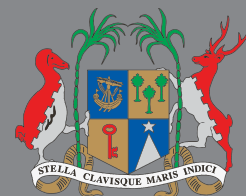


Industry Digest

ISSUE 3



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

June 2022



What's inside?

Manufacturing Sector on the Move...

Springing from COVID-19 Crisis



Performance of Export Oriented Enterprise (EOE) Sector in 2021

[Read More](#) 5



Mission of Honourable Soomilduth Bholah in Dubai

[Read More](#) 7



National Policy dialogue on the Manufacturing Sector

[Read More](#) 12

VISIT

VISIT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER AT THE ASSAY OFFICE

25 January 2022

The Honourable Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Mr. Soomilduth Bholah, accompanied by Mrs. Bibi Fatwma Abdool Raman Ahmed (Permanent Secretary), Mr. J. Daniel Philippe Labonne (Deputy Permanent Secretary) and Mrs. Ema Hassea (Assistant Permanent Secretary) effected a site visit at the Assay Office on 25 January 2022.



Endorsement of Ownership Declaration at Counter

The aim was to showcase the daily activities of the Office, as well as the services it provides to the public. These comprise testing services for precious metals and precious stones, and endorsement of declaration of ownership for sale of second-hand jewellery. Demonstrations were carried out in the ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory of Assay Office, for the testing of precious metals using the different methods such as X-Ray Spectrometry, Touchstone and Cupellation.

QUICK FACTS

For the period January to December 2021, 5,979 ownership declaration forms have been endorsed by the Assay Office and a total of 407 samples of jewellery/precious metal alloys have been tested by its Laboratory.

Assay Laboratory



Demonstration of testing of precious metals using X-Ray Spectrometry method in the Assay Laboratory



Demonstration of Touchstone testing in the Assay Laboratory.

DID YOU KNOW?



- X-Ray Spectrometry is a non-destructive and accurate test method used to measure the content of gold, silver, platinum and palladium in jewellery and alloys.
- Touchstone testing is a non-destructive test method for testing of gold jewellery.

VISIT (continued)

VISIT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER AT THE ASSAY OFFICE

25 January 2022

Assay Laboratory



Demonstration of Touchstone testing in the Assay Laboratory.

Gemmology Laboratory

The Minister was also able to witness the testing of precious stones in the Gemmology Laboratory, with state-of-the-art equipment such as the refractometer, the gemmological microscope, hydrostatic balance and the DiamondCheck. A brief explanation was also provided on how diamonds are graded, based on the 4 C's criteria (Cut, Colour, Carat and Clarity) in order to determine their quality and price.

During the visit, it was highlighted that the Assay Office ensures the operation of the jewellery industry within the existing legal framework. The export of jewellery currently generates around Rs 4 billion for the country and this figure is bound to increase.



Demonstration of the DiamondCheck equipment to verify the authenticity of diamond in the Gemmology Laboratory

DID YOU KNOW?

- Cupellation is a destructive test method and is the reference method for testing of gold in gold alloys and jewellery based on ISO 11426.



- The Gemmology Laboratory has verified 596 gemstones and graded 167 diamonds for the period January to December 2021.

SEMINAR

“THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (MSMES) IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: COUNTRY EXPERIENCES AND A FOCUS ON BUILDING BACK BETTER IN MAURITIUS”

Sofitel The Obelisk, Dubai, 8 February 2022

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Business Council and the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division) organised a one-day hybrid seminar themed “The Impact of Covid-19 on Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in Southern Africa: Country Experiences and a Focus on Building Back better in Mauritius”.

The event was held in a spirit of fostering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”. Delegates from different Southern African countries namely Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique and other UNECA representatives participated in the seminar.

In the morning session, Mrs. Bibi Fatwma Abdool Raman Ahmed, Permanent Secretary, made a presentation on the topic: “Impact of Covid-19 on MSMEs in Southern Africa: Country level experiences and the way forward under the AfCFTA”.



Presentation by Mrs. Bibi Fatwma Abdool Raman Ahmed, Permanent Secretary

The afternoon session was dedicated on “Enhancing the Resilience of Manufacturing Sector in Mauritius in the Post Covid-19 Era”. On this occasion, the Honourable Minister Bholah delivered a Keynote Address, where he expatiated that business models, centered around regenerative manufacturing and carbon neutral production practices, represent the future for enhanced prosperity. Representatives of the Industrial Development Division, Economic Development Board, Mauritius Standards Bureau, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Association of Mauritian Manufacturers also made insightful presentations on the future development of the Mauritian manufacturing sector.

