The Government Information Service is pleased to present this third edition of the Yearbook.

The purpose is to provide readers an insight into the activities of Government in year 2010.

We wish to place on record the valuable contribution of Ministries and Departments in the production of this publication.

The Editorial Team
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prime Minister’s Office</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance and Economic Development</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Housing and Lands</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Tourism and Leisure</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Education and Human Resources</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Industry and Commerce</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Youth and Sports</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health and Quality of Life</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Arts and Culture</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Information and Communication Technology</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Fisheries and Rodrigues</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations &amp; Employment</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney General’s Office</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Business, Enterprise, Cooperatives and Consumer Protection</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Assembly</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foreign Dignitaries Call on PM

Mr Koichiro Matsuraa, former Unesco Secretary General

Sir Ketumile Masile, former President of Botswana

Baroness Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Mr Joaquim Chissano, former President of Mozambique

HRH Princess Anne

Dr Jacques Diouf, Director FAO

Ms Meira Kumar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, India

Mr Ramesh Pokhriyal, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand State, India

Mr Jack Lang, Special Adviser to the UN on legal issues related to piracy
Missions of Prime Minister

France

The Prime Minister attended the 25th Session of the Africa-France Summit which was held in Nice, France on 31 May and 1 June 2010 on an invitation of Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the Republic of France. The Summit aimed at further consolidating the partnership between France and the African states.

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, the Prime Minister had meetings on 2 June with Baroness Catherine Ashton, Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. He also met on 3 June Mr. William Hague, British Foreign Secretary, Lord Richard Napier Luce, Lead Member of the UK-All Party Parliamentary Group on Chagos and Member of the House of Lords and Hon Geoffrey Cox, Q.C., of Thomas More Chambers.

Switzerland

The Prime Minister led the Mauritian delegation at the 13th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Francophonie, held on 23 and 24 October in Montreux, Switzerland, under the presidency of Doris Leuthard, President of the Swiss Confederation.
Uganda

The Prime Minister participated in the 13th Summit of the African Peer Review Forum and the 15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union which were held in Kampala from 24 to 27 July.

Namibia

The Prime Minister participated in the 30th Jubilee Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held on 16 and 17 June. HE Sir Ketumile Masire, former President of Botswana, HE Joaquim Chissano, former President of Mozambique, HE Dr Sam Nujoma, former President of Namibia and HE Kenneth David Kaunda, former President of Zambia, also attended the Summit.

Singapore

The Prime Minister was on an official visit to Singapore, on the invitation of Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore from 24 to 28 September. During his visit, the Prime Minister had a tête-à-tête with Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister and Mr Sellapan Ramanathan, President of Singapore. Dr Ramgoolam had a working session with M. Clarence Yeo, Commissioner of Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) and its representatives. The discussions focused mainly on the new Mauritian identity card, immigration control and customs.

The Prime Minister had working sessions with members of the Singapore Mass Rapid Transit Corporation, with the President of the Nanyang Technological University and with members of the Singapore Public Utilities Board.
Mauritius Police Force

Launching of National Policing Strategic Framework

The National Policing Strategic Framework (NPSF), launched on 24th February, is the first ever published strategic document in the history of the Mauritius Police Force. The implementation of the document will help to draw a new picture of the Police organisation altogether, charting out a new vision and a new direction for the Force.

The NPSF has been prepared by the Police department with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The strategic framework rests on six key pillars, namely: Community Policing; Achieving a Human Rights Compliant Organisation; Human Resource Management Capability; Permanent Strategic Planning Capability; Intelligence-Led Policing; and Enhancing Reactive Capability. The strategy is based on the concept of moving from a force to a service.

Passing out Parade of 707 Trainee Constables

The passing out parade ceremony of the 707 newly recruited police constables was held at Gymkhana Grounds, Vacoas on 26 August. The ceremony took place following a two-year recruit probationers’ training that the new recruits had to go through. The 707 newly recruited police constables are posted in various Police Stations, the Special Mobile Force, the National Coast Guard and the Special Support Unit.

Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) Street Surveillance System

As at 24 December, 145 cameras have been installed in Port Louis and 62 others have been installed in Grand Bay. The CCTV Street Surveillance System will help to prevent and detect criminal activities and will also be used to monitor traffic movement. The main control room is found at the Police Headquarters Operations Room and is manned on a 24/7 basis by Police Officers.

The CCTV Street Surveillance System was installed by Brinks (Mauritius) Ltd and was jointly financed by the Police Department and the Tourism Fund. The CCTV Street Surveillance System is already operational in the port, the airport and at Flic en Flac and Quatre Bornes.

New Digital Radio Communication System and Coastal Surveillance Radar System Installed

A new Digital Radio Communication System and a Coastal Surveillance Radar System have been purchased this year. The new Digital Radio Communication System with more than 3,000 terminals will replace the 25-year old Analogue System. On the other hand, the Coastal Surveillance Radar System will provide a round the clock surveillance off mainland Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agaléga and St Brandon.

Training to Police Officers

During the year, over 2000 Police Officers have obtained training locally run by the Police Training School whilst 275 have been trained by foreign Short Term Training Teams in Mauritius. Moreover, some 310 Police Officers have attended training in renowned institutions abroad.
Prison

January

Orientation Course for Mid Managers

Forty officers divided into three batches attended the Orientation Course for mid managers. The course which was held from 6 January to 9 February was devised to help newly promoted officers to the grade of Assistant Superintendent of Prisons.

February

Capacity Building of Prison Dynamic Security Officers on HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse

The Capacity Building of Prison Dynamic Security Officers on HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Course was conducted for officers posted in the Dynamic Security Unit from 22 to 26 February.

March

Course on Human Rights and Prisons Management

One hundred and twenty-seven Officers, divided into batches of twenty, attended a two-week Course on Human Rights and Prisons Management from 8 March to 25 June at the Prisons Staff Training School.

Independence Day Celebration

In the context of the Independence Day Celebration, a painting and drawing competition was organised. The aim of the competition which drew the participation of 14 inmates was to promote patriotism as an ideology among inmates.

April

Training in Biodiversity Conservation

A workshop on Training in Biodiversity Conservation was organised on 26 April for eleven officers at the Prisons Staff Training School.

June

Course on Metal Detectors/Radio Procedure and CCTV

One hundred and fifty-eight Officers attended a two-day course on Metal Detectors/Radio Procedure and CCTV, search of persons as well as vehicles was organised from 29 March to 7 April by the personnel of the Special Mobile Force.

Course on Human Rights and Prisons Management

Mr. Brian Tkachuk, Regional Advisor HIV/AIDS from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime led a two-day course on Human Rights and Prisons Management in prison setting. Thirty officers including the welfare and hospital staff benefitted from the course which was organised on 3 and 4 June.
Prisons Staff Training School
Courses Dispensed for period January to December 2010

January

Training on Self Defense and Kick Boxing
Six Officers (including two female Officers) attended this training on 26, 27 and 28 January 2010 at the Police Training School

March

Course on Metal Detectors/Radio Procedure and CCTV
Two hundred and twenty-three Officers attended this course from 29 March to 27 May. The course was dispensed by the Special Mobile Force.

April

Training of prison officers in search of person and vehicles
Twenty-six Officers attended this course on 07 April.

June

Two-day course on Human Rights and HIV/AIDS Management in Prison Setting
Thirty-two Officers followed this course on 3 and 4 June

August

Induction Course for Senior Officer Cadet
Five Senior Officers Cadet enlisted on 09 August, 19 August and 13 October underwent Induction Course.

Training in Handling of Circular Saw, Angle Grinder and Gas Blower
Twenty seven Prison Staff including civilian workers attended the above session on 12 August.

Training of Trainers Course
Eighteen Officers attended the first phase of the Training of Trainers Course from 23 to 27 August. Twelve Officers selected from the above eighteen underwent second phase of Training of Trainers course from 05 to 11 September. Four Officers identified from the twelve above Officers started the third phase of training of Trainers Course as from 27 December.

September

Course on Customer Care
Twenty Seven Officers underwent the course from 14 to 16 September.

November

Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Response to HIV and AIDS
Twenty-nine Officers attended the above session on 22 November.
Department of Civil Aviation

Major activities of the Department for year 2010

The Department has handled a total of 24,000 instrument Flights Rule aircraft movements during the year thereby earning a total of Rs 22,352,553 as revenue from route air navigation charge (Rs 102,712,526) and aerodrome and approach charge (Rs 119,640,027) respectively.

March

Renewal of Aerodrome Licence

The Aerodrome Licence of Airport of Rodrigues Ltd for the operation of the Sir Gaetan Duval Airport in Rodrigues has been renewed for a period of one year, up to 31 March 2011.

April

Replacement of Non Directional Beacon (NDB) at SSR International Airport

The existing NDB at SSR International Airport reached the end of its useful life was replaced. The NDB provides homing facility for aircraft to land at SSR International Airport. The contract was awarded to Systems Interface Ltd of the United Kingdom for the sum of Rs 3.5 million.

May

Replacement of Navigational Aids

The second phase of the project for the replacement of the Doppier Very High Frequency Omni Directional Radio Range and Distance Measuring Equipment (DVOR/DME) at SSR International Airport has been completed. This equipment provides bearing and distance information to aircraft approaching and landing at the airport. The first phase for Grand Bay DVOR/DME was completed in December 2009. The contract was awarded to Mopiens inc of South Korea for the sum of Rs 31 million.

Training

One Senior Maintenance Officer attended a four-day training course on European Coordination Centre and Incident Reporting Systems (ECCAIRS) software for the collection, sharing and analyzing of safety civil aviation information. The training was held at Zambia Civil Aviation from 18 to 21 May.

July

Training

The Divisional Head (CNS) attended training in Civil Aviation Management Programme under the Singapore Cooperation Fellowship for ADCAC (African Civil Aviation Commission) at the Singapore Aviation Academy from 19 to 30 July.

August

Training

One Senior Maintenance Officer participated in the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) training course from 26 July to 13 August 2010, at the Air Traffic and Navigation Services Aviation Academy in South Africa. Two Senior Maintenance Officers attended the introduction to Satellite Communication System Course at the Air Traffic Navigation Services Aviation Training Academy of the Republic of South Africa from 28 August to 3 September 2010.
October

Replacement of Non Directional Beacon (NDB) and Markers

The NDB at Flic en Flac and the markers at Bigara and Blue Bay form part of the navigation aids provided by the Department of Civil Aviation. These equipment, were in operation for more than 20 years, had reached the end of their useful life were replaced.

This contract was awarded to Systems Interfact Ltd of the United Kingdom for the sum of Rs 8 million.

Replacement of Non-Directional Beacon (NDB) for Agalega Airstrip

The contract to replace the faulty NDB at Agalega was awarded to Systems Interface Ltd for the sum of Rs 10.8 million. The NDB is the only ground based navigational facility for aircraft homing for Agalega Island. The project will be completed by May 2011.

Renewal of Aerodrome Licence

The Aerodrome Licence of Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd for the operation of the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport was renewed for a period of one year, up to 30 September 2011.

Award

The Department obtained the Innovative Management Award of the African Association for Public Administration and Management.

Training

Six Air Traffic control Officers (ATCOs) were trained in Aerodrome Control Service at the prestigious Singapore Aviation Academy. This was in line with the Departmental policy to provide multi-rating to all ATCOs with a view to improving flexibility in the deployment of staff over the three ATC operational positions. This was in fact the first batch among the 25 controllers recruited in 2002, to acquire rating in all three ATS branches of Air Traffic Control (Aerodrome, Approach and Area/Oceanic).

November

MS ISO 9001: 2008 Certification of the Flight Clearance Office

On 3 November, the Department was awarded MS ISO 9001:2008 Certification for the Quality Management System implemented in its Flight Clearance Office.

December

Crew Member Certificate Reader System

In line with the requirement of the International Civil Aviation Organisation, a Crew Member Certificate Reader System is being implemented. The contract was awarded to Data Communications Ltd for the sum of Rs 1.2 million. The project will be completed by mid March 2011.

Introduction of SIDs and STARs at SSR International Airport

On 16 December, the Department introduced Standard Instrument Departures (SIDs) and Standard Terminal Arrival Routes (STARs) at SSR International Airport.
Mauritius Meteorological Services

February

Launching of New Website

A new user-friendly website of the Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS) was launched on February 15. This new website includes several additional features such as the long range forecast, 3-Days forecast for Mauritius, tidal predictions, forecast for outer islands, and a FAQ page.

March

World Meteorological Day 2010

To celebrate the World Meteorological Day, the MMS organised a half day seminar on March 23 at Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, Bell Village. The seminar was followed by an educational exhibit open to the student population and the public at large. The theme chosen by World Meteorological Organisation was “60 years of service for your safety and well-being.”

May

U.S Ambassador Visit

The U.S ambassador, Mary Jo Wills, paid a courtesy call at the headquarters of the MMS on May 13 and visited the Forecast Office.

Upgrading of Forecast Equipment

In the frame of Europe Aid Programme, the MMS received a new workstation Puma II for forecasting purposes. In addition to this, the computers in the Training Centre were also upgraded.

