PM launches construction works for Bagatelle Dam

*Bagatelle dam is a major project for the country and constitutes an important milestone in the modernisation of the water sector, said the Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, on 29 March 2012.*

Dr Ramgoolam was speaking at the launching of the construction works of the Bagatelle dam project across the Terre Rouge River near the village of Cote d’Or.

The project, to the tune of around Rs 3.4 billion, will ensure a more reliable water supply in the district of Port-Louis and the Lower Plaines Wilhems. It is being financed at a preferential rate by the Government of the People’s Republic of China.

The Prime Minister pointed out that Bagatelle Dam is one among the five major water supply projects to satisfy water demand in the country after the Midlands dam project was launched in the year 2000.

He also expressed concern as regards the recent water problems in the country and underscored that the reasons behind the scarcity of water are mostly linked with climatic change, increase in water demand, water pipe leakages and water wastage. With a view to remedy the situation, he added, consultants from Singapore have been called upon to study the water sector in
Mauritius and make recommendations. The Prime Minister recalled that in their preliminary report the consultants have recommended, amongst others, that only one institution should be responsible to look after the water sector.

For his part, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities, Dr Rashid Beebeejaun, said that the government is looking into the water rights issue and has started working on a water rights inventory and will soon come up with a water rights strategy. He announced that the Bagatelle dam will be followed by the construction of Rivière des Anguilles dam to be launched in 2013. According to the Deputy Prime Minister, Government has embarked on a complete reform of the water sector which comprises the introduction of modern tools, capacity building, setting up of an institutional framework and replacement of old pipes.

The Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, Mrs Bian Yanhua, said that the protection of water resources is a global preoccupation, adding that one fourth of the world faces scarcity of water. She underlined the need for a scientific management and an effective and judicious use of water.

The Project

Bagatelle dam will help to ensure a more reliable water supply in parts of the island up to the year 2050. It will also reduce the water supply stress from the Mare-aux-Vacoas reservoir by supplying water to part of the western region. The project is expected to be completed by end 2014.

The contract for the construction works was awarded in June 2011 to China International Water and Electric Corporation. The storage capacity of the dam will be 14 Mm$^3$ with a regulated annual yield of 25 Mm$^3$. 

![Site location of the Dam](image)

![Bagatelle Dam](image)
The official ceremony marking the 44th Independence anniversary and 20th anniversary of the Republic of Mauritius was held on 12 March 2012 in the evening at the Champ de Mars.

The Chief Guest was the President of Seychelles, Mr James A. Michel.

The theme chosen for this year’s celebrations was ‘Maurice Republique Durable’. The programme comprised the flag raising ceremony, a fly past and a demonstration by Police helicopters, a march past by the Disciplined Forces and uniformed organisations, a défilé by sports federations, and a display of floats by Ministries, parastatal institutions, cultural centres and the private sector, music/dance fusion items, followed by a popular show and fireworks.

Message of the President of the Republic

In his message on the occasion of National Day, the President of the Republic, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, laid much emphasis on education and highlighted that the country’s greatest asset is human capital. He stated that Mauritius is becoming an education hub and that it is vital that the proper development of children should be done through education.

He underlined the need for quality education, which according to him, will pave way for a better future for the coming generation and make them feel proud of their country.

Sir Anerood also expressed his concerns about various issues impacting negatively on the country but reiterated that education plays a key role in addressing those problems at various levels.

On the social front, he also underscored that there should be a fair distribution of the income in the country so as to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor.

The President urged Mauritians to review their lifestyle, and define their priorities as well as their expenses in the wake of the global economic downturn causing a negative impact on several economies across the world. In this line, he called upon the population to be responsible and work together in the same direction so as to help the country achieve its goals.

He called upon Mauritians to keep in mind and preserve their cultural heritage and the sense of sacrifice attached to it while stating that Mauritius has always served as a model in the world regarding intercultural cohabitation. On this score, he invited the population to live in unity and peace for the betterment of the nation.
In his National Day message, the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, recalled that 44 years after independence we should be proud, as a nation, of the remarkable progress made by the country into achieving the Mauritian miracle, that is peace, justice, liberty and unity which are the backbone of a modern and stable society.

According to Dr Ramgoolam, the efforts of those who have fought for the country’s liberty have borne fruit and made the country stand where it is today. He reiterated that we should continue on this path and we as a nation should double our efforts to preserve our acquis and move the country towards higher grounds with focus on modernisation. The international community has observed that Mauritius has known a successful path owing to its sound political stability and the crucial role played by its institutions, he added.