Meeting with Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Thursday 10 February 2022

In the margin of the seminar, the Honourable Minister together with the Permanent Secretary and the Secretary General of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, met His Excellency Mr Hamad Buamin, President and Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to discuss further mutual collaboration.



The Honourable Minister conversing with His Excellency Mr Hamad Buamin, President and Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 10 February 2022

VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT

PERFORMANCE OF EXPORT ORIENTED ENTERPRISE (EOE) SECTOR IN 2021

24 February 2022

The EOE Sector registered a growth of 14.6% in 2021 compared to 2020 to reach Rs 42.7 billion. It is gratifying to note that our export performance has witnessed a major rebound and has overtaken its pre-pandemic level of 2019.

The EOE Sector performance in 2021 was very encouraging and may be attributed to a series of factors including:

- a relative increase in export orders from our traditional markets as well as South Africa;
- strong output of main sub-sectors including Apparel, Fish and Fish Preparations, Jewellery and Medical devices;
- positive impact of support measures such as Freight Rebate Scheme and Support for Trade Promotion and Marketing Scheme (TPMS) which have enhanced export competitiveness; and
- extensive use of export promotional activities such as participation in the Intra-Africa Trade Fair, virtual trade shows in the area of fashion with USA and South Africa, and the promotion of local rum in “ProWine” event in India.



Snapshot of the press conference on the performance of EOE sector in 2021

VISIT

ENTERPRISE VISIT AT AAH UPHOLSTERY LTD

8 March 2022



On 8 March 2022, the Ministry effected an enterprise visit led by the Honourable Minister, Mr. Soomilduth Bholah, to AAH Upholstery Ltd which is located in Plaine Lauzun. The medium-sized enterprise is engaged mainly in the manufacture of furniture such as sofa sets, bedheads, and bases as well as boat seats. It also undertakes upholstery works for the automobile industry, including repairs and manufacturing of car seats, roofs and door trims as well as dashboards.

The enterprise was incorporated in 2012 as “AAH Upholstery Ltd” and its brand name is “Comfort Zone”. Its current workforce consists of a team of about 30 people including six expatriates from Bangladesh.

AAH Upholstery Ltd is also a member of the ‘Made in Moris’ network. At present, the company is exporting car covers to the United Kingdom. Its main local customers include Ligne Doran Contracting Ltd, Panache and Company Limited, Manser Saxon Contracting Limited, Taylor Smith Boatyard Ltd as well as some governmental bodies.

The enterprise intends to consolidate its foothold in the local market and is targeting to have an international presence by also exporting to the region. Furthermore, it is considering expanding its operations by opening a new Showroom in Bagatelle Smart City.

MISSION

MISSION OF HONOURABLE SOOMILDUTH BHOLAH, MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, SMES AND COOPERATIVES IN DUBAI

14-19 March 2022

The Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah led an official delegation to Dubai from 14 to 19 March 2022. The delegation comprised Mrs. B.F. Abdool Raman Ahmed, Permanent Secretary, and officials from the Industrial Development Division and Fashion and Design Institute. The Honourable Minister and his delegation participated in the following events:-

14 March 2022: The Retail Summit



Panel Discussion, The Retail Summit, Atlantis The Palm, Dubai, 14 March 2022

The Retail Summit is a global event held annually to bring together players involved in international trade. This year's edition was held at Atlantis The Palm in Dubai from 14 to 15 March 2022. This event brings together approximately 800 business executives and speakers from around the world. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Dubai, His Excellency, Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum accompanied by a delegation was also present during one of the Plenary Sessions of the Retail Summit.

Honourable Soomilduth Bholah acted as Speaker in the Panel Discussion which was themed "Exploring New Horizons: Revealing The Secrets of Success in Emerging Markets". During his intervention, the Honourable Minister showcased Mauritius as an ideal investment base and reliable sourcing destination. The participation of the Ministry in this event was part of a collaborative arrangement with the Economic Development Board (EDB).

The EDB also displayed "Made in Mauritius" products in the Exhibition Area of the Summit with the objective to bring into the limelight the Mauritian "savoir faire" to a host of potential buyers, mainly in the UAE and UK markets.

