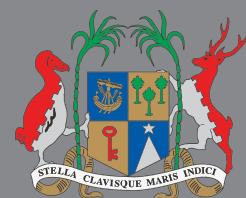


Industry Digest

ISSUE 1



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

June 2021

A focus on Industrial Development

Presenting the
1st Edition of our
Newsletter



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REPORT

Launching of the Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan 2020-2025

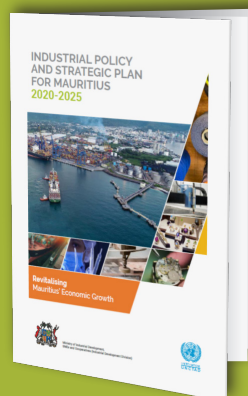
On 04 December 2020, the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division) launched its Industrial Policy and Strategy Plan (IPSP) (2020-2025) as a roadmap to shape the future contours of industrial development. This was made possible with the technical and financial assistance of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), with Professor Justin Barnes as Consultant for the project.



The IPSP is the outcome of extensive consultations with all stakeholders of the manufacturing sector. It aims at uplifting the manufacturing sector to a more competitive, innovative, technology-driven and resource-efficiency pedestal to withstand the global emerging challenges. The IPSP revolves around five Focus Areas, namely industry foundations, upgrading of value chains, increased

domestic market supply, regional and global export growth and advanced technology absorption. It incorporates also sectoral recommendations for four key sectors, namely textile & clothing, food processing and fish preparations, medical devices and pharmaceuticals, and jewellery.

Key stakeholders, including MEXA, MCCI, Business Mauritius, AMM and EDB Mauritius as well as Captains of Industry were present during the launching ceremony. UNCTAD was virtually represented by Mr. Richard Kozul-Wright, Director of the Globalisation and Development Strategy Division, Mr. Pierguiseppe Fortunato, Project Leader, including Professor Justin Barnes.



A monitoring mechanism by way of an Industrial Policy Oversight Committee, comprising public and private sector representatives, was set up to ensure the implementation of the recommendations in the document.

[View the document here](#)

FACTORY VISIT

Visit to a Garment Factory - Wensum Ltd



The Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Honourable S. Bholah, effected a visit at Wensum Ltd, situated at La Brasserie Forest Side, on 02 March 2021. The enterprise started operation as Corona Clothing Ltd in 1971 with an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) certificate. It has since undergone several takeovers and is now owned locally.

Wensum Ltd manufactures tailor-made suits and formal wear for exports to UK, EU, USA, Asia and Africa. Wensum Ltd has exported suits to renowned international entities such as Bespoken, Carini, Serge Blanco, Harrods and Christian Dior.

The company has shown resilience and safeguarded the jobs of some 330 employees despite the daunting challenges brought about by the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

During the visit, the Minister emphasized that Government has put in place a host of support measures such as the Freight Rebate Scheme and the Trade Promotion Marketing Scheme to assist enterprises in their efforts to enhance competitiveness.



DISCOVER

The Assay Office

The Assay Office, set up under the Jewellery Act 2007, ensures that the Jewellery Industry operates within the existing legal framework to safeguard the interest of consumers when buying and selling jewellery as well as to foster greater confidence among consumers.



It operates two laboratories:

- Assay Laboratory - for testing of Jewellery or alloys made of Gold, Silver and Platinum. It is the first Public laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 by MAURITAS.
- Gemmology Laboratory - for verification of Gemstones and Grading of Diamond. It is certified to MS ISO 9001: 2015 by the MSB.



The Assay Office, through regular inspections, ensures that jewellery offered for sale in jewellery shops conform to national norms. On average, 550 visits are carried out annually for consumer protection.

It is to be noted that any person submitting jewellery for testing may witness the tests being performed.

