, Member of Parliament, Honourable Johanna Kandjimi, Member of Parliament, Honourable Helaria Mukapuli, Member of Parliament, Honourable Maria Kamutali, Member of Parliament, Ms. Annalisa Meroro, Chief Parliamentary Clerk and Ms. Brigitte Fikunawa, Chief Policy Analyst.

Mr. M. Gunpath, the then Senior Chief Executive of the Ministry, welcomed the delegation and stated that it was a privilege to share the experiences of Mauritius in the field of industrial development along with the best practices adopted to progress on this pathway. He emphasized the friendly relationship between Mauritius and Namibia which could be further deepened for mutual benefit.

Mr. B. Ramdoyal, Acting Principal Industrial Analyst, made a presentation, highlighting the different stages of Industrial Development in Mauritius since Independence. In particular, he referred to the Import Substitution and Export Oriented Policies that were instrumental to structurally transform Mauritius, from a mono-crop to a well-diversified economy propelled by a strong manufacturing base.



An interactive session took place whereby the foreign guests enquired on areas of interest to them in the fields of diamond-polishing, fish processing and support to SMEs.

The Namibian delegation was impressed by the remarkable achievement of Mauritius in its industrialisation process. Honourable Mathias Mbundu, Head of the Delegation, mentioned that Namibia could inspire from the successful journey of Mauritius and he would share the lessons learnt with appropriate Government authorities in his country.

NAMIBIAN DELEGATION

A NAMIBIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION EMBARKED ON A BENCHMARKING TOUR TO MAURITIUS: EXPLORING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (continued)

18 May 2023

At the end of the meeting, Honourable Mathias Mbundu, Head of the Delegation expressed his gratitude to the Ministry for having shared valuable insights on the industrial development process of Mauritius. He reiterated the cordial relationships between the two countries which could be nurtured for enhanced economic prosperity.

The following day, the Namibian delegation paid a courtesy visit to Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, to further elaborate on possible areas of cooperation that could be envisaged between Mauritius and Namibia.



Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, together with the Namibian Parliamentary Delegation and high officials of the Ministry

ADI ACTIVITIES

THE AFRICA CONSORTIUM 2023 AND AFRICA DAY

25-27 May 2023

The Africa Consortium 2023 was held from 25 to 27 May 2023 at the Caudan Waterfront in Port Louis. The event was launched by the Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives and it was an occasion to mark the Africa Day which is celebrated every year on 25 May.

The Africa Consortium 2023 was the 2nd edition of the International Design Conference, which now forms part of the major annual events of the Academy of Design and Innovation. The objective is to encourage networkings with international designers as well as promote development, cooperation and sustainable growth. The event aimed to create a common platform for designers, artists, craftsmen, researchers and academics to celebrate the diverse culture and rich heritage of the African Continent.

The event was organised by the Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI), in collaboration with the African Leadership College, the ZEEArts Gallery, the National Computer Board and the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture Trust Fund. The following main activities were held over the three days of the event:

- an Art Exhibition, entitled 'Africa Speaks - 54' to showcase the artworks of some 40 African artists;
- an International Conference, under the theme 'Transformation of Future Africa';
- a Round Table on 'Sectoral Focus on 3D Printing for Creative Fashion and Jewellery';
- a Fashion Network Showcase under the theme 'Quintessence of Africa' to display the richness of African colours and culture; and
- a film Festival entitled 'Festival Fim Afrikin'.

INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION - 'AFRICA SPEAKS - 54'

An international art exhibition entitled 'Africa Speaks - 54' was held to pay a tribute to artists and designers from different African Countries and to display ancient, contemporary and ritualistic African art forms. 40 African artists participated in the art exhibition and showcased their diverse and innovative artworks.