The main concern of Government is the economy, stressed Dr Ramgoolam. In the wake of economic challenges looming ahead Mauritius should remain vigilant and maintain its position as an economy of good repute on the international front. We should act as responsible citizens, said Dr Ramgoolam in the current times of uncertainty where the world is going through a financial crisis and especially Europe, the country’s main economic market.

Dr Ramgoolam further underlined that Government action is geared towards improving the standard of living of citizens and helping the country attain its objectives through the consolidation of economic growth, job creation, and provision of social aid for needy segments of the society as well as modernisation of the country for a better future.

The Prime Minister also appealed to the youth to preserve the national unity that has always prevailed in the country and he stressed that what is being done in the country today is for the well-being of future generations.

For the country to prosper and move in the right direction, we should mobilise our resources and join hands to build a modern country in unity and justice, said Dr Ramgoolam.
Mauritius-Seychelles
Two treaties signed for the exploitation of the extended continental shelf

The State visit of the President of Seychelles, Mr James A. Michel, to Mauritius from 12 to 13 March 2012 was marked by the signing of two treaties relating to the joint extended continental shelf of Mauritius and Seychelles. The treaties were signed on March 13 by the Prime Minister, Dr Navin chandra Ramgoolam, and President Michel at Clarisse House, where they held a working session.

The first treaty deals with the joint exercise of sovereign rights in the Joint Zone and the second one outlines the framework for the co-management of the area. Once the two treaties will come into force, Seychelles and Mauritius will, through agreed mechanisms, be able to explore the extended continental shelf and exploit its resources. In March 2011, the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf adopted recommendations confirming the entitlement of Mauritius and Seychelles for 396 000 km2 of additional seabed in the Mascarene Plateau region.

In a statement to the press, Dr Ramgoolam recalled that the signing of the two treaties is a landmark for the two mid-ocean small island developing States, given that since independence Mauritius has not signed any agreement of this sort. He said that the success of the claim will also serve as an example to other countries with overlapping continental shelf entitlements of what can be achieved through cooperation as opposed to acting unilaterally. By virtue of the treaties, both countries will be able to have access to additional areas of seabed and resources which are of strategic importance in the field of economic development, cooperation and comprehension.

For his part, the President of Seychelles expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Commonwealth for the invaluable help in helping to draft the agreement. He said that the signing of the two Treaties opens a new chapter in the history of both countries. Mr Michel pointed out that the extended continental shelf represents a huge potential of additional resources to be harnessed which, according to him is very important since both countries do not have much resources.

President Michel recalled the strong ties of friendship that Seychelles has with Mauritius, adding that his country will continue to work with Mauritius. He also expressed the hope that the cooperation between the two countries will develop and intensify further. President Michel said that his vision is to see countries in the region develop further so that they can stand on their own feet and be independent and sovereign in the world.
In December 2008, Mauritius and Seychelles, both parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, made a joint submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) for an extended continental shelf beyond their respective 200 nautical miles of Exclusive Economic Zones in the region of the Mascarene Plateau. The area comprises a vast extent of seabed and underlying marine subsoil of approximately 396 000 km².

**Other features of the visit**

President Michel paid a courtesy call on the President of the Republic at the State House, Réduit. He was the Guest of Honour at a State Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre in Pailles.

The Seychelles President was conferred the Award of Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (GCSK) during an Insignia Ceremony held at Le Réduit. He also visited the Indian Ocean Commission at Quatre Bornes and laid a wreath at the Samadhi of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

President Michel held bilateral talks with the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr Xavier-Luc Duval, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Dr Arvin Boolell.
International Women’s Day 2012
Prime Minister highlights socio-economic contribution of women

The contribution and the perseverance of women in the socio-economic progress and development of Mauritius were key elements of the speech of the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, on 8 March 2012. He was Chief Guest at the celebrations marking the International Women’s Day (IWD) 2012 at the J & J Auditorium in Phoenix.

The Prime Minister said that Government recognises women as citizens of the Republic having the same rights and dignity as men. It is a fact that women are as capable as, or even more capable than men, he noted, giving as example the higher level of academic performance of girls in comparison to boys.

