

# Industry Digest

ISSUE 6



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

DECEMBER 2023

## The NET-ZERO TRANSITION

Industries Shaping a Sustainable Mauritius



### What's inside?

#### ENERGY AUDIT

Identifying Energy Efficiency Potential and Measures.



#### BENEFITS OF ENERGY AUDIT:

- Reduces Energy Costs
- Reduces Dependence on Procuring Energy Sources Externally
- Reduces Environmental Damage
- Reduces Consumption of Natural Resources
- Reduces Greenhouse Emission
- Optimal Performance of Boiler Components

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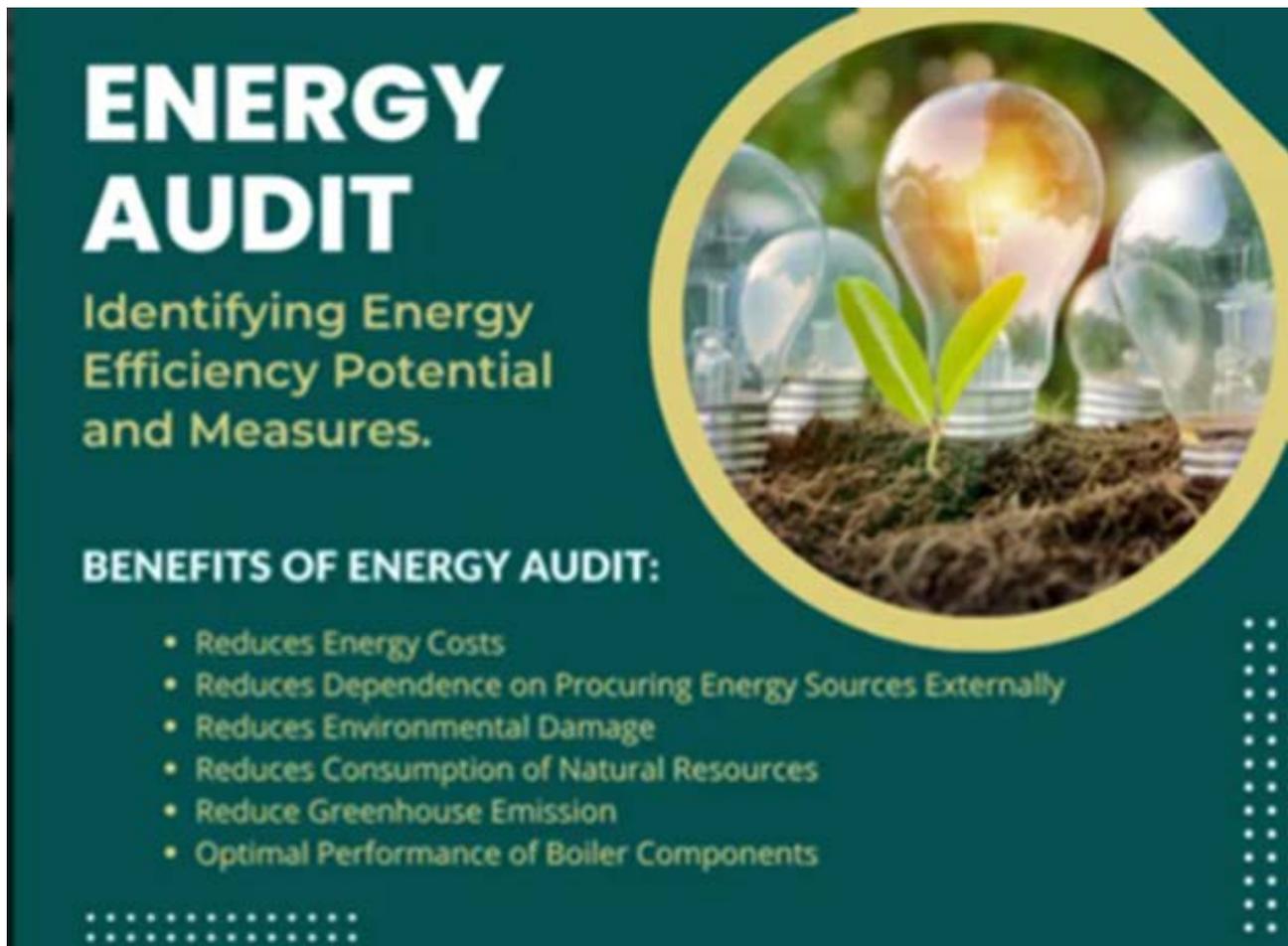


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## LAUNCHING

# LAUNCHING OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AUDIT SCHEME FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

A graphic for the Energy Audit Scheme. On the left, the text 'ENERGY AUDIT' is written in large white letters, followed by 'Identifying Energy Efficiency Potential and Measures.' in yellow. Below this, 'BENEFITS OF ENERGY AUDIT:' is written in white, followed by a bulleted list of six benefits in yellow. On the right, a circular image shows a glowing globe with a green plant growing from it, symbolizing energy efficiency and sustainability. The background is dark green with white dotted lines.

**ENERGY AUDIT**

Identifying Energy Efficiency Potential and Measures.

**BENEFITS OF ENERGY AUDIT:**

- Reduces Energy Costs
- Reduces Dependence on Procuring Energy Sources Externally
- Reduces Environmental Damage
- Reduces Consumption of Natural Resources
- Reduce Greenhouse Emission
- Optimal Performance of Boiler Components

(Source: [my.indiamart.com](https://my.indiamart.com))

As announced in the Budget Speech 2023/2024, the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division) recently launched the Energy Efficiency Audit Scheme for the Manufacturing Sector with the prime objective to support industry operators move towards a Carbon Neutral Industrial Sector.

The Scheme aims to provide financial support to manufacturing enterprises willing to embark on an energy efficiency audit exercise at its production sites, with a one-off grant of **75** percent of the audit costs, up to a ceiling of **Rs 300,000**. The beneficiaries are Large Energy Consumers (excluding enterprises in sugar and energy production). Each of their production sites should have at least an average annual energy consumption exceeding 100 tonnes of oil equivalent (toe) over the last two years.

This support measure is a step forward to encourage manufacturing enterprises become more environmentally responsible producers in an endeavour to reduce their carbon footprints for long-term sustainability.

# MAURITIUS ACCREDITATION SERVICE (MAURITAS)

## WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY

09 June 2023

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) have jointly established **09 June** as the World Accreditation Day (WAD) to promote accreditation as a global initiative.

The theme of the WAD on **09 June 2023** was *'Accreditation: Supporting the Future of Global Trade'*. The aim was to demonstrate how national and global quality infrastructures are adapting to advances in technology, changes in consumer behaviours and the regulatory environment to set up new trust mechanisms and support the adjustment of changed business models.

In this context, MAURITAS participated in the **Regional Virtual Workshop** organised by the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) on 09 June 2023. Mr. R. N. Gopee, Director of MAURITAS and currently the SADCA Chair, inaugurated the workshop and delivered a welcome address.

On the same occasion, Mr. C. Bheekhun, Accreditation Manager of MAURITAS and SADCA Vice-Chair, made a presentation to showcase the importance of accreditation in supporting industrial development and emergence of new growth pillars in the Mauritian economy.

Emphasis was laid on the fact that accreditation serves as a foundation for trust and it supports the facilitation of smooth trade, both within and across borders. The World Accreditation Day 2023 thus celebrated the vital role of accreditation in empowering global trade as industries and businesses navigate in a rapidly changing world. In the same vein, the accreditation bodies continue to adapt and innovate, ensuring that the future of global trade remains secure and sustainable.

