

# BIZWEEK

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“  
**We are deciding the final stages of a 200-million-dollar Africa solar facility to be incorporated in Mauritius**”

# MCB Monthly Financial Markets Analysis

## Keeping the Naira Steady: CBN's Policy Challenge

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has held the Monetary Policy Rate at 27.5% since January 2025 after cumulative hikes of 1,600 bps between 2022–24, including a sharp 400 bps increase in February 2024. Inflation, at 21.9% in July, appears to have peaked but remains far above the 6–9% target. Softer global commodities, stronger agricultural supply, and a firmer naira (+0.6% YTD vs USD) have helped, but core inflation of 21.3% shows persistent pressures. While markets speculate on eventual rate cuts, Governor Olayemi Cardoso has stressed that easing will only follow a clear decline in inflation risks. A 50–75 bps cut may be possible late in 2025 if reserves and global conditions are stable, but broader easing is more likely in 2026.

### Global spillovers and Fed policy

Nigeria's policy direction is closely tied to the US Federal Reserve. Expectations of two Fed cuts by year-end could reduce pressure on the CBN to maintain ultra-high yields. For now, Nigeria enjoys a sizable real yield premium over the US, anchoring naira assets and bolstering FX stability. The CBN is intent on fixing the currency system and maintaining relatively high rates to attract capital to support the naira amid ongoing FX system reforms, which supports the view that the CBN will likely proceed with caution regarding interest rate cuts.

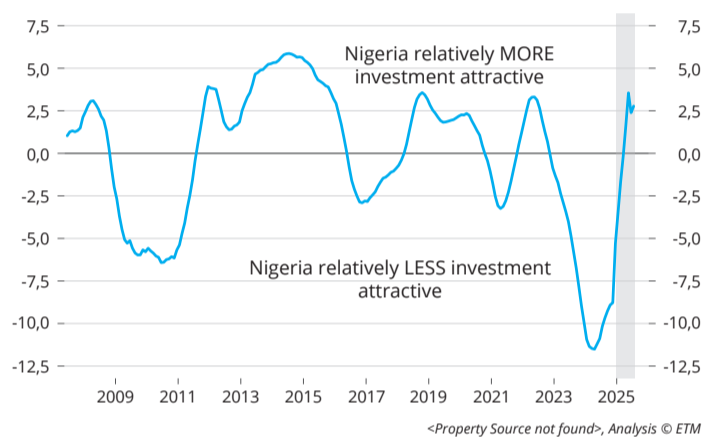
### Portfolio inflows: strong but fragile

High interest rates have attracted record foreign portfolio inflows (FPI). In Q1 2025, FPI reached \$5.2bn (93% of total capital importation), up 67% y/y. Banking (\$3.1bn) and financing (\$2.1bn) dominated, with flows heavily skewed toward short-term OMO and T-bills. This highlights Nigeria's strong appeal to yield-seeking investors but also exposes vulnerability to sudden reversals.

### Outlook for inflows

For H2 2025, inflows are projected at \$11–13bn, supporting a record \$19.3bn for the full year (+56% y/y),

**Nigeria, Real interest rate premium, %**  
Against the US, smoothed 6 months, shading = CPI rebased



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provided reforms stay credible. Risks to this outlook include weaker oil prices eroding FX buffers, fragile naira appreciation giving way to renewed volatility, adverse global risk sentiment, and structural bottlenecks such as regulatory uncertainty and infrastructure deficits.

### Conclusion

Nigeria's tight monetary stance has anchored FX stability and attracted record inflows, but the sustainability of these gains depends on reform momentum, global monetary trends, and oil market dynamics. We expect the CBN to keep a hawkish bias through most of 2025, with only limited easing possible late in the year. Portfolio inflows should remain strong but will stay highly sensitive to shocks.

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# NEWS

REZA UTEEM,

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

## “Taxation has always been a Tom and Jerry situation”

The Finance and Tax Academy hosted the first edition of its annual tax event under the theme “Global Tax Developments: Challenges and Opportunities.” Organised in collaboration with the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD), the event, which was held at the Maritim Resort & Spa on September 9, witnessed the presence of some 100 participants from across the financial services sector, among which were tax experts and representatives of management companies and accounting and law firms

Having been a corporate tax lawyer for the past 30 years, the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations, Reza Uteem, was well placed to grasp the issue at hand. The key speaker at the annual tax event of the Finance and Tax Academy spoke on the tax policies being introduced.

In his speech, the Minister mentioned that the theme of the event – Global Tax Developments: Challenges and Opportunities – had been perfectly chosen as “we are at a time when our jurisdiction is being called upon to rethink itself in the light of international tax development”. He added that “taxation has always been a Tom and Jerry situation, with Tom setting traps to catch Jerry, with the latter outsmarting Tom every time.”

The taxman, in this story, is Tom, and the new tax practitioners are the Jerrys. “Each time the taxman comes up with new laws and regulations, tax practitioners will outsmart them in order to protect taxpayers,” the Minister added. Minister Uteem then reassured the taxation community that the government will not impose any regulation without proposals and proper consultations.

Intervening during the opening session, Professor van Kommer, Director of Capacity Building and Tailored Services, and Member of the Executive Board of the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD), highlighted the pace of change in global tax, as well as the implementation of the OECD’s BEPS project and the implications of the Global Minimum Tax for Mauritius.

For his part, Gilbert Espitalier-Noël, Group CEO of ER Group, stressed that this inaugural forum provides a platform to address factors that shape the island’s ability to compete globally. “We are proud to stand alongside both public and private actors in shaping a more resilient and forward-looking economic future for Mauritius,” said the CEO.

As for Shameemah Abdool Raman, Head of the Finance and Tax Academy, she talked about the emergence of economic blocks, and stressed that “we should stay focused on the significant matters that affect us.”



“**We are at a time when our jurisdiction is being called upon to rethink itself in the light of international tax development.**”

### About the Finance and Tax Academy

Launched in 2024 by Rogers Capital, the Finance and Tax Academy aims to elevate tax education in Mauritius. Its vision is to foster a community of lifelong learners by offering accessible, high-quality education. With courses designed for all levels and in partnership with GRAMES Tax Guild LLP, the academy offers hybrid learning sessions on international taxation and domestic tax.

# NEWS

PROFESSOR VICTOR VAN KOMMER,

DIRECTOR OF CAPACITY BUILDING AND TAILORED SERVICES, AND MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD – IBFD

## “Mauritius can expand, and the possibilities are many”

Invited as guest speaker at the first edition of the annual tax forum hosted by the Finance and Tax Academy, Professor van Kommer, Director of Capacity Building and Tailored Services, and Member of the Executive Board of the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD), praised the progress Mauritius has made in modernising its taxation system. *“Mauritius is well-equipped and has a lively advisory sector,”* he noted, while also calling for caution: *“The time of tax breaks and tax holidays is a little bit over now.”* Instead, he urged policymakers to focus on tangible incentives, and highlighted education, digitalisation and adopting a long-term strategy as essential to Mauritius’ future.

### Professor van Kommer, what are your first impressions of Mauritius and its positioning in the global tax landscape?

Mauritius is well positioned by its geography. It is not only the portal to Africa, but the island also has great opportunities towards Asia. In many countries, there is a huge gap between business interests and the public interests, and based on Mauritius’ knowledge as an intermediary, the island can help countries make that gap smaller.

### What stands out as unique in Mauritius with regards to the tax system compared to other jurisdictions?

The typology of Mauritius stands out because it is an island, and based on the international tax agenda, Mauritius needs to create more substance in the sense that it has to have more tangible assets for tax deductions and investments. Mauritius has space to create that substance. For example, a jurisdiction like Singapore is fully built, and they cannot expand anymore, whereas Mauritius can expand, and the possibilities are many.

### Are you of the opinion that the Mauritian government needs to introduce more incentives in the tax landscape?

We have to be careful when introducing incentives, as Mauritius wants to play a role in global minimum taxation. You have to be careful when it comes to tax breaks and tax holidays. The time of tax breaks and tax holidays is a little bit over now. Mauritius can create incentives by imparting free land and introducing subsidies for certain assets like labour and education programmes. Mauritius can even collect more taxes, but it has to give it back in tangible incentives.

### How has the IBFD evolved over the years, and what makes its role unique in international taxation?

The IBFD has been in existence for more than 85 years. It started as a documentation centre where we had knowledge about all the tax systems and tax treaties in the world. Over the years, the tax professionals working at the IBFD have helped many governments to train people.

The IBFD is composed of many knowledgeable personnel and experts. Their expertise is

much sought after by countries in Asia and Africa. Moreover, the IBFD is a foundation and is fully independent. The fact that it has no shareholders makes it more independent. We can be independent towards the OECD, towards governments and towards the United Nations as well. What makes us unique is that we are not the spokesperson of multinationals.

### Can you share a concrete example of how the IBFD has helped a country or region improve its tax administration?

Indeed, we have helped many Asian and African countries. We have training programmes in international tax, value added taxation, transfer price and implementation issues with several governments across the globe. We are also involved in drafting legislation and policies for governments in the global minimum taxation Pillar Two. The financial sector is interested in data, and we are well equipped to provide data solutions to them.

### What do you see as the most important global tax development of the past decade?

First of all, there is a clear outcry to stop this harmful taxation and the race to the bottom. Secondly, there is an advantage for Mauritius as there are no fake investments schemes. The kind of tax competition between countries is getting less. The empty, shallow kind of company is disappearing. There is still a kind of offshore taxation, but for the legitimate businesses, we see a trend that the effective tax rate is increasing, but not at the same level in every country. There is also public support for quality fair share taxation.

### How successful has the BEPS initiative been, and can you identify any remaining gaps?

There are still things to do. There are many things coming from international organisations, but that does not mean we have to absorb everything. We must make a selection and prioritise what is really important for a particular economy. We have to undertake a SWOT Analysis to make sure that our systems and labour force are in order. We have also developed a BEPS Assessment Tool to help countries analyse their tax system.

### Is there any particular BEPS action where you feel implementation has been especially strong or weak?



**We have to wait to see what America, China and India are doing regarding the global minimum taxation. The European Union, Japan and Korea are moving forward, but does Mauritius have to be in that frontline? The answer is no.**



I think that there are major steps that are being taken in the tax treaties with regards to international tax. Having said so, I strongly think that we are struggling to tackle the digital economy, and the whole idea behind this global minimum taxation initiative is also to tackle these digital platforms. Most of them are, of course, American. These digital platforms need harmonisation, otherwise you get different systems with different principles. The whole harmonisation idea is that you can reduce the cost of both the corporate and public sector. This will certainly stimulate a good tax system.

### What challenges do small island economies like Mauritius face in adapting to global tax reforms?

First of all, small island economies, including Mauritius, are smaller and are dependent on foreign labour and capital. This automatically makes them compete with other jurisdictions where you have a huge internal market, like India and the United States, where there are hundreds of millions of consumers. So, if your internal market drives your economy, by nature, you earn a part of your money outside. If you are an island, you have to import almost everything.

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## How can a small country like Mauritius balance compliance with the need to stay competitive?

There are a lot of good Mauritian tax advisers. You can do aggressive tax planning, but it is a big deal to be compliant with all the different rules and jurisdictions. That is also where you make your money in report and accounting standards. I think Mauritius is well-equipped and has a lively advisory sector. It can definitely be even more booming in the future.