16 March 2022: Business Conference on "Mauritius: Our Journey towards Sustainable Transformation"



Snapshot of the Business Conference, One and Only, Royal Mirage, Dubai, 16 March 2022

The Business Conference was organised by the EDB in collaboration with the Ministry at One and Only Royal Mirage, Dubai. It aimed at positioning Mauritius as an ideal destination for business and at bringing to the forefront the transformation of Mauritius in its sustainability journey. Around 40 potential investors from the UAE attended the Conference, involved in high-value activities such as electric vehicles, special sugar as well as rum and spirits. During his keynote address, the Honourable Minister ventilated the positive attributes of Mauritius as a propitious investment base and emerging manufacturing hub within the region.

MISSION (continued)

MISSION OF HONOURABLE SOOMILDUTH BHOLAH, MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, SMES AND COOPERATIVES IN DUBAI

16 March 2022: Fashion Show “Fashion Innov 1.0: Roots of the Future”



Indian Era Designs portrayed by students of FDI

On 16 March 2022, the Fashion and Design Institute (FDI), which falls under the aegis of the Ministry, organised its first Fashion Show in the Middle East, on the theme “Fashion Innov 1.0: Roots of the Future”, jointly with the Economic Development Board at One and Only, Royal Mirage, Dubai.

The outfits of the Fashion Show were inspired by the history of Mauritius and featured the different influences of early colonisers and immigrants – Dutch, French, Chinese, British, Indian and African. The Fashion Show also depicted contemporary fashion and the future trend towards sustainability through the collections developed by the FDI, and local textile and clothing companies with the support of Carlin International, a Paris-based Agency of Trend Thinking. Fifty-one outfits, designed by twenty-two Final Year Students of the FDI, were showcased to display their know-how and talent on the international scene. Around 170 attendees including the Honourable Minister S. Bholah, dignitaries from Mauritius and UAE, fashion influencers, international fashion designers and gurus, media, buyers in the textile and fashion industry were present.

16 March 2022: Launching of Video Clip “The Manufacturing Sector: Forging Ahead”

A Video Clip on “The Manufacturing Sector: Forging Ahead” was launched, as promotional tool for export and investment during the Fashion Show. The Video Clip was an initiative of the Ministry, funded by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) and produced by the Mauritius Film Development Corporation (MFDC). The Video Clip illustrated the experience gained by Mauritius in its journey of over fifty years of industrialisation and displayed the various sub-sectors of the manufacturing sector in Mauritius.

17-19 March 2022: Three-day International Conference on “Sustainable and Innovative Design”

In the margin of the Expo 2020, the FDI also organised an International Design Conference on Sustainable and Innovative Design. It was a platform which regrouped the collaboration of international designers to discuss on design processes, concepts and theory, innovative technologies, research methods, design and materials for sustainability.

Honourable S. Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives delivered an Address during the Opening Ceremony of the Conference while Mrs. B.F. Abdool Raman-Ahmed, Permanent Secretary conveyed the Closing Remarks on the occasion.

The Conference regrouped international speakers and designers to discuss on innovation and the future of the fashion industry. This Conference has proved to be the right forum in increasing the visibility of FDI as a leading institution in Design Education Excellence in the region.

MISSION (continued)

MISSION OF HONOURABLE SOOMILDUTH BHOLAH, MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, SMES AND COOPERATIVES IN DUBAI

The conference was held in 2 phases:

(i) 17 March 2022, France Pavilion

A Fashion Show was organised, in collaboration with Runway Dubai and it promoted the collections of 8 Fashion designers from Italy, Dubai, Switzerland, India, Pakistan and Mauritius made from biodegradable, organic fabric that has no negative impact on the environment. Inspired by the concept of 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), designers have combined style, comfort and sustainability to demonstrate how they visualise the future of Fashion.

(ii) 18 - 19 March 2022, Double Tree by Hilton

During these two days, speakers and designers participated in round table discussions on innovation and the future of the fashion industry. The Conference also welcomed the participation of online speakers from the Birmingham City University, University of Mauritius and the FDI.

The FDI highlighted the importance of innovation to encourage the sector to reduce the negative social, economic and environmental impact in line with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Discussion on Innovation and the Future of the Fashion Industry, Double Tree by Hilton, Dubai

The Conference ended with a Certificate Award Ceremony performed by the Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives and Mrs. B. F. Abdool Raman Ahmed, Permanent Secretary.