July

Migration to Table-Driven Code Format

In order to meet the international obligations towards the meteorological community, the MMS prepared a program towards the migration to Table-Driven Code Format (TDCF). The programme included in-house training for meteorological staff of both Mauritius and Rodrigues.

September

Migration of RETIM Africa Products to EumetCast

With the migration of RETIM Africa products to EumetCast, the MMS renewed part of its satellite reception units. The system was successfully installed in September at Vacoas headquarters.

September – December

ICT Training for Staff

In order to keep up with ICT trends and to ensure capacity building of the staff, training sessions were organized in Windows 7, Linux LP1-101, and N+ (Networking).

November

MS ISO 9001-2008 Certification

In line with the vision of the organisation to maintain a quality service, the MMS shifted from MS ISO 9001-2000 to MS ISO 9001-2008. The institution was ISO-certified by Mauritius Standards Bureau.
Installation of Seismometer at Citronelle, Rodrigues

A seismic monitoring equipment was installed by experts from GEOSCOPE Centre (Paris) at Citronelle, Rodrigues, in collaboration with the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (IPGP). This equipment improves the seismic network in the Indian Ocean and contributes to the regional network of observations, which are sent to seismological centers where further analysis are done.

Truth and Justice Commission

The Truth and Justice Commission Act was passed at the National Assembly on 19 August 2008 and proclaimed by the President of the Republic on 29 January 2009. According to the Act, the functions of the Commission are as follows:

- to conduct inquiries into slavery and indentured labour during the colonial period in Mauritius
- to determine appropriate measures to be extended to descendants of slaves and indentured labourers
- to enquire into a complaint made by person aggrieved by a dispossession or prescription of any land in which he claims he has an interest
- to prepare a comprehensive report of its activities and findings based on factual and objective information and evidence

During 2010, the Commission has had 103 hearing sessions in Mauritius and 28 in Rodrigues. The Commission officially launched its website on 24 November.
Energy and Public Utilities
Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities

Mission

To fulfill our commitment to the nation, by ensuring:

- the provision of high quality, safe and adequate electricity and water supplies and wastewater disposal services to the public for sustainable development at affordable prices;
- the development of adequate water resources for sustainable development;
- excellence in the provision of electrical services and electrical safety in government buildings; and
- promotion of peaceful use of nuclear technology for the benefit of the nation in line with international radiation safety practices.
January

Grid Code and Feed-in Tariffs

A workshop on Grid Code and Feed-in Tariffs for Small Independent Power Producers was organised on 13 January by the United Nations Development Programme in collaboration with the Ministry at the Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port Louis. The aim was to address issues pertaining to the application of the Grid Code which was developed in 2009.

February

National Consultation for Maurice Ile Durable Policy Formulation

The National Consultation for Maurice Ile Durable Policy Formulation was launched on 18 February at Domaine Les Pailles. The aim was to solicit views of stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to develop a national vision on sustainable development and its social, environmental and economic implications in Mauritius. Consultations were held with the public and special groups as well as with ministries and local authorities.

March

Primary Schools Receive Renewable Energy Kits

The project Promote a Renewable Energy Culture among primary school children in Mauritius kicked off on 18 March at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre at Bell Village with the distribution of renewable energy kits to 40 primary schools selected on a zonal basis. The main objective of this pilot project was to raise awareness among the primary student population on the effects of conventional energy sources on the environment and the benefits of renewable energies.

World Water Day 2010

A forum on water quality challenges and opportunities was held at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre on 23 March in the context of the World Water Day. The theme for 2010 was Clean Water for a Healthy World. The aim was to draw attention to the challenges in the water sector and the importance of water for social, economic development and public health. On the agenda was an overview of water resource mobilisation and presentations on risks faced by Small Island States by climate change, challenges and opportunities in the wastewater sector and the importance of water quality to public health.

Training in Electrofusion Technology for CWA

Professional licences in electrofusion technology were awarded to a second batch of 90 technical staff of the Central Water Authority, comprising engineers, technicians and inspectors. Organised in collaboration with the Société de Tubes et de Raccordages Marketing Limitée, the training was held for two and a half days with practical sessions. Participants were exposed to several aspects relating to, amongst others, the manufacture of polyethylene pipes, accessories and tools used in welding.
Youth Summit in the Context of MID Policy Formulation

In the context of the consultation process for the development of the National Policy for a Sustainable Mauritius (Maurice Ile Durable - MID), a two-day national youth summit was held on 1st April at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre at Bell Village. The summit served as a platform for secondary school students to contribute in the elaboration of a National Policy for MID.

May

Workshop on Energy Audits

A workshop on Energy Audits was held from 31 May to 4 June 2010 at the Maritime Training Academy, Pointe aux Sables. The aim was to equip a batch of 25 engineers and technicians from the Ministry, the Central Water Authority, the Wastewater Management Authority and the Central Electricity Board with the necessary skills and knowledge on how to conduct energy audits on government buildings. The workshop was organised in collaboration with a team from two companies from Reunion Island which was in Mauritius to conduct energy audits on government buildings.
Securing Vulnerable Radioactive Sources

A delegation from the Global Threat Reduction Initiative Office from the United States was in Mauritius from 10 to 14 May in the context of the partnership project aimed at securing vulnerable radioactive sources in a bid to prevent terrorism acts. The delegation took stock of the progress made as regards the installation of the security systems at the Radiotherapy department at Victoria Hospital at Candos and at the Entomology department at the Ministry of Agro-industry and Food security. They also had discussions with the Radiation Protection Authority on the construction of a national Radioactive Source Storage Facility.

July

Workshop on Solar Photovoltaic Generation

A workshop on the Removal of Barriers to Solar Photovoltaic Generation in Mauritius, Rodrigues and the Outer Islands was held on 8 July at La Grande Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles. It reviewed the technical and organisational capacity of key players to implement renewable energy projects with a view to accelerating the development of an on-grid solar photovoltaic system and sustainable delivery models. Mauritius has obtained US 80 000 from the Global Environment Facility and US 28 000 from the United Nations Development Fund for the implementation of the project.

September

Laboratory of WMA accredited MS ISO/IEC 17025:2005

The laboratory of the Wastewater Management Authority was accredited MS ISO/IEC 17025:2005, an international standard incorporating general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. An award ceremony was organised on 14 September at Four Points by Sheraton at Ebène during which the WMA lab received its accreditation certificate from MAURITAS. The laboratory is responsible for the collection and analysis of effluents discharged by waste water treatment plants, hotels and industries involved in potentially polluting activities to ensure compliance with environmental standards.

Energy Audit Management Scheme

A half-day workshop on the development of an Energy Audit Management Scheme (EAMS) was organised on 8 September at Clos St Louis, Domaine Les Pailles. The aim was to allow participants to contribute to the formulation of an EAMS for Mauritius. The EAMS will develop the necessary infrastructure for conducting energy audits in energy intensive sectors. It will also lead to the creation of a national standard for energy audits including the creation of a national certification scheme.

Inauguration of La Nicolière Feeder Canal Power Station

The La Nicolière Feeder Canal Power Station of a capacity of 350 kWh was inaugurated on 27 September at Mare d’Australia. The mini station, which costs about Rs 65 million, can produce two million units of electricity per year and the energy
generated can supply some 1,000 customers. Construction works started in April 2009 and the testing phase was effected at the beginning of September 2010.

October

Landfill Gas to Energy Project

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 4 October between the Ministry and Sotravic Ltée, highlighting the conditions under which the Maurice Ile Durable Fund is to be disbursed to the Central Electricity Board on account of the Landfill Gas to Energy project. The project consists of the construction of an improved landfill gas collection system so as to maximise gas output and generate electricity.

Inauguration of Fort Victoria Power Station Redevelopment Phase 1

The Central Electricity Board (CEB) proceeded on 6 October with the commissioning of two medium speed diesel generators of 15 MW each to the tune of Rs 1.6 billion at Fort Victoria Power Station at Cassis. This project, namely the Fort Victoria Power Station Redevelopment Phase 1, will enable the CEB to ensure availability of generation capacity.
to meet demand in the short to medium term. The two turbines will produce 240 GWh yearly and will generate one tenth of the energy requirement of the country.

December

Small Scale Distributed Generation Project

The Small Scale Distributed Generation (SSDG) project, which will cater for the production of electricity by Small Independent Power Producers from renewable technologies, was launched on 9 December at the R. Burrenchobay Lecture Theatre at the University of Mauritius, Réduit. The SSDG project is in line with the Outline Energy Policy of Mauritius which favours the development of distributed renewable energy generation systems in the short to medium term.

Wastewater Management Authority

Jin Fei Project at Riche Terre

Works for off-site sewerage infrastructure for the disposal of effluents from the Mauritius Jin Fei Economic Trade and Cooperation Zone from Riche Terre to the Baie du Tombeau Sewerage Treatment Plant started in January and were completed in October.

Plaine Wilhems Sewerage Project (PWSP) – Lot 1A

The PWSP Lot 1A consists in the construction of 103 km of reticulation sewer networks and the connections of 13 000 house in the regions of West Rose Hill, South West and Central Quatre Bornes. Works are ongoing in the north and south zones of Lot 1A as well as on the gravity mains, Bambous pumping station and rising main. Started in December 2009, the works will extend over four years.

PWSP – Lot 1B

The PWSP Lot 1B project will connect 4 000 houses in the region of West Rose Hill, Mont Roches, Roche Brunes and Plaisance to the sewerage network and laying of 40 km of street sewers and replacement of 10 km of CWA water pipelines. Works are expected to be completed in December 2012.

PWSP - Lot 2

The PWSP Lot 2 consists in the construction of 87 km of reticulation sewer networks with some 13 000 house connections in the regions of Central Quatre Bornes, Sodnac and Belle Rose, and 50 km of CWA pipes. Works are expected to be completed in July 2012. The progress of work as at September was 35%.

Port Louis, Baie du Tombeau and Grand Baie – Lot 1

The project consists in the laying of 5 km of new sewers in the regions of Port Louis, Baie du Tombeau and Grand Baie. As at September, 740 house connections were completed.

Central Water Authority

District Water Supply System East

Projects to the tune of Rs. 45.4 million have been implemented in the system. These include the laying
of some 8 km of pipelines for the transfer of water from Petit Paquet Borehole to L’Unité Reservoir and upgrading of some 25 km of inefficient pipelines to enhance service levels of L’Unité reservoir. In Parallel, CWA awarded a contract totalling Rs. 96 million for the construction of a pipeline for the bulk transfer of water from Mont Ida reservoir to L’Unité reservoir and pipeline from Belle Rose reservoir to Ecroignard and from Caroline borehole to Belle Rose reservoir.

**Port Louis Water Supply System**

Projects to the tune of Rs. 108.8 million have been implemented in the Port Louis Water Supply System. These involved the construction of 4,000 m³ capacity service reservoir, pumping station and associated pipelines to supply an additional 4,000 m³ of water to sustain developments in the La Tour Koenig Industrial Park and to enhance service levels in Richelieu Housing Estate and Petite Rivière areas. The services of a consultant have been enlisted to conduct the feasibility study, detailed design for the treatment plant and associated pipeline works downstream of the proposed Bagatelle Dam and for refurbishment of the existing Pailles water treatment plant.

**District Water Supply System – North**

Projects to the tune of Rs. 167.6 million were under implementation during the year. The major projects involved: pipeline for the bulk transfer of water from La Nicolière to the proposed Jin Fei Business and Industrial centre at Riche Terre and renewal of distribution pipelines at Terre Rouge and Baie du Tombeau, Mapou, Plaines des Papayes and L’Espérance Trébuchet.

Tenders have been invited and bids evaluation were underway for the following projects:

- Extension of pipeline from old Plaine des Papayes reservoir to new Plaines des Papayes reservoir
- Construction of pumping main from Piton Bon Espoir borehole to Poudre D’Or Balancing Tank
- Extension of pipeline from New Goodlands reservoir to Mon Loisir reservoir network link
- Upgrading of Main at Congomah village
- Provision of consultancy services for design, construction and supervision work for extension of La Nicolière Treatment Plant capacity by an additional 34,000 m³/day

**District Water Supply System – South**

Projects worth Rs 6.6 million have been completed during 2010. The projects involved laying of pipes in Plaine Magnien and Surinam village. Bid documents for projects estimated at Rs. 55 million are under preparation and would be implemented during 2011. These are:

- Water supply from Rampe Le Moirt reservoir to Plaine Magnien
- Upgrading of CWA sites in south
- Consultancy services for Rivière du Poste intake structure, filters and drying beds and improvement works at Mont Blanc Treatment Plant

**District Water Supply System – Mare aux Vacoas**

Projects for the sum of Rs 67 million have been completed. This includes some projects which were started in 2009 but completed in 2010. These involved:

- Construction of Meldrum reservoir and associated pipelines
**Renewal of pipeline around Réduit**

**Minor works at Coromandel and Mont Ory**

**Renewal of pipeline at Morc. Bismic and Morc. Safeland**

**Pipelaying works at Jacarandas in Tamarin, Mare Gravier, Rose Hill and Vacoas**

The pipelaying works at Dupont Street and laterals, and M. Desai and Rennards Streets at Beau Bassin valued at Rs 10 million were still under implementation at the close of the year.