Dr Ramgoolam stressed that measures are being taken towards greater intellectual and professional empowerment of women. The population is the greatest resource - human capital - of this country and women with a representation of more than 50% of the total population constitute the greatest resource of Mauritius, said the Prime Minister. For him, women have to be encouraged to fully participate in all spheres of development of the country, in decision-making as well as in parliament. The Prime Minister also pointed out that efforts should be put in by each and everyone to bring about a change in mentality regarding women’s emancipation.

For her part, the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, Mrs. Mireille Martin, recalled that since the beginning of humanity, womenfolk have brought their contribution to maintain peace and stability. ‘Wherever we go, whatever role we hold – be it that of a mother, a professional, as wife, daughter, sister – women’s objective remains to unite, build and consolidate’, observed the Minister. Women were born with this mission and little by little, everyone is recognising the value and capacity of women as major agents of development in all sectors, she added.

In Mauritius, said Minister Martin, many things remain to be done before women benefit from all the chances to achieve progress and take up the place that they really deserve in society. It is also important to understand what Government is doing for the advancement of women in the country and consequently how the latter can seize all these opportunities for their personal and professional development, she stressed.

Activities to mark IWD 2012

The celebrations this year at national level were placed under the theme Make Gender Equality a Reality. The official ceremony comprised a cultural programme with, amongst others, the reading of the message from the UN Secretary General, the address by the Prime Minister, award of prizes to four women associations as well as to two students, winners of an essay competition, and a show entitled Elle était une fois.

Other activities organised by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to mark International Women’s Day include the holding of a consultative workshop on the new National Women’s Council Bill at a later date.
World Water Day 2012
Deputy PM appeals to the youth to show concern on water-related issues

The youth must show concern on the issue of water-related challenges and collaborate with the Government by waging a war against wastage.

This is the gist of the message delivered by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities, Dr R. Beebeejaun, at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre (RGSC) at Bell Village on the occasion of World Water Day on 22 March 2012. He was addressing some 200 secondary students as well as professionals from the water sector at a one-day workshop and an exhibition organised jointly by his Ministry and the Central Water Authority.

The theme for World Water Day this year was ‘Water and Food Security’ which focused on issues such as climate change, rain water harvesting, water distribution and also to scientifically and technically address this issue for the judicious allocation and effective use of water resources.

Facts and Figures
Globally, the issue of water supply is cause for concern. According to the United Nations, by 2025 more than three million people will live in areas that will be prone to water shortages.

In Mauritius, an annual increase of 3% has been noted in the volume of water injected into the distribution system during the past 20 years. The volume of water injected per day which was 310 000 m³ in 1990 has now reached 590 000 m³, an increase of about 90%. Daily water consumption per capita jumped from 152 litres in 1990 to 170 litres in 2011. Furthermore, the distribution of treated water to the different sectors of the economy also grew by 2.2% during the last 25 years.

He underlined the fact that to meet the growing needs and expectations of the population for water supply, it is important have a rationale for water usage and distribution and also to scientifically and technically address this issue for the judicious allocation and effective use of water resources.

Food Security
Launching of a Rain Water Harvesting Scheme

The rain water harvesting scheme meant to facilitate farmers establish water harvesting devices and reuse the water for farming purposes, especially irrigation was launched on 15 March 2012 at Bon Accueil.

The scheme provides a grant of 40% up to a maximum of Rs 80 000. Provision is made in the budget for Rs 12 M over 3 years (Rs 4M each year) to finance this scheme which is to be managed by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU).

Farmers will have to apply to AREU on the prescribed form and submit quotations and the design proposed. They will be informed of the approval or non-approval of their proposals after an evaluation. In the case of approval, disbursement will be effected only on submission of proof of setting up/purchase of collecting devices. Only registered planters and breeders are eligible to benefit from this scheme.

Generally the water is stored in air tight tanks, to prevent losses due to evaporation. To prevent the development and proliferation of algae, the tank should be placed underground and not be transparent. In most cases, only part of the water is used in sprayers for pesticides and weedicide application, cleaning and washing of vegetables and fruits, cleaning and washing of equipment, washing of sheds and other farm buildings and as drinking water for the animals.
The 5 km-long carriageway from Sottise to Forbach, constructed to the tune of Rs 249 million, is operational since 26 March 2012.

The official opening was done by the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, in the presence of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping, Mr Anil Bachoo and other eminent personalities.

In his address, the Prime Minister announced that a bill on the introduction of the penalty points driver’s licence will be tabled at the forthcoming session of the National Assembly. The penalty points driver’s licence system would thus help to decrease the number of road accidents, he explained.