The Certificate Award Ceremony, Double Tree by Hilton, 19 March 2022

18 March 2022: Visit to Dubai Industrial City

The Honourable Minister along with members of his delegation effected a visit at the Dubai Industrial City, which is one of the largest manufacturing and logistics hub in Dubai. Dubai Industrial City was established in 2004 with the objective to accelerate the growth of the industrial sector in the UAE. The Honourable Minister met with Mr. Saud Abu Al Shawareb, Managing Director of the Dubai Industrial City and his team who gave an overview of the Industrial City. It rested on the concept of Work-Live-Play where factories, warehouses, logistics, workers' accommodation and recreational facilities are integrated within the same location.



Snapshot of the Visit, 18 March 2022

The Honourable Minister and his delegation also visited an enterprise in the fish processing sector located in the Dubai Industrial City, namely Asmak Ltd. Asmak Ltd is a leading provider of fresh and frozen seafood across the Middle East. The company has a state-of-the-art processing and distribution plant of 13,000 square metres which has the capacity to produce 40,000 tons of seafood annually.



Snapshot of visit at Asmak Ltd, Dubai Industrial City, 18 March 2022

Public-sector capacity building for Innovation and Industrialization in Developing Countries

22 March 2022 | 09:00 – 11:00 (CET) | Virtual Event

WEBINAR

VIRTUAL WEBINAR ON ‘PUBLIC-SECTOR CAPACITY BUILDING FOR INNOVATION AND INDUSTRIALISATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES’

22 March 2022

The Webinar on “Public-sector capacity building for Innovation and Industrialisation in Developing Countries”, held on 22 March 2022, was organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in collaboration with the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPi) and Government of the Republic of Korea.

The event aimed to:-

- Present the main results of a Report entitled “The Role of science, technology, and innovation policies in the industrialisation of developing countries: Lessons from East Asian Countries”;
- Raise awareness on the importance of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and industrial policy to foster industrial innovation, as an integral component of industrialisation in developing countries; and
- Glean lessons from the concrete experiences of some East Asian countries to identify and understand which policy capacities are important to mobilise STI as a driver of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

PARTICIPANTS

- Mr. Hiroshi Kuniyoshi, Deputy Director General, UNIDO.
- Mrs Bibi Fatwma Abdool Raman-Ahmed, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division).
- Mr. Hwanil Park, Chief, Director, Division of Global Innovation Strategy Research.
- Mr. Dong Un Park, Associate Research Fellow, STEPi.
- Mr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).
- Mr. Sungchul Chung, CEO, the Wonjung Institute South Korea.
- Mr. Rainer Kattel, Professor of Innovation and Public Policy at the University College.

Moderator: Mr. Fernando Santiago
(UNIDO)

WEBINAR (continued)

VIRTUAL WEBINAR ON ‘PUBLIC-SECTOR CAPACITY BUILDING FOR INNOVATION AND INDUSTRIALISATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES’



Participants in the Virtual Webinar, 22 March 2022

Following the launch of the Report, “The role of science, technology, and innovation policies in the industrialisation of developing countries: Lessons from East Asian Countries”, the discussion addressed the importance of strengthening state capacities to promote STI. Speakers highlighted some of the principles for developing countries to successfully implement STI policies as drivers of industrialisation:

- adopt a demand-driven approach throughout the process of industrial development;
- ensure a strong commitment to indigenous innovation efforts beginning with the technology internalisation stage; and
- reflect on and adapt to changing environments.

Mrs. B. F. Abdool Raman Ahmed, Permanent Secretary, intervened on the following issues:

- Important state capacities to make Mauritius and other developing countries more competitive by investing in innovation and technology upgrading; and

- Major policy-making challenges faced by the Ministry to support/respond to the needs of Mauritian firms.

During her intervention, the Permanent Secretary elaborated on how the Ministry has incorporated STI in its strategies for industrial development, namely through the Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (IPSP) (2020-2025) which was prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). She also stressed that our value chains could only be upgraded by developing STI capabilities, which would also help in greater product sophistication and innovation.