**Preparation of Bid Documents was Underway for the Following Projects:**

- Consultancy services for the study and design of the water supply system for Cybercity, Ebène and Highlands regions
- Construction of Pumping Stations for Cybercity and Ebène regions
- Construction of pipelines for Highlands regions
- Construction of reservoirs at Hermitage and Alma
- Pipeline from Didier reservoir to Camp Fouquereaux and Upper Highlands

**Central Electricity Board**

**Extension of Wind Farm in Rodrigues Island**

Two wind turbines of capacity 275 kW were installed and commissioned on 10 October. The tender for the design, supply, transportation, installation, testing and commissioning of two 275kW wind turbines was awarded to Vergnet SA for a sum of Euro 911601.

**Transmission and Distribution Network**

As at November, overhead network was extended by 157.2 km, bringing the total overhead lines to 8,008 km (inclusive of 8 km of 66 kV transmission lines). During the same period, the underground network was extended by 23.5 km to take the total route length to 522 km.

**Erection of 66kV Line Combo-Case Noyale-Henrietta**

The erection of the 66kV line fits in the objective of the CEB to strengthen its transmission network and improve the reliability of supply in Black River and Le Morne areas where major developments in respect of IRS projects are in the pipeline. As at December, approximately 1.5 km of the remaining overhead network has been completed. Approximately 4 kms of underground cables have been laid in the vicinity of Le Morne.

**Construction of Anahita Substation**

The construction of Anahita substation was intended mainly to meet load requirement for Anahita Hotel and the associated IRS project at Beau Champ as well as coping with the increasing load in the eastern part of the island. The 66 kV and 22kV busbars were energised in July 2009 and June 2010 respectively.

**Jinfei (Ex-Tianli)**

In 2010, approximately 2.8 km of double circuit overhead line was completed in relation to the erection of a 66 V line that would supply the new substation.
66/22 kV Substation at La Tour Koenig

The construction of the substation building at la Tour Koenig was completed in April 2010. Installation of the substation equipment, which has started in September, is in progress.

Upgrading of Power Transformer

One 36/45 MVA power transformer has been installed and commissioned in 2010 at Ebène substation. This new transformer will cater for the increasing load demand. Works also involved the construction of an additional 66 kV bay at Ebène substation.

Fort Victoria Power Station

Works have started in November for the construction of a new 22 kV indoor substation at Fort Victoria and will help to evacuate power from Fort Victoria and meet growing load demand. The new substation will serve as a back-up to Caudan major switching substation and improve the reliability of supply in Central Port Louis and the surrounding areas.

Upgrading of 66 kV Circuit Breakers in substations

Works relating to the replacement of old 66 kV circuit breakers by SF6 gas insulated were completed at La Chaumiere, Champagne and Henrietta substations.

Installation of Multiplexers

Multiplexers were implemented at Curepipe, Ebène, St. Louis and Fort George substations in August 2008 and at Dumas, Amaury, FUEL and Anahita major substations in 2009.

Small Scale Distributed Generation Project

With a view to promoting clean energy, and in line with the vision to democratis the electricity grid, the SSDG Project was launched on 9 December 2009. As at 31 December 2010, applications totalling 147 kW have been received.

Training for Customer Services Department

As part of its commitment to continuous improvement in the products and services, the CEB launched a training programme to revitalise the current customer services delivery. It aims to achieve a change in the behaviour and attitude of the staff to provide more professional customer service. To that effect, some 400 employees are being trained about the importance of providing a world class service to our valuable customers. About 180 employees have been successfully trained in the year 2010.

Upgrading of Customer Service Centres

In line with its commitment to achieve service excellence, Customer Service Centres in Poudrière Office and Mahebourg Office were renovated and more space to customers to access to services and effectively respond to customer needs was provided.
Social Integration and Economic Empowerment
Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment

Mission

To be the driving force in the eradication of absolute poverty and social exclusion and to mobilise support to empower the vulnerable and deprived with a view to improving their quality of life in a sustainable manner.
February

Online Database to Facilitate Circular Migration

The Mauritius Circular Migration Database (MCMD), an online job matching tool designed to match labour supply with the demand of foreign employers was launched on 5 February. Developed jointly by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Government of Mauritius, MCMD aims at registering Mauritians interested in temporary employment abroad and enabling employers to make online selection of candidates who best suit their desired profile.

Implementing Projects under Eradication of Absolute Poverty Programme

The Chairman of the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) announced on 15 February that NEF would fast track the implementation of projects under the Eradication of Absolute Poverty Programme so that some 142 pockets of poverty are covered in 2010, out of the 229 pockets of poverty identified by the NEF across Mauritius. Some 4 000 families whose monthly income does not exceed Rs 5 000 would benefit from the various projects to the tune of Rs 500 million and consisting of housing and educational support, imparting social and life skills, training and employment, assistance against substance abuse, integrated health programme, leisure and sports opportunities, public utilities and infrastructure.

CSR and National Lottery Funds to Finance Social Projects

According to the Ministry of Finance, in February the Government had already collected some Rs 187 million through taxes from the recently launched National Lottery and the revenues from the lottery were estimated to reach Rs 1 billion over one year. As regards the Corporate Social Responsibility requirement, an amount of around Rs 1 billion was expected by end 2010 including money gained from the Integrated Resort Scheme CSR. The funds would be used for the implementation of national projects for the betterment of the population, especially to upgrade civic life and protect heritage, while consolidating social progress to embed inclusive growth.

Social Integration

July

Scholarships Awarded to Two Disabled Mauritians

Two disabled Mauritians were granted scholarships on 27 July to undertake a one-year training programme at the Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreshwara Polytechnic for the Differently Abled (JSSPDA) in Mysore, India, under the joint agreement between the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) and the Indian institution. The two beneficiaries, one of whom is hearing impaired and the other visually impaired, were trained in Information Technology for disabled persons and in Technical and Industrial Design respectively.
August

Meeting with Social Workers

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Social Integration, met the social workers involved in the fight against poverty on 27 August in a bid to encourage them to help the poor people to integrate mainstream society with emphasis on providing support and guidance to the children living in a poor condition.

Launching of the “Learn to Earn” Project

Launching of the “Learn to Earn” project on craftsmanship on 19 August at the Centre Simon at Débarcadère, Poste de Flacq, under the Eradication of Absolute Poverty Programme of the National Empowerment Foundation in collaboration with the Stock Exchange of Mauritius. The project aimed at helping young people aged between 16 and 21 years from poor families and who had failed at school to undertake a two and half year training in craftsmanship sponsored by the Craft Academy.

September

Launching of Housing Project

Launching of a housing project on 3 September for those living in absolute poverty at Bois Marchand. The project aimed at providing a decent housing for the poorer segment of the society with a view to eradicate absolute poverty across the island and help the poor people integrate the mainstream society.

Launching of Masonry Trade Project

Launching of the Masonry Trade project on 26 September at Ebène for those involved in the construction sector. The programme aimed at helping the unemployed people to find a job in the construction sector considered as one of the most promising sectors as well as those already working in that sector to upgrade their abilities and provide a better service delivery.

Launching of a National Health Campaign

Launching of a national health campaign under the Eradication of Absolute Poverty (EAP) Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Health at Vallée Pitot on 26 September for those living in absolute poverty in view of providing them with the necessary health facilities.

October

Launching of Street Football Competition

Launching of street football competition at Curepipe on 2 October with the participation of some 1 200 youth. The competition served as a platform for the participants to showcase their talent as well as promote the Mauritian football.

Launching of “Ecole des Parents” Project

Launching of the “Ecole des Parents” Project at La Valette in Bambou on 5 October with a view to empowering parents to shoulder their responsibilities. Organised by the Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, the project aimed at disseminating information on child development in general, and on the prevention of all forms of child violence, as well as sensitising on the support services available to respond to the various needs of parents. The project was replicated in various other regions of the country.
Site Visit to Cité La Cure

Site visit of the Vice-Prime Minister on 12 October to Cité La Cure in the context of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty to take stock of the progress of works as regards the project put in place for the provision of utility facilities namely electricity and water connections to some 65 vulnerable families deprived of these services for ten years.

Inauguration of Children Garden in Bambous

Inauguration of a children’s playground by the Vice-Prime Minister on 14 October at La Valette in Bambous in the context of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Open Day at Goodlands

Holding of an open day at Goodlands on 16 October with a view to sensitising the public on the various activities of the National Empowerment Foundation.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was observed on 17 October. The event is meant to sensitise people on the plight of the poor and to reflect on means to empower them to live a decent life and integrate the mainstream society.
Family Day for the Needy

A Family Day for the benefit of the very poor was held on 17 October at the Anse La Raie Youth Training Centre, in the context of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Organised by the Ministry in collaboration with the National Empowerment Foundation and NGOs, the aim was to create awareness on action taken to combat poverty and on the implementation of diverse pro-poor projects across the country targeting specific vulnerable groups, such as water and electricity supply at Robert Scott, Cité La Cure, opening of a remedial school for adults at L’Escalier, social housing at Rose Belle, children’s playground at La Valette and a day nursery at Résidence Père Laval.

Sensitisation Campaign on Family Planning

Launching of a sensitisation campaign on 23 October regarding family planning at Cité Beau Séjour. An initiative of the Ministry of Social Integration in collaboration with the Mauritius Family Planning Association and “Action Familiale”, the campaign aimed at creating awareness as regards family planning in deprived areas around the country. The programme would be extended to other deprived regions.

Site visit at l’Atelier du Savoir at the Bel-Ombre Foundation

Site visit of the Vice-Prime Minister on 26 October at l’Atelier du Savoir at the Bel-Ombre Foundation to take note of the progress achieved as regards the various projects implemented at the Atelier.

Training Programme on the Agri-business Sector and Packaging

Launching of a training programme on the agri-business sector and packaging on 27 October by the ministry in collaboration with the UNDP for some forty small and medium entrepreneurs especially unemployed women. The aim of the programme was to acquaint the participants with the necessary skills to improve their businesses and share their experience to others as well as start their own enterprises as regards the agro-industry.

November

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Social Integration

Setting up of a Ministerial Consultative Committee on social integration under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Prime Minister to ensure coordination and harmonisation in the implementation of projects and measures targeting the improvement of living conditions of the poor and the needy, particularly, low cost social housing, enhanced educational facilities for children and youngsters in deprived areas, social integration of persons with disabilities, and widening of the circle of opportunities for the unemployed.

December

Launching of the campaign “SMS pou Lakaz malé” on 07 December at a cost of Rs 10 per SMS which would contribute towards the provision of housing facilities to some 100 families at the lower rungs of the social ladder. The campaign ended on 14 December.
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Mission

- To ensure sustainable and equitable socio-economic development.
- To ensure fiscal sustainability.
- To ensure efficient and effective use of economic resources.
- To create an environment to make Mauritius more globally competitive.
January

Rs 2.2 billion to Finance Contingent Liabilities and Infrastructure Projects

In an overview of the economy in 2009 on 9 January, the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment, announced that Government had gained an extra Rs 2.2 billion in tax revenues for the period July-December 2009, namely through corporate taxes. This helped to contain the budget deficit and settle some longstanding contingent liabilities as well as finance infrastructure projects.

Doing Business 2010 in Africa Conference

The Prime Minister officially opened on 13 January, a three-day conference on “Doing Business 2010 in Africa: Sharing Reform Experiences,” at The Grand Mauritian Hotel in Balaclava. Organised by the Government of Mauritius under the aegis of the Regional Multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence (RMCE) in collaboration with the World Bank, the forum regrouped some 120 delegates from 15 African countries. It served as a platform for discussions on doing business reforms, mainly regulations that either enhance or constrain business activity, share lessons of experience, and strengthen South-South cooperation.
Presentation on Reform and Resilience of economic empowerment on the Mauritian economy


Investment Climate Assessment report 2009

A one-day workshop to disseminate key policy findings of the 2009 Investment Climate Assessment Report for Mauritius, jointly prepared by the World Bank and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with the Board of Investment and the Joint Economic Council of Mauritius was held on 18 January. Around 50 participants studied the report which calls for a multi-pronged effort to support exports, foster industry-research collaboration, improve human resources, strengthen workers’ skills base and expand access to finance.

BOI Investment Mission to India

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance led a delegation to India from 17 to 23 January in the context of the Board of Investment promotion mission. The mission aimed at positioning Mauritius as a services platform, promoting investment opportunities, and reinforcing the image of Mauritius as a reputable and attractive financial services centre. The Minister also participated in the Global Economic Summit organised by the All India Association of Industries and the World Trade Centre in Mumbai.

International Customs Day

In the context of the International Customs Day, a one-day workshop on “Customs and Business-Improving performance through partnerships” was organised by the Customs Department of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) on 26 January. The workshop focused on the following: Creating business friendly environment, understanding the business community: experience and expectations and the use of technology to facilitate trade.

Mauritius Ranks 12th on the 2010 Annual Index of Economic Freedom

Mauritius was placed 12th in global rankings on the 16th Index of Economic Freedom 2010 released by the Wall Street Journal and the Heritage Foundation on 20 January. With a total economic freedom score of 76.3 points, Mauritius also ranked 1st out of the 46 countries in the Sub-Saharan African region. The Wall Street Journal and the Heritage Foundation ranks 183 economies across the world based on ten forms of economic freedom.