With a view to celebrating the event at national level, MAURITAS circulated the joint statement issued by the global accreditation organisations, ILAC and the IAF, together with the brochure and poster promoting this year's theme, to all relevant stakeholders, committee members as well as public officers.

A video has also been produced to promote awareness. It emphasises the pertinence of accreditation in supporting global trade.

The [joint statement](#), [brochure](#), [poster](#) and [video](#) are available on the website of MAURITAS.



Poster for World Accreditation Day 2023



## EVENT

# THE 'AFRICAN CREATIVE VILLAGE'

14 June 2023

As part of the Africa Consortium 2023 held on 27 May 2023, the Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) organised on 14 July 2023 an 'African Creative Village' which was an exhibition centered on the promotion of the African Culture through art, fashion, crafts and music. The event was organised at the Caudan Waterfront with the participation of local organisations as listed below:

- Morivert Co Ltd
- Gecko Kids Ltd
- The Designers Council
- Africkin Creation
- Cahaya Morphosis
- Wax and Looms
- African Leadership College



An overview of the African Village at the Open Amphitheatre at Le Caudan

The ADI seized the opportunity at the event to promote its courses for the September 2023 intake. It set up an information kiosk to guide and register aspiring students in the courses offered at the Academy.



Dr. (Mrs.) S. D. Ramsamy-Iranah, Director of ADI and the students of the African Leadership College



Mrs. S. Ragavoodoo Cane from Cahaya Morphosis discussing with visitors



Visitors at the 'African Creative Village'



Mr. N. Meunier, Lecturer at ADI giving an insight on the courses on offer for the next intake

## EVENT

# ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN AND INNOVATION

22 June 2023

In June 2023, the Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) held the Annual Graduation Ceremony for the Academic Year 2021-2022 at the Côte D'Or National Sports Complex. The ceremony was graced by the presence of the Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs, and Cooperatives.

During the event, 58 deserving ADI students were bestowed with their diplomas in various fields such as:

- Pearson BTEC Level 5 (HND) Higher National Diploma in Art and Design (Art Practice) - 13 Students
- Pearson BTEC Level 5 (HND) Higher National Diploma in Art and Design (Fashion) - 12 Students
- Pearson BTEC Level 5 (HND) Higher National Diploma in Art and Design (Graphic Design) - 18 Students
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Art and Design - 6 Students
- National Certificate Level 3 (NC3) in Jewellery Manufacturing and Design - 9 Students



Academics, staff and students of the Academy of Design and Innovation during the Award Ceremony

53 students were awarded a certificate of participation for the following courses which were organised by the ADI in collaboration with the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) under the National Training and Reskilling Scheme:

- Creating Artifact using upcycling materials and natural fibers - 11 Participants
- Creative Fashion/Textiles Design and Entrepreneurship - 11 Participants
- Interior Design - 11 Participants
- Photo media and Advertising Design - 20 Participants



The Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives presenting a certificate and congratulating a student together with Mr. S. S. Purgus, Chairman of the Academy of Design and Innovation and Dr. (Mrs.) S.D. Ramsamy-Iranah, Director of the Academy of Design and Innovation



Dr. H. Neeliah, Manager, Research and Projects from the HRDC and Dr. (Mrs.) S.D. Ramsamy-Iranah, Director of ADI, presenting certificate and congratulating the HRDC Programme participant

The ADI took the opportunity to acknowledge and recognise the contribution and efforts of 6 participants and 14 stakeholders who participated at the **"8ème édition du Salon Internationale du Textile Africain"** held in Lomé, Togo in November 2022.

## VISIT

# THE AMBASSADOR OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN VISITED THE MAURITIUS STANDARDS BUREAU

23 June 2023



His Excellency Mr. Hassan AliBakhshi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the MSB team at the Fibre Technology Laboratory

On 23 June 2023, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency, Mr. Hassan AliBakhshi, made a courtesy visit to the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB). The purpose of his visit was to strengthen diplomatic relations between Iran and Mauritius, with a specific focus on standardization and enhancing trade cooperation.

His Excellency, Mr. Hassan AliBakhshi was greeted by Mr. S. Mulloo, Chairperson of the Standards Council, Mrs. D. Boygah, the then General Manager of MSB, and Mr. Y. Foondun, Acting Deputy Director of the MSB.

During his visit, the Ambassador expressed that the two countries would mutually benefit through various avenues of collaboration, including trade and bilateral exchanges in technical matters. He informed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a major producer of cement and other products related to the construction industry and that, in future, his country intends to supply products such as electric cables, steel bars and cement to Mauritius. Mr. Y. Foodun, who oversees the technical aspects of the activities of the Bureau, informed the Ambassador that MSB is well equipped to test many products in the construction industry and most of these tests are accredited by a third party.

Besides, the Ambassador was also informed that MSB would provide technical information to potential stakeholders involved in trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran and it would actively explore solutions to address any technical trade barriers that could hamper a conducive environment for trade between the two countries.

## EVENT

# SAND SCULPTURE FESTIVAL

15 July 2023

On 15 July 2023, students of the Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) participated in a sand sculpture competition organised by the “**Force Vive**” of Flic-en-Flac.

The concept of making the sculpture revolved around the protection of sea creatures. The sand sculpture of ADI depicted the importance of protecting sea creatures, more particularly, at a time when anthropogenic damage has been made to the natural ecosystem.

The participation of ADI was a way to promote the core principles of the Academy, which has always placed education and sustainable living at the forefront.



**SAND SCULPTURE FESTIVAL**

Come enjoy the beach and make **Art!**

The Force Vive de Flic en Flac is inviting artists (professionals or amateurs) to participate in a sand sculpture competition on the beach of Flic en Flac.

**Saturday**  
**15 July, 2023**  
(9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m)  
**FLIC EN FLAC**

- Participants must form groups of 3 to 5 people.
- Interesting prizes will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> best sculptures
- Each participant will receive a certificate of participation.

For info WhatsApp +230 57 51 90 45

The Sand Sculpture made by the students of ADI

## EVENT

# PRESS CONFERENCE - MISS TOURISM MAURITIUS 2023 – THE HANDING OVER OF THE NATIONAL GOWN

17 July 2023

The Women of Wonders (WoW), a Non-Governmental Organisation working for the emancipation and empowerment of women launched a project called Miss Tourism and Environment Mauritius 2023 to support environmental sustainability as well as promote multiculturalism, cultural diversity, heritage and tourism for Mauritius. The project aimed to showcase the beauty and diversity of Mauritius to the world through a grand finale which was held in Sri Lanka in July 2023.



Mrs Maya Hanoomanjee, GCSK, the guest speaker of the Ceremony

The Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) collaborated in the project since April 2023, more particularly, in the designing and manufacturing of the National Gown for the grand finale. It organised a competition amongst its students. The proposal of Ms. S. Jugroo, an ADI student, was selected since it was relevant to the main theme of the WoW project and the proposed design was an inspiration to protect marine life in our paradise island.

On the 17 July 2023, the official handing over of the National Gown was held during a press conference at the Restaurant of the Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaëtan Duval Hotel School.

The guest speaker on the occasion was Mrs. M. Hanoomanjee, the former Speaker of the National Assembly, who presented the National Gown in the presence of Dr. (Mrs.) S.D. Ramsamy-Iranah, Director of the ADI, guests and members of the press.

Miss J. Pyndiah, Miss Tourism Mauritius 2023, represented our country at the grand finale of the Miss World Tourism 2023 in Sri Lanka. It was a matter of national pride when she was awarded the first Runner-Up at the Miss World Tourism grand finale.



