Mauritius-Singapore
State visit of President S.R. Nathan consolidates ties

The State visit of the President of the Republic of Singapore, Mr. S. R. Nathan, from 4 to 7 June 2011 gave the two countries the opportunity to further bilateral relations and discuss future investment options.

President Nathan, who was accompanied by his wife, led a delegation which comprised the Minister of Foreign and Home Affairs, three Members of Parliament, officials from the Presidency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and representatives of the Singapore Business Federation.

President Nathan was received for lunch by the President of the Republic, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, and the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchanandra Ramgoolam, gave a banquet in his honour. The University of Mauritius conferred upon Mr. Nathan the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa.

Convergence of vision

For Dr Ramgoolam, the vision of Singapore and Mauritius converges on a number of fundamental values and both countries are embarked on similar trajectories although they have different levels of development and social, political and geographical realities.

This was highlighted by the Prime Minister at the State banquet offered...
on 6 June 2011 in honour of the Singaporean President at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Pailles. “Our small island geography coupled with a lack of natural resources have made us continually strive to enlarge our economic space, hence our common commitment to regional integration”, Dr Ramgoolam further remarked. In his view, bilateral relations can be further deepened by the early establishment of a Free Trade Agreement between Singapore and Mauritius.

“Singapore has been a prime mover of ASEAN, whilst Mauritius – as part of Africa – is a firm adherent to regional integration, which encompasses SADC, COMESA, the Indian Ocean Commission and the Indian Ocean Rim. We are therefore pleased at the increasing interest of Singapore in Africa”, stated Dr Ramgoolam. He invited investors from Singapore to use Mauritius’ location and avail of the country’s membership of SADC, COMESA and IOC to do business in Africa.

Mauritius a beacon of success in Africa

The Singaporean Head of State addressed the National Assembly at a special sitting on 7 June 2011. In his address, he stated that Mauritius’ parliamentary democracy is remarkable owing to the ability of the parliamentary system to work across party lines to reach consensus on issues of national interest for the betterment of the country.

President Nathan also commended Mauritius for being a beacon of success in Africa. He said he was impressed by the country’s stellar record of governance, economic reforms and effective management of State and business relations. “All these have enabled neighbouring States to hold Mauritius in high regard and desire to emulate your development experience”, he said.

Promoting joint ventures

President Nathan participated in a business meet which was co-chaired by Mr. Pravind Jugnauth, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, on 6 June at the Le Meridien Hotel, Pointe aux Piments. Organised by the Board of Investment (BOI) in collaboration with the Joint Economic Council (JEC), the meeting aimed to provide a platform to entrepreneurs from both countries to discuss business opportunities, exchange views and create networking in addition to identifying joint-venture options.

On the same occasion, the Head of the Singaporean business delegation, Mr. T. Chew, who is also the Chairman of the Singapore Business Federation, signed a memorandum of understanding with the BOI and with the JEC respectively, with a view to further consolidating economic cooperation and business ties between the two countries.
The Mauritius International Investment Forum (MIIF) held on 15 and 16 June 2011 at the Intercontinental Resort, Balaclava, and attended by some 600 delegates including 200 from abroad, showcased Mauritius as an attractive investment destination with focus on promoting traditional sectors, emerging value-added activities, as well as future industries. It also shed light on agro-industry, manufacturing, tourism, financial services, real estate, ICT, BPO, education, healthcare, duty-free shopping, renewable energies and seafood, as potential areas for investment.

The Board of Investment (BOI) signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), namely with the South-South Global Assets and Technology of China, the Namibian Investment Centre, and the Centre de Developpement et des Entreprises du Gabon, with a view to enhancing cooperation between the BOI and these institutions as well as promoting investment, on the occasion of the event.

Organised at the initiative of the BOI, the two-day MIIF served as a platform to showcase investment opportunities that Mauritius offers to the global business community and promote the country as a natural gateway to invest in the emerging economies of Africa. The Forum also gave participants who were mostly global industry experts, entrepreneurs, prominent economists, respected leaders in various fields, policy makers and investment promotion agencies, the opportunity of deliberating on business prospects in Africa, India, China and the Western economies.

The Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, who launched the Forum, stressed that the expansion of the economic space through regional integration is an integral part of the country’s development strategy and that Mauritius is well positioned to act as a gateway between Africa and Asia. Commenting on the negotiations for a proposed Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA) that would comprise Member States of SADC, COMESA and EAC, Dr Ramgoolam underscored that the business community will have access to a huge market of more than half a billion people. The Prime Minister also urged the local and international entrepreneurs to use the MIIF platform to access the innumerable opportunities for investment in Africa and called upon the industries to focus on the BRIC countries while the global economy is rebalancing itself.

For his part, the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr Pravind Jugnauth, highlighted that an unprecedented era of opportunities is unfolding in Africa and that several Mauritian enterprises in various industries are already taking advantage of these new opportunities. He further pointed out that Mauritius is looking forward for ways and means on how to improve trade, cross-border investments and other economic ties between India, China and newly emerging countries.

Lord Meghnad Desai of the House of Lords and Emeritus Professor of the London School of Economics was the guest speaker at the Forum.
The International Criminal Court Bill, providing for the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to have force of law in Mauritius and ensuring the fulfillment of the obligations of Mauritius in the Statute, was voted on 21 June 2011 in the National Assembly.

The Bill also provides for the jurisdiction of Mauritian Courts to try persons charged with international crimes and prescribes the procedure for the surrender of persons to the International Criminal Court and for other forms of cooperation with that body.

Major provisions

- International crimes (crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and ancillary offences) to be offences punishable by penal servitude for a term not exceeding 45 years. (The crime of aggression, that is the illegal use of force of one State against another, has not been incorporated in the Bill, as the ICC cannot presently exercise jurisdiction over this crime until at least 1st January 2017)

- Mauritian Courts to have, in prescribed circumstances, extraterritorial jurisdiction to try a person who has committed an international crime outside Mauritius. These circumstances will include situations where the perpetrator or victim is a Mauritian national or a person ordinarily resident in Mauritius

- Provisions for cooperation with the ICC in relation to the arrest and surrender of persons for whom a warrant of arrest has been issued by the ICC

- Provisions for cooperation and judicial assistance to the ICC in relation to investigations and prosecutions

- The ICC, by virtue of the International Criminal Court Bill, to have such immunities and privileges as may be necessary to enable it to perform its functions in Mauritius.

Honouring international obligations

The International Criminal Court Bill was tabled by the Attorney General, Mr. Yatin Varma. ‘This Bill will enable Mauritius to honour its international obligations, to exercise criminal jurisdiction over those responsible for the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and to cooperate and assist the ICC when the need arises’, he said while commending the Bill.

‘It also sends the strongest message that our shores will not provide a safe haven to fugitives, and that we stand ready and committed to promoting the international rule of law and rendering justice to all victims of these heinous acts’, he stressed.

In his intervention during the debates, the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, placed the Bill in its broad context. ‘As a democratic State and as a State which upholds the protection and promotion of human rights and which adheres to the core principles including the rule of law, peace, justice and human dignity, Mauritius shares the view that the international community has to put an end to impunity for particularly serious crimes against humanity and that the victims of the gravest international crimes are able to see justice being done’, he said.

Recalling that Africa represents the largest regional grouping within the ICC with a total of 30 African States as members of the Rome Statute, the Prime Minister expressed the opinion that efforts should be pursued, through SADC and AU, for an African person to be named on the ICC.

The Rome Statute

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court came into force on 1 July 2002 after ratification by 60 countries. It provides the legal basis for the establishment of the International Criminal Court, the first permanent treaty-based international criminal court.
The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development organised a National exhibition at the Grand Baie International Conference Centre from 6 to 11 June 2011 to mark the World Environment Day (WED).

The exhibition regrouped a wide range of exhibits from various organisations of the private and public sectors under themes of ‘Maurice Ile Durable’, recycling, environmentally safe products, clean fuel, agricultural and science related service providers and food security.

It was a means to sensitise the public and promote sustainable development. Mauritius is responding to the challenge of achieving sustainable development through the implementation of the Maurice Ile Durable (MID) concept. The objective of the MID project is to consolidate and further move Mauritius along a sustainable trajectory and into a green future with primary focus on reduction of the country’s dependence on fossil fuels, increase in energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change.

On the WED, the concept of “Zero Plastic” to bring a decrease in the use the plastic materials and carry bags in a view of making Mauritius a plastic-free country was also launched.