[Visit the website here](#)



**Assay
OFFICE**

TESTING FEES PER JEWELLERY/GEMSTONE

- Testing of gold, silver and platinum jewellery : Rs 75
- Valuation of Jewellery : Rs 250
- Testing of Gemstones : Rs 250

Services/Activities of the Assay Office

Testing of gold, silver, platinum jewellery and their alloys

Verification of precious and semi-precious stones

Grading of diamonds

Inspection visits to ensure compliance with the Jewellery Act 2007

Valuation of jewellery

Registration of Jewellers dealing in gold, silver, platinum jewellery and precious or semi-precious stone

Registration of Sponsor's marks, Identification marks and Importer's marks for Jewellers

Endorsement of Ownership Declaration Form for sale of second hand jewellery

Investigation into complaints from public

Sale of second hand jewellery

Any person willing to sell his jewellery has to fill in an Ownership Declaration Form (ODF) at the jeweller's business premises and produce it to the Assay Office or to the nearest Police Station in his locality whereby his name and address are certified against his NIC and utility bill for proof of address.



The person should pay a prescribed fee based on the mass of the jewellery:

- For jewellery of mass less or equal to 5g, a payment of Rs 100 is required.
- For jewellery of mass greater than 5g, a payment of Rs 300 is required. The person is guaranteed of obtaining 70% of the price of gold based on the gold content in his jewellery.

MAURITAS

Mauritius Accreditation Service



Background

The Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS) is a Department under the Ministry responsible for the subject of Industrial Development, following the adoption of the MAURITIUS ACCREDITATION SERVICE ACT 1998.

Main Functions

The main functions of MAURITAS are to:

- provide a national, unified service for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) i.e laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.
- To establish agreements on mutual recognition with other national, regional and international accreditation bodies and to obtain and maintain international acceptance of the competence of organisations accredited by MAURITAS.

TIPS

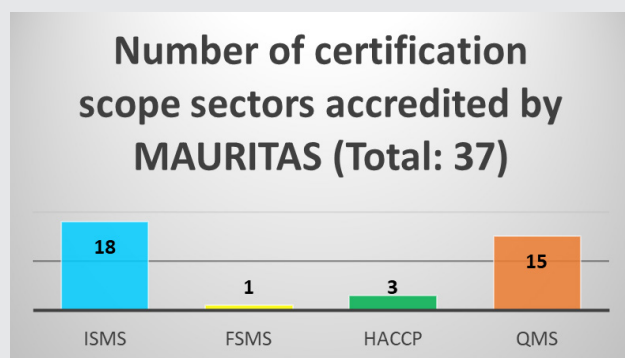
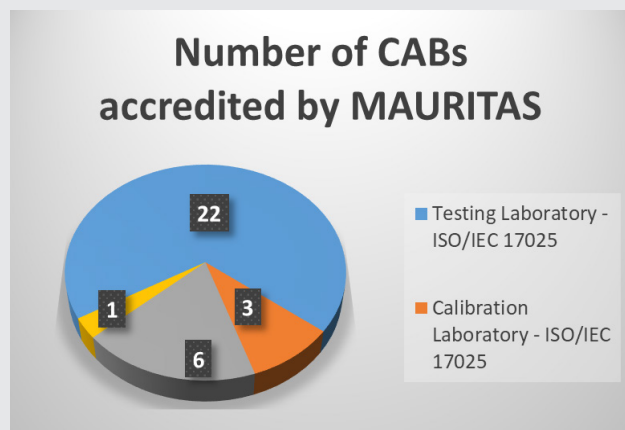
Difference between accreditation and certification.

- **Accreditation** is a formal recognition of the competence of an organization.
- **Certification** confirms compliance of an organization to standards.

Accreditation Programmes

- Laboratories (testing and calibration) as per MS ISO/IEC 17025 and
- Laboratories (medical) as per MS ISO 15189
- Certification bodies as per MS ISO/IEC 17021-1

Major Achievements in Figures



To obtain accreditation, laboratories/certification bodies have to pay fees as per respective regulations.

<http://www.mauritas.org/files/L.pdf>

<http://www.mauritas.org/files/regulation2013.pdf>

International Recognition

MAURITAS is a signatory member to the following Mutual/Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MRAs):

- African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC MRA) 28 September 2018;
- International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC MRA) 4 October 2018;
- International Accreditation Forum (IAF MLA) 17 October 2018; and
- Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA MRA) 14 March 2019.