## Is there any means by which Mauritius can strengthen its position as a trusted international financial centre?

Of course. In Mauritius, you have the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) which is a trusted organisation with competent people. But sometimes, things are a bit slow and there are a lot of issues in litigation. That is not what corporates always want! I think that there are some steps which can be made in that segment. It is a kind of maturity process that is normal. I think Mauritius has to invest more in training and capacity building. Mauritius is not starting from zero, but is already half-way there.

## From your experience across Africa, what lessons in tax administration could Mauritius benefit from?

I am not saying that Mauritius has to always compare itself with Africa, but I am quite impressed with what Rwanda has done. They have a very professional tax administration, coupled with high education. Given the fact that there was an enormous crisis in the nineties with regards to genocide, Rwanda has been able to rebuild itself from scratch, and the government has been driving the economy. I think Mauritius also has to reduce the compliance time for private individuals. It has to become easier through digitalisation and standardisation. It means that not every case has to lead to an appeal.

## How important is capacity building and what role should institutions like the Finance and Tax Academy play?

Capacity building is lifelong learning. This continuous learning is important. However, I should point out that AI (Artificial Intelligence) is not an alternative to learning. Everybody needs to learn, even myself. As far as the IBFD is concerned, the institution is now working together with the Finance and Tax Academy.

## What skills or competencies are most in demand, today, in tax administration and policy?

You need to be knowledgeable content-wise, but attitude does matter also. You have to be curious about new developments. The private sector calls it Business Development. Knowing what is changing, not only in taxation, but also how social media is changing and how the young generation is learning. I also think that ownership is really relevant. For example, if there is a problem, we must show ownership and go for a solution.

## What impact will digitalisation and new technologies such as AI have on the future of tax systems?

The fact that corporates are mainly concerned



with data-related reporting and transfer pricing, I think that AI is really helpful to speed it up. But this doesn't mean efficiency! AI is also very helpful in research. On the other hand, I would stress that if AI is replacing junior associates in firms, how will you attain a senior position? You need to go through the process, and you have to learn from your mistakes.

## Do you see technology as mainly an opportunity, or are there also risks policymakers need to consider?

There are risks and threats, but there are also opportunities.

## Looking ahead, what single global tax issue should Mauritius be preparing for most urgently?

Like I said earlier, Mauritius should be able to create more tangible assets, but on the other hand, we have to wait to see what America, China and India are doing regarding the global minimum taxation. The European Union, Japan and Korea are moving forward, but does Mauritius have to be in that frontline? The answer is no. Mauritius has to observe a little bit and not be in that front row. Time can also be your friend.

## If you had to give one piece of advice to Mauritian policymakers, what would it be?

I think Mauritius has to have a good vision of what kind of economy the island wants to have in ten- or twenty-years' time. Mauritius has the potential to create more investments. If you want to attract investment, you have to have a political agenda.

Mauritius has to adopt a long-term strategy.

## What key message would you like to share with your Mauritian audience and the wider international community about the future of taxation?

I strongly think there are great possibilities for Mauritius, but the island needs to invest in certain areas such as education. You have to preserve your uniqueness with regards to culture. You also need to learn from other models like Dubai and Singapore on how to be attractive.



**I strongly think that we are struggling to tackle the digital economy, and the whole idea behind this global minimum taxation initiative is also to tackle these digital platforms.**



# NEWS

ROOMESH RAMCHURN,  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE IFA

## “A balanced approach that combines global best practices with tailored regional solutions is essential”

The international tax landscape is undergoing unprecedented reforms, reshaping how multinational enterprises are taxed. For small island economies like Mauritius, the stakes are high. “Balancing tax competitiveness for investment attraction with the need to align with global standards is a complex, yet crucial task for any jurisdiction,” says Roomesh Ramchurn, Chairperson of IFA (International Fiscal Association) Mauritius and Tax Partner with Forvis Mazars. The challenge, he believes, provides an opportunity to strengthen tax systems, enhance transparency, and foster sustainable economic growth. As host of the 16th Asia/Africa IFA Conference, which will take place on September 25, Mauritius steps into the spotlight, offering a platform for dialogue on wealth management, cross-border investment, and the future of fair taxation.

R.V.

**The forthcoming 16th Asia/Africa IFA Conference is themed “Rethinking International Taxation: Ushering into the Era of Global Reform.” Could you tell us more about this event and the theme chosen?**

The OECD has proposed the implementation of Pillar 2 and Pillar 1 following their report issued in 2015. The Finance Act 2025, which was recently enacted, has introduced the Qualified Domestic Minimum Top-Up Tax (QDMTT) and documentation for arm’s length transactions, both of which are key recommendations of the OECD. These measures are designed to ensure that multinational enterprises pay a fair share of taxes in the jurisdictions where they operate, thereby promoting transparency and fairness in the global tax system.

However, the landscape of international taxation has been significantly influenced by the measures introduced by the Trump administration. These measures have steered global tax policies away from coordinated reform and towards a more fractured and confrontational environment. This shift has created a landscape where businesses face greater uncertainty, and governments may find themselves in conflict over taxing rights. The resulting environment is one of increased complexity and unpredictability, which poses significant challenges for both businesses and tax authorities.

Considering these dynamic changes and innovative approaches in the field of international taxation, the theme of this year’s conference – “Rethinking International Taxation: Ushering into the Era of Global Reform” – is particularly relevant. The conference aims to address these challenges head-on, providing a platform for experts, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss and navigate the evolving global tax landscape. By fostering dialogue and collaboration, the conference seeks to promote a more cohesive and effective approach to international tax reform, ensuring that the global tax system remains fair, transparent, and sustainable.

**What are the key objectives of this year’s conference, and how does IFA Mauritius**

**plan to ensure meaningful dialogue between participants?**

The key objectives of this year’s conference are to appraise participants of key tax reforms, explore their economic impacts, and analyse compliance and enforcement. The conference aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic changes and innovative approaches in the field of international taxation.

To ensure meaningful dialogue between participants, the International Fiscal Association (Mauritius) Branch is organising four high-level panel discussions, each focusing on critical aspects of international taxation. These panels will cover topics such as the implications of Pillar 2 and QDMTT on multinational enterprises, changes in wealth management following the end of tax-exempt status, challenges in cross-border investment structuring, and the legal and practical challenges of tax disputes in Mauritius. By bringing together experts, policymakers, academics, and practitioners, the conference aims to foster a platform for sharing insights and experiences related to international tax changes.

**How important is it for Mauritius to host this regional conference, both in terms of positioning itself as a financial centre and contributing to the global tax conversation?**

Hosting the 16th Asia/Africa IFA Conference is of paramount importance for Mauritius, both in terms of positioning itself as a financial centre and contributing to the global tax conversation.

Firstly, by hosting this prestigious event, Mauritius reinforces its status as a leading financial hub in the region. The conference provides a platform for showcasing the country’s robust financial infrastructure, regulatory framework, and commitment to international standards. This visibility is crucial for attracting foreign investment and fostering trust among global financial institutions and multinational enterprises.

Secondly, the conference theme, “Rethinking International Taxation: Ushering into the Era

of Global Reform,” aligns with the ongoing global tax reforms, including BEPS 2.0 and the implementation of a global minimum tax. By hosting this event, Mauritius positions itself at the forefront of these discussions, demonstrating its proactive approach to adapting to and influencing international tax policies.

Moreover, the conference facilitates meaningful dialogue between experts, policymakers, academics, and practitioners from across Asia and Africa. This exchange of insights and experiences is invaluable for shaping effective tax policies and addressing the unique challenges faced by small island economies like Mauritius. It also underscores Mauritius’s role in contributing to the global tax conversation and promoting fair and transparent tax practices.

Hosting the 16th Asia/Africa IFA Conference is a strategic move for Mauritius, enhancing its reputation as a financial centre and playing a pivotal role in the evolving landscape of international taxation.

**The international tax landscape is undergoing significant reforms, including developments around BEPS 2.0 and global minimum tax. Which reforms do you expect to dominate discussions at the conference?**

The international tax landscape is indeed undergoing significant reforms, and several key developments are expected to dominate discussions. The conference will focus on the following major reforms:

**Pillar 2 and Qualified Domestic Minimum Top-Up Tax (QDMTT):** This reform aims to ensure that large multinational enterprises (MNEs) pay a minimum level of tax on their income in each jurisdiction where they operate. The QDMTT is a domestic minimum tax that applies to local constituent entities of in-scope MNEs and produces outcomes consistent with the Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) rules. This panel will delve into the implications of these tax reforms on multinational enterprises, providing insights from experts at the OECD, PwC, CA Sachin Sinha and the Mauritius Revenue Authority.

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**Wealth Management: Post Grandfathering of Tax-Exempt Status:** This session will explore the changes in wealth management following the end of tax-exempt status, with speakers from Standard Bank Trust Company Mauritius, Axis Fiduciary and Forvis Mazars.

**Cross-Border Investment Structuring in the Landscape of Transfer Pricing:** This panel will address the evolving challenges in cross-border investment structuring, featuring insights from Kings College London, The Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd, Forvis Mazars South Africa, and Rogers Capital Tax.

**Tax Dispute and its Challenges in Mauritius:** The final panel will discuss the legal and practical challenges of tax disputes in Mauritius, with contributions from the Mauritius Revenue Authority, Venture Law, IQ EQ Mauritius and the Assessment Review Committee.

These discussions will provide a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic changes and innovative approaches in the field of international taxation. The conference aims to foster meaningful dialogue between participants, providing a platform for experts, policymakers, academics, and practitioners to share insights and experiences related to these significant reforms.

**From your perspective, what are the most pressing challenges small island economies like Mauritius face in adapting to these reforms?**

Small island economies face several challenges in adapting to the ongoing international tax reforms:

**Economic Vulnerability:** Small island economies are often highly dependent on a limited number of economic sectors, such as tourism, financial services, and agriculture. This makes them particularly vulnerable to global economic fluctuations and external shocks. The implementation of international tax reforms, such as BEPS 2.0 and the global minimum tax, can further exacerbate these vulnerabilities by impacting key sectors and reducing the attractiveness of these economies as investment destinations.

**Compliance and Administrative Capacity:** Adapting to complex international tax reforms requires significant administrative capacity and expertise. Small island economies may face challenges in building and maintaining the necessary infrastructure and human resources to ensure compliance with new regulations. This can lead to increased compliance costs and administrative burdens for both the government and businesses.

**Maintaining Competitiveness:** Small island economies often rely on favourable tax regimes to attract foreign investment and stimulate economic growth. The introduction of global minimum tax rules and other international tax reforms may limit their ability to offer competitive tax incentives. Balancing the need to comply with international standards while maintaining a competitive edge in the global market is a significant challenge.

**Resource Constraints:** Limited financial and technical resources can hinder the ability of small island economies to effectively implement and

adapt to international tax reforms. This includes the need for investment in technology, training, and capacity-building initiatives to ensure that tax authorities and businesses are well-equipped to navigate the evolving tax landscape.

**International Cooperation and Advocacy:** Small island economies must actively engage in international tax discussions and advocate for their unique challenges and interests. Ensuring that their voices are heard and that their specific circumstances are considered in the formulation of global tax policies is crucial for achieving fair and equitable outcomes.