Workshop on ‘Broadening Access to Financial Services’

Launching of a one-day public consultation workshop on “Broadening access to financial services” at the Financial Services Commission on 28 January. The workshop aimed at addressing issues relating to an inclusive financial system which would be crucial to move the economy on a higher growth path, to ensure a broader participation in wealth creation and a more equal distribution of the income generated.
February

Signing of Loan Agreement for SME Development

Signing of a loan agreement of 20 million USD, an equivalent of about Rs 600 million, on 23 February with the World Bank for the financing of the Manufacturing and Services Development and Competitiveness (MSDC) project. The main deliverables of the projects were to improve access to quality Business Development Services, strengthen institutional and policy support for SMEs, and improve access to finance to credit-constrained businesses and project contract and management.

Positioning SEM as Listing Venue for Global and Specialised Funds

An informative meeting on Positioning Stock Exchange of Mauritius as listing venue for Global and specialised Funds was held on 16 February at Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre in Pailles at the initiative of the SEM. The aim was to communicate the listing of funds from the Global Business Sector in line with Government policy to diversify and deepen the financial services sector, promote transparency in the conduct of global business and secure the reputation of Mauritius as a jurisdiction of substance.

AFRITAC South – Fact Finding Mission

An IMF fact finding mission by security and facilities officers was conducted from the 6 to 10 February 2010 in view of the establishment of the IMF Regional Technical Assistance Centre for Southern Africa (AFRITAC South) in Mauritius. The purpose of the mission was to gather facts and establish contacts that will allow IMF to move quickly in setting up the Centre once funding is secured.

CABRI Joint Country Case Study on PBB Implementation in Mauritius

The Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI) carried out an assessment of the implementation of Programme Based Budgeting (PBB) in Mauritius. A review team visited Mauritius from 22 to 26 February 2010 to have discussions with local stakeholders. The main objective of the Study was to review and assess the implementation strategy of the Ministry in identifying successes and challenges as well as to assess the impact of implementing PBB.

March

EU Grants Rs 4 billion as General Budget Support under the Promoting Sustainable and Equitable Development (PSED) Programme

The European Union (EU) and the Government of Mauritius signed on 4 March three financing agreements which provide Mauritius with general budget support grant of a total Euro 93.5 million, an equivalent of approximately Rs 4 billion, under the Promoting Sustainable and Equitable Development (PSED) programme. The grant would contribute to two pillars of the economic reform agenda, namely improving trade competitiveness with special focus on enhancing the revenue generating capacity of the sugar industry through the export of white refined sugar and widening the circle of opportunities for the vulnerable groups.
Egmont Working Group and Committee Meetings

The Vice-Prime Minister addressed on 2 March the Egmont Working Group and Committee Meetings organised by the Egmont Working Group and the Financial Intelligence Unit Mauritius from 28 February to 4 March at the Grand Baie International Conference Centre. Issues to adhering to international standards in the areas of Anti Money Laundering (AML) and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) were discussed during the meeting.

Signature of an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) with France

Mauritius and France signed on 8 March an investment protection and sustainable Development, agreement and an agreement for general budget support, with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) for a loan amounting to € 125 million for the environment and energy sectors in Port Louis.

Signature of Grant Agreement with EU regarding environment aid programme

Mauritius signed a grant agreement of € 3m on 8 March for an Environment Aid Programme for Mauritius (EAPM) financed from the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) aimed at supporting the poorest and most vulnerable countries with respect to their capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change. This EAPM programme has been designed to support sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in Mauritius.

Interactive Session with Professor Danny Quah

An interactive session organised by the Ministry in collaboration with the Mauritius LSE Society Trust Fund on the theme: “The 2009 Collapsed Global Economy: A year that wasn’t”, was held on 22 March in Port Louis, with Professor Danny Quah of the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Workshop on Early Childhood Care, Education and Development workshop

A Stakeholders Meeting and Launching Conference on the Mauritius Africa Initiative on Early Childhood Development, Care and Education was organised from 22 to 25 March by the UNDP in collaboration with the Regional Multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence and Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources. The purpose was to launch the UNESCO Basic Education Africa Programme and the “Mauritius Africa Initiative” in the presence of representatives of countries from the UNESCO Cluster of Dar es Salaam as well as Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali, Senegal, development partners and UN agencies.

April

Cape Verde Study Tour

A study tour by a high level Cape Verde delegation under the World Bank South-South Experience Exchange between Practitioners Programme was organised by the Ministry under the aegis of the Regional Multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence (RMCE) and in collaboration with the Board of Investment (BOI) from 5 to 9 April 2010. The objective was to exchange ideas, experiences and
technical assistance on selected policy reforms between policy makers in Cape Verde and Mauritius so as to enable Cape Verde to improve its macroeconomic performance and entrepreneurial capacity.

**Corporate Registers Forum Annual Conference**

The 7th Corporate Registers Forum (CRF) annual conference 2010 on the theme “The Integrity of Corporate Registers” was held from 20 to 23 April at the Sugar Beach Hotel in Flic en Flac. The conference aimed at providing an opportunity for members of the CRF to reflect on and share their experiences in the field of corporate registers, as well as acquire new ideas and knowledge. It also served as a platform to facilitate communication between registry professionals on latest developments in corporate registry management and processes to prevent fraud in registers.

**Pan Commonwealth Conference on Services Trade**

The 2nd Pan Commonwealth Conference on Services Trade with the theme “Creating an enabling environment for Information Technology services”, was held from 20 to 22 April 2010. An initiative of the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the World Bank Institute, the Regional Multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence (RMCE), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and Mauritius, it served as a platform where both local and foreign participants were exposed to emerging trends and opportunities in exporting IT Enabled Services and shared good practice in addressing challenges in promoting trade in IT Enabled Services.

**May**

**Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative Seminar**

The 6th annual seminar of the Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI) on the theme “Good Financial Governance: Towards Modern Budgeting”, was held from 18 to 20 May at La Plantation Hotel in Balaclava. Participants debated on modern budgeting practices that will impact on the future direction of public financial management in Africa.

**Employees Encouraged to Remain Shareholders of EREIT**

The Vice-Prime Minister made an appeal on 27 May to employees who are the initial unit holders of the Employees’ Real Estate Investment Trust to remain shareholders, as in the long run the Net Value Asset (NAV) of the units is expected to rise owing to the various investment made and development in real estate projects. 348 129 employees hold such shares since 2005.

**June**

**Exchange of Information between MRA and FSC**

A Memorandum of Understanding for effective exchange of Information between the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Financial Services Commission was signed on 3 June. The MoU, in line with other MoUs amongst regulators and with other agencies, will further reinforce cooperation with the MRA by providing a proper framework
for such exchange of information between the two authorities.

**Launch of Grand Baie-La Croisette project**

Presentation and launch of the Grand Baie-La Croisette project on 25 June, by the Vice-Prime Minister. The project consists of an integrated complex comprising commercial, residential and office spaces, to be implemented over an area of some fifteen acres of land at a total cost of about Rs 2 billion. It will create around 500 job opportunities and is expected to have a major impact on the real estate infrastructure in the northern region.

**July**

**UNECA Seminar on Statistical Capacity of African Countries**

Opening of a three-day United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) seminar, on “Implementation Strategy for International Standards on Economic Statistics in Africa”, on 6 July at Le Meridien Hotel in Pointe Aux Piments. The seminar was held in the context of UNECA’s efforts to increase the capacity of African countries to abide by international standards as regards economic statistics.

**Workshop on Bid Rigging**

A workshop was held on 7 July, at La Grande Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles, on the impact of Bid Rigging in Government contracting, at the initiative of the Procurement Policy Office (PPO) in collaboration with the Competition Commission. Some 125 participants from the public and private sectors attended the workshop aimed at creating awareness on the problem of bid rigging, which distorts competition and inflates contract prices artificially.

**Agreement for Grand Baie Sewerage Project Phase 1B**

Signing of an agreement for the financing of Phase 1B of the Grand Baie Sewerage Project on 8 July by the Vice-Prime Minister, and the Ambassador of Japan, Mr Tetsuro Kawaguchi. The Agreement makes provision for a loan of Rs 2.6 billion at a preferential rate. Through Phase 1B of the Grand Baie Sewerage Project more than 2000 families will be connected to the sewerage system of this region.

**August**

**FSC Annual Statistical Bulletin**

The Financial Services Commission (FSC) released its Annual Statistical Bulletin on 11 August. The Bulletin provides up-to-date figures on the sectors regulated by the FSC and presents a synopsis of current trends in the financial services sector (other than banking) for the period ending 31 December 2009 and the period ending 31 December 2008. The total assets for the financial services sector (excluding companies holding a Category 1 Global Business Licence) increased from MUR 23.16 billion in 2008 to reach MUR 24.81 billion in 2009 and the total turnover generated by the entities surveyed for 2009 amounted to MUR 4.28 billion while the global business service providers generated total assets of USD 131.87 million in 2009.
**Presentation of Resilience Package of Rs 12 billion**

Presentation of a Rs 12 billion restructuring package entitled “Economic Restructuring and Competitiveness Programme” (ERCP) by the Vice-Prime Minister on 13 August for long term resilience in the face of the Euro zone crisis which is adversely affecting the local economy. The programme contained some 100 policy measures to boost vulnerable strategic sectors of the Mauritian economy mainly tourism, sugar, textile and clothing and small businesses.

**Positive Returns for NPF and NSF Funds**

The portfolio of investments as regards the National Pensions Fund (NPF) and that of the National Savings Fund (NSF) were presented on 20 August in Port Louis. The NPF amounted to over Rs 66 billion and NSF to over Rs 12 billion as at 30 June 2010. Both funds had registered positive combined assets of an equivalent of Rs 78.8 billion.

**MRA Office Launched In Rodrigues**

Launching of the newly relocated office of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) on 30 August in Port Mathurin, Rodrigues. The launching was followed by an awareness campaign and educational seminars for a general improved level of services for all Rodriguans.

**September**

**MOU to Attain Sustainable Growth and Transformation of the Economy**

Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Government of Mauritius and the African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET) on 2 September in Port Louis. The MOU aimed at enabling Mauritius to work in close collaboration with ACET with a view to achieving the objective of sustainable growth and transformation of the economy. It also helped to mobilise expertise, build capacity of public officers and position Mauritius as a centre for export of services.

**Workshop to formulate an Integrity Action Plan for the MRA**

Opening of a three day workshop on “Self Assessment Integrity” on 6 September at the New Customs House, Mer Rouge at the initiative of the MRA. The objective was to conduct a self-assessment exercise to measure the integrity level of the MRA as regards its internal and external stakeholders and inculcate to the participants the integrity strategies of the MRA with a view to combating corruption and other malpractices. The workshop also culminated towards the formulation of an Integrity Action Plan for the MRA.

**FSC Awarded at the 2010 Africa Investor Summit**

The Financial Services Commission (FSC) Mauritius, received the Most Innovative Capital Markets Regulator of the Year Award, on 17 September, at the 2010 Africa investor Index Series Awards, during the Africa Investor Summit held in New York in association with the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Euronext. The award was
given on the basis of commitment to increasing transparency and efficiency, support for innovative technologies, employment of best regulatory practice, openness to foreign investors and investor protection, participation in industry associations and efforts towards creating an enabling environment for the capital markets industry.

**Annual Business Plan Meeting**

Holding of the annual Business Plan meeting on 22 and 23 September 2010 which allowed development partners to interact with Supervising Officers of Ministries with a view to securing assistance for programme design and feasibility studies for projects that are a priority to Government and which had to be included in the Programme Based Budgeting.

**October**

**IMF/World Bank Meeting**

Mission of the Vice-Prime Minister from 8 to 10 October in Washington where he participated, in the IMF/World Bank Meeting and the Commonwealth Finance Ministers’ Meeting. The IMF/World Bank Meeting centred on the economic crisis, whereas the Commonwealth Finance Ministers’ Meeting discussed, inter alia, the promotion of environmentally sustainable growth, and the strengthening of the relationship between Members of the Commonwealth and the G20, the IMF and the World Bank.

**Capacity Development Workshop on Tax Administration**

The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), in collaboration with the Mauritius Revenue Authority held from 11 to 15 October the 11th ATAF Technical Workshop on “Auditing Multinational Enterprises”, at Le Maritim Hotel, Balaclava. The workshop aimed at bringing together tax agencies in Africa and gave them the opportunity to discuss on ways to improve on their performance strategies as regards tax administration system in their respective countries. Participants comprised mainly tax administrators from the thirty six African countries which form part of ATAF.

**Global Board of Trade Launched in Mauritius**

The Global Board of Trade (GBOT) was launched on 15 October at the InterContinental Hotel in Balaclava by the Prime Minister. GBOT is the first international multi-asset class exchange from Mauritius to offer a basket of commodity derivative products including metals, energy, agri-soft, as well as currency derivatives. The exchange will boost an efficient clearing and settlement systems to ensure counterparty guarantee for all trades.

**Fraud and Corruption in Public Procurement**

The Public Procurement Office in collaboration with the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) organised on 19 October, a talk on the theme “Fraud and Corruption in Public Procurement” with Ms Caroline Nicholas, Senior Legal Officer, UN Office of Legal Affairs as guest speaker.