From Left to right: Hostess from ZeeArts, Ms Z. Muthy, Managing Director ZeeArts Gallery (Dubai), Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Mr. S. S. Purgus, the Chairman of the Academy of Design and Innovation, Dr (Mrs) S. D. Ramsamy-Iranah, Director of the Academy of Design and Innovation and Mrs. D. Eole, Mauritian Artist, inaugurating the art exhibition

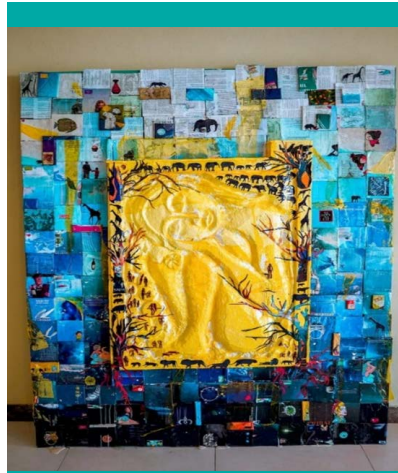
ADI ACTIVITIES (continued)

INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION - 'AFRICA SPEAKS - 54'

Some of the Artworks displayed at the Exhibition



Mr. J. D. Antoine, local artist with his Design Sculpture



Ms. G. Rampersad, Lecturer at the Academy of Design and Innovation (Mauritius)



ADI ACTIVITIES (continued)

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN CONFERENCE: 'TRANSFORMATION OF FUTURE AFRICA'

25 May 2023

An International Design Conference was held under the theme 'Transformation of Future Africa' to reflect on the topical issue. It was an opportunity to bring together a multi-disciplinary and international group of practitioners, designers and artists who promote creative sectors to develop the economy in Africa.

The purpose of ADI to organise the International Design Conference was to have more exposure to the African continent and enroll potential students from Africa.

The main speakers who intervened during panel discussions were as follows:

- Mr. Nanda Narrainen, Head-Business Support Facility; Film and Creative Industries, Economic Development Board
- Mr. Kevin Sew, Architect
- Mr. Emmanuel d'Offay, Executive Director, Creative Arts Seychelles
- Mr. Isham Delberg, Artist from Gabon
- Ms. Orneillia Hector, Jewellery Artist



From Left to right: Mr. K. Sew, Architect, Mr. N. Narrainen, Head- Business Support Facility; Film and Creative Industries, Economic Development Board, Ms Z. Muthy, Managing Director ZeeArts Gallery (Dubai), and Mr. E. D'Offay, Executive Director, Creative Arts Seychelles.



From Left to right: Intervention of Dr. Fawzia Delsol, Founder, Wax and Looms Ltd and Ms. Zaahirah Muthy, Managing Director ZeeArts Gallery (Dubai) during the Conference



From Left to right: Panelists for the Conference, Mr. Z. Gopee, Art historian (Mauritius), Ms. O. Hector, Jewellery Artist (Mauritius), Ms Z. Muthy, Managing Director ZeeArts Gallery (Dubai), and Mr. I. Delberg, Artist from Gabon



Academy of
**Design and
Innovation**



ADI ACTIVITIES (continued)

ROUND TABLE BY THE MAURITIUS DIGITAL PROMOTION AGENCY (THE THEN NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD) UNDER THE THEME 'SECTORAL FOCUS ON 3D PRINTING FOR CREATIVE FASHION AND JEWELLERY'

26 May 2023

The Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency (MDPA) and the Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI), jointly organised a workshop on 3D Printing for the Creative Fashion Sector. The workshop was held at Le Plateau, Caudan on 26 May 2023 during the Africa Consortium 2023 event.



Glimpse of the Round Table with the participants and staff from the Academy of Design and Innovation and the Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency

The aims of the workshop were to identify areas where 3D Printing technology could be utilised in the Creative Fashion as well as discuss challenges met during manufacturing processes by designers and jewellers.

The outcomes of the workshop were positive. Participants concluded that 3D printing technology could be a key enabler for the Fashion and Jewellery Sectors. Besides, recommendations were made to strengthen collaboration between MDPA and ADI as well as create more awareness on the 3D Printing.