Through the WED, the United Nations (UN) seeks to focus world attention on the environment. The year 2011 has been declared as the International Year of Forests and the WED, this year, reinforced this global concern with the official tagline – “Forests: Nature at Your Service”. The theme underscores the intrinsic link between quality of life and health of forests and forest ecosystems. The aim is to encourage forest conservation and sustainable consumption for green growth.

Forests cover 31% of total land area while at the same time supporting 80% of terrestrial biodiversity that live in them. Many of the world’s most threatened and endangered animals live in these forests, making them crucial to sustaining ecosystems. Forests not only provide habitat for animals, they also provide a home to more than 300 million people worldwide.

Beyond supporting the natural habitat, forests sustain economic growth. Continued and uncontrolled deforestation, therefore, not only has devastating consequences for the environment, the wildlife and communities, but also for economies around the world. Thirty-six million acres of natural forest are lost each year. It is recalled that 5 June was declared WED in 1972 and has since then grown to become one of the main vehicles through which the UN stimulates worldwide awareness on the environment and encourages political attention and action.
**ICT**

**National Strategic Plan 2011-2014 released**

The National Information and Communication Technology Strategic Plan (NICTSP) 2011-2014 – Towards i-Mauritius, which determines the strategies and goals that should be achieved to make the ICT sector one of the main pillars of the economy and transform Mauritius into a regional ICT hub, received Cabinet’s approval for its implementation on 3 June 2011.

The elaboration of the NICTSP 2011-2014 is part of the activities of the Competitiveness and Public Sector Efficiency Programme funded by the African Development Bank. The new document incorporates the relevant projects among the 124 featured in the NICTSP 2007-2011, and elaborates the way forward to fine-tune and implement the projects. The latter were selected following a review exercise conducted as from October 2010 by two consultants appointed to prepare the NICTSP 2011-2014 for the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology.

The objectives of the review exercise were to assess whether Mauritius is on course to meeting the targets set in the NICTSP 2007-2011 and assess the progress of the implementation of the various projects in the NICTSP Action Plan and whether the objectives have been attained. It also aimed at recommending a revised strategy for the existing National Information Security Strategy, and an appropriate open access policy and broadband deployment, reviewing the proposed institutional framework as recommended in the NICTSP and suggesting options for its implementation as well as recommending remedial measures, if any, for projects that need to be reviewed in order to attain their intended objectives.

The NICTSP 2011-2014’s roadmap focuses on nine strategic areas of intervention, namely policy and legal review, regulatory review to ensure a competitive market and the welfare of consumers, institutional reform, network development to meet growing demands, services-telecommunications in view of enhancing the BPO and IT-enabled services competitiveness, e-government services and applications to redefine the strategic areas based on user needs, community empowerment programme, information security, and human capital development.

The NICTSP 2011-2014 identifies the new strategies that would increase the contribution of the ICT sector to the GDP to a two-digit figure in the short term. It also details measures to be taken to position Mauritius as a preferred ICT destination both regionally and globally as well as to make of the Internet a basic citizens right and build an inclusive information society. Regarding government service delivery for citizens, the plan focuses on ways to provide 24/7 e-Government services. It moreover highlights the steps required to develop and implement a comprehensive cyber security strategy.
The Action Plan for Energy 2011-2025, updated by the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, has been submitted to the European Union at the end of June 2011. The submission of the document is the condition for the disbursement of the fixed tranche of Euro 36 452 million (Rs 1.4 billion) under the General Budget Support Programme as per the financing agreement with the European Union under the item “Promoting Sustainable and Equitable Development”.

A working group, comprising representatives of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Joint Economic Council, the University of Mauritius and the Maurice Ile Durable Steering Committee, amongst others, was set up to work on the draft updated Action Plan.

Updates have been made taking into consideration developments in the energy sector and the progress achieved in projects such as setting up of wind farms, a gas to energy plant at the Mare Chicose landfill site, the feed-in tariff for small power producers, the enactment of the Energy Efficiency Act, the preparation of building codes and an energy audit management scheme.

A consultative workshop was subsequently organised on 9 June 2011 and the draft Action Plan for Energy 2011-2025 presented to all stakeholders, comprising representatives of ministries, parastatal bodies, academic institutions, NGOs, the private sector and donor organisations, with a view to analysing the contents and making concrete proposals.