**Celebration of World Statistics Day**

World Statistics Day was celebrated on 20 October by the Central Statistics Office. The objective of the event was to raise awareness of the many official statistics based on the core values of service, integrity and professionalism. World Statistics Day
The Government Information Service is pleased to present this third edition of the Yearbook.

The purpose is to provide readers an insight into the activities of Government in year 2010.

We wish to place on record the valuable contribution of Ministries and Departments in the production of this publication.

The Editorial Team
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prime Minister’s Office</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance and Economic Development</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Housing and Lands</strong></td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Tourism and Leisure</strong></td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Education and Human Resources</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security</strong></td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Industry and Commerce</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development</strong></td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Youth and Sports</strong></td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands</strong></td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health and Quality of Life</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Arts and Culture</strong></td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Information and Communication Technology</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Fisheries and Rodrigues</strong></td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations &amp; Employment</strong></td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney General’s Office</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Business, Enterprise, Cooperatives and Consumer Protection</strong></td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Assembly</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Missions of Prime Minister**

**France**

The Prime Minister attended the 25th Session of the Africa-France Summit which was held in Nice, France on 31 May and 1 June 2010 on an invitation of Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the Republic of France. The Summit aimed at further consolidating the partnership between France and the African states.

The Prime Minister was on official visit from 31 August to 5 September in Paris, France, on invitation of the French President, Mr Nicolas Sarkozy, for the ceremony of the Revival of the Flame at Arc de Triomphe.

**United Kingdom**

In the United Kingdom, the Prime Minister had meetings on 2 June with Baroness Catherine Ashton, Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. He also met on 3 June Mr. William Hague, British Foreign Secretary, Lord Richard Napier Luce, Lead Member of the UK-All Party Parliamentary Group on Chagos and Member of the House of Lords and Hon Geoffrey Cox, Q.C., of Thomas More Chambers.

**Switzerland**

The Prime Minister led the Mauritian delegation at the 13th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Francophonie, held on 23 and 24 October in Montreux, Switzerland, under the presidency of Doris Leuthard, President of the Swiss Confederation.
Uganda

The Prime Minister participated in the 13th Summit of the African Peer Review Forum and the 15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union which were held in Kampala from 24 to 27 July.

Namibia

The Prime Minister participated in the 30th Jubilee Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held on 16 and 17 June. HE Sir Ketumile Masire, former President of Botswana, HE Joaquim Chissano, former President of Mozambique, HE Dr Sam Nujoma, former President of Namibia and HE Kenneth David Kaunda, former President of Zambia, also attended the Summit.

Singapore

The Prime Minister was on an official visit to Singapore, on the invitation of Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore from 24 to 28 September.

During his visit, the Prime Minister had a tête-à-tête with Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister and Mr Sellapan Ramanathan, President of Singapore. Dr Ramgoolam had a working session with M. Clarence Yeo, Commissioner of Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) and its representatives. The discussions focused mainly on the new Mauritian identity card, immigration control and customs.

The Prime Minister had working sessions with members of the Singapore Mass Rapid Transit Corporation, with the President of the Nanyang Technological University and with members of the Singapore Public Utilities Board.
**Mauritius Police Force**

**Launching of National Policing Strategic Framework**

The National Policing Strategic Framework (NPSF), launched on 24th February, is the first ever published strategic document in the history of the Mauritius Police Force. The implementation of the document will help to draw a new picture of the Police organisation altogether, charting out a new vision and a new direction for the Force.

The NPSF has been prepared by the Police department with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The strategic framework rests on six key pillars, namely: Community Policing; Achieving a Human Rights Compliant Organisation; Human Resource Management Capability; Permanent Strategic Planning Capability; Intelligence-Led Policing; and Enhancing Reactive Capability. The strategy is based on the concept of moving from a force to a service.

**Passing out Parade of 707 Trainee Constables**

The passing out parade ceremony of the 707 newly recruited police constables was held at Gymkhana Grounds, Vacoas on 26 August. The ceremony took place following a two-year recruit probationers’ training that the new recruits had to go through. The 707 newly recruited police constables are posted in various Police Stations, the Special Mobile Force, the National Coast Guard and the Special Support Unit.

**Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) Street Surveillance System**

As at 24 December, 145 cameras have been installed in Port Louis and 62 others have been installed in Grand Bay. The CCTV Street Surveillance System will help to prevent and detect criminal activities and will also be used to monitor traffic movement. The main control room is found at the Police Headquarters Operations Room and is manned on a 24/7 basis by Police Officers.

The CCTV Street Surveillance System was installed by Brinks (Mauritius) Ltd and was jointly financed by the Police Department and the Tourism Fund. The CCTV Street Surveillance System is already operational in the port, the airport and at Flic en Flac and Quatre Bornes.

**New Digital Radio Communication System and Coastal Surveillance Radar System Installed**

A new Digital Radio Communication System and a Coastal Surveillance Radar System have been purchased this year. The new Digital Radio Communication System with more than 3,000 terminals will replace the 25-year old Analogue System. On the other hand, the Coastal Surveillance Radar System will provide a round the clock surveillance off mainland Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agaléga and St Brandon.

**Training to Police Officers**

During the year, over 2000 Police Officers have obtained training locally run by the Police Training School whilst 275 have been trained by foreign Short Term Training Teams in Mauritius. Moreover, some 310 Police Officers have attended training in renowned institutions abroad.
Prison

January

Orientation Course for Mid Managers

Forty officers divided into three batches attended the Orientation Course for mid managers. The course which was held from 6 January to 9 February was devised to help newly promoted officers to the grade of Assistant Superintendent of Prisons.

February

Capacity Building of Prison Dynamic Security Officers on HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse

The Capacity Building of Prison Dynamic Security Officers on HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Course was conducted for officers posted in the Dynamic Security Unit from 22 to 26 February.

March

Course on Human Rights and Prisons Management

One hundred and twenty-seven Officers, divided into batches of twenty, attended a two-week Course on Human Rights and Prisons Management from 8 March to 25 June at the Prisons Staff Training School.

Independence Day Celebration

In the context of the Independence Day Celebration, a painting and drawing competition was organised. The aim of the competition which drew the participation of 14 inmates was to promote patriotism as an ideology among inmates.

April

Training in Biodiversity Conservation

A workshop on Training in Biodiversity Conservation was organised on 26 April for eleven officers at the Prisons Staff Training School.

June

Course on Human Rights and Prisons Management

Mr. Brian Tkachuk, Regional Advisor HIV/AIDS from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime led a two-day course on Human Rights and Prisons Management in prison setting. Thirty officers including the welfare and hospital staff benefitted from the course which was organised on 3 and 4 June.
Prisons Staff Training School

Courses Dispensed for period
January to December 2010

January

Training on Self Defense and Kick Boxing

Six Officers (including two female Officers) attended this training on 26, 27 and 28 January 2010 at the Police Training School

March

Course on Metal Detectors/Radio
Procedure and CCTV

Two hundred and twenty-three Officers attended this course from 29 March to 27 May. The course was dispensed by the Special Mobile Force.

April

Training of prison officers in search of
person and vehicles

Twenty-six Officers attended this course on 07 April.

June

Two-day course on Human Rights and
HIV/AIDS Management in Prison Setting

Thirty-two Officers followed this course on 3 and 4 June

August

Induction Course for Senior Officer Cadet

Five Senior Officers Cadet enlisted on 09 August, 19 August and 13 October underwent Induction Course.

Training in Handling of Circular Saw,
Angle Grinder and Gas Blower

Twenty seven Prison Staff including civilian workers attended the above session on 12 August.

Training of Trainers Course

Eighteen Officers attended the first phase of the Training of Trainers Course from 23 to 27 August. Twelve Officers selected from the above eighteen underwent second phase of Training of Trainers course from 05 to 11 September. Four Officers identified from the twelve above Officers started the third phase of training of Trainers Course as from 27 December.

September

Course on Customer Care

Twenty Seven Officers underwent the course from 14 to 16 September.

November

Monitoring and Evaluation of the National
Response to HIV and AIDS

Twenty-nine Officers attended the above session on 22 November.
Department of Civil Aviation

Major activities of the Department for year 2010

The Department has handled a total of 24,000 instrument Flights Rule aircraft movements during the year thereby earning a total of Rs 22,352,553 as revenue from route air navigation charge (Rs 102,712,526) and aerodrome and approach charge (Rs 119,640,027) respectively.

March

Renewal of Aerodrome Licence

The Aerodrome Licence of Airport of Rodrigues Ltd for the operation of the Sir Gaetan Duval Airport in Rodrigues has been renewed for a period of one year, up to 31 March 2011.

April

Replacement of Non Directional Beacon (NDB) at SSR International Airport

The existing NDB at SSR International Airport reached the end of its useful life was replaced. The NDB provides homing facility for aircraft to land at SSR International Airport. The contract was awarded to Systems Interface Ltd of the United Kingdom for the sum of Rs 3.5 million.

May

Replacement of Navigational Aids

The second phase of the project for the replacement of the Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Directional Radio Range and Distance Measuring Equipment (DVOR/DME) at SSR International Airport has been completed. This equipment provides bearing and distance information to aircraft approaching and landing at the airport. The first phase for Grand Bay DVOR/DME was completed in December 2009. The contract was awarded to Mopiens inc of South Korea for the sum of Rs 31 million.

Training

One Senior Maintenance Officer attended a four-day training course on European Coordination Centre and Incident Reporting Systems (ECCAIRS) software for the collection, sharing and analyzing of safety civil aviation information. The training was held at Zambia Civil Aviation from 18 to 21 May.

July

Training

The Divisional Head (CNS) attended training in Civil Aviation Management Programme under the Singapore Cooperation Fellowship for ADCAC (African Civil Aviation Commission) at the Singapore Aviation Academy from 19 to 30 July.

August

Training

One Senior Maintenance Officer participated in the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) training course from 26 July to 13 August 2010, at the Air Traffic and Navigation Services Aviation Academy in South Africa. Two Senior Maintenance Officers attended the introduction to Satellite Communication System Course at the Air Traffic Navigation Services Aviation Training Academy of the Republic of South Africa from 28 August to 3 September 2010.
October

Replacement of Non Directional Beacon (NDB) and Markers

The NDB at Flic en Flac and the markers at Bigara and Blue Bay form part of the navigation aids provided by the Department of Civil Aviation. These equipment, were in operation for more than 20 years, had reached the end of their useful life and were replaced.

This contract was awarded to Systems Interfact Ltd of the United Kingdom for the sum of Rs 8 million.

Replacement of Non-Directional Beacon (NDB) for Agalega Airstrip

The contract to replace the faulty NDB at Agalega was awarded to Systems Interface Ltd for the sum of Rs 10.8 million. The NDB is the only ground based navigational facility for aircraft homing for Agalega Island. The project will be completed by May 2011.

Renewal of Aerodrome Licence

The Aerodrome Licence of Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd for the operation of the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport was renewed for a period of one year, up to 30 September 2011.

Award

The Department obtained the Innovative Management Award of the African Association for Public Administration and Management.

Training

Six Air Traffic control Officers (ATCOs) were trained in Aerodrome Control Service at the prestigious Singapore Aviation Academy. This was in line with the Departmental policy to provide multi-rating to all ATCOs with a view to improving flexibility in the deployment of staff over the three ATC operational positions. This was in fact the first batch among the 25 controllers recruited in 2002, to acquire rating in all three ATS branches of Air Traffic Control (Aerodrome, Approach and Area/Oceanic).

November

MS ISO 9001: 2008 Certification of the Flight Clearance Office

On 3 November, the Department was awarded MS ISO 9001:2008 Certification for the Quality Management System implemented in its Flight Clearance Office.

December

Crew Member Certificate Reader System

In line with the requirement of the International Civil Aviation Organisation, a Crew Member Certificate Reader System is being implemented. The contract was awarded to Data Communications Ltd for the sum of Rs 1.2 million. The project will be completed by mid March 2011.

Introduction of SIDs and STARs at SSR International Airport

On 16 December, the Department introduced Standard Instrument Departures (SIDs) and Standard Terminal Arrival Routes (STARs) at SSR International Airport.
Mauritius Meteorological Services

February

Launching of New Website

A new user-friendly website of the Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS) was launched on February 15. This new website includes several additional features such as the long range forecast, 3-Days forecast for Mauritius, tidal predictions, forecast for outer islands, and a FAQ page.

March

World Meteorological Day 2010

To celebrate the World Meteorological Day, the MMS organised a half day seminar on March 23 at Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, Bell Village. The seminar was followed by an educational exhibit open to the student population and the public at large. The theme chosen by World Meteorological Organisation was “60 years of service for your safety and well-being.”

May

U.S Ambassador Visit

The U.S ambassador, Mary Jo Wills, paid a courtesy call at the headquarters of the MMS on May 13 and visited the Forecast Office.

Upgrading of Forecast Equipment

In the frame of Europe Aid Programme, the MMS received a new workstation Puma II for forecasting purposes. In addition to this, the computers in the Training Centre were also upgraded.