MAURITIUS STANDARDS BUREAU

Signature de la Déclaration sur les Normes et l'élaboration des Normes tenant compte des questions de genre

La Journée Internationale de la Femme est célébrée le 8 Mars de chaque année. Cette journée mondiale honore les réalisations sociales, économiques, culturelles et politiques des femmes.

A travers le monde, cette journée est une occasion de réfléchir sur la situation des femmes dans la société en général, leurs revendications et la disparité qui existe entre homme et femme dans plusieurs milieux professionnels. Elle marque également un appel à l'action pour accélérer la parité entre les hommes et les femmes.

Au Mauritius Standards Bureau, nous sommes convaincus que la femme joue un rôle prépondérant dans le développement des normes. C'est dans cette logique que le Bureau a signé la Déclaration sur les Normes et participe activement à leurs élaboration en tenant compte des besoins spécifiques des femmes. Cette déclaration est une initiative de La Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Europe qui vise à renforcer l'utilisation des normes et les réglementations techniques en tant qu'outils appropriés pour atteindre les Objectifs de Développement Durable, notamment ODD 5:

Réaliser l'égalité des sexes et autonomiser toutes les femmes et les filles.

La parité entre hommes et femmes ainsi que l'autonomie des femmes demeurent indispensables pour réaliser les dix-sept Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD).

La normalisation contribue aussi à trouver des solutions à de nombreux défis mondiaux tels que le changement climatique, le développement durable et la croissance économique. Il est bon de faire ressortir qu'atteindre un consensus est le fondement même des travaux de normalisation. Par conséquent, le Bureau a pris des initiatives pour assurer la représentativité des femmes durant toutes les phases menant à l'élaboration des normes. Le Bureau est aussi partie prenante de toute action visant à créer un environnement propice à la parité entre hommes et femmes.

Selon Madame S. Boygah, General Manager du Mauritius Standards Bureau, l'égalité des genres ne consiste pas seulement à placer des femmes à des postes élevés, mais aussi à bénéficier de leurs talents, compétences et savoir-faire pour l'avancement de la société. Les femmes y apportent également une contribution non-négligeable dans la production des biens et services.



[Visit the website here](#)



PANDÉMIE

Assurer des conditions de travail sûres

Le Mauritius Standards Bureau annonce la publication de la norme ISO/PAS 45005 :2020 « **Occupational health and safety management – General guidelines for safe working during the COVID-19 pandemic** » dans l'optique de mieux gérer les bouleversements causés par le COVID-19 dans le monde du travail.

Développée par l'ISO (International Organization for Standardization), la norme ISO/PAS 45005 réunit les meilleures pratiques internationales en matière de management de la santé et de la sécurité des employés et des parties prenantes, dans le cadre de COVID-19. Elle vise à définir des directives génériques qui complèteront les recommandations et les réglementations nationales en vigueur, pour combattre cette pandémie.

La norme est disponible au « **Standards Information Centre** » du Mauritius Standards Bureau. Le Bureau invite toutes les organisations, quelle que soit leur taille, à s'appuyer sur la norme ISO/PAS 45005 pour assurer la protection de leurs employés tout en continuant de fonctionner de manière efficace.



FASHION & DESIGN INSTITUTE

Mini Art Exhibition



Sustainable Gift Boxes



Paper making from Ravenala tree and Bagasse



Printing on Ravenala Paper & Sustainable Paper Bags



Students of the Fashion and Design Institute exhibited their artworks at the Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium, Réduit on 14 December 2020 during their Graduation ceremony. The exhibition is a major event, marking the end of their Academic Year. The exhibition allows students to showcase their creative talents, which serves as a starter for their professional career. Visitors had an overview of the plethora of artworks in the fields of Fashion & Textiles, Graphic Design, Art Practice, Art & Design and Interior Design. Techniques and processes included printmaking, paintings, research drawings, mood boards, digital and video campaigns.