In conclusion, while the ongoing international tax reforms present significant challenges for small island economies like Mauritius, they also offer opportunities for strengthening tax systems, enhancing transparency, and fostering sustainable economic growth. By addressing these challenges through strategic planning, capacity-building, and international cooperation, small island economies can successfully navigate the evolving global tax landscape.

**How do you see the balance between tax competitiveness to attract investment, and the need to align with global standards?**

Balancing tax competitiveness for investment attraction with the need to align with global standards is a complex yet crucial task for any jurisdiction, including Mauritius. On one hand, competitive tax policies are essential for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), stimulating economic growth, and creating jobs. Favourable tax rates and incentives can make



**A data-driven approach helps ensure that policy decisions are informed by accurate and comprehensive information.**



a jurisdiction more appealing to multinational enterprises (MNEs) looking to establish or expand their operations. This, in turn, can lead to increased capital inflows, technology transfer, and overall economic development.

On the other hand, aligning with global tax standards is equally important to ensure transparency, fairness, and compliance with international norms. The implementation of initiatives such as BEPS 2.0 and the global minimum tax aims to curb tax avoidance and profit shifting by MNEs, ensuring that they pay their fair share of taxes in the jurisdictions where they operate. Adhering to these standards

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enhances a jurisdiction's reputation, fosters trust among international investors, and promotes a level playing field for businesses.

The key to achieving this balance lies in designing tax policies that are both competitive and compliant with global standards. This involves offering targeted tax incentives that attract investment without undermining the integrity of the tax system. For instance, Mauritius can focus on providing incentives for sectors that drive sustainable growth, such as technology, renewable energy, and financial services, while ensuring that these incentives are transparent and aligned with international best practices.

Moreover, continuous dialogue and cooperation with international tax bodies, such as the OECD, UN or ATAF, can help Mauritius stay abreast of global tax developments and adapt its policies accordingly. By striking the right balance between competitiveness and compliance, Mauritius can position itself as a preferred investment destination while contributing to the global effort to create a fair and transparent international tax system.

**One of the conference's objectives is to analyse compliance, enforcement, and policy formulation. In practice, what role can professional associations like IFA play in shaping policy advocacy?**

Professional associations like the International Fiscal Association play a crucial role in shaping policy advocacy, particularly in the realm of international taxation. Their involvement is multifaceted and impactful in several key areas.

Firstly, associations like IFA engage in policy research and analysis, providing evidence-based recommendations to policymakers. They conduct thorough research on complex tax issues, draft position papers, and develop policy briefs that highlight industry concerns and suggest viable solutions. This data-driven approach helps ensure that policy decisions are informed by accurate and comprehensive information.

Moreover, professional associations play a pivotal role in fostering dialogue and collaboration among diverse stakeholders. Through conferences, workshops, and networking events, they facilitate the exchange of ideas, experiences, and best practices. This exchange not only enhances the collective knowledge and understanding of tax issues, but also cultivates a sense of solidarity and shared responsibility among professionals working towards common goals.

Additionally, associations often engage in lobbying efforts to influence legislative and regulatory frameworks. By representing collective industry interests, they help shape laws and regulations that promote business growth while addressing potential challenges. Their involvement ensures that regulations are practical, aligned with industry standards, and conducive to a fair and transparent tax system.

In conclusion, professional associations like IFA play a vital role in shaping policy advocacy by representing their members' interests, conducting policy research, fostering stakeholder collaboration, and engaging in lobbying efforts. Their contributions are essential for ensuring that tax policies are well-informed, equitable, and effective in addressing the evolving challenges of

the international tax landscape.

**What lessons can be drawn from the Asia and Africa regions regarding compliance challenges and opportunities for harmonisation?**

From a tax perspective, Asia and Africa present distinct, yet interconnected challenges and opportunities in the realm of compliance and harmonisation. In Asia, the diversity of tax systems—from highly digitised and transparent regimes like Singapore and South Korea to more complex and evolving frameworks in countries such as India, Indonesia, and Vietnam—creates significant compliance burdens for multinational enterprises. Transfer pricing regulations are becoming increasingly stringent, with tax authorities demanding comprehensive documentation and actively engaging in audits and dispute resolution. The rapid pace of digitalisation in some jurisdictions has improved tax administration, but uneven adoption across the region continues to hinder consistency and efficiency.

Africa, meanwhile, faces structural challenges including limited administrative capacity, a large informal economy, and fragmented tax legislation across jurisdictions. Many tax authorities struggle with enforcement and taxpayer education, which affects voluntary compliance and revenue mobilisation. However, there is growing momentum toward harmonisation, driven by regional initiatives such as the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). These bodies are promoting alignment with international standards, including OECD guidelines on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) and transfer pricing, while encouraging the adoption of digital tax platforms like Kenya's iTax and Rwanda's e-Tax.

Both regions underscore the importance of regional cooperation, capacity building, and technology-driven reform. Harmonisation efforts—such as unified reporting standards, regional tax treaties, and shared compliance frameworks—can reduce administrative burdens, enhance transparency, and foster cross-border investment. For tax professionals and policymakers, the key lesson is that harmonisation must be pursued with sensitivity to local economic realities and institutional capacities. A balanced approach that combines global best practices with tailored regional solutions is essential for improving tax compliance, reducing disputes, and supporting sustainable development across Asia and Africa.

**How can tax professionals and businesses in Mauritius prepare to navigate the evolving compliance landscape?**

Tax professionals and businesses in Mauritius can take several proactive steps. Some of the key strategies are:

Firstly, staying informed about the latest tax regulations and reforms is crucial. This includes understanding the implications of international tax initiatives such as BEPS 2.0 and the global minimum tax. Regularly attending industry conferences, such as the 16th Asia/Africa IFA Conference, and participating in professional development courses can help professionals stay up to date with the latest developments and best practices.

Secondly, investing in technology and automation can significantly enhance compliance efforts. Implementing advanced tax software solutions can streamline compliance processes, reduce the risk of errors, and ensure timely and accurate reporting. These tools can also help businesses manage the increasing complexity of tax regulations and improve overall efficiency.

Thirdly, building a strong compliance team is essential. This involves hiring and retaining skilled professionals who are well-versed in the nuances of regulatory compliance. Providing ongoing training and development opportunities for staff can help ensure that they are equipped to handle the evolving compliance landscape.

Additionally, fostering a culture of compliance within the organization is important. Management should prioritize compliance and risk assessment as much as the performance criteria, ensuring that compliance programs are well-supported and effectively implemented. This includes conducting regular risk assessments and audits to identify and mitigate potential compliance risks.

Lastly, engaging with professional associations and industry bodies can provide valuable support and resources. Associations like IFA play a crucial role in shaping policy advocacy, conducting policy research, and fostering dialogue among stakeholders. By actively participating in these associations, tax professionals and businesses can stay informed about industry trends, share best practices, and contribute to the development of effective tax policies.

In conclusion, by staying informed, investing in technology, building a strong compliance team, fostering a culture of compliance, and engaging with professional associations, tax professionals and businesses in Mauritius can effectively navigate the evolving compliance landscape.



**Measures introduced by the Trump administration... have steered global tax policies away from coordinated reform and towards a more fractured and confrontational environment.**



# COVER STORY

**ASHISH KHANNA,**

**DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE**

## **“We are deciding the final stages of a 200-million-dollar Africa solar facility to be incorporated in Mauritius”**

- **“Egypt now has solar bids at 3 cents per kilowatt-hour. India is doing most of the projects for 4 to 5 cents. Imagine how much lower it is compared to your diesel-based cost of 15 to 20 cents.”**
- **“It is a unique advantage of Mauritius, compared to other SIDS, that you already have a thriving private sector.”**



Mauritius could become a financial and technological springboard for Africa’s solar future. The International Solar Alliance (ISA), an intergovernmental organisation with 124 member states, is working towards finalizing a 200-million-dollar Africa solar facility to be incorporated in Mauritius, leveraging the island’s robust financial ecosystem. In this interview with Bizweek, Director General Ashish Khanna delves on ISA’s mandate to scale-up solar energy production, arguing that it is “the cheapest, cleanest and most job-inducing technology.” Mauritius, he says, could lower its energy production cost to less than half if it invests in solar and battery solutions. The government’s ambitious goal of attaining 60% percent of renewable energy in the local mix by 2035 is important in that regard, but so too are a strong political will, the institutions to carry out the mandate, transparency, and the right financial ecosystem.

**RUDY VEERAMUNDAR**

# COVER STORY

**Could you tell us about International Solar Alliance and your mission here in Mauritius?**

International Solar Alliance is a treaty-based organization which has 124 member countries, which means it is probably the Global South's largest multilateral institution. Our main objective is how we can economize on our growth and jobs through the use of solar batteries and electric mobility. We have a new strategy that focuses on four pillars that will also allow us to be complementary to existing financial institutions like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, as well as research-focused institutions like the International Energy Agency (IEA). What are those pillars? First, how do we unlock private sector investment? This is important for Mauritius. A lot of times, the private sector needs policy and regulatory clarity, as well as reducing the risk of private sector investment. So we focus, through catalytic finance, on how to improve the policy and regulatory capability, and how to have reduced risk perception in the private sector. Second is how to improve the capability in countries. In the case of Mauritius, we will talk to universities on what kind of training program or centre of excellence will make sense. The third pillar is for a few countries like Mauritius, where we have a country partnership framework. We are here as part of formalizing and looking at the details of the country partnership framework.

**During your visit to Mauritius (last Monday), you will engage in ministerial meetings as well as technical workshops. What outcomes do you hope to achieve from this mission?**

Mauritius, like any island state, is still heavily dependent on diesel and heavy fuel oil, and that is costing 20-25 cents, which is a huge burden on the budget, as well as on the wallets of its people. Solar, as we see in Maldives and other places, can be done at 10 cents or lower. Look at the difference. You could be lowering your cost to less than half if you can move more towards solar and battery solutions. Countries like Mauritius are hugely dependent on tourism. Ecotourism, and using less diesel is extremely important. So, our main objective today is to see whether the focus will be on floating solar – a project that we are evaluating at Tamarind Falls – whether it is solar rooftop, which has a huge potential for a country like Mauritius, or any other form of solar, look at what kind of battery solutions we have, and then pick a good university that can become a centre of excellence for developing your own capability to find your own solutions. That is the gamut of options that we are very keen to discuss with the government.

**The government of Mauritius has reviewed its ambition in terms of energy mix. Instead of meeting the 60 percent of renewable energy threshold in 2030, it is aiming to do that in 2035. How is ISA going to help?**

Let me give you a very interesting take on that. A country of the size of India has achieved its 2030 target of 50 percent renewable energy five years in advance. Today, out of almost 490 gigawatts, India has 245 gigawatts from renewable energy. I go around the world. I meet a lot of naysayers. 'Oh, does solar make sense? Is it really possible?' Well, that's a living example. You do not do it because somebody else is asking you to. You do it because it is in the economic interest of your country. It is the cheapest, cleanest and most job-inducing



technology.

As for your question on how we can help, Mauritius is a land-constrained country, and we have to look at what the best possible project is. That is why we are evaluating Tamarind Falls as a good floating solar project. We also have to look at the large-scale solar rooftop capabilities. We will then have to see whether there are small mini grid opportunities. Maybe agriculture pumps would be an opportunity as well. Then we will have to figure out to what percentage a sum total of that takes you.