The Action Plan for Energy forms part of the Long Term Energy Strategy 2009-2025. It proposes distinct steps to pave the way for the implementation of strategies with a view to changing to an energy efficient economy in line with the Government’s vision to promote sustainable development.
Cane industry
Cess-funded institutions to merge into apex body

A Mauritius Cane Industry Authority would be set up to bring together under one roof six cess-funded institutions with the aim of better developing synergies among the Service Providing Institutions (SPIs) operating in the agro-industry sector. This measure has been recommended by the Joint Public-Private Sector Committee set up to look into the functions of the institutions concerned in line with the agreement with the European Union for the disbursement of funds under the Accompanying Measures.

The Mauritius Cane Industry Authority will be the apex body responsible for policy and planning, and its divisions will be in charge for the provision of the services offered so far by SPIs. The objective is also to make the services more responsive to the needs of the agricultural community.

The six cess-funded institutions are the Mauritius Sugar Authority, the Mauritius Sugar Terminal Corporation, the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute, the Farmers Service Corporation, the Sugar Planters Mechanical Pool Corporation and the Cane Planters and Millers Arbitration and Control Board.

The recommendation for the merger was made by the Joint Public-Private Sector Committee, set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security as enunciated in the Economic Restructuring and Competitiveness Programme 2010. It will be recalled that the restructuring of the cess-funded institutions is in line with the Agreement entered into with the EU in the context of the disbursement of funds under the Accompanying Measures.

It is to be noted that a Structure Reform Plan of the cess-funded SPIs of the sugar industry has been elaborated in conformity with the priorities of Government as regards the agro-industry and food security sector. It is in line with domestic and international commitments of the country.

A cess is a tax levied per tonne of sugar produced so as to finance a certain number of institutions providing services to the sugar industry. This amount allows the part or total funding of the six SPIs.

The SPIs

The Mauritius Sugar Authority is dedicated to the promotion and facilitation of the setting up and the development of the sugar cane cluster in Mauritius and in the region and the monitoring and coordination of research, planting, milling, transport, bulk handling, marketing as well as other activities of the industry.

As regards the Mauritius Sugar Terminal Corporation, it was established in 1979 with the main objective of providing, operating and maintaining facilities for the storage, sampling, bagging, packing, loading and unloading of sugar.

The Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute was founded in 1953 with the mandate to promote by means of research and investigation the technical progress of the sugar industry.

The Farmers Service Corporation, a parastatal body established under the 1991 FSC Act, aims at modernising the small planter sector and improving the efficiency and productivity of small sugarcane planters through the provision of necessary guidance and services at the different Farmers Service Centres.

The Sugar Planters Mechanical Pool Corporation was set up in 1974. Its objectives are to maintain a pool of agricultural machinery for the purpose of the sugar industry and to hire the machines of the Corporation to such persons on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine.

The Cane Planters and Millers Arbitration and Control Board, commonly known as the Control Board, was set up in 1939 following disputes between planters and millers. The various activities of the Board aim at creating a climate of trust and harmony among the partners of the sugar industry.
An integrated social housing project to be implemented at Gros Cailloux

An integrated social housing project to accommodate some 54 vulnerable families will soon be set up in the village of Gros Cailloux near Petite Rivière. The village will also have a modern kindergarten, a village square, as well as green spaces for every housing unit.

The project to be initiated under the Integrated Social Development Programme (ISDP) of the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) will be based on the concept of the model village project at La Valette, Bambous.

Some five acres of land have already been allocated for the social housing project at Gros Cailloux, announced the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment, Mr. Xavier Luc Duval, at a press conference held on 7 June 2011. According to Mr Duval, the housing project at La Valette, the first of its kind, was set up on a pilot-basis and is a case study which will allow the NEF and the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment to improve forthcoming ISDPs across the island.

The housing project is in line with Government’s endeavour to provide assistance to low-income families and support vulnerable families who have difficulties to meet their housing needs. Construction works will soon start and the housing units of a floor area of about 30m² are structured in such a way as to offer the possibility to the residents to, at a later stage, extend their houses both laterally and vertically.

It will be recalled that the approach developed under the ISDP also provides for support to families in terms of social, economic and environmental aspects through education, training, employability and entrepreneurship schemes with the assistance of NGOs. The aim is to help the families break away from the vicious circle of poverty and integrate mainstream society.