July

Migration to Table-Driven Code Format

In order to meet the international obligations towards the meteorological community, the MMS prepared a program towards the migration to Table-Driven Code Format (TDCF). The programme included in-house training for meteorological staff of both Mauritius and Rodrigues.

September

Migration of RETIM Africa Products to EumetCast

With the migration of RETIM Africa products to EumetCast, the MMS renewed part of its satellite reception units. The system was successfully installed in September at Vacoas headquarters.

September – December

ICT Training for Staff

In order to keep up with ICT trends and to ensure capacity building of the staff, training sessions were organized in Windows 7, Linux LP1-101, and N+ (Networking).

November

MS ISO 9001-2008 Certification

In line with the vision of the organisation to maintain a quality service, the MMS shifted from MS ISO 9001-2000 to MS ISO 9001-2008. The institution was ISO-certified by Mauritius Standards Bureau.
Installation of Seismometer at Citronelle, Rodrigues

A seismic monitoring equipment was installed by experts from GEOSCOPE Centre (Paris) at Citronelle, Rodrigues, in collaboration with the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (IPGP). This equipment improves the seismic network in the Indian Ocean and contributes to the regional network of observations, which are sent to seismological centers where further analysis are done.

Truth and Justice Commission

The Truth and Justice Commission Act was passed at the National Assembly on 19 August 2008 and proclaimed by the President of the Republic on 29 January 2009. According to the Act, the functions of the Commission are as follows:

- to determine appropriate measures to be extended to descendants of slaves and indentured labourers
- to enquire into a complaint made by person aggrieved by a dispossession or prescription of any land in which he claims he has an interest
- to prepare a comprehensive report of its activities and findings based on factual and objective information and evidence

During 2010, the Commission has had 103 hearing sessions in Mauritius and 28 in Rodrigues. The Commission officially launched its website on 24 November.
Energy and Public Utilities
Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities

Mission

To fulfill our commitment to the nation, by ensuring:-

- the provision of high quality, safe and adequate electricity and water supplies and wastewater disposal services to the public for sustainable development at affordable prices;
- the development of adequate water resources for sustainable development;
- excellence in the provision of electrical services and electrical safety in government buildings; and
- promotion of peaceful use of nuclear technology for the benefit of the nation in line with international radiation safety practices.
January

Grid Code and Feed-in Tariffs

A workshop on Grid Code and Feed-in Tariffs for Small Independent Power Producers was organised on 13 January by the United Nations Development Programme in collaboration with the Ministry at the Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port Louis. The aim was to address issues pertaining to the application of the Grid Code which was developed in 2009.

February

National Consultation for Maurice Ile Durable Policy Formulation

The National Consultation for Maurice Ile Durable Policy Formulation was launched on 18 February at Domaine Les Pailles. The aim was to solicit views of stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to develop a national vision on sustainable development and its social, environmental and economic implications in Mauritius. Consultations were held with the public and special groups as well as with ministries and local authorities.

March

Primary Schools Receive Renewable Energy Kits

The project Promote a Renewable Energy Culture among primary school children in Mauritius kicked off on 18 March at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre at Bell Village with the distribution of renewable energy kits to 40 primary schools selected on a zonal basis. The main objective of this pilot project was to raise awareness among the primary student population on the effects of conventional energy sources on the environment and the benefits of renewable energies.

World Water Day 2010

A forum on water quality challenges and opportunities was held at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre on 23 March in the context of the World Water Day. The theme for 2010 was Clean Water for a Healthy World. The aim was to draw attention to the challenges in the water sector and the importance of water for social, economic development and public health. On the agenda was an overview of water resource mobilisation and presentations on risks faced by Small Island States by climate change, challenges and opportunities in the wastewater sector and the importance of water quality to public health.

Training in Electrofusion Technology for CWA

Professional licences in electrofusion technology were awarded to a second batch of 90 technical staff of the Central Water Authority, comprising engineers, technicians and inspectors. Organised in collaboration with the Société de Tubes et de Raccordages Marketing Limitée, the training was held for two and a half days with practical sessions. Participants were exposed to several aspects relating to, amongst others, the manufacture of polyethylene pipes, accessories and tools used in welding.
April

Youth Summit in the Context of MID Policy Formulation

In the context of the consultation process for the development of the National Policy for a Sustainable Mauritius (*Maurice Ile Durable* - MID), a two-day national youth summit was held on 1st April at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre at Bell Village. The summit served as a platform for secondary school students to contribute in the elaboration of a National Policy for MID.

May

Workshop on Energy Audits

A workshop on Energy Audits was held from 31 May to 4 June 2010 at the Maritime Training Academy, Pointe aux Sables. The aim was to equip a batch of 25 engineers and technicians from the Ministry, the Central Water Authority, the Wastewater Management Authority and the Central Electricity Board with the necessary skills and knowledge on how to conduct energy audits on government buildings. The workshop was organised in collaboration with a team from two companies from Reunion Island which was in Mauritius to conduct energy audits on government buildings.
Securing Vulnerable Radioactive Sources

A delegation from the Global Threat Reduction Initiative Office from the United States was in Mauritius from 10 to 14 May in the context of the partnership project aimed at securing vulnerable radioactive sources in a bid to prevent terrorism acts. The delegation took stock of the progress made as regards the installation of the security systems at the Radiotherapy department at Victoria Hospital at Candos and at the Entomology department at the Ministry of Agro-industry and Food security. They also had discussions with the Radiation Protection Authority on the construction of a national Radioactive Source Storage Facility.

July

Workshop on Solar Photovoltaic Generation

A workshop on the Removal of Barriers to Solar Photovoltaic Generation in Mauritius, Rodrigues and the Outer Islands was held on 8 July at La Grande Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles. It reviewed the technical and organisational capacity of key players to implement renewable energy projects with a view to accelerating the development of an on-grid solar photovoltaic system and sustainable delivery models. Mauritius has obtained US 80 000 from the Global Environment Facility and US 28 000 from the United Nations Development Fund for the implementation of the project.

September

Laboratory of WMA accredited MS ISO/IEC 17025:2005

The laboratory of the Wastewater Management Authority was accredited MS ISO/IEC 17025:2005, an international standard incorporating general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. An award ceremony was organised on 14 September at Four Points by Sheraton at Ebène during which the WMA lab received its accreditation certificate from MAURITAS. The laboratory is responsible for the collection and analysis of effluents discharged by waste water treatment plants, hotels and industries involved in potentially polluting activities to ensure compliance with environmental standards.

Energy Audit Management Scheme

A half-day workshop on the development of an Energy Audit Management Scheme (EAMS) was organised on 8 September at Clos St Louis, Domaine Les Pailles. The aim was to allow participants to contribute to the formulation of an EAMS for Mauritius. The EAMS will develop the necessary infrastructure for conducting energy audits in energy intensive sectors. It will also lead to the creation of a national standard for energy audits including the creation of a national certification scheme.

Inauguration of La Nicolière Feeder Canal Power Station

The La Nicolière Feeder Canal Power Station of a capacity of 350 kWh was inaugurated on 27 September at Mare d’Australia. The mini station, which costs about Rs 65 million, can produce two million units of electricity per year and the energy
**July**

**Indian External Affairs Minister Visits Mauritius**

H.E Mr. S.M. Krishna, Indian Minister of External Affairs, was on an official visit to Mauritius from 2 to 4 July. During his visit, H.E Mr. Krishna paid courtesy calls on the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and other eminent personalities. Memoranda of Understanding relating to the programme for cultural cooperation for the period 2010-2013, the supply of an offshore patrol vessel, and cooperation for early warning arrangement for coastal hazards were also signed in the context of this visit.

The National Computer Board and the Standardsisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate, Department of Information Technology, India also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop cooperation in the areas of Information Security and Information Technology.

**SADC Mediation Group in Mauritius**

A five-member delegation from the SADC mediation group led by Dr. Leonardo Simao held discussions on 9 July with the Minister. The meeting focused on the political situation in Madagascar.

**Donation of Dates by Saudi Arabia**

Donation of 50 tons of dates by the Government of Saudi Arabia to the Government of Mauritius on 26 July in view of the start of the fasting of Ramadan in the month of August. The dates were distributed to pupils of primary schools, elderly persons and Muslims.

**African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) Conference**

The Minister attended the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) conference in the sidelines of the African Union (AU) Summit in Uganda from 22 to 27 July.

**Presentation of Credentials**

H.E Mr. D. Wijesinghe presented on 6 July his credentials to the President of the Republic of Mauritius as Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to Mauritius.

**August**

**AGOA Forum**

The Minister attended the 9th AGOA Forum held on 2 and 3 August in Washington DC, USA. Discussions focused, amongst others, on new strategies to expand the US-Sub Saharan Africa trade, supporting US trade and investment in Africa, strategies for improving AGOA business opportunities, and, unlocking productivity and attracting investment.

In the context of the Forum, the Minister had meetings with, amongst others, Ambassador Ron Kirk, United States Trade Representative, on trade issues and Ambassador Jonnie Calson, Deputy Secretary of State for Africa, on the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago and piracy in the Indian Ocean.
Inter-ministerial Meeting to Face the Euro Zone Crisis

The Minister chaired on 19 August an inter-ministerial meeting in Port Louis to explore avenues open to the country to face the euro zone crisis. Issues discussed comprised market access for Mauritian entrepreneurs and development of new export opportunities of Mauritian products. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the private sector as well as visiting academics and experts.

COMESA Summit

The Minister was from 25 August to 1 September in Mbabane, Swaziland, where he participated in the COMESA Summit which had as theme: Harnessing Science and Technology for Development. The Summit reviewed the Implementation of COMESA Programmes on Agriculture and Food Security, Climate Change Initiatives, Infrastructure, as well as the COMESA Free Trade Area.

The Minister also participated in the ESA Council Meeting in the margin of the COMESA Summit to consider the way forward regarding the EPA Negotiations.

Mauritius Submits Report

Mauritius submitted its report to the UN Security Council on progress achieved in the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1373(2001). This resolution forms the basis of two main resolutions [other one is 1267(1999)] that were adopted to combat terrorism. The UNSC Resolution 1373(2001) was adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and as such is legally binding on all UN Member States.

IOR-ARC – Council of Ministers and Related Meetings

The 10th Meeting of the IOR-ARC Council of Ministers and related meetings were held in Sana’a, Republic of Yemen on 5 August. The Ministerial meeting adopted a revised IOR-ARC Charter which replaces the one adopted in Mauritius in 1997.

Exclusive Economic Zone – Extension of the Continental Shelf

Following the Joint Submission made by Mauritius and Seychelles for the Extension of the Continental Shelf, both the delegations met with the Sub-Commission established by the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) in August 2010 to defend the Joint Submission.

September

Shanghai World Expo 2010 – National Pavilion Day of Mauritius

The President led a delegation to the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai to attend the National Pavilion Day of Mauritius, which was celebrated on 1 September. The Presidential delegation comprised, inter alia, the Hon. Minister of Tourism and Leisure, representatives of the MTPA, BOI, EM and the private sector.

Activities to Mark Year 2010 as the Year of Peace and Security

The Ministry was designated to coordinate activities for the celebration of the Year 2010 as the Year of Peace and Security in Africa. Year 2010 was
declared to be the Year of Peace and Security on the continent at a Special Session of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union on the “Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa” held in Tripoli, Libya, in August 2009.

In this context, a series of activities, including a debate, were organised by the University of Mauritius on the theme of ‘Peace and Security in Africa’ on 17 September.

**Handing over of World Bank Database on Non Tariff Measures**

The World Bank Database on ‘Non Tariff Measures’ (NTMs), containing a catalogue of some 6 000 tariff lines, was handed over on 16 September to the Minister by the Ag Country Director of the World Bank, Mr. Constantine Chikosi, in Port Louis.

The Database will help Mauritius to conduct systematic analysis of the effects of NTMs on trade and competitiveness as well as facilitate exports by improving information on NTMs in export markets.

**65th Session of the UN General Assembly**

From 20 to 28 September, the Minister was in New York, US, where he participated in the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. He also attended on 20 September the Meeting of Presidium of the Socialist International and of Heads of State and Government.

The Minister participated in the high-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals held from 20 to 22 September in New York.

**Presentation of Credentials**

H.E Mr. Nicholas Howard Leake presented on 9 September his credentials to the President of the Republic of Mauritius as Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Mauritius.

H.E Mrs. Anna Grupinska presented on 13 September her credentials to the President of the Republic of Mauritius as Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Mauritius.

H.E Mr. Abdullah Al-Sharhan presented on 23 September his credentials to the President of the Republic of Mauritius as Ambassador of the State of Kuwait.

**October**

**Second Ministerial Conference on Piracy**

The Second Ministerial Conference on Piracy was held on 7 October at the Grand Baie International Conference Centre. The Meeting was organised in collaboration with COMESA and IOC, with the support of the European Union.

It was attended by delegates from the following countries: Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Maldives, Reunion Island, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania. Representatives from regional and international organisations such as European Union, EUNAVFOR, United Nations, African Union, COMESA, SADC, UNODC, IGAD, UNDP, IRCC, EAC, INTERPOL and Indian Ocean Naval Symposium along with resident ambassadors from India, USA, Russia, China, Australia, France, UK, Egypt and Pakistan also participated.
Agreement on the Short-stay Visa Waiver

A signature ceremony of the Agreement on the Short-stay Visa Waiver and on Mutual Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Service Passports between Mauritius and Switzerland was held on 26 October in Port Louis.