**Financing and implementation often remain barriers to renewable energy. How is ISA helping countries and private partners to overcome these challenges?**

That is a very good question. We have come to almost deciding the final stages of an Africa solar facility. It will be a 200-million-dollar facility incorporated in Mauritius – because that is the strength of Mauritius, the financial – which will allow the private sector to invest in distributed renewable energy, whether it is solar pumps, solar rooftop or other projects across Africa. It is just that, financially, the entity might be based here. I feel the barrier to finance is probably a little less of a challenge in Mauritius than compared to the rest of Africa, where the risk perception of investing is very high.

As part of our country partnership strategy, what we like to evaluate is how local banks can come up with a financial product that allows products of solar electric mobility and batteries to be sold. Because the big difference is solar is a one-time expense, with little maintenance, whereas diesel and others need regular maintenance. So, if you and I were to buy a solar battery, we would need some initial financing support, because the cost is high. But then, over the lifetime of the product, we would save a lot of money compared to diesel. For example, it could be less than half of a diesel pump or something like that. So, these are the two aspects: Have a local financial product and work with banks for Africa-wide solar facilities.

**Looking ahead, where do you see the biggest**



**If the Prime Minister wants to stand firmly behind the target of 60% of renewable energy, putting people with the right leadership skills behind this mandate, with full empowerment, is going to be critical.**

**opportunities for scaling solar energy in the next decade, particularly for Africa and the SIDS?**

Interestingly, Mauritius has the capability of taking the leadership in the SIDS agenda. When we were in Asia Pacific and in Colombo one and a half months back, Mauritius, Seychelles and Maldives, together with five Pacific countries, signed a declaration of intent to do a joint procurement of solar. Then we went to Chile, and nine Caribbean countries signed the declaration. So, why do seventeen countries want to come together? Because if you try and do a 5-, 10-, or 15-megawatt project, large scale international private investors are not interested in small projects.

The SIDS all have the same problem. All of them have 80, 85 percent of generation out of diesel, which is costing as much as 5 percent of GDP in some countries. Imagine how much of that money can be used for social protection and other priorities. If they come together and we help and do a joint procurement and digital tendering, that will bring down the cost and help SIDS learn from each other.

# COVER STORY

And I think if Mauritius gets its policy right, is able to demonstrate leadership by doing initial projects for resorts, floating solar and others, then they can take a lot more of a leadership role within SIDS as well, because you have a good private sector environment. It is a unique advantage of Mauritius, compared to other SIDS, that you already have a thriving private sector.

**PPPs would then make a lot of sense...**

Absolutely. Solar, everywhere, is only done by the private sector. Government brings in the right policy and regulatory framework, and the private sector comes in and invests. Sometimes, in some countries, they may need some risk mitigation support. But the private sector will definitely have to invest.

**Did you have the opportunity to assess the business landscape in Mauritius, and how we can take this forward?**

I would like the proof of the pudding to be in projects. Mauritius has tried two or three times to do a bid, but it did not get very good results. That is what we want to focus on. What kind of power purchase agreement and bidding framework will allow the right risk mitigation and risk allocation so that you get the best possible private sector interest. We will try to do it through floating solar. Why floating solar? Because you probably do not have enough land mass to do a grid connected. So, perhaps the first attempt will be to try and find the right contractual framework through a Tamarind Falls floating solar.

**Do you see coal being rapidly phased out from the energy sector?**

Perhaps it is a function not of the climate change debate only, but of economics. Mauritius must decide what the best mix of biomass, coal and solar is in order to meet its energy requirements essential for digitization, health and jobs. And our analysis shows that solar will become a part of all solutions. Perhaps with some batteries, because you will also need to meet night peak requirements. So, a mix of solar and batteries will be extremely important if you want to continue some base load, that is the country's least cost-generation priority. But in our understanding of what solar could be, Mauritius has a huge potential.

**You have over 26 years of experience leading energy sector development across more than 15 countries. What key lessons have shaped your approach to advancing the energy sector?**

That is a very good question. Let me share a couple of things. The first is strong political will. When I was in Egypt and the country had not done any renewable energy, it was a strong political will that led to big reforms and a big and ambitious target that brought Benban, which was then the world's single largest solar plant at 2000 megawatt.

India's experience of moving from 0 to 115 gigawatts in 10 years is the result of political will and of a strong target of 500 gigawatts. So, political will, with a strong, ambitious target, is the first part. The second is institutions. You need to have institutions that are going to carry out the mandate, because it is a journey. Sometimes your PPA and your contract will not be right. It will have to be reviewed. Your regulations will not be right. Since most of it will be done by the private sector, having a very good regulator is extremely



important. The regulator, solar institutions and financing institutions, as an ecosystem, are very important.

The third is transparency. If you are doing a competitive and transparent bidding, then you can bring down the cost. Egypt, for example, is now having solar bids at 3 cents per kilowatt-hour. India is doing most of the projects, with or without batteries, sometimes for 4 to 5 cents. Imagine how much lower it is compared to your diesel-based cost of 15 to 20 cents.

Finally, the advantage Mauritius has, which a lot of countries don't, is a very good financial ecosystem. Eventually, you want some local and some international financing to be available for the private sector, which has a necessary task of scaling up.

So, that is what has led a lot of countries. And therefore, I feel that Mauritius, which already has a target of 60%, probably needs to have a little bolder policy ownership, create the ecosystem of institutions, and finally look into the financing.

**Did you have the opportunity to assess our policy landscape and where we need to improve?**

That is something that we will do more deeply. As I said, there are two or three areas that are very clear. One is the contractual framework. When you do the tendering and the power purchase agreement, do you have the right risk allocation framework? And the second part of the policy will be on other mechanisms, like solar rooftop. Does the policy allow adequate incentives both for people to do rooftop, but also for distribution companies to feel comfortable with the inflow because of net metering and others. So, those are some of the issues that we will be discussing.

One issue I forgot to discuss is agri photovoltaic. We are undertaking a study in Mauritius. Because of the constraint of land mass, should some sites be developed for doing agri photovoltaic? Within the same project site, you can do both agriculture and photovoltaic.



**The study should be ready by February... maybe 15 or 16 megawatts of floating solar, 10 or 15 megawatts of solar rooftop, and another 1 megawatt of agri photovoltaic. So, we demonstrate, and then the market takes over.**



The study should be ready by February. That will allow maybe 1 megawatt of projects to begin on agri photovoltaic. So, it is a combination: maybe 15 or 16 megawatts of floating solar, 10 or 15 megawatts of solar rooftop, and another 1 megawatt of agri photovoltaic. So, we demonstrate, and then the market takes over.

**You have emphasized the importance of strengthening ISA's skills and accountability framework. What specific reforms are being pursued to strengthen accountability in member countries?**

The best way to strengthen accountability is related to a strong policy and regulation, and transparency. Because nothing brings accountability like transparency. When people know everything – the contract, the bidding, etc. – then the accountability issues are strengthened.

The last item, which I alluded to before, is the quality of institutions. If the Prime Minister wants to stand firmly behind the target of 60% of renewable energy, putting people with the right leadership skills behind this mandate, with full empowerment, is going to be critical. Because, as we know, there are navigational issues. You will have to deal with some concerns from the private sector, from the CEB, etc. Then, having the right institution with the right leadership to navigate that will be very important. That brings accountability. So, quality of contracting, transparency, quality of leadership.

**Any final words for us?**

I think Mauritius is on the cusp of finally being able to get out of very high cost. It is costing enormously in the budget. It is costing enormously to the wallet of Mauritius. And therefore, you need to have a big, concerted effort, within a land-constrained environment, to do a whole host of projects – whether it is floating solar, solar rooftop, agri-PV, etc. – to unlock this potential and then take more of a leadership role among the SIDs. It is only when you are able to demonstrate progress that other SIDs countries will look to you. That is a unique opportunity.

# BUSINESS

## Le Charles Telfair Centre et la MCB organisent un événement sur la finance durable

La finance doit être repensée pour répondre à l'ampleur des défis actuels en matière de climat et de biodiversité. Tel était le message fort délivré lors d'un événement intitulé « Financer un avenir durable : libérer des capitaux pour la résilience et la croissance dans l'océan Indien occidental », organisé par le Charles Telfair Centre en collaboration avec la Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB), le 5 septembre, au Charles Telfair Education Campus à Moka.

Cette discussion thématique est le résultat d'un partenariat entre le Charles Telfair Centre et la MCB, visant à créer un changement significatif à travers le partage des connaissances, le dialogue et l'innovation afin de relever les défis les plus urgents en matière de développement durable dans la région. Des experts et des professionnels de la finance se sont ainsi réunis pour discuter de la manière dont la région de l'océan Indien occidental peut mobiliser des financements durables afin de relever les défis urgents liés au climat et au développement, identifier les opportunités en matière de réglementation et d'incitations, concevoir des pistes pratiques pour l'investissement et le renforcement des capacités, et renforcer la dynamique de collaboration et d'initiatives pilotes. La discussion a été animée par Stéphane Lebon, responsable du développement durable du groupe MCB. Le conférencier invité, Chris Loker, fondateur et directeur général de Water Financial, en Afrique du Sud, a souligné l'urgence d'aligner la finance sur les réalités environnementales et sociales. Au vu des catastrophes climatiques de 2024, il a expliqué que « la crise climatique n'est pas un problème de demain. C'est un incendie qui fait rage aujourd'hui et nous devons agir comme si notre maison était en feu ». M. Loker a souligné la nécessité d'un changement systémique dans les pratiques d'investissement, appelant à une action collective immédiate plutôt qu'à un débat prolongé de la part des gouvernements, des institutions

financières et du secteur privé, déclarant que « toute finance est une finance climatique, chaque rand/dollar/roupie que nous investissons a un impact environnemental, qu'il soit positif ou négatif ».

Neetyanand Kowlessur, directeur du Centre sur le changement climatique de la Banque de Maurice (BoM) et également participant à la table ronde, a déclaré que « la BoM a joué un rôle de premier plan dans la promotion de la finance durable en intégrant les considérations climatiques et environnementales dans le système financier. Ses lignes directrices sur la gestion des risques climatiques et financiers exigent des banques qu'elles adoptent une approche proactive et prudente en matière de changement climatique en intégrant les risques climatiques dans leurs opérations, leur stratégie, ainsi que leurs cadres de gouvernance et de gestion des risques ». Il a souligné la nécessité de débloquer des financements pour le climat en améliorant la 'bancabilité' des projets verts grâce à des instruments innovants. Il a également fait le point sur les initiatives prises par les autorités pour renforcer l'écosystème climatique, en termes d'élaboration d'une taxonomie verte nationale et de préparation d'une feuille de route pour l'adoption éventuelle des normes IFRS S1 et S2 à Maurice.