Dr. (Mrs.) S.D. Ramsamy-Iranah, Director of the ADI, Mrs. Y. Raghoonundun, Vice President of WoW, Ms. Jugroo, the designer of the National Gown and Miss. J. Pyndiah, Miss Tourism Mauritius 2023



Miss. J. Pyndiah, Miss Tourism Mauritius 2023 representing Mauritius at the grand finale of the Miss World Tourism 2023 in Sri Lanka

# EVENT: NPQEA 2022-2023 AWARD NIGHT

## NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY EXCELLENCE AWARD 2022-2023

31 July 2023

The Award Ceremony for the National Productivity and Quality Excellence Award (NPQEA) 2022-2023 was held, in the presence of the Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, on 28 July 2023 at the Caudan Arts Centre, Port Louis.

The NPQEA is an annual initiative of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) to recognise the outstanding achievements in excellence and to honour organisations which have made noteworthy contributions and demonstrated innovative practices in their respective domains.

The organisation of the NPQEA provides an opportunity to organisations to benchmark themselves and become more productive and competitive through continuous improvement. The NPQEA provides a platform for knowledge sharing and networking among industry leaders, policymakers, and professionals passionate about productivity and quality enhancement. It also fosters a culture of excellence and inspires organisations to embark on transformative journeys which contribute to enhance growth and competitiveness of the nation's economy.

The NPQEA 2022-2023 rewarded 40 organisations which implemented productivity and quality improvement projects and made continuous efforts to improve management and operational practices in their journey towards excellence. The event was an occasion to celebrate the achievements of the teams who were responsible for creating and managing productivity and quality improvements at their workplace.



NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Grand Winners of the NPQEA 2022-2023, selected among seven Gold winners in three distinct categories by a panel of international jurors, were as follows:



### BON ACCUEIL SSS

GRAND WINNER

Category Government Departments, Parastatals and Registered Associations



### LUBATECH LTD

GRAND WINNER

Category Small & Medium Private Enterprises including Micro Enterprises



### CERVONIC LTD

GRAND WINNER

Category Large Private Enterprises



# EVENT: NPQEA 2022-2023 AWARD NIGHT

(Continued)



Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Mr. Sujoy Busgeeth - Chairman and Mrs. Sandhya Boygah - Executive Director of the NPCC, with representatives of Bon Accueil SSS, Cervonic Ltd and Lubatech Ltd, Grand Winners of NPQEA 2022-2023

During his address, the Honourable Minister who was the Chief Guest at the NPQEA 2022-2023 Award Ceremony, pointed out that ***"...We have come a long way, for sure. But we live in challenging times where change is the biggest opportunity for progress and impact. It is important to grow our economy. We wish to consolidate our industrial base through innovation. It is a national effort. Through the NPCC, the Government is putting in place the appropriate policies to promote productivity within the industrial sector."*** He added that ***"we are mounting a national effort and everyone should be on board in this productivity movement. Today, we are evolving in the era of Artificial Intelligence, Industrial Internet of Things, Robotics, Cloud Computing, and 3D Printing. We are talking about how to produce better output not just about how to produce more output."***

Mrs. D. Boygah, the Executive Director of the NPCC, stressed during her address to the audience on the importance for local organisations to achieve excellence and indicated that ***"...The quest for excellence has always been a driving force behind human progress. Its significance is even more critical in our interconnected and fast-paced society. Mauritius currently finds itself at a crossroad where it has to make the best***

***and boldest choices to remain competitive and sustainable as an economy. And this is where we find the importance of excellence in all that we do"***. She added that ***"excellence is not merely a desirable trait, it is today a prerequisite for success. Whether it is a Government Department, a non-profit organisation or a private company, the pursuit of excellence is essential for achieving organisational goals, delivering value to stakeholders and making a positive impact on society."*** Mrs. D. Boygah seized the opportunity to thank the Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives for his continuous support to the productivity movement. She also expressed her gratitude to the NPCC staff for their relentless support and to all stakeholders for their commitment to NPCC initiatives.

The event ended with a cultural show by Mauritian artists who were well appreciated by the audience.



## EVENT

# “AGOA MISSION LED BY MINISTER TO THE USA”

02-08 August 2023

In the context of promoting the Mauritian textile and apparel products and further strengthening the long-standing trade relations with the USA, a high-level delegation led by the Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives and comprising representatives from Economic Development Board, conducted an important mission to the USA, from 02 to 08 August 2023.

The mission consisted of two legs, namely:

- high-level stakeholder’s meetings in Washington DC as part of pre-consultations for the renewal of the AGOA that is due to expire in 2025.
- participation in Sourcing at Magic Trade Fair at Las Vegas to promote an enhanced visibility of the Mauritian Textile apparel products.

During meetings that the Honourable Minister had with key officials from the US Chamber of Commerce, US Department of State, African Coalition for Trade, US Africa Business Centre, Corporate Council of Africa, National Council of Textile Organisation, he emphasised on the critical importance of AGOA for the Mauritian economy and its fundamental role in sustaining a regionally integrated supply chain. In this vein, he advocated for a long-term renewal of AGOA without any further delay to avoid disruptions in trade relations. This strategic move is of utmost importance to Mauritian exporters and their US clients as they need clear visibility to cement and further strengthen their business relationships. It should be highlighted that the response from the different organisations/associations to the call of Mauritius for early renewal of AGOA was positive.

The Honourable Minister also visited the Sourcing at Magic Trade Fair at Las Vegas where 7 local manufacturing enterprises had the opportunity to showcase their products. The Trade Show was beneficial to them as they were able to secure new orders.

On the whole, the mission was very productive as it was an occasion to foster closer ties and collaboration with US key industry associations and enhance the image of Mauritius as a sustainable and reliable sourcing destination for Textile and Apparel products.



The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)  
[Source: Africa Trade Development Center]

## EVENT: INNOVED 2023 AWARD CEREMONY

# “INNOVED 2023 CONCLUDES WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WEBINAR AND AWARD CEREMONY”

14 August 2023

The Innovation for the Education Sector (InnovEd) is an annual project organised by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology and the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD). The InnovEd project basically aims to encourage creative, critical and innovative thinking among students, at secondary school-level and at MITD-level, with a view to prepare students for further education and employment.

For the current edition, 68 projects were presented by teams from 35 different secondary schools. Projects were crafted under six main themes, namely, Cultural Heritage, Performing Arts, Visual Arts & Crafts, Languages and Publishing, Interactive Media and Design.

On 10 August 2023, the InnovEd 2023 event, comprising a webinar on *Artificial Intelligence and an Award Ceremony*, was held virtually at the NPCC in Ebène and was attended by students from more than 30 secondary schools.

During the event, the winners for the best projects, in six different themes, were announced and were Triolet SSS, Rabindranath Tagore Secondary School, Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd, Triolet SSS, Knowledge Based Training Centre and Le Bocage International School. There were six runners-up in each thematic category.



**INNOVED 2023 WINNERS**

**CATEGORY: CULTURAL HERITAGE**  
WINNER: Triolet SSS  
Title of project: Touch Map  
RUNNER UP: Muslim Girls College  
Title of project: Nu ti boîte manze

**CATEGORY: PERFORMING ARTS**  
WINNER: Rabindranath Tagore Secondary School  
Title of project: An Overview of Kathak and Bharata Natyam Classical Dance  
RUNNER UP: Sir Leckraz Teelock SSS  
Title of project: Nou Leritaz

**CATEGORY: VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS**  
WINNER: Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd  
Title of project: Abyss  
RUNNER UP: Doha Secondary School Secondary School  
Title of project: InnovBags

**CATEGORY: LANGUAGES AND PUBLISHING**  
WINNER: Triolet State Secondary School  
Title of project: Fitness Cube  
RUNNER UP: France Boyer de la Giroday  
Title of project: Curbing visual inequalities in education

**CATEGORY: INTERACTIVE MEDIA**  
WINNER: Knowledge Based Training Centre  
Title of project: RoadSafeVR: VR Simulations for Alcohol Awareness for Mauritian Youth  
RUNNER UP: Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd  
Title of project: Edu Quest

**CATEGORY: DESIGN**  
WINNER: Le Bocage International School  
Title of project: PROJECT ZERO WASTE ZONE  
RUNNER UP: Doha Secondary School Secondary School  
Title of project: Making gummy supplements using algae

The winning and runner-up teams received a cash prize of Rs20,000 and Rs10,000, respectively.