According to the Prime Minister, the development of road infrastructure is important as it contributes to socio-economic and industrial progress of a country. He added that each part of the country must be integrated in all development projects. On that score he said that government is investing heavily in infrastructure projects so as to improve the quality of life of everyone in the country.

For his part, Vice-Prime Minister Bachoo said that the carriageway from Sottise to Forbach is only one of the various infrastructure projects currently undertaken by the government which also comprise the renovation and construction of hospitals, schools and leisure centres amongst others.

It will be recalled that in 2011 government invested some Rs 2.1 billion in road infrastructure and that for 2012 around Rs 4.3 billion have been earmarked for various roads and other infrastructure projects.
Mauritius blessed to have a man of vision and integrity as Sir Harilal Vaghjee, PM says

The history of Mauritius could have been written through a biography of Sir Harilal. Mauritius is, in a sense, blessed to have had so often men of vision and integrity at the helm of its institutions. The Mauritian democracy, in its infancy, was fortunate to have had Sir Harilal presiding over the House in the years.

This is the tribute paid by the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, to late Sir Harilal Vaghjee at the unveiling of a bust of the latter on 22 March 2012 at the Sir Harilal Vaghjee Memorial Hall, at the New Government Centre in Port Louis.

The ceremony was held in the presence of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Paul Bérenger, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Kailash Purryag, and other eminent personalities.

Dr Ramgoolam recalled the conviction exerted by Sir Harilal Vaghjee while he occupied the post of Speaker and when he set very high standards for the office of Speaker. Dr Ramgoolam referred to him as an illustration of the adage that the man makes the office in a time where the country was going through the most important and difficult moments of the Mauritian history. Sir Harilal Vaghjee, also never bowed to political infringement, added Dr Ramgoolam.

For his part, the Leader of Opposition, Mr Paul Bérenger, described Sir Harilal Vaghjee as a great intellectual with a great sense of humour and highlighted the main events of his professional and political life.

Sir Harilal Vaghjee was born on 10 January 1912 and was admitted at the Middle Temple on 16 November 1931. He was called to the Bar on 26 January 1937. On 21 September 1943, he was appointed magistrate and civil administrator of Rodrigues. In 1951, he succeeded Dr Edgar Laurent as vice-President of the Legislative Council; then on 2 July 1957, he was elected Deputy Speaker. On 17 September 1957, on the introduction of the ministerial system, he was appointed minister without portfolio.

The Speaker, Mr Kailash Purryag, underlined that it was a great honour for him to have briefly interacted with a man of the calibre of Sir Harilal Vaghjee who had graced the chair and laid emphasis on his great sense of impartiality.

Sir Harilal Vaghjee was the first Mauritian Speaker of the former Legislative Assembly and officiated from 1960 to 1979. In fact, on 23 March 1960, he was called upon to replace Sir Robert Stanley as Speaker of Legislative Assembly, and throughout his speakership, he commanded respect and affection from both sides of the House.

As Speaker he also chaired the local branches of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Association Internationale des Parlementaires de Langue Française. Appointed chairman of the Provisional Council of the University of Mauritius in 1965, he became Vice-Chancellor in 1972 and remained at the helm until 1974.

At ease in literature and music, which he loved, Sir Harilal Vaghjee achieved in both. A march which he composed was played by the Mauritius Police Band on the Opening of the 1979 session of the Legislative Assembly. He was knighted in 1970, he was also elevated to the dignity of Officier de la Légion d’Honneur in 1978. He died in London, where he had been under medical care, on 26 May 1979.
Mauritius ICT Export Portal Launched

E-Governance Portal for Local Authorities

WIFI zone activated in the vicinity of the Municipality of Port Louis

The ICT Export Portal of Mauritius, which provides a central platform for local ICT companies to access market information and intelligence, was launched on 6 March 2012 in Ebène Cyber-City.

The Portal also promotes Mauritius as a Competitive Outsourcing Destination for ICT and BPO/ITES. It provides updated information both to ICT Companies in the country looking to expand their export markets and to potential clients and outsourcers looking to do business with ICT Companies in Mauritius.

Set up by the National Computer Board, it is a valuable tool for local ICT/BPO companies to tap the vast opportunities arising out of the ever expanding regional and global ICT markets. Information provided include: overview of ICT sector development in Mauritius; the ICT industry; ICT directory including export-oriented companies with details on their export capability and expertise; market intelligence and country profile on potential markets; and participation in international ICT events, exhibitions and fairs.