Under the combined effect of both Agreements that Mauritius signed with the European Community and Switzerland, Mauritian nationals will be able to travel without a visa to the 25 European Union Member States in the Area and Switzerland, and stay for a maximum period of three months with multiple-entry facilities within a six-month period.

Ministerial Trade Committee Meetings

Mauritius participated in the ACP Ministerial Trade Committee and Joint ACP-EC Ministerial Trade Committee Meetings in Brussels from 18 to 22 October which aimed primarily to break the impasse in the EPA Negotiations.

AU Trade Ministers Meeting

Mauritius participated in the AU Trade Ministers Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda from 29 October to 02 November. It was agreed at the meeting to consider the establishment of a Pan African FTA on a suggestion made by Mauritius. The AU Secretariat has been mandated to commission a study to that effect.

IOC Workshop to Combat Violence against Women

The IOC Secretariat in collaboration with the UNFPA organised a regional workshop to combat violence against women on 28 to 29 October in Mauritius. The main recommendation of the workshop was to put in place a regional platform to combat violence against women within the framework of the IOC.

Presentation of Credentials

H.E Mr. Jean Francois Dobelle presented on 4 October his credentials to the President of the Republic of Mauritius as Ambassador of the Republic of France to Mauritius.

H.E Mr. Anders Lidén presented on 26 October his credentials to the President of the Republic of Mauritius as Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Mauritius.

H.E Mrs. Tina Myllyntausta presented on 28 October her credentials to the President of the Republic of Mauritius as Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to Mauritius.

November

African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty

Mauritius participated in the First Conference of the States Parties to the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty commonly known as the Pelindaba Treaty which was held on 4 November in Addis Ababa in accordance with Articles 12 and 14 of the said Treaty.

The objectives of the First Conference were, inter-alia, to elect the 12 Members of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (ACNE), select an appropriate location for the Headquarters of the ACNE, and discuss the modalities relating to contributions of each Member State Party to the African Commission on Nuclear Energy.
Mauritius Elected to serve a Three-year Term on the African Commission on Nuclear Energy

The Pelindaba Treaty aims at ensuring that nuclear weapons are not developed, produced, tested, or otherwise acquired or stationed in any African state. The Pelindaba Treaty covers the entire African continent as well as its island states. In the case of Mauritius, the Treaty covers our outer islands including the Chagos Archipelago which is surrounded by a dotted line in view of our sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom.

Presentation of Credentials

H.E Mr. Erciümend Ahmed Enç presented on 11 November his credentials to the President of the Republic of Mauritius as Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Mauritius.

Workshop on Trade Remedies

A two-day workshop on Trade Remedies aiming to ensure capacity-building of the private sector on the Trade (Anti-dumping and Countervailing Measures) Act was organised on 15 and 16 November at the Four Points, Sheraton Hotel in Ebène.

The workshop, an initiative of the Ministry and the TradeCom Facility, constituted a vital step forward for the private sector to understand the law and procedures to be followed, including the information to be submitted, in filing an application.

December

Validation Seminar on Trade Remedy Investigations

A validation seminar following the implementation of a capacity-building project in respect of Trade Remedy Investigations in Mauritius, funded by the European Union, was organised on 6 December by the Ministry at the Le Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel in Port Louis.

The main objectives of the capacity-building project were to provide technical assistance to Government in establishing a Trade Remedy Investigating Authority under the Trade (Anti-dumping and Countervailing Measures) Act and to provide training to officials to conduct Trade Remedy Investigations.
Housing and Lands
Ministry of Housing and Lands

Mission

- To prepare a National Development Strategy (NDS), for the long term growth and physical development of the country, its city, towns and rural areas, areas of significant environment conservation or restriction including coastal/lagoon areas and other significant land use opportunity and constraint areas.

- To provide a framework for local authorities i.e. Outline Schemes, to guide and control development in their area.

- To prepare a series of Guidance Notes for each key sector or topic to guide major new applications and developments.

- To manage and control development on State Lands.

- To devise and implement housing and land policies and programmes to meet the needs of the people here, in particular the vulnerable groups of our society.
January

LAVIMS – Cadastral Surveys

In the context of the Land Administration Valuation and Information Management System (LAVIMS) project, Infoterra, a company appointed by the Government of Mauritius to develop the LAVIMS, effected cadastral surveys of both private and public properties in the regions of Petite Rivière, Richelieu, Moka, Goodlands, Plaine Magnien, New Grove, Rose-Belle, Lallmatie and Flacq.

Real Estate Scheme

The Ministry prepared a Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) on Real Estate Scheme (RES). The PPG gives planning guidance on the design of buildings and projects. The document was submitted to the Board of Investment (BOI) for views.

Siting and Design of Radio Telecommunications Equipment

Works for the preparation of a Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) on Siting and Design of Radio Telecommunications Equipment started. The PPG were submitted to major stakeholders for their views and comments.

Alignment of the Northern Coastal Distributor

Works started on the review of the alignment of the Northern Coastal Distributor Road.

Planning Layouts of Housing Projects

The Planning Division, which prepares subdivision layouts for Government Housing Projects, finalised the design of planning layouts of housing projects at Route Militaire, Pointe aux Piments and Solitude as well as for the planters of Jinfei site.

February

Hydrographic Activities

The 5th Indo-Mauritian Joint Committee on Hydrography was held in Mauritius from 8 to 11 February to discuss hydrography surveys to be undertaken in Mauritius, the setting up of a Hydrographic Unit in the Ministry, the finalisation of a Memorandum of Understanding on the sale of electronic navigational charts and technical assistance.

Review of Outline Planning Schemes

The Ministry launched an Expression of Interest for the review of the Outline Planning Schemes for the five Municipal Council Areas. It comprised the recruitment of a consultant for the review and will be funded from the grant received from the African Development Bank.

Private Housing Project at Cap Malheureux

The National Housing Development Company launched bids on 24 February for private projects at Cap Malheureux which comprise the construction of 66 apartments of 36 units and associated infrastructure works.

Slab Grant

Some 215 families from Mauritius and 107 from Rodrigues benefitted from the Slab Grant totalling some Rs 16 393 815 for the month.
March

LAVIMS – Cadastral Surveys

Infoterra effected cadastral surveys for LAVIMS in the regions of Rivière du Rempart, Pamplemousses, Flacq, Moka, Grand Port, Savanne and Black River.

Hydrographic Surveys

Indian vessel INS Nirdeshak was in Mauritius from 26 March to 27 April to undertake surveys of the Mauritian waters, as part of the on-going collaboration between India and Mauritius in the field of hydrography.

Mid-review of National Land Development Strategy

The Ministry decided to undertake a mid-term review of the National Land Development Strategy of Mauritius which provides for a comprehensive strategy for land use planning and the protection of the natural environment. The mid-term review would allow the alignment of land use strategy with new legislations, such as the Business Facilitation Act, the Sugar Industry Efficiency Act, the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act and the Additional Stimulus Package (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

Ex-CHA Houses

The number of deeds of sale of State Land on which stand ex-CHA houses which were signed during the month of March stood at 193.
Slab Grant

Some 150 families benefitted from the Slab Grant initiative. The amount disbursed for the month was Rs 8,250,000.

April

Site and Services Project at Solitude

The NHDC invited bids on 15 April for the on-site infrastructure works for site and services projects at Solitude. The infrastructure works include water supply network, internal road network, drainage network and other amenities.

Housing Project at Military Road

The tender for the housing project at Military Road was launched on 22 April. The closing date was 24 May.

Ex-CHA Houses

The number of deeds of sale of State Land on which stand ex-CHA houses which were signed during the month of April was 131.

Slab Grant

Some 301 families benefitted from the Slab Grant initiative. The amount disbursed for the month was Rs 16,669,320.

Hydrographic Surveys

INS Nirdeshak left the Mauritian waters after completing the hydrographic surveys of St Brandon area and Saha de Malha Bank. The bathymetric surveys of Flic en Flac and southern entrance of Grand Port were also completed.

May

Private Project at Cascavelle

The NHDC invited bids for the procurement of construction of apartments and associated infrastructure works at Cascavelle.

Housing Units at Pointe aux Piments

The NHDC invited bids on 31 May for the design and construction of 57 housing units as well as for on-site infrastructure works at Pointe aux Piments.

Urban Outline Schemes

The Ministry launched an Invitation tender to the short listed bidders on 26 May for proposals for the review of the Outline Planning Schemes for the five Municipal Council Areas.

Ex-CHA Houses

The number of deeds of sale of State Land on which stand ex-CHA houses which were signed during the month of May stood at 142. Letters intent issued from March 2007 up to 31 May 2010 stood at 10,906.

Slab Grant

Some 330 families benefitted from the Slab Grant initiative. The amount disbursed for the month was Rs 17 m.
June

Private Apartments at Mon Rocher

The NHDC invited bids on 2 June for the procurement of construction of apartments and associated infrastructure works at Mon Rocher.

Charts of Hydrographic Survey Remitted to Minister

The fair sheets (provisional charts) produced during the hydrographic surveys undertaken by INS Nirdeshak in March – April were handed over by the High Commissioner of India to the Minister on 10 June. The High Commissioner also remitted the finalised charts of the Northern part of St Brandon which was surveyed in February 2008.

Ex-CHA Houses

The number of deeds of sale of State Land on which stand ex-CHA houses which were signed during the month of June stood at 102.

Slab Grant

Some 88 families benefitted from the Slab Grant initiative. The amount disbursed for the month was Rs 4.8 m.

August

Ex-CHA Houses

The number of deeds of sale of State Land on which stand ex-CHA houses which were signed during the month of August stood at 156. Letters of intent issued from March 2007 up to 31 August 2010 stood at 11 070.

Slab Grant

Some 100 families benefitted from the Slab Grant initiative. The amount disbursed for the month was Rs 3.8 m.

Drafting of Policy Papers

The Planning Division of the Ministry drafted the policy papers on lease of ex-railway land and planning clearances.

September

Ex-CHA Houses

The number of deeds of sale of State Land on which stand ex-CHA houses which were signed during the month of August stood at 118. Letters of intent issued from March 2007 up to 30 August 2010 stood at 11 070.
October

World Habitat Day 2010

On the occasion of the World Habitat Day, commemorated on 5 October, the Ministry distributed posters in schools, youth centres, social welfare centres, women centres, Citizens’ Advice Bureaux, post offices and Farmers’ Service centres. The object of the Day is to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right to adequate shelter for all and to alert the world to its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat. The theme chosen for the 2010 celebration by the UN was Better City, Better Life.

Relocation of Squatters Near La Ferme Reservoir

The drawing of lots exercise for the relocation of squatters near La Ferme Reservoir was held on 28 October at the Conference room of the Ministry.

Proclamation of Pas Géométriques as Public Beaches

Government decided that part of Pas Géométriques Petit Sable and part of Pas Géométriques Anse Jonchée (commonly known as Bambous Virieux) would be proclaimed as Public Beaches, in line with its vision to diversify places of recreation for the public.

Other Activities of the Planning Division

Other activities of the planning division included granting of planning approval to development projects on leased State lands, assessing applications for the lease of State Lands, identification of sites to be acquired for government projects, and servicing committees like the TCPB, Land Conversion Committee, Morcellement Board, Environment Coordination Committee, National Heritage Trust Fund, Ramsar Committee, EIA Committee.

Other Achievements for 2010:

- 533 low-cost housing units allocated
- 50% of works completed in respect of construction of 550 low cost housing units on 11 sites
- Funds to the tune of Rs 72 million disbursed to 1 592 eligible beneficiaries under the Casting of Roof Slab Grant Scheme
- Some 8 000 occupiers of ex-CHA houses became owners of the plot of land on which their building stands
- Rehabilitation works to NHDC Housing Estates which consist of repairs to sewerage systems, electrical installations, water conductors, roof leakages were effected
- 242 serviced lots available for housing projects. The lots equipped with basic infrastructures and amenities such as roads and drains, water and electricity supply
- Drafting of New Interim Outline Planning Scheme for QuatreBorne and modification of District Council Outline Planning Schemes completed
- New Campement Site Leases have been issued to reflect market rental for 1 167 Lessees enabling Government to collect Revenue amounting to Rs 380 million
- New Industrial/Commercial Site Leases have been issued to reflect market rental for 189 Lessees generating additional Revenue of Rs 38 million
- Land Acquisition for implementation of public investment projects: 173 hectares acquired
Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare
Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare

Mission

We undertake to design and implement policies and programmes geared towards promoting gender equality and equity, protecting the rights of children and enhancing their overall development and promoting the welfare of families.
January

Food Security Campaign

The Ministry in collaboration with the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit launched a campaign in January aimed at encouraging women to contribute towards food security. Some 18 women centres across the island have embarked on agricultural production by taking advantage of the various schemes and facilities available.

Visit of Speaker of Lok Sabha

An Indian delegation led by Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, visited on 21 January the National Women Development Centre in Phoenix.

February

Rivière du Poste Women Empowerment Centre

The foundation stone of the Rivière du Poste Women Empowerment Centre was laid on 3 February.