# EVENT: INNOVED 2023 AWARD CEREMONY

(Continued)



Mrs. D. Boygah, Executive Director of NPCC and Mr. D. Appalswamy, Director of Capacity Development, Corporate Services and Operations presenting the awards and gifts to winning and runner up teams

Honourable Mrs. Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, G.C.S.K, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, in an online speech, exhorted students to bring value to whatever they undertook and stressed on the importance of team work and collective learning experience. In her speech, she pointed out ***"... that if one embarks on an enterprise that ultimately brings or adds no value, there is absolutely no reason to engage in it. I would specially highlight the other skills that stress on the significance of teamwork. I guess we all know the benefits that arise from working in teams: mutual support and reinforcement, extra motivation and increase in personal engagement. We all know, as individuals, we can go faster, but in a team, we can certainly go further. Believe me, this forms the very basis of work in the present times. Today the moment is collective. I would strongly suggest you hang on to all the positives that have arisen from your participation in the InnovEd project. We have come to a point in our education process where we cannot operate as self-centered learners. It is definitely more gainful for you to actively engage in a collective manner in your studies..."***

Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, also addressed the audience on the occasion and explained in his speech that the evolving global

market compelled Mauritius to adapt and thrive in a competitive environment. He underscored that ***"...Our traditional industries have to embrace new challenges. At the same time, we have to explore opportunities created by emerging sectors. Innovation and creativity should not be viewed only as buzzwords. Because they are the driving forces behind diversification and economic resilience. This is why we encourage our youth to be curious, to think differently and to continuously seek innovative solutions to problems..."***

Mrs. D. Boygah, Executive Director of the NPCC, on her part, stressed upon the main objectives of the InnovEd project and mentioned in her address that ***"...The InnovEd project initiated and championed by the NPCC, stands as a pillar for our education system. Its mission is clear: to promote and instill creative, critical, and innovative thinking among students, empowering them to become the architects of their own destiny. By fostering a culture of creativity in schools, InnovEd equips our young students with the vital skills and mindset needed to excel in an ever-evolving world..."***. She added that the NPCC intended to develop the innovation club into a permanent structure in all schools with the support of the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology. The objective is to provide students with a framework to continuously develop their creativity and innovation skills throughout the year. The CREATHon has now become a regular feature of InnovEd. Through the CREATHon and with the assistance of experts, the NPCC support students to commercialise their prototypes into marketable products or services.

The InnovEd 2023 event concluded with a webinar on Artificial Intelligence which was conducted by Dr. McLead Sibanda, a known business executive, respected intellectual property, innovation and entrepreneurship expert. He explained about the various opportunities that Artificial Intelligence could bring into the realms of education and how it was shaping the education of the future.

All the participating teams that reached the CREATHon level in the InnovEd 2023, received a Wifi Camera for their Innovation Club, and each participant and facilitator received a certificate of achievement.

## PROJECT

# SCULPTURE BY THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN AND INNOVATION FOR THE OPENING OF THE INTERPRETATION CENTRE AT THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF PAMPLEMOUSSES

23 August 2023

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Interpretation Centre at the Village Hall of Pamplemousses, the Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) presented a 'larger-than-life-sized' sculpture of a slave breaking free from the chains of slavery.

The sculpture, made with iron rods and "*fer forgé*" metals, is titled "*Libération*" which marks the announcement of the abolition of slavery on the 01 February 1835.



The sculpture entitled '*Libération*'

The sculpture, situated adjacent to the "*Marché aux Esclaves*" at the district council of Pamplemousses, was conceptualised by Mr. A. Ombika, lecturer in Art and Design at the ADI.

It was made with the collaboration of external creators and artists, namely, Mr. D. Narsigadoo (Sculptor), Mr. S. Bahadoor (Sculptor and Educator), Mr. A. L. Young Fee (Sculptor and tattoo artist), Mr. R. Allagain (Freelance Artist) and an alumni student of the then FDI.



The Making of the sculpture by the external creators and artists and staff of ADI

Besides, Ms. D. Ramrecha, lecturer in Art and Design Department at the ADI along with students from the Extended Diploma programme, Mr. S. Nankoo and Mr. P. M. Alcindor, printed footsteps starting from the gate of the "*Bassin des Esclaves*" leading to the "*Marché aux Esclaves*" to symbolically link the two historical places which have the status of National Heritage.



The printing of symbolic footsteps by the staff and students of ADI

# EDUCATION FAIR AT THE UNIVERSAL COLLEGE

## “PRESENTING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DESIGN FIELD”

31 August 2023

The Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) participated in the Education Fair hosted by the Universal College located at Rivière du Rempart. The one-day event, which was held on 31 August 2023, gathered different institutions to give the students a glimpse of higher education in the creative industry.

It was an occasion for the Academy to present its courses with a well-defined study pathway with associated career prospects. It also stressed on its courses being delivered in a practical approach coupled with work placement in the industry so as to enable a smooth transition in the professional field.



The ADI team interacting with secondary school students at the Education Fair



## EVENT

# INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH EXPORT-ORIENTED ENTERPRISES

19 September 2023

On Tuesday, 19 September 2023, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, had an interactive session with Export-Oriented Enterprises (EOEs) to discuss on bottlenecks affecting their production operations and brainstorm on remedial actions to address the situation. Some 70 industry captains engaged in different fields of export manufacturing activities were present at the meeting.

To set the stage for discussions, representatives from Economic Development Board (EDB) and Industrial Finance Corporation of Mauritius (IFCM) Ltd made presentations on the various schemes available at their respective institutions to strengthen the operational capabilities of manufacturing enterprises for enhanced competitiveness. In particular, it was highlighted that since 2015, EDB had disbursed more than **Rs1.6 billion** under different schemes to assist the export sector.



From left to right, Mr. G. Bucktowosing, Director Industry, EDB, Mr. V.A. Putchay, Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives and Mr. S. Beedassy, Technical Advisor, IFCM Ltd

The Honourable Minister seized the opportunity to thank the operators for their hard work and perseverance to sustain production activities amidst daunting challenges, particularly with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Participation of various stakeholders in an Interactive Session with Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives at MSB

He recalled that the EOE sector continues to be vulnerable to threats emanating from external factors and all efforts are being pursued to consolidate and expand market destinations and also attract a new wave of investors.

On another note, he apprised of the outcome of his recent mission to the USA to lobby for the renewal of the 'African Growth and Opportunity Act' (AGOA) which is due to lapse in September 2025. He fully concurred that actions should be initiated immediately to ascertain the future of AGOA as EOEs need clear visibility for long-term business planning. Nonetheless, he reiterated that it was imperative to capitalise on new opportunities emerging with Mauritius-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in our drive to re-balance export market destinations.

Thereafter, the floor was open to the industry operators so that they could voice out their concerns on matters impacting on the smooth operation of their businesses. The main issues raised revolved around difficulties encountered for loan repayment taken during the Covid-19 pandemic, renewal of work permits, absorbing the hike in electricity costs and participation in some specialised international trade fairs.

The Honourable Minister took note of the apprehensions raised by the participants and stated that they would be given due consideration by the Ministry so as to come up with meaningful solutions. He further informed that such meetings would be organised regularly to maintain proximity with industry operators and cement this collaborative process.