More details on the event can be found at: <https://www.unido.org/news/public-capacities-bureaucrats-often-understated-enablers-industrial-development>



POLICY

NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

23 and 24 March 2022

The two-day National Policy Dialogue on the Manufacturing Sector was organised by this Ministry, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Office for Africa (UNECA) at the Maritim Resort and Spa, Balaclava. Representatives of various public and private sector organisations including manufacturing enterprises participated in the event.

The aim of the National Policy Dialogue was to take stock of the situation in the manufacturing sector in light of the new emerging challenges and to come up with concrete proposals for the future development of the sector.

The first day was dedicated to the Manufacturing Sector and the second day focused on the Textile & Clothing subsector.

In his keynote address during the opening ceremony, the Honourable Minister stated that “this event will surely help enterprises to achieve the desired objective, tackling the hardships of the pandemic and building resilience for the future challenges of the manufacturing sector through the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable industrial growth”.



Honourable Soomilduth Bholah delivering his keynote address in the presence of Mrs. B. F. Abdool Raman Ahmed, Permanent Secretary, His Excellency Mr. Vincent Degert, Ambassador of the European Union to Mauritius, Ms. Isatou Gaye, Chief, Sub-Regional Initiatives Section, UNECA Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa and Mr. Robert Banamwana, Strategic Planning and Team Leader, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator

HEALTH & SAFETY

WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

28 April 2022

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is celebrated annually on 28 April with a view to creating awareness among stakeholders on the importance of a risk-free work environment. The theme chosen by the International Labour Organisation for this year's celebration is "Act together to build a positive safety and health culture". It advocates the active and meaningful participation of governments, employers, workers, public health actors and other relevant parties at the national and enterprise level to address new Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) challenges at the workplace.

On this occasion, Mr Jeremie Manoula, Safety and Health Officer conducted the following:

- (i) a talk on "The environmental best practices at the Ministry", to raise awareness among staff on the importance of our working environment from a health and safety perspective; and
- (ii) a debriefing session on the Occupational Safety and Health Management System based on the International Standard (ISO 45001:2018), a pilot project being implemented by the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms.



REPORT

LAUNCHING OF THE “INDUSTRIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT - COST STRUCTURE REVIEW” AND THE “GREENING THE SMES: IMPROVING SME ACCESS TO GREEN FINANCE IN MAURITIUS” REPORTS

25 May 2022

On 25 May 2022, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives and Mrs. Christine Umotoni, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles launched the “Industrial Waste Management - Cost Structure Review” Report, along with the “Greening the SMEs: Improving SME Access to Green Finance in Mauritius” Report at the Westin Turtle Bay Resort & Spa, BalACLava. Both reports were prepared under the United Nations Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) Initiative.

The Industrial Development Division with the collaboration of Business Mauritius, obtained the support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) under the PAGE initiative to conduct a cost structure review of waste management in the industrial sector. The aim was to investigate the cost burden of industrial waste management borne by manufacturing enterprises, enhance their competitiveness and promote circular economy, through the adoption of the Extended Producer Responsibility principle. Some 30 manufacturing enterprises participated in the study and were from five main sub-sectors, namely, textile and apparel, chemical and chemical products, food processing including seafood, printing and construction materials.

The report on the SME access to finance was conducted under the purview of the SME Division with the assistance of United Nations Environment Programme- Finance Initiative. The aim was to assess existing financial facilities and identify barriers regarding access to finance for greening business projects in the SME sector.

Honourable Soomilduth Bholah expressed his gratitude to the United Nations PAGE Partners for their valued support. He extended his appreciation to the public and private sector stakeholders, the consultants and the operators in the SME manufacturing sector for their support in completing the two projects. The Honourable Minister indicated that the launching of the two reports were the culmination of hard work by the Industrial Development and SME Divisions of the Ministry, UN partners and relevant stakeholders in ushering Mauritius towards a green economy.

The recommendations of both reports would serve as useful guides for policy makers and operators to foster a culture of responsible production and sustainability.



Presentations of the reports

ASSAY OFFICE

ENHANCING CUSTOMER SATISFACTION THROUGH INNOVATION

With a view to facilitating interaction with its customers, the Assay Office has, since 24 February 2022, enhanced its services through the introduction of messaging platforms such as SMS and WhatsApp which may be reached on 55099575.

Customers will receive SMS notifications upon completion of the service requested.