Mr. S. Bundhun, IT Executive from the Academy of Design and Innovation coordinating the Round Table discussion



Live demonstrations of the 3D Printer by Officers from the Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency

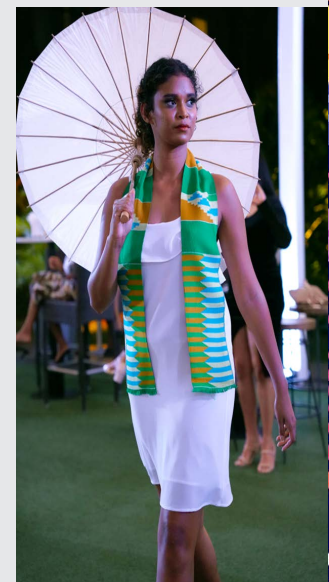
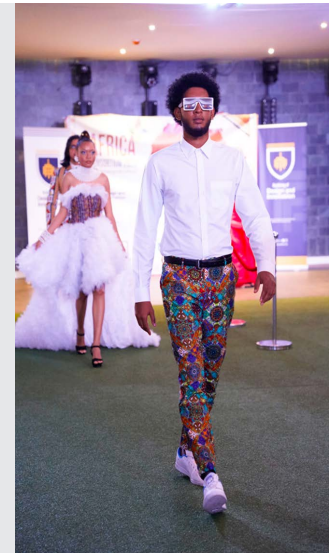
ADI ACTIVITIES (continued)

FASHION NETWORK SHOWCASE

27 May 2023

The Africa Consortium 2023 was concluded with a Fashion Network Showcase under the theme of 'Quintessence of Africa'.

Highlights of the Fashion Network Showcase



Group photo of all organisers, artists and invitees at the Fashion Network Showcase

'FESTIVAL FIM AFRIKIN'

26-27 May 2023



The Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture Trust Fund under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage organised the 'Festival Fim Afrikin', from 26 to 27 May 2023 during the Africa Consortium 2023 event held at the Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis.

VISIT

VISIT OF A DELEGATION FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF ANTANANARIVO AT THE MAURITIUS STANDARDS BUREAU

28 April 2023

A delegation from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Antananarivo (CCIA) in Madagascar, led by its President, visited the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) on 28 April 2023. The purpose of the visit was to gain insights on the services offered by MSB and to discuss areas of cooperation.



Delegates of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Antananarivo together with the MSB team

The Malagasy delegation had a working session with the General Manager of the MSB and her team. It also got the opportunity to visit the testing laboratories and interact with the technical staff on the services delivered by the Bureau.

The outcome of this visit was highly positive as several collaborative avenues were identified for both the MSB and the CCIA. The identified areas of interests encompassed the exchange of experiences and information on standards, certification and accreditation. Moreover, the delegation informed that the insights gained during their visit would be very useful to them since the CCIA intended to set up a certification body and an accredited analysis laboratory in Madagascar to provide the business support services in this field to its members.

TRAINING

TRAINING COURSE ON 'ISO/IEC 27001:2022, AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM' AT THE MAURITIUS STANDARDS BUREAU

03 to 05 May 2023

ISO/IEC 27001:2022 is an international standard that provides a framework for establishing, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving an Information Security Management System (ISMS) in an organisation. The standard specifies requirements for managing the security of sensitive information such as financial data, intellectual property information and personal data. The ISMS is designed to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information as well as mitigate risks to information security.

In October 2022, a new version of the ISO/IEC 27001 was released by the International Organisation for Standardization. In light of this development, the MSB, in conjunction with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), organised a training program on the ISO/IEC 27001:2022 Information Security Management System Implementer Course.

The training was conducted, from 03 to 05 May 2023, by Mr. D. Naagaraju, a resource person from FICCI with over 15 years of experience in the training on Information Technology security-related matters. The participants included key players in the telecommunications sector as well as practitioners from the accreditation and certification domains.



Participants together with the General Manager of MSB, Mrs. D. Boygah and the expert from FICCI, Mr. D. Naagaraju

Key topics covered during the training course were as follows:

- Introduction to basic framework of the ISMS;
- Implementation of the key elements of the standard;
- Generating checklist and preparing implementation of a road map; and
- Internal Audit and Management Review Process.

The MSB invites all interested parties to download its training calendar from its website to take cognizance of other training courses.

DISCOVER

ASSAY OFFICE - COLOURS OF GOLD JEWELLERY

Gold is probably the most favourite precious metal in the history of mankind. It has long been a symbol associated with wealth and a standard to measure currency. Apart from being used in the manufacture of jewellery and other complex ornate items such as crowns, sceptres and other decorative items of significant value, gold is used as wealth protection and as a financial exchange. Nowadays, it is also used in electronics, space exploration, medicine and dentistry.