# INDUCTION DAY AT THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN AND INNOVATION (ADI)

## “WELCOMING THE SECOND BATCH OF ADI STUDENTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024”

16 - 26 September 2023

In September 2023, the Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) organised an induction session for the freshers in the following programmes for the Academic Year 2023 - 2024 / 2025 - 2026:

- **BA (Hons) Art & Design (Top up) - October 2023 - September 2024**
- **BA (Hons) Fashion & Textiles (Top up) - October 2023 - March 2025**
- **BA (Hons) Graphic Design with Animation (Top up) - October 2023 - March 2025**
- **Pearson BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Art and Design - Graphic Design - September 2023 - August 2025**
- **Pearson BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Art and Design - Fashion - September 2023 - August 2025**
- **BA (Hons) Interior Design - October 2023 - September 2026**

The event was organized with a view to introduce new students to the Academy and it provided the opportunity for them to meet their Programme Coordinators, Lecturers and key persons at the Student Affairs section. The new entrants also got the opportunity to visit the laboratories of the ADI as well as the learning spaces such as the library.



Programme Coordinators meeting the new batch of students



The new batch of students

## MAURITAS

# 14<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND MEETINGS OF THE AFRICAN ACCREDITATION COOPERATION (AFRAC)

25 – 29 September 2023

The 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA) and Meetings of the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) were held from 25 to 29 September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The AFRAC regrouped National Accreditation Bodies, National Accreditation Focal Points, Regional Accreditation Bodies and stakeholders. Some 90 delegates from 35 countries attended the five-day event.

The main objectives of the AFRAC GA and Meetings were to assess the progress made in the implementation of the AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). During the event, reports and work plans of various African regional sub-committees, regional working groups and committees/councils were discussed. MAURITAS, as an Arrangement Member of the AFRAC MRA, was represented at the AFRAC GA and Meetings by Mr. R. N. Gopee, Director and Mr. M. Koolwont, Accreditation Manager.

A total of 34 Resolutions were adopted during the GA on 29 September 2023 and the most important ones were related to the:

- Extension of the Scope of AFRAC recognition under the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) to cover Proficiency Testing Providers and Reference Material Producers and under the International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Recognition Arrangement to cover Product Certification and Certification of Persons (AFRAC GA Resolution 8/2023);
- Registration of AFRAC as a legal entity (AFRAC GA Resolution 10/2023);
- Introduction of Membership Fees as from January 2024 (AFRAC GA Resolution 22/2023)



Mr. R.N. Gopee, Director of MAURITAS at the General Assembly



Participants at the AFRAC General Assembly



Participants during the committee

## EXHIBITION

# EXHIBITION OF CREATIVE FASHION/TEXTILES DESIGN AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

20 October 2023

The Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI), in collaboration with the Human Resource Development Council, under the National Training and Reskilling Scheme, organised a training programme in *'Creative Fashion/Textiles Design and Entrepreneurship'* from 08 May 2023 to 20 October 2023 whereby 11 students successfully completed the training course.

At the end of the training programme, the students exhibited their artifacts and got the opportunity to showcase their new skills and techniques.



The Director of the ADI, lecturers, trainers and participants at the exhibition



Exhibition by students at the Academy of Design and Innovation

# LIVE RADIO PROGRAM ORGANISED BY CITIZEN SUPPORT UNIT

## PARTICIPATION OF THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN AND INNOVATION IN AN ANTI- DRUG CAMPAIGN

21 October 2023

The Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) participated in the campaign 'Ansam avek CSU, Ansam kont ladrog' which was held on 21 October 2023 at Centre de Flacq. The campaign, initially launched by the Citizen Support Unit (CSU), aims at sensitising Mauritians about the harmful consequences of drug use. The event formed part of a series of live radio programs which were being hosted by local authorities, over the past few months, to reach out to a wide range of public.

The ADI, as an educational institution, was present during the campaign to contribute towards the fight against the drug crisis. Through its involvement, the ADI aimed to empower and inspire the citizens, including the youngsters, to choose a fulfilling future career path away from drugs. The event provided the platform to disseminate information on the courses it offers and on the various career opportunities available to the Mauritian citizens.



The poster of the CSU event



The ADI team presenting the tailor-made courses offered to the public



## SEMINAR

# WORLD STANDARDS DAY CELEBRATION AT THE MAURITIUS STANDARDS BUREAU

14 November 2023

To mark the celebration of the World Standards Day, the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) held a half-day seminar on Monday, 16 October 2023, at its headquarters in Moka, Mauritius.

The annual event is an occasion to acknowledge the indispensable role that standards play in shaping our daily lives as well as pay tribute to the dedicated efforts of thousands of experts worldwide who contribute to the development of voluntary standards within standards development organizations.

The seminar was graced with the esteemed presence of the Honourable Soomilduth BHOLAH, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives. Various other personalities, including Officials; Dr. Anne ANCIA, the World Health Organization, Representative in Mauritius; Mrs. Florence Van HOUTTE, First Counsellor of the EU delegation to Mauritius and Seychelles; and Ms. Angela McCASKILL, ISO Project Leader also attended the event.

The event started with Mrs L. Chummun Bhujohory, Director of MSB, who underlined the importance of the World Standards Day celebration. She further informed the audience that this year's theme is **"Shared Vision for a Better World"** which places a special focus on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-Being.

In his keynote address, Honourable Soomilduth BHOLAH, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives emphasized the critical role of the International Standards in the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Left to right: Mr. R Bunjun - Acting Permanent Secretary (SMEs Division), Mrs. C Jhowry - Permanent Secretary (Cooperatives Division), Honourable Soomilduth Bholah - Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives and Mrs. L Chummun-Bhujohory - Director of the Mauritius Standards Bureau

He highlighted the importance of this year's campaign which was focused on **"A Shared Vision for a Better World"** with the latter incorporating SDG 3 relating to 'Good Health and Well-Being'. The Honourable Minister emphasized that good health and well-being were intrinsic human rights which called for our unwavering commitment to channeling our resources and endeavors toward their realization. He added that International Standards were powerful allies which act as the linchpin for healthcare and well-being and played a pivotal role in safeguarding the safety and efficacy of healthcare products and services.

These standards offer a crucial blueprint for innovators and entrepreneurs to create groundbreaking solutions which would not only improve healthcare access but also enhance affordability. The Honourable Minister underscored that the Covid-19 pandemic has further accentuated the essential role standards play in making our societies and our planet more resilient.

## PROJECT

# ACCELERATING THE TRANSITION TOWARDS A NET-ZERO NATURE-POSITIVE ECONOMY IN MAURITIUS (NZNPA)

16 November 2023



From left to right: Mr. R. Bharosay, Ag. Director of Industry, Mr. J. Lheureux, Task Manager for Africa, Eastern Europe & Central Asia, GEF Climate Change Mitigation Unit, Industry and Economy Division, UNEP Kenya, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives and Mr. V.A. Putchay, Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives

The Ministry has secured funding to the tune of **USD 3.6 million** from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to implement the NZNPA Project with the objective to accelerate the greening of the manufacturing sector towards a carbon neutral development pathway for enhanced competitiveness.

The Project is being implemented with the technical support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) based in Kenya which is also the interface of GEF for all operational and administrative matters.

The Project will span over a period of 5 years, starting from July 2023. In the first phase, a Project Document is being elaborated to outline the areas of interventions along with the implementation modalities. An International Expert recruited by UNEP and supported by a Local Consultant have been assigned the responsibility to carry out this assignment.