Another objective of the ICT Export Portal is to further unleash the potential of Mauritius’ local ICT industry in exporting its services particularly in the African region and thus contribute in making the ICT sector the main pillar of the economy and the country a regional ICT hub as advocated in the National ICT Strategic plan 2011-2014.

The Mauritian ICT sector landscape presently comprises over 500 companies, including world leaders. These companies are involved in a wide range of activities including software development, call centre operations, BPO and ITES, training, hardware assembly and sales, networking and other support services. The sector contributed to 6.5% of GDP in 2011, employing some 15 000 people and generating a turnover of more than Rs 30 billion.

E-Governance Portal for Local Authorities

In the same line, an E-Governance Portal for Local Authorities, which provides a platform for enhanced communication between citizens, the business community and local authorities, was launched on 29 March at the City Hall of the Municipality of Port-Louis.

The Portal, which is expected to enable speedy decision-making, offers a wide spectrum of information related to local authorities. It is both informative and interactive. The informative component contains facts and figures and law and regulations, amongst others, whereas the interactive component enables users to register online and submit complaints or online applications for permits and licenses. Services offered by Municipal councils and District councils are available on the E-Governance Portal which can be accessed on the following address http://la.gov.mu/portal.

WIFI zone activated in the vicinity of the Municipality of Port Louis

With a view to making Internet a right for each citizen and democratise access of the Internet for the population, a Wireless Fidelity (WIFI) zone has been activated since 30 March 2012 at the Municipality of Port-Louis. This project is the first in a series which will be replicated in other regions in line with the vision of the Government to provide internet access to all the citizens.

The project consists of installing base transmission stations on local authorities’ premises to provide WIFI service and therefore enable Mauritians have access to free internet connectivity.
Law and Order
An effective Police essential for national security and social progress, PM says

The economic and social progress of Mauritius can only be assured in an atmosphere of national security and stability to which an effective Police is essential, highlighted the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, on 31 March 2012 at the Gymkhana Grounds, Vacoas.

Dr Ramgoolam was speaking at the passing out parade of 727 trainee police constables. He recalled that the quality and effectiveness of the Police is one of the highest priorities of the Government adding that the greatest asset of any Police Service is its people and that the Government will continue to invest in a strong and committed Police and to implement with vigour the National Policing Strategic Framework launched in February 2010.

According to the Prime Minister, the overall crime rate has declined from 5.4% in 2007 to 4.2% in 2010 and there has been a further drop to 3.7% in 2011. In respect of drugs, the number of those arrested for drug related offences has risen dramatically from 1 504 in 2000 to 1 898 in 2010 and 1 911 in 2011.

The Prime Minister praised the young recruits for their commitment to the Police Force to safeguard and protect the Mauritian family and serve the country. These recruits, who have undergone an intensely competitive selection and recruitment process and completed a rigorous training and gruelling physical preparation, are prepared to undertake an arduous pathway and assume a heavy responsibility with many risks and perils, he said.

‘Respect yourselves, your uniform and respect those whom you serve, irrespective of their status in life. They are your charges. It is for them, the people of Mauritius, that you do your duties - not for any single section or interest in society - and as long you do not forget this, you will not go wrong’, Dr Ramgoolam said.

The Prime Minister reiterated Government’s commitment to bear down on criminality, law breaking, drugs trafficking as well as attack fraud and corruption and additional tools will be provided to the Police so that they can do their job effectively. These comprise the Dhruv Advanced light helicopter, more CCTV cameras from China, the new Digital Radio System, a new Emergency Call management system, 18 Light Armoured Personnel carriers and 2 Water Cannon vehicles, a new thoroughly equipped and fast offshore patrol vessel and fast attack craft and Interceptor boats for anti-terrorism and anti-narcotics operations.

The Prime Minister deplored the number of deaths on the roads and reiterated his determination to continue to take strong actions to redress the situation. There will be more roadside and speed checks, more multi-disciplinary road blocks and patrols, the penalties for those who cause death or injury by dangerous or careless driving or while under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be increased and these laws will be rigorously enforced, said the Prime Minister.