Le professeur Ulrich Volz, directeur du Centre for Sustainable Finance de la SOAS, Université de Londres, Royaume-Uni, a souligné que si chaque banque centrale a des mandats et des



contextes différents, le changement climatique affecte directement leurs responsabilités fondamentales en matière de stabilité des prix, de stabilité macroéconomique et de résilience du secteur financier. Il a souligné l'impact croissant du changement climatique sur l'inflation des prix des denrées alimentaires et de l'énergie, soulignant que ces risques systémiques font des considérations climatiques une partie intégrante de la banque centrale, et non une extension de son mandat. Sanyukta Sewraj, chef d'équipe au bureau de la finance durable de la MCB, a expliqué comment la banque a fait évoluer la finance durable d'une

préoccupation périphérique à un élément central de son évaluation des risques, de la conception de ses produits et de son engagement auprès de ses clients. Grâce à des initiatives telles que Sunref et ses cadres de finance durable, la MCB intègre désormais les critères ESG, effectue des vérifications préalables approfondies et déploie des instruments tels que les obligations liées à la durabilité. « Il y a dix ans, les critères ESG et la durabilité étaient secondaires dans nos décisions ; aujourd'hui, ils sont au cœur de notre manière d'évaluer, de concevoir et d'octroyer des financements », a-t-elle ajouté.

## 100 jeunes dans un dialogue intergénérationnel pour faire valoir leurs propositions

Le 4e forum de dialogue intergénérationnel, qui s'est déroulé du 1er au 3 septembre à Maurice, a réuni plus de 100 jeunes des îles d'Afrique. La rencontre a été organisée par le COMESA et l'Union africaine, en collaboration avec la Commission de l'océan Indien (COI) à travers son projet Gouvernance, Paix et Stabilité soutenu par l'Agence française de développement (AFD). Réunis à Belle-Mare, une centaine de jeunes des Comores, Seychelles, Madagascar, Cap-Vert, La Réunion, Maurice et São Tomé-et-Príncipe ont activement participé aux sessions et travaux de groupe sur le thème « Construire la paix, réparer les divisions ». Parmi eux, 11 représentants du Parlement régional des jeunes de l'Indianocéanie (PRJIO) lancé par la COI et l'Association des Parlements des Etats membres de la COI (AP-COI). Les trois journées intenses

de travail et de collaboration ont permis d'échanger sur des sujets cruciaux pour le développement et la stabilité, à savoir :

- L'insécurité maritime et les crises climatiques
- L'égalité des genres
- La participation des jeunes dans la gouvernance démocratique
- La résolution des conflits

Plus qu'une simple rencontre, ce forum est un moment de dialogue axé sur l'action entre différentes générations. Les aînés transmettent leur expérience et leur savoir-faire, tandis que les jeunes apportent leur vision et des propositions d'amélioration. « C'est une question de coordination. Jusqu'ici, la voix de la jeunesse n'est pas encore soude. Il y a plein de voix qui crient un peu partout, mais sans atteindre la cible. La cible, ce sont nos aînés, nos politiques. C'est une dynamique qui va nous permettre de concrétiser nos recommandations. On



est lancé sur une bonne voie et je suis sûr qu'il y aura des actions », explique

Andrianirina Rabenitsiry Mario Heriniaina, membre du PRJIO et participant au forum.

# BUSINESS

## XPORT ACCELERATOR

# La MCCI lance la deuxième édition

Fort du succès de la première édition en 2024, la Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Maurice (MCCI) étend désormais le programme Xport Accelerator à une deuxième cohorte de PME mauriciennes. Soutenu par le Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD), Xport Accelerator ambitionne d'accompagner 20 Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (PME) mauriciennes, incluant des entreprises dirigées par des femmes et de jeunes entrepreneurs, à travers un programme de renforcement de capacités et de subventions afin de les aider à se préparer à l'exportation et à s'intégrer dans la Zone de libre-échange continentale africaine (ZLECAf).

Constituant un pilier essentiel de l'économie nationale, les PME représentent près de 50 % des emplois du pays et contribuent à hauteur de 40 % au PIB. Ils occupent donc un rôle central dans la création de richesses et dans le dynamisme social. Au niveau international, les PME représentent près de 6 % des exportations domestiques. Un potentiel énorme reste cependant à débloquer : avec la ZLECAf qui représente un marché de 1,3 milliard de consommateurs, les opportunités d'expansion sont considérables. « Notre vision a toujours été de renforcer les bases du secteur des PME. Lorsque les petites entreprises grandissent, ce sont aussi les communautés qui prospèrent. Avec Xport Accelerator, nous avons voulu aller au-delà de la théorie pour offrir aux PME un accompagnement concret et pratique qui les prépare à réussir sur le long terme. Après le succès de la première édition, nous avons décidé d'étendre le programme à un nouveau groupe de PME mauriciennes qui bénéficieront à leur tour des sessions de coaching et d'un accompagnement sur mesure », a indiqué le Dr. Drishtysingh Ramdenee, secrétaire

général de la MCCI. De son côté, Amanda Serumaga, représentante résidente du PNUD pour Maurice et les Seychelles a déclaré que « soutenir cette initiative s'est imposé comme une évidence dans notre stratégie de soutien aux PME et aux femmes chefs d'entreprise. Les PME sont l'épine dorsale de l'économie mauricienne, et investir dans le renforcement de leurs capacités, c'est miser sur une croissance durable, sur l'innovation et sur la création d'emplois ». Les incertitudes du marché, les barrières non tarifaires, les difficultés à obtenir des financements et le manque d'informations sur le marché figurent parmi les défis auxquels les entreprises sont confrontées. Le programme Xport Accelerator permet ainsi de combler ces lacunes en donnant aux entrepreneurs les outils, les compétences et les stratégies nécessaires pour mieux se développer et prospérer sur la scène régionale. Rooma Narrain, Head of Advocacy à la MCCI et responsable du projet Xport Accelerator, souligne l'évolution du programme : « Cette deuxième édition capitalise sur les apprentissages de la première cohorte. Les participants



de 2024 ont acquis une meilleure compréhension des marchés africains et développé des stratégies export plus solides. Le coaching personnalisé a permis aux PME d'optimiser leurs activités et de réfléchir de manière stratégique à leur développement. Nous intégrons

maintenant de nouveaux participants dans cette dynamique collective, créant progressivement une communauté d'entrepreneurs mauriciens tournés vers l'Afrique. C'est cette synergie entre expérience et ambition que nous voulons cultiver. »

## La SBM Bank, moteur du dynamisme entrepreneurial mauricien

Comprendre les réalités du terrain pour mieux y répondre. C'est dans cette optique que l'équipe SME Banking/Microfinance de la SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd, en collaboration avec le Retail Banking et l'équipe POS du département Cards/Payments Solutions, a récemment initié une série de visites auprès d'entrepreneurs et de micro-entrepreneurs à travers l'île. L'objectif de cette initiative est d'établir un dialogue direct avec les acteurs économiques de proximité afin de mieux cerner leurs besoins, leurs défis opérationnels et leurs attentes afin de leur proposer des solutions bancaires personnalisées, concrètes et accessibles. L'équipe de la SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd s'est

d'abord rendue dans le district de Flacq, où l'accueil des entrepreneurs a été particulièrement chaleureux. Cette première étape, rythmée par des échanges constructifs, a pleinement démontré la pertinence de la démarche et a donné le ton aux tournées suivantes, qui se sont tenues dans le Sud, à Rose-Belle et les localités avoisinantes, à Quatre-Bornes et la région de l'Ouest, et finalement dans le Nord, à Goodlands et dans les environs. Dans chacune de ces localités, les entrepreneurs ont salué cette approche proactive, humaine et tournée vers l'écoute, en soulignant l'importance pour les institutions financières de sortir de leurs cadres traditionnels pour aller à la rencontre des réalités économiques du terrain.

## Clôture du programme ECOFISH : L'héritage d'une pêche durable et prospère pour la région

En six années d'action, le programme ECOFISH, financé par l'Union européenne et mis en œuvre par la Commission de l'océan Indien (COI), a initié une dynamique nouvelle en faveur d'une pêche durable. Ambitieux, il a placé la durabilité au cœur de sa stratégie, couvrant une vaste partie de l'Afrique orientale, australe et de l'océan Indien, en tenant compte à la fois de la pêche artisanale et de la pêche industrielle. Fruit d'un travail de mise en réseau et de collaboration régionale, il a été à l'origine d'outils innovants, de partenariats renforcés et d'initiatives communautaires à fort impact, qui continueront à transformer le secteur des pêches dans la

région de l'Afrique orientale, australe et de l'océan Indien (AA-AO-OI). La clôture du programme ECOFISH coïncide aussi avec la première promotion de diplômés du cours de premier cycle sur le Droit, l'Économie Bleue et la Gestion Durable de la Pêche, lancé en partenariat avec l'Open University en 2021. Ce programme, conçu pour renforcer les capacités professionnelles, a permis à 20 professionnels de Maurice et de la région d'obtenir leur diplôme après trois années d'efforts. Dispensée en ligne pour une accessibilité maximale, cette formation participe au développement des capacités du secteur des pêches.

## L'AMM saisit des opportunités stratégiques pour projeter l'industrie mauricienne sur la scène régionale et internationale

À l'occasion de son 30e anniversaire, l'Association des Manufacturiers Mauriciens (AMM) franchit une nouvelle étape dans son positionnement stratégique. Par sa participation à des événements économiques d'envergure internationale et son engagement dans des partenariats régionaux, l'AMM confirme sa contribution à la diplomatie économique mauricienne et son rôle de catalyseur de croissance pour le label Made in Moris. L'AMM a ainsi annoncé sa participation à la délégation officielle du Premier ministre en Inde, sa représentation au forum BPI France Inno Generation à Paris, la confirmation du financement gouvernemental pour son programme En Route vers l'International, sa rencontre avec une délégation d'Eswatini pour des échanges stratégiques, ainsi que sa récente participation à l'atelier de l'EDB sur l'entrepreneuriat féminin dans le contexte de l'AfCFTA. Chacune de ces démarches contribue à tisser un réseau de partenariats économiques importants pour l'AMM et Made in Moris. « Ces opportunités témoignent de l'évolution de l'AMM vers un rôle d'influence et de représentation renforcée. Grâce à notre agilité et à une stratégie de plaidoyer menée depuis des années, nous saisissons chaque



ouverture pour créer de la valeur ajoutée pour nos membres et pour le secteur manufacturier mauricien dans son ensemble. Chaque mission, chaque panel, chaque rencontre diplomatique contribue à construire cette vision d'un Maurice industriel connecté aux marchés mondiaux et reconnu pour son excellence », souligne Shirin Gunny, CEO de l'AMM.

# NEWS

## STATE VISIT

# India unveiled a Special Economic Package worth nearly USD 680 million for Mauritius

Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam embarked on a State visit to India from September 9 to 16, his first overseas bilateral visit in his present term. So far, the Prime Minister and his Indian counterpart, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have held very fruitful discussions on a wide range of bilateral issues. On the strategic side, the two parties have agreed, in-principle, on the redevelopment and restructuring of the port in Mauritius, and on assistance in the development and surveillance of the Chagos Marine Protected Area. It was also, in-principle, agreed that the Government of India will extend budgetary assistance of USD 25 mn in the current Financial Year.



Following bilateral discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, a number of Memorandums of Agreement were signed between the two sides, after which the leaders held a joint press conference on Thursday. Addressing the conference, Prime Minister Modi said that *"Mauritius is an important pillar of India's Neighbourhood First policy and Vision Mahasagar."* *"In March, I had the privilege of attending the National Day celebrations of Mauritius. At that time, we gave our relations the status of Enhanced Strategic Partnership. Today, we have reviewed all aspects of bilateral cooperation in detail. We also shared views on regional*

*and global issues,"* he added.