In this context, a one-day Consultative Workshop was held on Thursday 16 November 2023 at Hennessy Park Hotel, Ebene to identify barriers hampering adoption of green manufacturing practices and formulate proposals which could be incorporated in the drafting of a Project Document. Some 120 participants from the public and private sector organisations attended the workshop.



Keynote Address by Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives

Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives officially launched the workshop. During his Keynote Address, he emphasised on the need for manufacturing enterprises to embrace sustainability practices in an endeavour to maintain and expand market share which is increasingly being driven by the new green consumerism patterns. Furthermore, he stressed that the NZNPA Project comes at an opportune time as it will contribute to our national commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% and generate at least 60% of our energy needs from renewable sources by 2030.

## PROJECT

# ACCELERATING THE TRANSITION TOWARDS A NET-ZERO NATURE-POSITIVE ECONOMY IN MAURITIUS (NZNPA)

(Continued)



Address by Mr. J. Lheureux, Task Manager for Africa, Eastern Europe & Central Asia, GEF Climate Change Mitigation Unit, Industry and Economy Division, UNEP Kenya

Besides, the workshop was an ideal occasion for participants to share their views and ideas on this important project and formulate meaningful proposals that could be instrumental in attaining the objective for a Carbon Neutral and Sustainable Industry. Indeed, the outcome was very productive as many valuable suggestions were made by the stakeholders during group discussions and this would serve to form the basis for elaboration of a comprehensive Project Document to be submitted to the GEF Council in June 2024, for approval.

### Glimpses of the Consultative Workshop



## PRESS CONFERENCE

# PRESS CONFERENCE ON PERFORMANCE OF THE EXPORT-ORIENTED ENTERPRISES (EOES)

20 November 2023

Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives held a Press Conference on 20 November 2023, highlighting the performance of the Export-Oriented Enterprises (EOE) sector for the period January to September 2023.

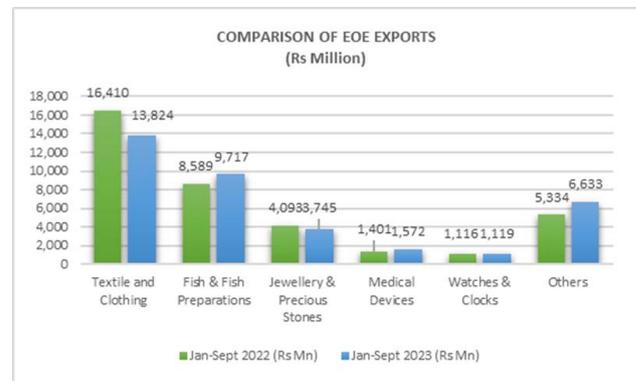


Honourable Soomilduth Bholah,  
Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives

He stated that during the period January to September 2023, EOE exports declined slightly by **0.9%** compared to the corresponding period in 2022. In absolute terms, EOE exports stood at around **Rs36.6 billion** as compared to **Rs36.9 billion** in January to September 2022.

## COMPARISON OF EOE EXPORTS

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



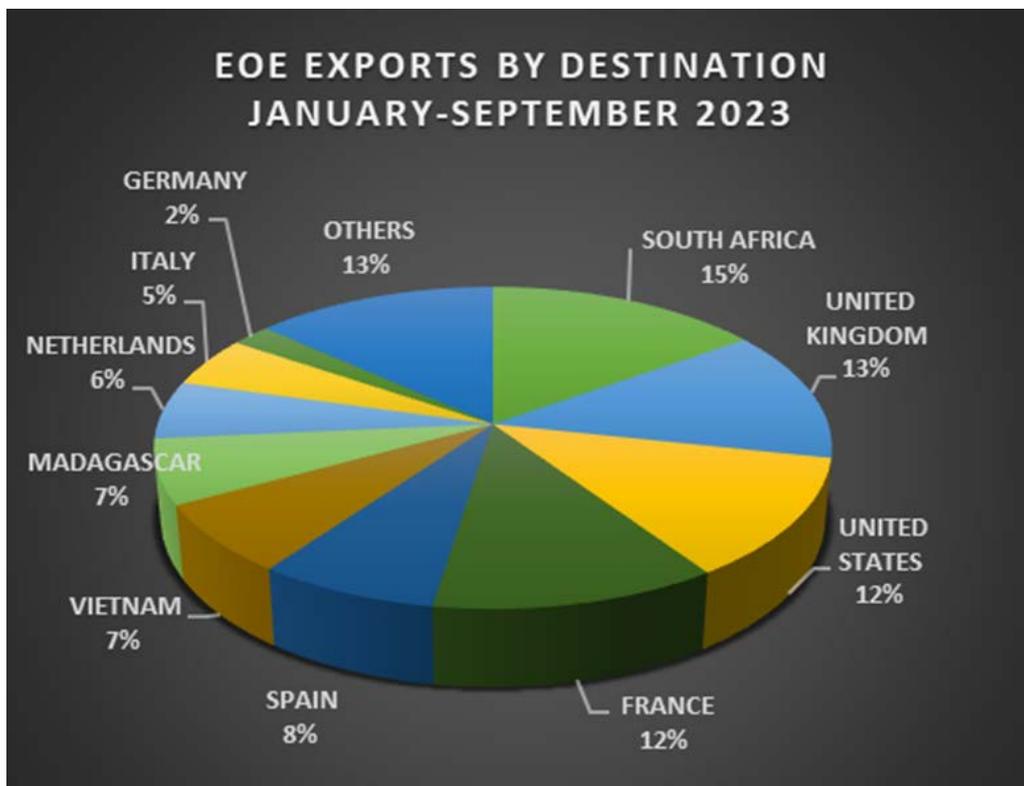
The Honourable Minister mentioned that, in terms of export destinations, South Africa has maintained its leading position, followed closely by United Kingdom, USA and France.

## PRESS CONFERENCE

# PRESS CONFERENCE ON PERFORMANCE OF THE EXPORT-ORIENTED ENTERPRISES (EOES)

(Continued)

He also added that Government's assistance to the EOE sector, under the various support schemes, has proved to be instrumental in maintaining competitiveness of manufacturing enterprises. As a matter of fact, since 2015, a total amount of Rs 1.6 billion has been disbursed to industry operators under schemes such as Support for Trade Promotion and Marketing Scheme, Freight Rebate Scheme, Export Credit Guarantee Insurance Scheme and Participation in International Fairs SMEs Refund Scheme.



The Honourable Minister underscored the vulnerabilities of the EOE Sector in the face of external challenges which are beyond control. He stressed that the market conditions have evolved adversely for some products, including textile and clothing items, which are now subject to lower global demand and fiercer competition from low-cost producers. As a matter of fact, the overall export performance in 2023 would not be as expected. Nonetheless, the Honourable Minister reiterated the commitment of Government to strengthen its support to the export manufacturing community in a drive to reverse the declining export trend.

## NLE AWARD CEREMONY 2023

# NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ENGINE (NLE) 2023 CONCLUDES WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

27 November 2023



Prize-giving ceremony by the NPCC at the Core Building, Ebène

On 25 November 2023, the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation, organized the National Leadership Engine (NLE) 2023 Award Ceremony which marked the culmination of the fifth edition of the event.

The winners and runner ups of the NLE 2023 were announced on the occasion.



**National  
Leadership  
Engine**

Developing a Leadership pipeline

### The winners were as follows:

- **Grand Winner:** Paraboot - Flacq region
- **Second Winner:** Papye Latwal - Lower Plains Wilhems region
- **Third Winner:** Cap Lor Recyclage - Port Louis region



# NLE AWARD CEREMONY 2023

(Continued)



**National  
Leadership  
Engine**

Participants of NLE 2023, including 200 youths who worked on some 35 community-based projects, were presented at the NLE 2023 Ceremony. Former participants, members of the Leadership Engine Action Drivers (LEAD) and other stakeholders also attended the function.