In its purest form, gold is yellow in colour. Gold has been fashioned into jewellery as far back as some 40,000 years ago, as discovered by archaeologists in Palaeolithic caves. Gold jewellery has existed in different colours such as yellow, rose and white for centuries. For instance, it is reported that rose gold has been used as early as the first millennium. It is good to know that the different colours of gold jewellery are due to the presence of other metal(s) in varying amount(s).

Let us explore together the different colours of gold jewellery.

Yellow and Rose Gold

Yellow is the most popular colour of gold jewellery. Pure gold is soft and malleable which is why it is mixed with other metals to increase its strength. Yellow and rose gold jewellery are obtained by mixing pure gold with silver and copper.

The higher the content of silver compared to copper, the gold jewellery tends to be more yellow in colour.



White/Grey Gold

White/grey gold is made of pure gold, zinc, copper and either palladium, nickel or platinum. The presence of palladium, nickel or platinum gives the gold jewellery the distinctive white/grey colour.

Some parts of a gold jewellery are white in colour and may contain a plating of rhodium. Rhodium plating is usually added to jewellery to remove any trace of yellow gold that may still shine through, so it looks whiter.



Green Gold

Green gold may occur naturally or may be alloyed into jewellery. Naturally occurring green gold is called Electrum. Green gold jewellery may also be manufactured by jewellers. The composition of green gold is gold and silver. Its reflections range from yellow with light green reflections to more pronounced green. The deeper the gold purity, the deeper the green. For example, 18 Karat green gold will be greener than 14 Karat green gold.



DISCOVER

ASSAY OFFICE - COLOURS OF GOLD JEWELLERY (continued)



Blue Gold

Blue gold is an alloy of gold and indium which is pretty fragile compared to the lighter bluish hue which is obtained from an alloy of gold and gallium and is also more durable.

Another alloy of blue gold is obtained by mixing fine gold, iron and nickel in proper ratios which is then heat treated in order to oxidize the iron and thus obtain a superficial blue colour.



Purple Gold

Purple gold also called amethyst gold or violet gold is an alloy of gold and aluminium that is very rarely used for jewellery. This is due to the fact that purple gold is more brittle than the other gold alloy, which is highly problematic since it can shatter easily. Therefore, it is mostly used in incrustation on gold jewellery – as “gem”.



Black Gold

One of the latest trends is black gold jewellery. To obtain the black gold “alloy”, gold is mixed with another metal such as cobalt, usually to the ratio of 3 parts gold to 1-part metal. In this case, the black gold is typically a surface treatment, that is, the black layer is only on the surface unlike other alloys where the metals are combined. Another method for obtaining black gold is by plating it with black rhodium or ruthenium.

On a concluding note, although there are different colours of gold jewellery, the most common ones are still yellow, rose and white gold.

References:

- <https://www.lillicoco.com/blogs/love-lillicoco-blog/a-history-of-gold>
- <https://bebusinessed.com/history/the-history-of-gold/>
- <https://www.brilliantearth.com/news/colors-of-gold/>
- <https://trulyexperiences.com/blog/green-gold/#:~:text=The%20history%20of%20green%20gold,earliest%20metals%20used%20for%20coinage.>



OBITUARY

TRIBUTE TO LATE MR. ASHIT KUMAR GUNGAH, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NPCC

(08 February 1961 - 01 June 2023)



Mr. Ashit Kumar Gungah, Executive Director of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), passed away on Thursday 01 June 2023. Mr. Gungah, who was previously Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms and Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection, was appointed as Executive Director of the NPCC in January 2020 and as Chairman of the Mauritius Ports Authority in August 2022.