On Thursday, India also unveiled a Special Economic Package worth nearly USD 680 million (MUR 30 billion) for Mauritius, covering health, infrastructure, and maritime security.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, in a special briefing, described the package as *"one of the major outcomes of this visit,"* noting that it includes blended financial assistance through grants and a line of credit. The support will cover development of the port, joint monitoring of the Chagos Marine Protected Area, and key infrastructure projects.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, projects

agreed upon include the construction of the New Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital, the establishment of an AYUSH Centre of Excellence, a Veterinary School and Animal Hospital, and the provision of helicopters to Mauritius. These initiatives, valued at around USD 215 million (MUR 9.8 billion), will be implemented jointly.

Further projects worth about USD 440 million (MUR 20.1 billion) include the new ATC tower at SSR International Airport, Motorway M4, Ring Road Phase II, and acquisition of port equipment. India has also committed USD 25 million in budgetary assistance for the current financial year.

## List of outcomes following the State visit of Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam to India

Several Memorandums of Understanding have been signed between India and Mauritius during the State visit. Other announcements have also been made. For instance, it has been agreed to take forward the G2G proposal to set up a 17.5 MW Floating Solar PV Project at Tamarind Falls. A team from NTPC Ltd will be visiting Mauritius shortly to finalise an agreement with the CEB in this regard.

1. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology between the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, Republic of Mauritius
2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Institute of Oceanography, and the Mauritius Oceanography Institute
3. Memorandum of Understanding between Karmayogi Bharat under the Department of Personnel and Training and the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms, Government of Mauritius
4. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Power Sector
5. Memorandum of Understanding regarding Indian grant assistance for Implementation of Phase II of Small Development Projects
6. Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Hydrography
7. Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Mauritius on Cooperation for the Establishment of Telemetry, Tracking, and Telecommunications Station for Satellites and Launch Vehicles and for

### Cooperation in the fields of Space Research, Science and Application

The following projects have been agreed, in principle, to be jointly implemented by India and Mauritius.

Projects/Assistance to be undertaken on Grant basis

- I. New Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital.
- II. AYUSH Centre of Excellence.
- III. Veterinary School and Animal Hospital.
- IV. Provision of helicopters.

It is estimated that the costs of these projects and assistance requested would be approximately USD 215 million/MUR 9.80 billion.

Projects/Assistance to be undertaken on Grant-cum-LOC basis

- I. Completion of construction work of new ATC tower at SSR International Airport.
- II. Development of Motorway M4.
- III. Development of Ring Road Phase II.
- IV. Acquisition of port equipment by CHCL.

Estimated costs of these projects/assistance would be approximately USD 440 million/MUR 20.10 billion.

# NEWS

## AI & FUTURE OF WORK SUMMIT 2025

# While the world is laying off employees to replace humans with AI, Mauritius chooses a different path

Across the globe, companies are massively replacing their employees with artificial intelligence. Jessyca Joyekurun, of ComplianceHR Mauritius and Expand Human Resources, along with Beejaye Ramchurn, of Athena Business School and Kuberaa Consulting, are taking a different approach with the AI & Future of Work Summit 2025, scheduled for Monday, November 10, at Hennessy Park Hotel, Ebene.

This unique summit in Mauritius presents a radically different future: showing that humans and machines can and must collaborate to create a more productive, innovative, and ethical workforce. It will not be a typical summit with speakers and panellists: the first part will feature TEDx-style presentations, delivering dynamic and inspiring talks from experts and contributors.

The summit will be hosted by Jessyca Joyekurun, a leading figure in human resources and labour law in Mauritius, serving as master of ceremonies and co-organizer. It will also feature international speakers from India, including from Geiom and Oracle, and influencers such as Ashley Epstein.

Jessyca Joyekurun says: "Statistics abroad speak for themselves. Since 2023, major companies have carried out massive layoffs, often justified by adopting artificial intelligence. For example:

- Salesforce cut 4,000 customer service jobs in 2025, reducing its workforce by 45% due to AI-driven automation of customer interactions.

- Intel announced the elimination of 15,000 jobs in 2024 to save \$10 billion, partly through AI adoption to optimize operations.
- Electronic Arts (EA) laid off approximately 800 employees in 2023, citing business streamlining and cost reduction, with a portion linked to AI automation.

*These examples highlight a troubling trend: AI, instead of complementing humans, is replacing them in many sectors."*

This vision is at the heart of the AI & Future of Work Summit 2025, emphasizing ethical collaboration between humans and AI. The second part of the summit will feature expert panels addressing AI ethics and legality, human-AI collaboration to build a Workforce 3.0, and solutions to contemporary challenges such as labour shortages, cost-of-living pressures, and inflation.

For Beejaye Ramchurn, "education will be the cornerstone for rebuilding a workforce capable of mastering technology and AI, transforming businesses, and creating a future where innovation goes hand in hand with performance and responsibility."



### FUTURE-PROOFING AML/CFT COMPLIANCE

## Abler Group to host strategic masterclass with global expert John Cusack



Abler Group will host a strategic masterclass – Future-Proofing AML/CFT Compliance – on September 16, at Hennessy Park Hotel, Ebene. This high-profile event will bring together regulators, industry leaders and compliance professionals to explore the latest international trends and reforms in Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT) compliance. The masterclass is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools needed to prepare for regulatory changes, anticipate emerging risks and benchmark against global standards. With the 2027 ESAAMLG Mutual Evaluation on the horizon, jurisdictions across the region, including Mauritius, face growing pressure to demonstrate effective implementation of AML/CFT measures. The Abler Group masterclass provides a timely platform for compliance officers and industry stakeholders to strengthen institutional resilience, align with evolving expectations, and stay ahead of an increasingly complex financial crime landscape.

Central to the event is John Cusack, Chair of the Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime and Global Senior Advisor at Oliver Wyman. With more than three decades of experience leading financial crime compliance at international banks, Mr. Cusack brings unparalleled expertise



on global risks and the regulatory landscape facing institutions today. He will lead sessions on AML/CFT reforms, the ESAAMLG evaluation process and pressing topics such as National Risk Assessment, sanctions, proliferation financing, and supervisory outlooks, amongst others.

## Mauritius designated as the Primary Jurisdiction for the Headquarters of the Africa Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA)

The Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning announced that the Republic of Mauritius has been officially designated as the Primary Jurisdiction for the Headquarters of the Africa Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA) by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

The initiative stems from an African Union (AU) Executive Council Decision in July 2024 aimed at establishing a private sector-led, independent and self-sustaining African credit rating agency. The motivation for an African credit rating agency is to provide financial assessments that more accurately reflect the continent's diverse and dynamic economic realities, moving beyond ratings by the international ratings agencies (Fitch Ratings, Moody's and S&P), which African policymakers view as potentially biased.

The CEO of the APRM Continental Secretariat, Ambassador Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre, has now formally informed that following a competitive and transparent evaluation process that considered proposals from several African Union States by an Advisory Committee, Mauritius emerged as the top candidate.

The APRM letter commends Mauritius' outstanding proposal, alignment with AfCRA's long-term vision, and its enabling environment to support the operational and developmental requirements of the agency.

In a statement, the Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning, Dr Jyoti Jeetun, welcomed "this historic designation, which is a strategic win for the nation and the financial services sector. The designation of Mauritius as the host country for AfCRA is a major milestone that reinforces our standing as a continental leader in financial governance and innovation."

# DEBRIEF

## Odysseo Foundation célèbre son premier anniversaire et accueille Beachcomber et la MCB parmi ses partenaires

Un an après son lancement, Odysseo Foundation franchit une nouvelle étape dans son engagement pour la préservation et la restauration des écosystèmes marins. À l'occasion de son premier anniversaire, marqué par un événement à l'Océanarium de Port-Louis, en présence du ministre de l'Agro-industrie et de l'Économie bleue, Arvin Boolell, la fondation a officialisé l'arrivée de deux nouveaux partenaires : Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels et la Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB). Ces deux acteurs rejoignent Terra, ER Group et Eclasia Solidarité, qui avaient déjà rejoint la fondation en mars dernier.

Odysseo Foundation et ses partenaires constituent désormais une force active au service de la conservation marine et de l'économie bleue à Maurice et dans l'océan Indien. Depuis son lancement en septembre 2024, Odysseo Foundation a mené des projets scientifiques et communautaires d'envergure. Parmi, citons quatre projets qui portent déjà leurs fruits :

- Le *Blue Carbon Ecosystems restoration* qui a permis de planter 3 000 mangroves et de mettre en place la première pépinière d'herbiers marins de l'océan Indien.
- L'*Indian Ocean Coral Seeding Initiative*, qui a abouti à la naissance de Kora, le premier "bébé corail" issu d'une reproduction sexuée en laboratoire.
- Trois expéditions scientifiques à Saint-Brandon, en partenariat notamment avec National Geographic, Oxford University et la Zoological Society of London, afin d'étudier et protéger l'un des atolls les plus exceptionnels de la région.
- Le lancement du Blue Economy

Hub, un espace collaboratif unique à l'île Maurice, destiné à stimuler l'innovation, la recherche et l'entrepreneuriat durable liés à l'économie bleue.

### Une force motrice pour "Blue the Future"

Pour Caroline Rault, présidente d'Odysseo Foundation et Chief Sustainability Officer d'Eclasia, « ce premier anniversaire marque une étape symbolique : nos projets ont déjà commencé à transformer les écosystèmes et à mobiliser les communautés. L'arrivée de Beachcomber et de la MCB renforce notre conviction qu'ensemble, avec nos partenaires, nous pouvons créer un avenir marin plus résilient et une économie bleue durable pour Maurice et la région. » Pour Stéphane Poupinel de Valencé, CEO de Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels, « Odysseo Foundation œuvre à transformer l'avenir de Maurice à travers des projets structurés de préservation des récifs, des mangroves et de l'archipel



de Saint-Brandon, tout en sensibilisant le grand public. Le groupe Beachcomber est fier de participer à ces projets afin de contribuer à la régénération de nos écosystèmes marins et ainsi léguer aux générations futures une île plus consciente et résiliente. » « En nous associant à Odysseo Foundation, nous participons à l'émergence d'une plateforme

collaborative qui a pour but de développer une économie bleue locale innovante et durable. Si dans deux ans, la fondation est reconnue comme un acteur incontournable de l'économie bleue au niveau local et régional, cette aventure sera alors un 'game changer', a quant à lui déclaré Stéphane Lebon, Group Sustainability Manager de MCB Group.

### Commission de l'océan Indien : Quatre jours pour anticiper les aléas climatiques

Du 16 au 20 septembre, la Commission de l'océan Indien (COI) réunit, à Maurice, le SWIOCOF 14b et la 3e session du comité de pilotage du projet HYDROMET. Au programme : bilan annuel et perspectives du projet HYDROMET, mais aussi travaux pour produire des prévisions saisonnières 2025-2026 et renforcer l'usage des informations climatiques au service de la résilience de la région.

Durant 4 jours, des experts locaux, régionaux et mondiaux, ainsi que des utilisateurs des services et produits climatiques, météorologiques et hydrologiques de 10 pays de la région, se réuniront pour :

- Faire le bilan des prévisions de la dernière saison cyclonique
- Suivre des formations sur les outils récents de prévision hydrométéorologique
- Produire et présenter les prévisions saisonnières pour la saison des pluies et des cyclones 2025-2026 avec mise à jour en octobre
- Avancer vers des prévisions basées sur les impacts et renforcer le lien entre producteurs et utilisateurs d'informations climatiques
- Mobiliser les secteurs agriculture, gestion des risques, santé, pêche et autres autour de l'usage des prévisions.