It is noteworthy to mention that the NLE project has become a reference among Mauritian youths who intend to hone their leadership skills and embark on a journey to bring positive transformations in their respective communities.

The NLE project aims at creating a pipeline of leaders to achieve higher productivity and better living for the nation. More than 200 youths were enrolled for the training in the following regions namely, Black River, Upper Plaines Wilhems, Lower Plaines Wilhems, Port Louis, Pamplemousses, Flacq, Rivière du Rempart, Grand Port, Savanne and Moka. Youths aged 16 and above were empowered with personal and social competences which they demonstrated by conceptualising and implementing community-based projects in their locality. For this year's edition, the NPCC had conducted the training in leadership skills in July 2023. Immediately afterwards, in August 2023, a regional assessment of projects and a national assessment were carried out.

During the award ceremony, Mrs. D. Boygah, Executive Director of the NPCC, stressed on the importance for the youths to create opportunities and contribute in the progress of the society and economy. She pointed out that **"...You have access to information and technology. You should use these tools to innovate, bring solutions to problems in our society and come up with initiatives to create wealth, not only in monetary terms, but spiritual, cultural, familial, social and entrepreneurial..."**. She reminded parents to act as role models to inspire the new generations to become model citizens.

During his intervention at the event, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, exhorted the youths to focus on current issues such as climate change and unemployment. He indicated that **"...At the level of my ministry, we are doing everything to promote a culture of entrepreneurship among the youths. As such, they can employ themselves and create jobs for others. Moreover, it has been observed that, out of every ten start-ups, seven cease to exist after some time and this is due to lack of training. Hence, we are putting a lot of emphasis on training so that our young entrepreneurs can continue learning and sustain their business..."**.

One of the main highlights of the event was the motivational speech of Dr Sharon Hill, Adjunct Professor at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University, U.S.A. Since 2016, she is the Academic Director for Leadership Institute of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. She designs and implements Public Management Leadership Programme for individuals from across Sub-Saharan Africa. She has been involved in diverse leadership programmes across the world and was conducting a visit to Mauritius under the collaboration of the NPCC and the U.S Embassy in Mauritius. During her stay, she conducted a series of workshops on leadership as well as a Master-Class for NLE participants. During her intervention at the event, Dr Sharon Hill encouraged the Mauritian youths to nurture their leadership skills and indicated that it was very important for them to be humble and empathic, particularly when evolving in a globally dynamic landscape. She pointed out that the youths have to continue to ignite, drive and inspire other youths and added that **"...Like the engine provides power to move the car, youth is the power to move the country..."**.



## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

# EMBRACING DIGITALISATION THROUGH THE MANUFACTURING 4.0 PROJECT

11-15 December 2023

The Industrial Development Division of the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, with the collaboration of the Commonwealth Secretariat, is currently implementing a **"Manufacturing 4.0"** project with the objective to assist enterprises adopt advanced technologies associated with Industry 4.0 such as robotics, artificial intelligence, Industrial Internet of Things, Cloud Computing and 3D printing in their production processes.

The Project started in January 2023 and is being executed in three phases.

Phase One, which was completed in June 2023, involved the preparation of a Report by the Consultancy Firm namely, International Economics Consulting Ltd, selected by Commonwealth Secretariat to assess the level of digitalisation attained by the manufacturing sector. The Report highlighted, amongst others, that many enterprises in the manufacturing sector have already adopted basic automation capabilities and are gradually moving towards more advanced technologies into their operations.

Phase Two comprised a capacity-building programme for eight selected manufacturing enterprises from cross-cutting sectors (Food Processing and Beverages, Textile and Clothing, Jewellery, Medical Devices, Printing and Publishing and Tyre Retreading) to assist them in identifying appropriate advanced technologies for greater competitiveness. The University of Warwick's Manufacturing Group based in the United Kingdom was selected by the Commonwealth Secretariat to carry out this exercise.

In this context, Mr. Niels Strazdins, Trade Specialist at Commonwealth Secretariat (also the focal point for the Project) as well as the consultants from the University of Warwick's Manufacturing Group, namely, Dr. Hamid Moradlou, Associate Professor in Supply Chain Management, Mr. Onur Eren, Technology Leader and Mr. Tarek El-Said, Supply Chain Business Consultant, conducted a mission, from 11 to 15 December 2023, to Mauritius.

The mission kickstarted with a courtesy visit paid onto Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives by Mr. N. Strazdins and the team of consultants. The Honourable Minister extended his appreciation to the Commonwealth Secretariat for its support in the implementation of the **"Manufacturing 4.0"** and discussions centred mainly on areas of cooperation which could be further deepened for mutual benefit.



From left to right: Mr. V.A. Putchay, Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Mr. N. Strazdins, Trade Specialist, Commonwealth Secretariat, Mr. O. Eren, Technology Leader, University of Warwick's Manufacturing Group, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Dr. Hamid Moradlou, Associate Professor and Dr. T. El-Said, Supply Chain Business Consultant, University of Warwick's Manufacturing Group

# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

## EMBRACING DIGITALISATION THROUGH THE MANUFACTURING 4.0 PROJECT

(Continued)

On 11 December 2023, the consultants conducted a training session with the technical staff of the Ministry to equip them with the required knowledge on the adoption of Manufacturing 4.0 technologies for policy-making.



Training session with Technical Staff of the Ministry

During the five days' mission, the consultants also delivered customised capacity building programmes at the premises of the eight manufacturing enterprises to guide them embrace appropriate advanced technologies in their production processes.



### In-house interventions



The “*Manufacturing 4.0*” project will conclude with Phase Three, whereby beneficiary enterprises, will form part of a delegation to visit a Commonwealth country, with the objective to learn best practices in the adoption of Manufacturing 4.0 technologies in production plants.

## PRESS CONFERENCE

# PRESS CONFERENCE ON ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2023

14 December 2023

Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives held a Press Conference on **14 December 2023** to highlight the achievements of his Ministry for the year 2023. In regard to the Industrial Development Division, he emphasised on the tremendous efforts being made to support manufacturing enterprises through dedicated projects, programmes and other activities so as to build their resilience and enhance competitiveness. He recalled that manufacturing activities are important to economic growth as they account for **13.8%** of Gross Value Addition and provides gainful employment to some **85,000** persons.

The Honourable Minister stated that, despite the difficult international trading environment, the manufacturing industry recorded exports of **Rs38.3 billion** for the period **January to September 2023**. As usual, the Export-Oriented Enterprises Sector has been the driving force to achieve this laudable performance through exports of textile and clothing, fish and fish preparations, jewellery and medical devices. He affirmed that since 2015, an amount of **Rs1.6 billion** has been disbursed by Government under various support schemes to assist industry operators in their export drive.

He added that the manufacturing sector continues to modernise and keep abreast of latest technological developments as evidenced by the high-level of investment to the tune of **Rs5.87 billion** in machinery and equipment, as part of Gross Fixed Capital Formation. The establishment of the AVA Techno Park at Côte D'or at a cost of over **Rs1 billion** and setting up of new production units in food processing, plastic packaging, recycling and aromatherapy were also underscored in an endeavour to broaden the manufacturing base.



From left to right: Mr. V.A. Putchay, Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Mrs. C. Jhowry, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division)

The Honourable Minister apprised that the Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (2020-2025) has reached an advanced level of implementation with 68% of projects already realised. He further mentioned that the **"Manufacturing 4.0"** Project, funded by Commonwealth Secretariat, is in its second phase with in-house interventions at selected enterprises by a team from the University of Warwick's Manufacturing Group. Moreover, he informed that the **"Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator"** Project, with assistance from Global Environment Facility is under implementation with the objective to lead industry operators on a green and sustainable pathway for greater competitiveness. As announced in Budget 2023-2024, an Energy Efficiency Audit Scheme is now operational to encourage large energy consumers in the manufacturing sector to embark on energy audits in line with the Carbon Neutral Industrial Sector Strategy.