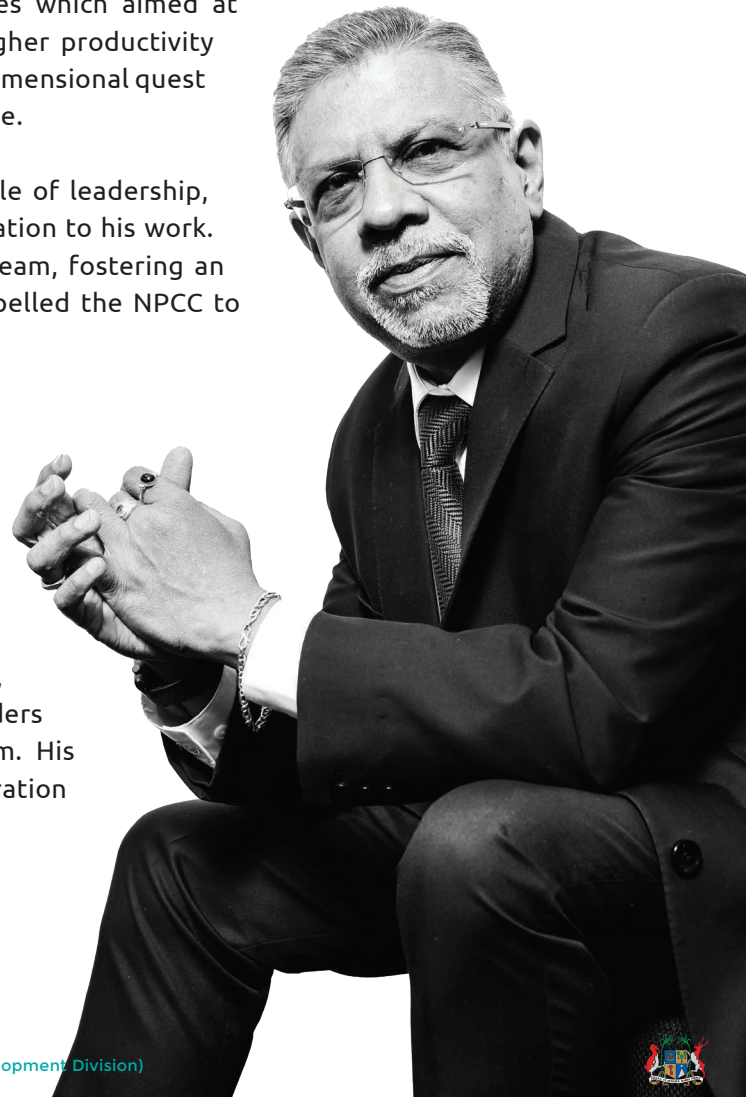
Throughout his career, Mr. Gungah made significant contribution to the development of the industrial sector as well as to the enhancement of the productivity movement in the country. He laid the foundation of a number of projects and initiatives which aimed at achieving higher productivity with a new dimensional quest for excellence.

The late Executive Director set an exceptional example of leadership, demonstrating integrity, vision, and unwavering dedication to his work. He had an innate ability to inspire and motivate his team, fostering an atmosphere of collaboration and innovation that propelled the NPCC to new heights.

Throughout his tenure, he tirelessly championed the cause of empowering individuals and businesses to reach their full potential. He firmly believed in the power of education and continuous learning, and has always encouraged others to embrace life-long growth and development.

His influence extended beyond the professional realm, touching the lives of colleagues, partners and stakeholders who were fortunate enough to cross paths with him. His valuable legacy will undoubtedly be a source of inspiration for future generations.

Our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family.



Industry Digest



This Newsletter has been prepared by the editorial team of the Industrial Development Division in collaboration with:

Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS)

Assay Office

Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI)

Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB)

National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC)

Editorial Team

Mrs. Ameeta Devi Poreema, Deputy Permanent Secretary

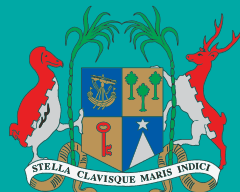
Mrs. Bibi Noureena Soreefan-Joomun, Assistant Permanent Secretary

Mrs. Kalyanee Manna, Principal Industrial Analyst

Ms. Reecha Devi Kishnah, Industrial Analyst

Ms. Jinny Fokeerchand, Office Management Assistant

Ms. Anisha Bhoyroo, Management Support Officer



**Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives
(Industrial Development Division)**

Level 7 & 8, Air Mauritius Centre, Pr. John Kennedy Street, Port-Louis

Republic of Mauritius

T: (+230) 210 7100

F: (+230) 211 0855

E: mind@govmu.org