In a bid to have a more effective Police Force, Government has taken several measures. These include: increase of financial resources from Rs 3,1 billion in 2005 to Rs 6,5 billion; recruitment of additional 3 000 Police Constables in the next few years; short term training for members of the Police Force in Information Technology as well as Leadership and Management; introduction of a fairer system of risk allowances; establishment of a Police Academy which will offer systematic and continuous professional development.
Mrs Ohsan-Bellepeau acting President of the Republic

Mrs Monique Ohsan-Bellepeau is acting as President of the Republic following the resignation of Sir Anerood Jugnauth, which took effect on 31 March 2012.

Launching of a Social Register, a tool to fight poverty

A Social Register of Mauritius (SRM), a database of potential and actual social programme beneficiaries which aims to maximise policy effectiveness in the fight against poverty and in the application of housing schemes and crèches, was launched on 15 March 2012.

The SRM, a core element of Government’s anti-poverty policy as announced in the 2012 Budget, will assist the Government in primarily identifying the beneficiaries of these two programmes and deciding the level of assistance for each beneficiary.

The main objectives of the SRM are to better target beneficiaries of social programmes; manage the programmes in an integrated way; better harmonise the criteria for the different programmes run by different Ministries; and analyse cyclical and structural poverty reduction policies.

Cooperatives
Stakeholders acquainted with the Fairtrade Concept

A series of five workshops geared towards familiarising the stakeholders with the Fairtrade Concept was launched during the last week of February at Quatre Bornes.

The workshop, which was attended mostly by planters of the non-sugar sector, grouped into cooperatives and other associations, centered on the introduction to Fairtrade Labelling Organisation (FLO), the Fairtrade concept and its requirements and standards. Other themes like potential market for Fairtrade Products, Freight rebate scheme and sustainable agricultural development were covered.

Participants were also exposed to the technical knowledge on requirements of the FLO Fairtrade standard; sustainable agricultural development; standards for Exports and the Freight Scheme. The Fairtrade certification process, from application to certification was also addressed during the workshop.

Customs
Mauritius hosts WCO-ESA Donor’s Conference

Mauritius hosted from 15 to 17 March 2012 a three-day World Customs Organisation-Eastern and Southern Africa (WCO-ESA) Donor’s Conference.

The focus was on donor engagement in funding capacity building programmes and customs-related projects that would benefit Customs administrations in the region. Other objectives of the conference were to promote ongoing effort of the WCO in enhancing cooperation and engagement amongst its members and partners as well as encourage regional dialogue on donor engagement among the participants from different countries.
Renewable Energy

Elaboration of a roadmap for wave energy in Mauritius

The elaboration of a roadmap for wave energy is being envisaged by Mauritius as an alternative source of renewable energy with the country’s increasing dependence on oil. In this context, a seminar on a project to determine the prospects for “Wave Energy Development around Mauritius” organised by the Mauritius Research Council (MRC) was held on March 26 in Ebène.

The roadmap will take into consideration key innovation and deployment issues for the Mauritian marine energy sector, how these should be prioritised in the context of potential industry/Government intervention, as well as performance and cost targets that will be required to deliver significant marine energy deployment in Mauritius.

Participants at the seminar explored the various ways ocean wave energy could displace fossil fuel power generation in Mauritius. To this effect, a project to make a comprehensive analysis of the prospects for wave energy resource development in the seas around Mauritius has been elaborated by Dr Marcel Curé, CEO of Numerics Warehouse Ltd, a firm in Ireland which works with renewable energy companies and state agencies worldwide.

The assessment of the wave energy project will be carried out using supercomputers to run high resolution wave and weather numerical model simulations covering a wide area of the South West Indian Ocean. The project will study environmental, fisheries and infrastructure factors to identify potential priority areas for wave farms and will review existing wave energy converter technologies with a view to evaluating their potential power generation in areas identified around coastline of Mauritius having good wave energy potential.

The MRC seminar served as a platform for stakeholders to take cognizance of the project and also to interact with Dr Curé on the project which consists of two main aspects namely, the assessment of the wave resource and the mapping of a development path for wave energy in Mauritius. Besides, discussions focused on ways to accelerating the research, development and deployment of viable wave energy technologies that will make a material contribution to the future Mauritian energy system and contribute to the long-term energy security of the country.

In line with the Maurice Ile Durable vision, the target as indicated in the Long-Term Energy Strategy 2009 – 2025 is to achieve by 2025 about 35% self-sufficiency in terms of electricity supply through a progressive increase in the use of renewable energies, depending on breakthrough in technologies such as sea-wave energy, geothermal and others. Mauritius with its Exclusive Economic Zone of 2.3 million km² is well positioned to tap these sources of energy.