## PRESS CONFERENCE

# PRESS CONFERENCE ON ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2023

(Continued)



Press Conference

On another note, the Honourable Minister reminded of the importance of African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to the Mauritian export community and the utmost necessity to have it renewed as soon as possible for greater visibility on the US market. He referred to the high-level mission he led to the USA in August 2023, whereby he had the opportunity to impress upon prominent US officials for an early extension of AGOA.

In his final remarks, the Honourable Minister conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to all valued partners, stakeholders and industry players for their esteemed collaboration throughout the year. He expressed his optimism for a more productive year ahead and gave assurance that Government will intensify its support to the business community to achieve higher industrial growth for prosperity of the nation.

## INFORMATION CORNER

# DIAMOND GRADING SERVICE AT THE ASSAY OFFICE

In 2008, the Assay Office set up the Gemmology Laboratory which aims to verify and certify the authenticity and quality of gemstones, including diamonds, as per international standards.

### Three main types of Diamonds

Diamonds occur naturally as precious stones in the earth's crust. However, there exists Diamond Simulants such as synthetic cubic zirconia, synthetic moissanite, GGG, YAG, synthetic sapphire etc.

There are also man-made Diamonds which are often referred as Lab-Grown or Synthetic Diamonds.

**GGG: Gadolinium Gallium Garnet**

**YAG: Yttrium Aluminium Garnet**

### i) Natural Diamonds

Diamonds are the earth's hardest natural substance. The only thing that can scratch a diamond is another diamond. Diamonds come in a variety of colours, the most common being the colourless one. Rare fancy natural diamond colours include red, pink, orange, yellow, blue, green and purple. Diamonds are found in a variety of geological locations around the world.



Figure 1 - Coloured Diamonds  
(Source: Essential -International Luxury)

The most common diamond cuts include the round brilliant cut (RBC), cushion, emerald, radiant, marquise, oval, pear and princess cuts.



Figure 2 - Diamond Cuts  
(Source: Diamond Cuts – Alex Appleton Jewellers)



## INFORMATION CORNER

# DIAMOND GRADING SERVICE AT THE ASSAY OFFICE

(Continued)

### ii) Diamond Simulants

Diamond simulants are gemstones that imitate natural diamonds but they differ in appearance and composition. Furthermore, simulants do not have the same properties as diamonds and they are cheaper than both natural and laboratory-grown diamonds. Examples of diamond simulants are Synthetic Cubic Zirconia (CZ), Synthetic Moissanite and Gadolinium Gallium Garnet (GGG). Diamond is the hardest substance with a rating of 10 on the Mohs scale of hardness while Moissanite is ranked at 9.25 and Cubic Zirconia is 8.5 which make them more vulnerable to damage than diamond.

### iii) Lab-Grown Diamonds

Laboratory-grown diamonds also known as synthetic diamonds are created in laboratories by advanced technologies and they cannot be easily identified from natural diamonds except by competent Gemmologists. In addition, they have the same composition and durability as compared to natural diamonds. The production of Laboratory-grown diamonds can take between two weeks and two months whereas natural diamonds take millions of years to be formed in the Earth's crust. Laboratory-grown diamonds are approximately 50 % cheaper than natural diamonds and they will be less costly over time as production methods will become more efficient.



### Grading of Diamonds at the Gemmology Laboratory

- Diamond Grading Services are performed by trained Diamond Graders since 2011.
- Equipment used to differentiate diamonds from its synthetic counterparts are '*Diamond Sure*' and '*Diamond View*'. A maximum of three diamonds are graded within 3 working days, which gives an insight on the complexity of grading.



Figure 3 – '*Diamond Sure*' Equipment

- With a view to improving its services, the Gemmology Laboratory has recently procured one state of the art equipment, namely, the '*Diamond Check*', to verify the authenticity of both loose and mounted diamonds.



Figure 4 - Diamond Check

## INFORMATION CORNER

# DIAMOND GRADING SERVICE AT THE ASSAY OFFICE

(Continued)

### Grading of Diamonds at the Gemmology Laboratory

- Diamond is graded based on their “4 Cs” – Carat weight, Colour, Clarity, and Cut, to determine its value. Instruments used for diamond grading are 10X loupe, Diamond Colour grading set and Gemmological Microscope.
- Reports are issued according to international standards. With a view to providing its customers with better services, the Assay Office has introduced a new service whereby a customer may easily view its individual report through the [Assay Office website](#).
- The fee charged for grading of Diamonds at the Assay Office is at a very competitive price of Rs450/- per stone, irrespective of the carat weight whereas for other internationally recognized institutions, the fee charged increases as the carat weight increases. For instance, the fee for grading of a Diamond of weight 0.23 to 0.46 Carats at a subsidiary of the GIA (Gemmological Institute of America) situated in India is 4,885 Indian Rupees. The fees for grading of a diamond of 0.47 to 0.69 Carats and 0.70 to 0.99 Carats are 5,300 and 6,400 Indian Rupees respectively. In Switzerland, at the Swiss Gemmological Institute, the grading of a diamond of weight 0.25 to 0.49 Carats costs 360 Swiss Franc (MUR 18,000). For a diamond of 0.50 to 0.99 Carats, the grading costs 480 Swiss Franc (MUR 24,000).

#### Assay Office (Mauritius)

- price of Rs 450/- per stone

#### Gemmological Institute of America (India)

- Fee charged for a diamond of 0.5 carat: Rs 5,300.

#### Swiss Gemmological Institute (Switzerland)

- Fee charged for a diamond of 0.5 carat: Rs 24,000.

Figure 5 – Comparison of fees charged for diamond grading  
(Source: GIA, SSEF)

- A total of 71 diamonds were graded by the Gemmology Laboratory of the Assay Office for the period June 2023 to August 2023, as illustrated in figure 6 below.

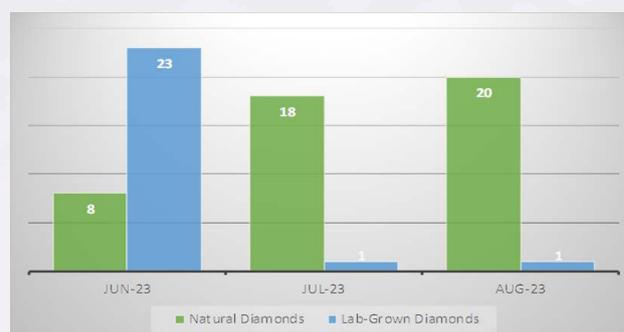


Figure 6 – Number of Natural and Lab-Grown Diamonds graded

- Through the services offered by the Gemmology Laboratory, the Assay Office ensures that customers obtain value for money while purchasing diamonds and that they are aware of the different types of diamonds available and on the possibility of verification and grading of their diamonds.

### Some Interesting facts on Diamonds

- A single carat of diamond is produced from 250 tons of Earth.
- In 1905, the Cullinan diamond of 3106 carats was the largest diamond ever discovered. It was cut into nine large diamonds and 100 smaller ones, and the largest ones are currently on display in the Tower of London as part of the crown jewels.
- Diamond is the birthstone of April.
- The Wittelsbach-Graff of 31.06 carat is one of the largest historic blue diamond ever fashioned. It was sold in December 2008 at Christie's London to jeweler Laurence Graff for just over \$24.3 million.

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# 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

Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB)

Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI)

National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC)

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