These platforms are being used to disseminate information regarding the services below:

- registration of jewellers, outlets & marks;
- assaying of gold, silver, palladium and platinum alloys/jewellery;
- valuation of gold jewellery;
- identification of gemstones; and
- grading of diamonds.



MAURITAS

MAURITAS GRANTS ACCREDITATION TO ABIOLABS LTD – MEDICAL TESTING LABORATORY

12 January 2022

On 12 January 2022, MAURITAS has accredited the Medical Testing Laboratory of Abiolabs Ltd in line with the requirements of “ISO 15189:2012 - Medical laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence”. The Laboratory currently offers medical and clinical testing in Clinical Haematology - Blood grouping and full blood count, Clinical Biochemistry, renal function test and lipid profile.

The Medical Testing Laboratory of Abiolabs Ltd has been accredited for the following tests:

<i>Biochemistry</i>		<i>Haematology</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creatinine• Glucose• Total Cholesterol• Triglycerides• Urea-UV• Uric Acid• Alanine aminotransferase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aspartate aminotransferase• Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP-DEA)• Total Bilirubin• Gamma Glutamyl Transferase• Total Protein• Albumin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White Blood Cell• Red Blood Cell• Haemoglobin• Mean Corpuscular Volume• Platelets Count

QUICK FACTS

As at 27 April 2022, MAURITAS has already accredited twenty-seven (27) Laboratories to the International Standard ISO/IEC 17025, seven (7) medical laboratories to the International Standard ISO 15189 and one (1) Certification Body to the International Standard ISO/IEC 17021.

The scopes of accreditation of all the accredited laboratories and certification body can be accessed on the MAURITAS website on the following link: <https://mauritas.org/entities.php>.



ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT ANALYST DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

27 April 2022

On 27 April 2022, MAURITAS accredited the Government Analyst Division (GAD) of the Ministry of Health and Wellness in line with the requirements of “ISO/IEC 17025:2017 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories”. GAD provides physico-chemical services for the analysis of food, pharmaceutical, alcoholic products pesticides, and cosmetics, amongst others.



Staff of GAD in Food Testing field

Penning some thoughts

Let go of the pain;

Let go of your grief, hate, difficulty and failure;

Let go of your bitterness over life;

Since we have only one life;

So live it wholeheartedly;

Live it with passion and love;

Live it with full contentment;

Live it with happiness and spread that happiness in life of your dear ones as well.

Life is short but never be short of life to waste it to mourn always.

Because ups and downs happen in life but we need to keep moving.



<http://ww1.thecliparts.co/>

What is beauty?

Beauty is not about fairness and complexion;

Beauty is about inner feelings;

Beauty is about good attitude and manners;

Beauty is the reflection of your kindness through action and it is the ability to share the kindness with others.

Y. Raghubar-Dindyal (Mrs.)
Management Support Officer

MAURITIUS STANDARDS BUREAU (MSB) INCREASING THE ACCREDITATION SCOPE OF ITS LABORATORIES

DID YOU KNOW?



The MSB is ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 certified. Accreditation is the most important standard for testing and/or calibrating of laboratories. It confirms that a particular laboratory can produce precise and accurate test results, and calibration data, including traceability of measurements and calibrations to national standards.

QUICK FACTS

70 testing methods and 40 Calibration and Measurement Capabilities are accredited by MAURITAS.

The Mauritius Standards Bureau is expanding its portfolio of tests which can be accredited with the objective to further facilitate trade.

THE MAURITIUS STANDARDS BUREAU DELIVERS ITS FIRST BLUE OASIS CERTIFICATE

5-11 May 2022

The Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) developed the Blue Oasis Certification Scheme, in accordance with the standard MS 165:2019, to provide an innovative footprint for sustainable management of operators in the Tourism Industry.

During the first Sustainable Tourism Mauritius Workshop, organised by the Tourism Authority between 5-11 May 2022, at Ravenala Hotel, Balaclava, the MSB set up an exhibition stand to sensitise stakeholders in the Tourism sector on the benefits of the Blue Oasis Certification.

The culminating event of the Workshop was the Sustainable Tourism Mauritius Awards 2022, where the MSB presented its first Blue Oasis Certificate to Mautourco.



The Mautourco team being presented the Blue Oasis certificate by Mrs. B. Fatwma Abdool Raman Ahmed, Permanent Secretary, Mr. Sanjiv Mulloo, Chairman, Mauritius Standards Council and Mrs. Deveena Boygah, General Manager, Mauritius Standards Bureau.