Circular Design Workshop & Exhibition

The Fashion and Design Institute participated in the Circular Design Workshop & Exhibition on 13 November 2020 in collaboration with the Ellen McArthur Foundation, B-Corp and La Decheteque. Students of the FDI had the opportunity to showcase their products and know-how and network with Circular Design Practitioners with a view to exploring avenues of collaboration.

Industries present showed interest in the creative works of the students who gave a second life to used and recycled materials, thus contributing to meet our Sustainable Government Goals.



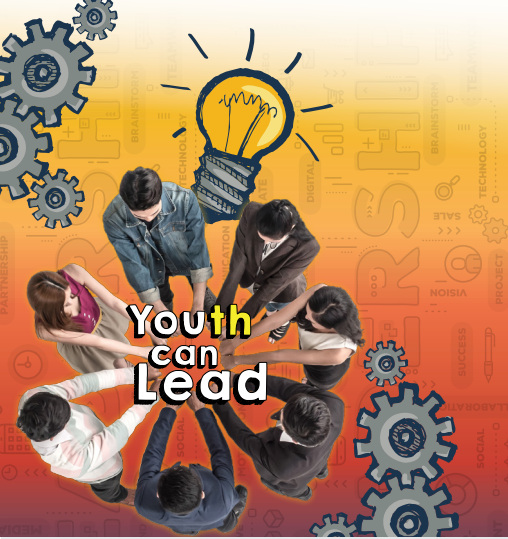
In line with the concept of sustainability, students also displayed artworks on Green Building functioning with maximum use of renewable energy.



Other products



[Visit the website here](#)



National Leadership Engine

Developing a leadership pipeline

MAURITIAN YOUNG LEADERS

Award of the National Leadership Engine (NLE) 2020

The National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) organised its second edition of the National Leadership Engine (NLE) Convention on Saturday 23 January 2021 at the Octave Wiéhé Auditorium, Réduit where the Prime Minister, Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, was the Chief Guest of the function.

The NLE project aims at building leadership capabilities among youth in Mauritius. The NLE is based on the "Leadership Brand", developed by the NPCC with various stakeholders in 2015. It consists of four differentiators: Together, Innovating, Trusted and Excellence. The project is the first of its kind in Mauritius and strongly involves the present generation of our people to learn and adopt leadership skills, which will in turn have a positive impact on our economy and society as a whole. The overall aim of the project is to influence the youth of today to emerge as self-confident leaders in the Mauritius of the future, thus creating a new breed of leaders at all levels, who can operate seamlessly in the public and private sectors and civil society.



During the Convention, the three best projects implemented in 2020 were awarded, namely:

Winner: Shellter pou ene meyer lamer (Souillac Youth Centre) – The project aimed at providing a helping hand to combat the degrading marine ecosystem.

Continued on p13 >>

[Visit the website here](#)



MAURITIAN YOUNG LEADERS (Continued)

Award of the National Leadership Engine (NLE) 2020 projects



First Runner Up: Donn li so coco (Mahébourg Youth Centre) – The project was about producing pots based on coconut shells as a substitute for normal plastic pots for plant potting purposes.

Some 40 projects were successfully implemented in NLE 2020 and involved more than 300 youths. Former team leaders of NLE 2019 were roped in NLE 2020 as co-trainers. The projects covered issues in the participants' respective communities. They had to come up with sustainable solutions to these issues and through the whole project demonstrate their abilities and leadership skills.

At the event, Honourable S. Bholah, highlighted the importance to rethink the post-Covid economic and social architecture. The country more than ever needs the youth of Mauritius to face the challenges imposed by Covid-19. Young people will have a major role to play in restarting economic activities to boost up the economy.



National Leadership Engine

Second Runner Up: ZEN Mental Health (Flacq Youth Centre) – The project was about advocating about mental health as a vital element of overall health and wellbeing.

Industry Digest

**This Newsletter has been prepared
in collaboration with:**

Industrial Development Division

Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS)

Assay Office

Mauritius Standards Bureau

National Productivity and Competitiveness Council

Fashion and Design Institute



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