Moreover, to help more families, the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment in collaboration with the NEF is looking forward to expanding the housing scheme projects to other pockets of poverty throughout the island and is targeting to set up some 1 000 housing units by the end of this year. In addition to the ISDP project, Government is also working on other housing projects such as the Emergency Housing project which targets families living in absolute poverty, with a monthly salary below Rs 5 000, and who do not have any plot of land. Up to now, some 511 such houses have already been built including 100 in Rodrigues.

Among other social housing projects for the vulnerable families, Government will help those who have a plot of land to build concrete houses with corrugated iron sheets. It is expected that some 200 such houses will be completed by the end of the year.
The Supreme Court, the highest judicial authority in the country, comprises since January this year a Mediation Division which will deal with most if not all commercial cases before they go for full trial. The new premises of the Division, located at Happy World House, Sir William Newton Street, Port Louis were officially inaugurated on 13 June 2011 by the Prime Minister, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

On that occasion, Dr. Ramgoolam expressed his confidence that the new Division will instil a new culture of consensual settlement of disputes in the legal system. He reiterated Government’s strong commitment to the reform and modernisation of the administration of justice in Mauritius. The Prime Minister also announced the establishment of a fast track in the Commercial Division where the time taken from the day the commercial chambers case is filed to the day the judgement is given will be limited to a maximum of 36 days.

For his part, the Chief Justice, Mr Y. K. J. Yeung Sik Yuen, explained that the mediation system introduced in Mauritius is rather unique since it is one which has been custom-made for the country’s needs and is governed by the Mediation Rules published in September 2010.

The primary purpose of the system is for the parties, in all good faith, to submit themselves to mediation and to dispose of the civil suit, action, cause or matter by a common agreement, or to narrow down the issues in dispute.

Mediation aims to reduce the costs involved in the case, reduce any undue delays in litigation and facilitate a fair and just resolution of the dispute. Mediation is to be carried out and concluded within the time allocated by the Mediation Judge.

Moreover, to enhance the Judiciary’s capacity to carry out its responsibilities, the e-judiciary programme, which aims at the computerisation and e-filing of cases and exchange of pleadings for all the courts of the country, is in the pipeline. The programme will be operational at the Supreme Court in September this year and will allow the electronic filing of Court processes from a distance by members of the legal profession without the need for them or their clerks to actually come to Court. Another development meant to further improve the operation of the Judiciary is the adoption of the Court Ushers (Amendment) Act this year to provide for the liberalisation of the profession of Usher. The Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies Bill which provides for the establishment of an Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies to maintain standards and to provide for continuing training in the legal and judicial professions has also been introduced in the National Assembly.

It is recalled that the Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF) has provided guidance and financial support in the setting up of the Mediation Division. The ICF and the Government are also partners in providing the Judiciary with the Electronic Filing System (E-Judiciary).
A regional workshop on sustainable tourism aiming to enable youth leaders of the Indian Ocean region foster cooperation as well as share good practices in the field was held from 21 to 24 June 2011 at the Gold Crest Hotel, Quatre Bornes.

The objective was also to promote collaboration among participants towards sustainable development and, at the same time, encourage the creation of self-entrepreneurship opportunities for young people pertaining to the ecological sustainability of the tourism industry.

The workshop, addressing the theme *Agissons maintenant pour promouvoir les emplois verts et le tourisme durable dans l’océan Indien*, was organised as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF).

Some 30 youth leaders aged between 18 and 30 years from Seychelles, Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritius and Madagascar participated. Topics on the agenda covered sustainable tourism, sustainable development (causes and consequences and strategies to address climate change), jobs related to sustainable tourism as well as methods of sensitisation regarding sustainable tourism.

Understanding the concept of sustainability

In his address at the opening ceremony, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Satyaprakash Ritoo, encouraged participants to take the opportunity being offered to them through the workshop to better understand this concept and share the knowledge acquired in their respective countries. The Minister also evoked the importance of the *Maurice Ile Durable* (MID) project whereby the Government is vigorously engaged in promoting the MID project through well defined actions so as to enhance the present and the future lives of the population.

For his part, the Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission, Mr. Callixte D’Offay, said that by investing personally and professionally, young people will succeed in associating factors such as preservation and economic development of natural resources. If tourism is one of the key activities of the Indian Ocean region, its vulnerability is great in the face of political, economic, sanitary and environmental hazards, hence the need for a sustainable development strategy, he noted.