### One&Only Le Saint Géran remporte le prestigieux Bocuse d'Or Maurice 2025

One&Only Le Saint Géran a annoncé la brillante réussite de son équipe culinaire lors du prestigieux Bocuse d'Or Maurice 2025, une compétition de renommée internationale qui met en lumière l'excellence de l'art gastronomique. Représentant l'établissement hôtelier avec créativité, savoir-faire et passion, le Chef Nitilesh Beharee, le Chef Parikshit Seegolam et le Senior Executive Sous-Chef Vikash Coonjan ont livré une performance exceptionnelle qui leur a valu la première place. Une victoire qui apporte non seulement une immense fierté au One&Only Le Saint Géran, mais également à l'ensemble des professionnels de la gastronomie mauricienne. En effet, leur succès illustre l'influence

grandissante de l'île sur la scène culinaire mondiale.

Réagissant à cette occasion, Roman Goetsch, directeur général du One&Only Le Saint Géran, a déclaré : « Nous sommes extrêmement fiers du Chef Nitilesh, du Chef Parikshit et du Senior Executive Sous-Chef Vikash pour leur remarquable réussite au Bocuse d'Or Maurice 2025. Cette victoire témoigne de leur talent exceptionnel et de leur dévouement et renforce notre engagement à mettre en valeur la gastronomie mauricienne sur la scène internationale. Cet accomplissement est un reflet éclatant de l'excellence, de la passion et de la créativité incarnées par nos Legacy Makers au One&Only Le Saint Géran. »



### FAM organise une table ronde sur la parentalité responsable

Une table ronde importante s'est tenue le mardi 9 septembre, à la Municipalité de Port-Louis, réunissant des responsables gouvernementaux, des leaders de la société civile, des figures religieuses et des acteurs communautaires pour aborder des questions cruciales liées au bien-être familial, à l'égalité des genres, à la cohésion sociale et à la parentalité responsable.

L'événement, organisé sous l'égide de FAM: Fam An Mars, a été honoré par la présence du ministre du Travail et des Relations industrielles, Reza Uteem, du Junior Minister de la santé, Anishta Babooram, de l'Assistant Solicitor-General, Sooraya Gareebou, ainsi que d'Aneeta Ghoorah, Ombudsperson for Children.

Lors de cette rencontre, la présidente de FAM, Ruqayah Khayrattee, a prononcé un discours mettant en avant l'importance de la responsabilité parentale, de l'inclusion sociale et du respect envers tous les enfants. Elle a rappelé que le développement de familles responsables doit être soutenu par une législation adaptée, notamment en ce qui concerne l'abandon d'enfants. La proposition d'organiser des ateliers obligatoires pour les futurs mariés et les nouveaux parents a également été évoquée.

Il a été souligné que soutenir les familles contribue à bâtir une société meilleure et que la responsabilité dans la parentalité doit être partagée entre l'homme et la femme. La nécessité de soutenir davantage les femmes dans les secteurs essentiels, notamment par deux jours de repos consécutifs ou une semaine de travail de quatre jours, a également été mentionnée.

# DEBRIEF

## DEBA KLIMA SEZON 3

# Les champions du collège de La Confiance à Rodrigues

Les gagnants de Deba Klima saison 3 ont fait le déplacement à Rodrigues du 24 au 28 août dernier. Nygel Andon, Annehel Anna et Adriano Bonnefemme, du collège de La Confiance, s'étaient démarqués lors des débats télévisés diffusés sur MBC 1 et MBC Sat et avaient remporté la finale, dans la soirée du samedi 28 juin, contre le collège Dr Maurice Curé. En remportant la compétition, les trois participants, ainsi que leur enseignante, avaient obtenu un voyage éco-découverte, offert par le Groupe MCB.



Lors de leur séjour rodriguais, l'équipe gagnante a eu la chance d'explorer les merveilles naturelles de l'île, accompagnés de représentants de la MCB et du Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre. Les grands gagnants de Deba Klima ont unanimement été conquis par la simplicité des habitants de Rodrigues. Nygel Andon s'est dit « émerveillé par le mode de vie et l'autonomie des habitants de l'île ». Conscient des défis auxquels ces derniers font face, il souligne que « petits et grands prennent des actions contre le changement climatique ». Pour Annehel Anna, autre gagnant, « la vie à Rodrigues est unique. Les gens, la culture, la végétation et la biodiversité m'ont montré une autre facette de la vie que je ne connaissais pas, mais que j'ai vécue avec admiration ».

« Deba Klima est non seulement une initiative de sensibilisation, mais aussi une invitation à repenser notre relation avec la planète. Nous sommes convaincus que la découverte de la nature préservée de l'île Rodrigues, riche de sa culture locale et de sa biodiversité unique, a profondément marqué les jeunes gagnants de Deba

Klima saison 3. Ce type d'expérience renforce la conscience écologique et la compréhension de nos jeunes étudiants des enjeux réels auxquels nous faisons face », a quant à lui déclaré Jean Michel Ng Tseung, CEO du Groupe MCB.

### Explorations diverses

La découverte des tortues géantes de la réserve François Leguat a été l'un des moments forts de ce voyage écologique. Les grands gagnants de la saison 3 de Deba Klima ont eu l'occasion d'observer de près des centaines de tortues, d'oiseaux tropicaux et d'arbres indigènes. Cette visite leur a aussi offert l'occasion de découvrir les impressionnantes formations calcaires de la Grande Caverne, révélant un écosystème à la fois riche et unique, où se rencontrent faune, flore et patrimoine géologique de Rodrigues.

Durant leur séjour, les gagnants de Deba Klima ont aussi rencontré les plongeurs et éducateurs de l'ONG Shoals Rodrigues, qui milite depuis plusieurs années pour la sauvegarde de la biodiversité marine.

A travers un tour guidé en mer, dans un 'glass bottom', les adolescents ont pu découvrir l'aquarium et la plantation de coraux à Rivière Banane.

### Accueil écoresponsable

C'est la troisième année consécutive que les Jolicoeur ouvrent les portes de la résidence Foulsafat aux gagnants de Deba Klima. Cette résidence incarne, pour beaucoup, l'accueil écoresponsable.

« Ici, nous consommons ce que nous produisons et cultivons. Nous servons à notre table les œufs, les poulets, les dindes, ainsi que les fruits de notre jardin. Nous sommes aussi autosuffisants en eau et en électricité », explique Benoît Jolicoeur, propriétaire des lieux.

### Expérience pédagogique forte

Ce voyage à Rodrigues a eu un réel impact pédagogique sur les élèves du collège de La Confiance. Michat Legrand Raout, enseignante accompagnatrice, explique que les gagnants de Deba Klima saison 3 ont été exposés à un

mode de vie différent, plus simple et profondément respectueux de l'environnement : « Ce séjour leur a permis de prendre conscience de l'importance des ressources naturelles, en particulier l'eau, ressource précieuse et qui se fait rare sur l'île. Ils ont pu observer les techniques ingénieuses et durables des habitants afin de s'approvisionner en eau de pluie et produire de l'électricité à partir de sources renouvelables. »

Pour le Dr Bhamini Kamudu Applasawmy, Senior Resource Officer au Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, « l'éco-trip à Rodrigues a offert aux gagnants de DebaKlima une expérience enrichissante. À travers les traditions locales telles que la pêche artisanale, la vannerie, l'agriculture durable ou encore la restauration des coraux, les étudiants ont découvert comment les habitants de l'île développent leur résilience face à la rareté de l'eau et à l'insécurité alimentaire. Cette expérience unique a mis à l'honneur la culture rodriguaise, les savoir-faire traditionnels et la durabilité comme de véritables leviers d'adaptation et d'innovation face aux défis climatiques ».

## Amy Rachel and The Soldiers remportent la 4e édition de Konpoz to Lamizik, concours d'Attitude Foundation

L'édition 2025 de Konpoz to Lamizik s'est terminée, le jeudi 4 septembre, avec une finale vibrante au Café du Vieux Conseil à Port-Louis. Organisé par Attitude Foundation, en partenariat avec La Isla 2068, le concours a, une fois de plus, révélé la richesse et la diversité de la scène musicale mauricienne.

Après les auditions et la préparation, les 10 finalistes retenus se sont affrontés lors d'une soirée exceptionnelle. Sur la scène, le public a retrouvé Kayamba, Nula Groove, Nathaniel avec Mozayik, Masai, Amy Rachel and the Soldiers, Livy Roots, Vincz & Marie, Dimitry Duval, Zuluman et The Mob.

C'est Amy Rachel and The Soldiers qui ont conquis le jury et le public grâce à leurs titres Limanite et Assé. Le groupe repart avec le premier prix : Rs 150 000 pour la production d'un clip professionnel sur l'une de ses chansons.

## Red Bull Triple Thrill: La 'team' Kassmolé (Fleurié/Ittoo/Bourgeois) championne

La première édition du Red Bull Triple Thrill, le samedi 6 septembre, a livré son équipe championne : les Kassmolé. Sur le parcours entre Chamouny et Bel Ombre, le vététiste Etienne Fleurié, le traileur Vishal Ittoo et le kitesurfer Arthur Bourgeois ont enchaîné de très bons temps dans leurs disciplines respectives pour réaliser une performance cumulée de 01h57'57".

Ils ont bouclé les 33,3 km de course avec 13 minutes d'avance sur la deuxième équipe (Flat out syndicate) et près d'une demi-heure sur la troisième (Dunienthrill).

Vishal Ittoo, qui fait partie de l'élite du trail mauricien, a enregistré le meilleur temps sur les 21,82 km du parcours de trail dans la réserve de



Bel Ombre, et Arthur Bourgeois a fait de même sur le circuit de kite dans le lagon en face du C Beach Club. Etienne Fleurié a fait une belle descente qui lui a valu le troisième meilleur temps, malgré une chute, sur les sentiers techniques de Mo'Bike à Chamouny.

# DEBRIEF

SOUTIEN AUX OBSERVATEURS DES PÊCHES

## Des équipements pour consolider la durabilité des filières halieutiques

La Commission de l'océan Indien (COI) a tenu, les 4 et 5 septembre, à Ébène, la 12e et dernière réunion du Groupe de Travail des responsables des Programmes Nationaux d'Observateurs (GT-rPNO) qui s'intègre au Plan Régional de Surveillance des Pêches (PRSP).

Cette réunion, organisée avec l'appui du programme ECOFISH et le soutien financier de l'Union européenne, et marquant symboliquement le 15e anniversaire du Programme des observateurs, a vu la remise d'équipements d'une valeur totale de 90 000 €. Ceux-ci comprennent du matériel de sécurité individuelle (chaussures, casque, gilet de sauvetage, vêtements haute visibilité), des outils de navigation et de suivi (GPS, accessoires), ainsi que du matériel informatique pour la collecte et la saisie des données en mer. Avec ces équipements, les observateurs des pêches voient leurs capacités renforcées. En effet, l'observation des pêches consiste

à l'embarquement d'observateurs sur les navires pour collecter des données sur les captures, les rejets et les interactions avec l'environnement marin. Ce programme des observateurs, soutenu par la COI et l'Union européenne, participe ainsi à la gestion durable des ressources halieutiques et est complémentaire des patrouilles et actions entreprises dans le cadre du Plan régional de surveillance des pêches.