MAURITIUS STANDARDS BUREAU (MSB) MEETING LOCAL AUTHORITIES AT THE MSB

30 May 2022

Following its sensitisation programme on the implementation of the MS ISO 9001 management system in Local Authorities on 05 August 2021, the MSB organised a meeting with Mayors, Chairpersons and Chief Executives to encourage them to adopt this system.

During the meeting, it was pointed out that embracing the MS ISO 9001:2015 Management System will enable the Local Authorities to create more effective and efficient operations and increase the level of customer satisfaction.

MSB has also developed two training courses namely, **ISO 9001:2015 Implementer Course** and **ISO 9001:2015 Internal Auditor course** for those who wish to have prerequisite knowledge in this field.



Awareness programme on the MS ISO 9001:2015 Management System

FASHION AND DESIGN INSTITUTE (FDI)

LOGO CONTEST FOR THE CHAMPIONNATS D'AFRIQUE ATHLETISME SENIORS 2022 (COCAAS22)

9 December 2021



In the context of the 22nd Championnats d'Afrique Athlétisme Seniors (COCAAS22) to be held in Mauritius in June 2022, the FDI won the logo contest opened to local graphic designers on 9 December 2021.

MERCK FOUNDATION

QUICK FACTS

Merck foundation is a non- governmental organisation (NGO) established in 2017, as the philanthropic arm of the Merck KGA Germany which is one of the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company.

Dr. S. Ramsamy Iranah, Director of the FDI, collaborated with the Merck foundation for the shooting of two episodes of a TV show as part of its community awareness programme with a view to improving the health and well-being of people and advance their lives through science and technology.

The episodes were shot in Dubai with emphasis on fashion and sustainability and were aired on prominent African networks.

REVAMPING OF YOUTH CENTRES

The FDI was selected to design new youth hubs in Mahebourg, Souillac, Helvetia, Floreal, La Cure, Dockers Village, Goodlands and Montagne Blanche, through the preparation of an architectural, structural and M&E drawings as part of an action by the National Youth Council.



The new design proposal for the Mahebourg Centre de Jeunesse

FASHION AND DESIGN INSTITUTE (FDI) MISS MAURITIUS

The FDI organised an outfit contest for students in collaboration with the Miss Mauritius National Pageant. The outfits reflected the Mauritian culture which were worn at the events organised by Miss Mauritius 2022.

The winning outfits for Miss Mauritius 2022



Fashion Designer:
Marie Anastasia Alexandra Gabriel
Art Designer: Sillpa Pamma



Fashion Designer:
Marie Joanne Moutou



Fashion Designers:
Poorushna Kullur &
Rukshaar Jaumeer
Art Designer: Manisha Devi Tanny

WORLD ART DAY

5 April 2022

The Fashion & Design Institute organised an art competition on 5 April for World Art Day. This event helped to reinforce the links between artistic creations and society, encourage greater awareness of the diversity of artistic expressions and highlight the contribution of artists to sustainable development. The competition was open to FDI students who had to present artwork on the theme - Sustainability. The winning team comprises Jenna Adolphe, Haniifah Rujbally, and Dhanishta Babooram.



Winners of the competition

FASHION AND DESIGN INSTITUTE (FDI) LAVENIR ZENES - EDUCATION AND JOB FAIRS

9-10 April 2022

On 9 and 10 April 2022, the Fashion & Design Institute participated in the Education and Job Meetup - "LAVENIR ZENES" organised by the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation. The aim of the event was to connect school leavers with training and higher education institutions and employers from ICT and hospitality industries.



Snapshot of the event

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION SERVICE (NPCS)

15 April 2022



Participating staff and students

An Award Ceremony was organised on 15 April 2022 at the Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaëtan Duval for a Joint project in collaboration with the NPCS on live projects with the students of the Higher National Diploma in Art Practice. The theme of the project was Biodiversity for the module on Applied Practice. On that occasion, certificates of participation were handed to the staff and students.