In his speech, the Director of the regional office of the OIF for Central Africa and the Indian Ocean, Mr. Xavier Michel, expressed his conviction that the *Francophonie* can offer an action-oriented framework and privileged cooperation in this context.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

The Vice-President of the Republic, Mrs Monique Ohsan Bellepeau, represented the Government at the UN High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS which was held in New York from 8 to 10 June 2011.
The first round of meetings of the Maurice Ile Durable (MID) Consultative Workshops was launched on 14 June 2011 at La Grande Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles. With a view to further consolidating the policy process, thematic working groups covering the five Es of MID, namely Energy, Environment, Education, Employment and Equity, have been set up.

The MID concept came to the forefront in 2008 when Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam spelt out his vision of making Mauritius a sustainable island. While the initial thrust was to minimise our dependency on fossil fuels through increased utilisation of renewable energy and a more efficient use of energy in general, the concept soon widened to include all aspects of the economic model, society and the environment that are considered to be pivotal in the quest for a sustainable Mauritius.

The six thematic working groups set up following the June 2011 workshop will, in line with the national MID vision, make recommendations pertaining to the formulation of the Policy, Strategy and Action Plan to make Mauritius a model of sustainable development. Workshops were held in Rodrigues on 22 and 23 June 2011 to cater for the specific needs of the island.

In a bid to ensure that all discussions are carried out within the perspective of sustainable development, each group comprises the same number of representatives of ministries, parastatal bodies, private sector, trade unions, environmental non-governmental organisations and the civil society. Each working group comprises around 50 to 55 people having expertise in the relevant themes.

Road Map for the MID Process
The MID concept includes a participatory approach towards elaborating a national strategy for sustainable development aiming to take on board the whole society in the implementation of this ambitious project. In April 2011, Government agreed to the development of a consolidated MID Policy, a 10-year Strategy Plan and an Action Plan for the MID Project.

A new MID Process is now being followed, taking into consideration the Green Paper submitted in April 2011 by Professor Odendaal, who was appointed by the United Nations Development Programme in November 2009 as General Facilitator to conduct national consultations.
The Green Paper is a milestone in the policy formulation process, since it reflects the peoples’ views and visions on how they want to see their country in the future. It is the result of some 70 working groups conducted by Professor Odendaal with various stakeholders comprising the Government, parastatal bodies, University of Mauritius, industrialists, the private sector, NGOs and the civil society.

The Green Paper contains two draft visions, the Combined National Vision and the Vision from the Youth Summit, both of which have served as basis of for the formulation of the National MID Vision. The Green Paper was open for public consultations with a view to stimulating further debates with stakeholders as well as Government officials.

Ten-year Strategy and Action Plan

Outputs from the June 2011 workshops will form the basis of the assignment of a team of consultants, which is presently being recruited by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to prepare the MID Policy, Strategy and Action Plan. The consultants will carry out an analysis of the existing policies, strategies, action plans and reports, and identify any gaps, overlaps, inconsistencies and challenges across the key sectors. Ample opportunity will be given to the public to submit inputs in the MID process. This dialogue will be an essential factor for continued ownership of the MID Policy, Strategy and Action Plan by the people as well as by Government.

The draft MID Policy and Strategy will be discussed in November 2011 during a one-day workshop with stakeholders of the Consultative workshops, further to which the Policy and Strategy would be finalised and validated by Government. The formulation of the Strategy will also entail a review of our existing institutional and legislative framework to facilitate implementation of sustainable development in Mauritius.
The MID Strategy will provide the enabling environment for the next step, which is the development of an Action Plan with realistic activities and projects as well as an implementation programme for the next three years. A draft MID Action Plan will be prepared and discussions with different stakeholders are expected in February 2012. After finalisation, the Plan will be validated by Government and relevant Ministries and stakeholders would have their own priority projects to be implemented.

The Agence Française de Développement and the European Union have expressed their interest to finance and support the project. Mr. Ghislain Gomart, a French Expert in Sustainable Development, has been appointed by the Prime Minister’s Office to act as General Facilitator for the MID Process, and is driving this initiative together with Mr Osman Mahomed, Chairman of the MID Steering Committee. Mr Gomart is assisting the Government under the Technical Assistance Programme, Fonds d’appui et d’aide aux pays émergents, financed by the Agence Française de Développement.