« La distribution d'équipements soutient directement les observateurs sur le terrain et garantit la collecte de données exactes, fiables et comparables entre les flottilles. De meilleurs outils signifient de meilleures données, et de meilleures données



assurent une gestion plus solide dans toute la région », témoigne Joanne Lucas, responsable des pêches de la Seychelles

Fisheries Authority et responsable de la gestion des données du programme d'observateurs.



### Xenos voit le jour : Un groupe mauricien tourné vers l'avenir du voyage

La société à l'origine de MariDeal franchit aujourd'hui une étape majeure de son développement avec le lancement de Xenos, nouvelle identité de groupe destinée à structurer ses activités et à ouvrir la voie à de nouvelles perspectives de croissance. Ce changement reflète une évolution naturelle : MariDeal, en pionnière du tourisme domestique à Maurice, a fait émerger au fil des années d'autres initiatives, chacune porteuse d'une dynamique propre. Il devenait essentiel de donner un cadre clair à cet ensemble, d'en préciser les missions et de créer les conditions d'un développement équilibré et durable.

Xenos rassemble désormais deux piliers complémentaires. MariDeal, première plateforme locale consacrée au tourisme domestique, demeure l'enseigne de référence pour le marché mauricien, avec sa division MariDeal Business, qui accompagne entreprises et organisations dans leurs besoins de séjours et d'événements. À ses côtés, Xenos Technologies s'impose comme le fournisseur technologique du voyage, un innovateur numérique unique dans la région, qui détient 100 % de son infrastructure et de sa propriété intellectuelle, du moteur de réservation aux données en passant par l'expérience client, tout en maîtrisant chaque niveau de son architecture technologique.

« La création de Xenos est le prolongement naturel de notre parcours », déclare Alex Samuelson, CEO du groupe. « MariDeal a été le premier à ouvrir le segment du voyage domestique à Maurice et le premier à le numériser. Ce double positionnement pionnier a créé un effet de réseau unique dans le pays. Il devenait nécessaire de distinguer clairement la marque MariDeal de la technologie qui la propulse. Une structure claire était indispensable pour permettre à chacune de se développer pleinement. Avec Xenos, nous affirmons une vision : donner à chaque entité son identité propre tout en créant les conditions d'une croissance forte et maîtrisable, à Maurice comme au-delà. »

### Journée internationale de l'alphabétisation : Caritas île Maurice réunit ses animateurs et trace de nouvelles perspectives pour l'avenir

À l'occasion de la Journée internationale de l'alphabétisation, célébrée le 8 septembre, et dans le cadre de son 60e anniversaire, Caritas île Maurice a organisé une grande rencontre nationale réunissant une soixantaine d'animateurs bénévoles engagés dans son programme d'alphabétisation fonctionnelle.

« Nous croyons fermement que l'alphabétisation fonctionnelle reste une clé de l'autonomie et de l'inclusion sociale », souligne Josian Labonté, responsable du service de formation de Caritas île Maurice. « Cette rencontre avec nos animateurs montre à quel point l'énergie et la créativité du terrain nourrissent notre mission. En cette Journée internationale de l'alphabétisation, nous réaffirmons notre engagement à toucher davantage de personnes et à ne laisser personne de côté. »

Depuis le lancement du programme il y a 39 ans, Caritas a formé plus de 15 000 personnes à l'alphabétisation fonctionnelle, et accompagne chaque année au moins 300 nouveaux apprenants sur le chemin de

l'autonomie. Les échanges de la rencontre ont permis de mettre en lumière des réussites déjà acquises, comme l'efficacité des méthodes employées, l'encouragement que suscitent les petits pas réalisés, ou encore la richesse humaine de cette mission. Les animateurs ont aussi partagé les défis persistants : l'irrégularité des apprenants, la difficulté de concilier les disponibilités entre formateurs et participants, et la nécessité de maintenir la motivation au fil du temps.

Au-delà du constat, des pistes d'avenir se sont dessinées. Les participants ont insisté sur l'importance d'améliorer la communication, de renforcer les partenariats avec les entreprises et les ONG, de développer des centres permanents plus visibles et accessibles, et d'intégrer davantage les outils numériques dans l'apprentissage. La mobilisation a été d'autant plus marquante qu'une trentaine d'anciens animateurs ont exprimé leur volonté de reprendre du service, signe d'un engagement durable et renouvelé.

### Constance Hotels & Resorts célèbre l'excellence de Jaisen Pandoo, sacré Meilleur Sommelier de Maurice 2025

Devant un jury composé d'experts locaux et internationaux de renom (dont David Biraud, Meilleur Sommelier de France 2002, et Jérôme Banctel, chef triplement étoilé Michelin), les prétendants au titre de Meilleur Sommelier de l'île Maurice ont offert une prestation de haut niveau. C'est finalement Jaisen Pandoo, représentant du Constance Prince Maurice, qui a été sacré grand lauréat de cette édition. Grâce à cette victoire, il représentera fièrement l'île Maurice, l'année prochaine, au prestigieux concours du Meilleur Sommelier du Monde, qui se tiendra au Portugal.

« Gagner cette compétition est une immense fierté, mais c'est surtout le fruit des opportunités uniques que Constance Hotels & Resorts m'a offertes pour apprendre et me perfectionner. Chaque formation, chaque concours et chaque expérience m'ont permis de développer mon savoir-faire et ma passion pour la sommellerie, et surtout de représenter avec fierté l'excellence mauricienne », confie le Meilleur Sommelier de l'île Maurice 2025.



# DEBRIEF

## UNION EUROPÉENNE

# Présentation d'un nouvel appel à propositions pour renforcer les capacités des organisations de la société civile



La Délégation de l'Union européenne auprès de la République de Maurice et de la République des Seychelles lance un appel à propositions qui a pour objectif de contribuer au développement d'une société civile inclusive, participative et autonome, d'un espace démocratique, et d'un dialogue inclusif et ouvert avec et entre les organisations de la société civile. La priorité est de renforcer les capacités des organisations de la société civile dans trois domaines : lutte contre la toxicomanie, lutte contre la violence

contre les enfants et les femmes, et lutte contre l'érosion côtière et la perte de biodiversité.

Le budget disponible pour cet appel à propositions est de 2 360 000 euros et les candidats ont jusqu'au 21 octobre 2025 pour soumettre leur note conceptuelle. Lors de la session de présentation de cet appel à propositions, qui a réuni, en présentiel et en ligne, une soixantaine d'organisations de la société civile de Maurice et des Seychelles, l'Ambassadeur de l'Union européenne auprès de la République de Maurice,

Oskar Benedikt, s'est dit « convaincu que le renforcement de la société civile est essentiel pour bâtir des sociétés plus inclusives, démocratiques et résilientes. À travers ce nouvel appel à propositions, l'Union européenne réaffirme son engagement pour un avenir meilleur à Maurice et aux Seychelles. Les priorités identifiées constituent des leviers clés pour un développement à la fois inclusif et durable. J'encourage tous les candidats éligibles à participer à cette initiative. Ensemble, construisons un avenir plus équitable et résilient pour tous ! »

## Terra Act invite les Mauriciens à recycler leurs déchets plastiques volumineux

En marge du World Clean Up Day, Terra organisera, du 20 septembre au 11 octobre prochains, une grande collecte de plastiques. Organisée en partenariat avec PIM Ltd, Mahogany Shopping Promenade et Green Impact, cette initiative ouverte aussi bien aux entreprises qu'aux particuliers vise principalement à faciliter la revalorisation d'objets encombrants et souvent difficiles à recycler. La campagne se déroulera dans un premier temps uniquement à Beau-Plan, du 20 septembre au 11 octobre, puis sera étendue aux villages de Pamplemousses et de Bois-Rouge les 27 et 28 septembre.

À Beau-Plan, la récolte se fera tous les samedis de 9h à midi, sur le « overflow parking » de Mahogany Shopping Promenade. Plusieurs points de collecte seront mis en place à Pamplemousses (le Village Council, le Social Welfare Centre, le marché local et le siège de l'ONG Arche de Noël), tandis que la collecte, à Bois-Rouge, se fera directement sur la route.



## AMEN GRO PLASTIK NOU FER MAZIK

Du 20 septembre au 11 octobre au Mahogany Shopping Promenade



Collecte uniquement les samedis de 9h à 12h au overflow parking de Mahogany



Apportez vos objets en plastique usagés ou cassés pour les recycler avec PIM Ltd



Ne manquez pas la vente spéciale de PIM Ltd le samedi 11 octobre de 9h à 15h au Mahogany. Tous les produits seront fabriqués à partir de plastique recyclé

Voici les articles pouvant être déposés dans la zone de collecte



PLUS D'INFOS



ENSEMBLE GARDONS NOTRE ÎLE PROPRE EN RECYCLANT NOS DÉCHETS



terra Act

## Vivo Energy célèbre les 120 ans de la marque Shell à Maurice



Shell à Maurice, c'est une histoire qui s'écrit maintenant depuis 120 ans. A l'occasion de cet anniversaire, ce fleuron de l'industrie nationale, représenté à Maurice par Vivo Energy Mauritius, s'est paré de ses plus beaux atours le temps d'une soirée mémorable au Château de Labourdonnais. L'événement s'est tenu en présence du ministre du Commerce et de la Protection des consommateurs, Michael Sik Yuen, de plusieurs hauts dirigeants du Groupe Vivo Energy: Stan Mittelman, CEO, Nimit Shah, Chief Financial Officer, Peyami Oven, EVP

Maghreb & Indian Ocean, Rita Boucher, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, et Fouad Khfifi, Managing Director de Vivo Energy Mauritius.

Lorsque le premier chargement historique de 23 tonnes de kérosène débarqua du navire S.S. Turbo, en provenance de Singapour, le 6 août 1903, nul ne se doutait de l'extraordinaire épopée qui allait commencer. Shell fut ainsi la première entreprise pétrolière à s'implanter à Maurice, donnant naissance à ce qui deviendrait un acteur prépondérant du paysage économique en 1905.

## L'Atelier Restaurant : Quand l'art rencontre la table



Et si chaque repas devenait un voyage entre saveurs et couleurs ? À Grand-Gaube, dans le nord de l'île Maurice, le restaurant L'Atelier dévoile une expérience immersive inédite : The Gallery Table. Ce concept unique, créé en collaboration avec The Womb Creation et sa fondatrice Natacha Boodhoo, mêle gastronomie et art visuel en donnant carte blanche aux artistes issus de son collectif. Ici, on ne se contente pas de manger : on contemple, on ressent, on partage, on échange. Chaque assiette dialogue

avec une œuvre, chaque bouchée devient émotion. L'Atelier célèbre une cuisine raffinée, locale et durable, imaginée à partir de produits frais. À la carte : spécialités mauriciennes revisitées, recettes du monde, brunchs créatifs et un bar à cocktails signature. En septembre, le restaurant franchit une nouvelle étape avec la première édition de "The Gallery Table", une expérience unique où les arts visuels, les savoir-faire artisanaux et les plaisirs de la table se rencontrent.

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