FASHION AND DESIGN INSTITUTE (FDI)

FDI LECTURERS ON THE MAURITIAN ART SCENE

20 May - 3 June 2022

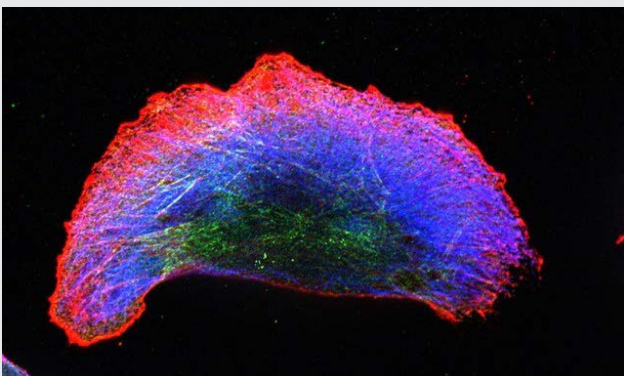
The 39th edition of the “Salon de Mai”, the most reputed curated group exhibition of the island bringing together artists from all over the country, was held from 20 May to 3 June, at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute. This year’s theme was ‘New Beginnings’ where four lecturers of the FDI exhibited their creations as part of their active engagement in the Mauritian art scene.



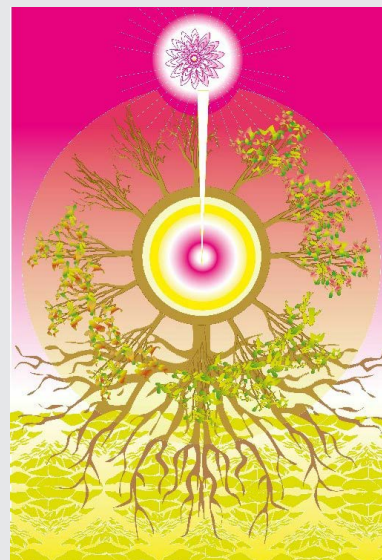
Artist: Arvin Ombika
Title of Work: Still 'Untitled'...
Medium/technique: Mixed media on linen



Artist: Divya Ramrecha
Title of Work: The Prisoner of the Prism
Medium/technique: Acrylic on canvas



Artist: Wong Tong Chung Jack Oliver
Title of Work: Sans Titre
Medium/technique: Photo



Artist: Geeta Devi Ramparsad
Title of Work: Emergence of the soul
Medium/technique: Mixed -media

NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL (NPCC) ENTERPRISE GO DIGITAL (EGD) PROJECT

4 March 2022



Launching of the 'Enterprise Go Digital' programme

The 'Enterprise Go Digital' programme was officially launched on Friday 4 March 2022 to increase productivity and strengthen the resilience of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through digitalisation and to keep up with the pace of technological change in the global economy.

The project was spearheaded by the NPCC with financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Japan. It focuses on the creation of a level playing field for the SME ecosystem while bringing the right information to aid decision making.

The first phase of this project covers an extensive awareness campaign to sensitise Mauritian organisations about the importance

of digitalisation in the present era. A series of webinars will be conducted to promote business resilience and sustainability. During the second phase, an expression of interest will be launched and 10 SMEs will be selected for digitalisation projects.

Honourable Soomilduth Bholah highlighted in his speech that digitalisation can help SMEs reduce costs, standardise, automate business processes and reduce the reliance on manpower.



NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL (NPCC)

OPERATION COSHARE MOVES INTO SECOND PHASE OF IMPLEMENTATION



Operation COSHARE (Covid-19 Occupational Safety and Health & Resource Efficiency) was launched in September 2021. The overall aim of this project is to position Mauritius as an attractive and Covid-19 safe tourist destination following the opening of the country's borders in October 2021.

The first phase of Operation COSHARE emphasised on the implementation of Covid-19 Occupational Safety and Health (OHS) protocols in local tourism enterprises. More than 1,200 companies in the tourism sector, including tour operators, hotels, guest houses and restaurants were sensitised on the project. 1,245 hotel-based taxi drivers were also trained on Covid-19 OSH during the month of September last year.

The second phase of the project started in January 2022 and it focuses on the implementation of

Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (RECP) projects in the tourism and hospitality sector. It also addresses operational excellence leading to enhanced business results and allows understanding imperatives such as waste elimination including food waste and avoidance of single-use plastics.

The training under Operation COSHARE is based on the signature methodology of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which is "Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises" (SCORE). It is to be noted that by the end of the programme, participating enterprises are expected to benefit from an in-house team of employees trained in managing a sustainable continuous improvement programme.

Industry Digest



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

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Fashion and Design Institute



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