Training on Strategic Management

The National Women Entrepreneur Council in collaboration with the British American Insurance organised on 4 and 5 February a training course on Strategic Management at the Women Empowerment Centre in Triolet. Some seventy women participated in the training. The objective was to encourage women entrepreneurs to develop appropriate strategies to boost their businesses and grasp the basic concepts of strategic management.

March

International Women’s Day 2010 Celebrations

The International Women’s Day was celebrated on 8 March at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre in the presence of the Prime Minister on the theme *Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All.*

Activities organised in this context included a clip on opportunities and challenges for women, the
launching of a Magazine - *Speeding up Change for an Inclusive Development*, and a booklet - *Landmarks in Women’s History*.

**Launching of Directory / Product Catalogue**

The National Women Entrepreneur Council (NWEC) launched on 13 March a Directory/Product Catalogue in Trianon. The new logo of the NWEC was also unveiled on that occasion. More than 1 200 women entrepreneurs are listed in the directory/catalogue which mentions about the services and products offered by these entrepreneurs.

**Open Day at Family Support Bureaux**

The Ministry organised on 18 March in Port Louis an Open Day on services provided by the Family Support Bureaux. The objectives were to reach a wider audience and further raise awareness on the significance of family welfare in the population, encourage a larger segment of the population to access existing services and report cases of violence in the family, promote overall family welfare and reduce the incidence of intimate partner violence.

**Governance, Gender and Politics in Mauritius**

The Ministry in collaboration with the University of Mauritius launched on 26 March Professor Sheila
Bunwaree’s book entitled Governance, Gender and Politics in Mauritius.

**April**

**Activities to Vulgarise Healthy Eating Habits**

The Ministry organised on 2 April activities to vulgarise healthy eating habits and good lifestyle with a view to combating non-communicable diseases.

**May**

**La Colombe Shelter for Women and Children in Distress**

The Minister visited on 18 May La Colombe shelter for Women and Children in distress, a structure put in place by the Government at Pointe aux Sables. The shelter which is managed by the National Children’s Council benefits from a monthly Government grant of Rs 600 000.

**International Day of Families**

A Family Day was organised on 29 May in the context of International Day of Families at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden, Pamplemousses. Activities included the launching of a pamphlet on ‘Strengthening Family Ties’ and projects on ‘Strengthening Values for Family Life’ and ‘Men as Partners’; and the organisation of a Capacity-Building Programme on Family Therapy and Counselling.

**Working Session on Truancy**

A working session was held on 31 May between the Ministry and the Brigade des Mineurs (Police department) to discuss measures to be taken to dissuade students from bunking classes.

**June**

**16 Days 16 Rights Campaign 2010**

Launching on 9 June of the 16 Days 16 Rights Campaign 2010 to sensitisie the public on the rights and responsibilities of children. Activities organised by the Ministry included seminars for Supervisors and Educators in the Pre-primary Sector on rights and problems faced by children at home and in school, vulgarisation of the rights, roles and responsibilities of the child, and sensitisisation campaigns on the responsibilities of parents and on the rights and responsibilities of children.

**Forum in the Context of the 16 Days 16 Rights Campaign**

In the context of the 16 Days 16 Rights Campaign 2010, a forum was held on 16 June at the Grand Baie International Conference Centre. Children participating in the forum were given the opportunity to openly express their views on themes, such as Social Participation of Children, Education and Development, Protection, Leisure and Play. On the same occasion, an interactive session *A l’écoute des Jeunes* was held to mark the International Day of the African Child.
Training on Fundamentals of Packaging

In a bid to further empower women entrepreneurs, a training programme on Fundamentals of Packaging was organised on 17 June at the National Women Development Centre, Phoenix. The objectives of the Programme were to provide fundamental understanding of packaging processes and materials, to sensitise on the introduction of packaging designs, cover colour combinations and labelling concepts, and to explain the environmental aspects of packaging.

National Awareness Campaign on Gender Equality

A national awareness campaign on Gender Equality was launched on 24 June at the Octave Wiehe Auditorium, Réduit. The aim was to raise awareness on gender issues, gender equality, and changing gender roles.

Seminar on Women in Business: The Way Forward?

Opening of a seminar on the theme ‘Women in Business: The Way Forward?’ on 25 June at Gymkana Club, Vacoas. The objective was to share experiences, views and suggestions on issues affecting women’s success in business in Mauritius, especially in the current competitive environment.

Regional Workshop on Women Empowerment in Politics

A regional workshop on Women Empowerment in Politics was held on 30 June and 1 July during which the following issues were discussed: increasing the representation of women in politics, strengthening lobbying and negotiating abilities of women, and exploring the possibility of introducing new legislation for the integration of women in politics.
July

National Steering Committee on Gender Mainstreaming

The National Steering Committee on Gender Mainstreaming for the implementation of the National Gender Policy Framework (NGPF) held its first meeting on 8 July in Port Louis under the chairmanship of the Minister.

The NGPF, launched in 2008, provides for the guiding principles, broad operational strategies and institutional arrangements for achieving gender equality at national level. It calls upon all ministries and departments to formulate gender policies in their respective sectors and implement them along the current public sector reforms with regard to performance management and programme-based budgeting.

Reinforcement of Coordination Mechanisms against Domestic Violence

A Workshop on the reinforcement of coordination mechanisms against domestic violence was organised on 12 July by the Ministry at the Gold Crest Hotel in Quatre Bornes.

Presentation of Cheques

The Ministry organised on 15 July a ceremony of presentation of cheques (Rs 10 000) to Mrs. J. Ubhee, widow (her husband was murdered in Flacq), and (Rs 10 000) to Mrs. M. Soobrayen, widow (her husband drowned at Le Goulet).

Training Session on Fashion

Opening of a 15-day training session for around 45 dress-making teachers and craft motivators organised by the Ministry on 20 July at Wooton Social Welfare Centre. The objectives were to enhance aptitudes and skills of participants pertaining to dress-making and fabric-painting and to adopt innovative techniques in this domain.

Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme

A Training Programme in the context of the Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme was organised from 21 to 23 July by the National Women Entrepreneurship Council at the Municipality of Vacoas-Phoenix. The aim was to enable some 80 women develop their management skills and enable support to women entrepreneurs wishing to launch their own enterprise so as to accelerate the process of setting up start-ups and enhance enterprise competitiveness.

‘Un Jour de Créativité pour les Enfants’

The Ministry and the National Children’s Council organised on 28 July an activity entitled ‘Un Jour de Créativité pour les Enfants’ in the context of the Spécial Vacances Programme (winter second term school holidays) held at the Community Centre of La Marie.

August

Exchange Programme Amongst Some 20 Women Associations

An Exchange Programme amongst some 20 women associations of Port Louis was organised on 1 August at the DOJO of Grand River North West. The programme was organised by the National Women’s Council of the Ministry so as to enable
members of these associations to get to know each other, exchange information pertaining to activities organised by their respective associations and share experience.

Special Collaborative Programme for Support to Women and Children in Distress

The Minister handed over cheques on 13 August to five Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) under the Special Collaborative Programme for Support to Women and Children in Distress set up in 2009 with a view to integrating these people into the mainstream society. The aim of the Programme is to provide financial support to NGOs, community-based organisations and non-State agencies working for the welfare of women and children in distress.

A total of 112 project proposals were received from non-State actors in Mauritius and three in Rodrigues. A Steering Committee, comprising this Ministry and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, studied a first batch of 16 of those proposals for around Rs 20 million and approved the funding of five NGOs to the tune of Rs 4 million. The NGOs which received the cheques were namely: Help De Addict Centre, National Productivity and Competitiveness Council, Gahlot Rajput Maha Sabha, Mouvement d’Aide à la Maternité and Association Etoile de Mer.

Sensitisation Session on Gender Equality

The Ministry organised on 19 August a sensitisation session pertaining to the national awareness campaign on Gender Equality at the Pamplemousses Youth Centre. It will be recalled that the national awareness campaign on Gender Equality was officially launched on 24 June by the Minister at the Octave Wiéhe Auditorium, Réduit. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness on gender issues, gender equality, and the changing gender roles.

September

Launching of School Child Protection Club

The Ministry launched on 2 September the School Child Protection Club (SCPC) in primary and secondary schools.

The SCPC, based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), is a multi-staged holistic project which aims to initiate home grown protection clubs for children at the level of the school itself by developing communication strategies through information, education and communication campaigns tailored for the needs of students within school premises. The SCPC helps to promote a zero-tolerance attitude regarding child violence inclusive of physical, emotional, psychological, and sexual violence, the understanding and awareness of the child’s rights as per the CRC and the African Charter, and also address issues such as bullying, gang violence, indiscipline and cyber crime.

Launching of Booklet ‘Breaking the Silence on Sexual Harassment in Public Transport’

The Minister launched on 2 September a booklet entitled ‘Breaking the Silence on Sexual Harassment in Public Transport’. The booklet, prepared at the initiative of the Association des Femmes Mauriciennes, aims at sensitising the society as regards sexual harassment in buses where victims, mostly women, do not come forward to denounce such acts due to shame or fear of reproach. It also has
as objective to protect, educate and ensure capacity-building of women who are more vulnerable to such forms of violence.

**International Literacy Day**

The Ministry organised several activities, in collaboration with the National Women’s Council, to commemorate the International Literacy Day on 8 September and raise awareness of the importance of literacy in modern society. The activities were: demonstration by trainees who have followed the Literacy Programme conducted by the Ministry, exhibition on Adult Literacy Programme, and award of certificates to successful trainees.

**Seminar on Ecoles des Parents**

A half-day seminar on Ecoles des Parents was organised by the Ministry on 13 September at the Municipality of Quatre Bornes.

Participants were officers from Ministries and Government departments and NGOs, who were initiated to the concept of the Ecoles des Parents which emanates from the National Parental Empowerment Programme.

**Interactive Peer Review Exercise on National Parental Empowerment Programme**

An interactive Peer Review Exercise on the National Parental Empowerment Programme regrouped on 15 September various stakeholders, technicians and officials from different Ministries with the aim to enable a sound discussion leading to the establishment of relevant and new strategies in the field of parental empowerment and parental needs and to the protection of the children against all acts of violence, abuse and exploitation.

**Inauguration of Notre Dame Women Centre**

Inauguration of Notre Dame Women Centre on 30 September at Montagne Longue by the Minister.

**October**

**Ceremony of Handing-over of Cheques**

Handing-over of cheques on 4 October to the tune of Rs 2 000 to each of 1 107 Women’s Associations which are affiliated members of the National Women’s Council. The ceremony was held at the Octave Wiehé Auditorium in Réduit. The aim was to support women’s initiatives in coming up with projects for their own welfare.

**Capacity-Building on Gender Mainstreaming**

A two-day workshop focusing on Capacity-Building on Gender Mainstreaming was held on 5 and 6 October at La Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles.

Some 50 participants from different Ministries attended the workshop. The objectives were to equip them with practical tools and necessary skills to mainstream gender in their policies and programmes so that both the strategic and practical needs of women and men are effectively addressed and to formulate gender policies in line with Government Programme 2010-2015.

**Launching of Ecoles des Parents**

Official launching by the Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment of the Ecoles des Parents - parenting
classes – on 5 October at La Valette, Bambous with a view to empowering parents to shoulder their responsibilities.

The project aims at disseminating information on child development in general, and on the prevention of all forms of child violence, as well as sensitising on the support services available to respond to the various needs of parents. The project will be replicated in various other regions of the country.

Community Child Watch Committees

Launching on 8 October of Community Child Watch Committees under the Community Child Protection Programme at the Community Centre of Richelieu. The Community Child Watch Committees is a new surveillance mechanism comprising volunteers, members of the Forces Vives, social workers, Non-Governmental Organisations, and community leaders, to keep watch in their respective region on cases of child at risk and child abuse and to report suspected cases to the Ministry for prompt action.

National Programme on Strengthening Values for Family Life

In line with the National Action Plan on the Family, the Ministry launched on 19 October the National Programme on Strengthening Values for Family Life. This Programme aims at empowering couples to lead a successful married life and build positive parenting and family bonding.

The Ministry and the Indian Ocean Centre for Education and Human Values signed a Memorandum of Understanding which provides for technical cooperation in strengthening the support services involved in the National Programme.

African Women’s Decade (2010-2020)

Launching on 21 October 2010 at the Grand Baie International Conference Centre of the African Women’s Decade (2010-2020) as decided by the African Union. The objective of the Decade is to accelerate the implementation of agreed global and regional commitments on gender equality and women’s empowerment. On the occasion, screening of Non-Communicable Diseases was carried out, plants and eco-friendly bags were distributed and the cyber-caravan promoted computer literacy.


November

Divali Fair

Opening of a fair on 3 November by the Minister in the context of the celebration of Divali festival. The fair which regrouped some 100 women entrepreneurs was organised by the National Women Entrepreneur Council. Products exhibited varied from candles, pastries and decorative lamps. The objective was to enable these entrepreneurs to professionalise themselves, develop their sense of marketing, enhance their products and to make their products known to the public in general.
is observed to acknowledge the service provided by the global statistical system at both national and international level and help strengthen the awareness and the trust of the public in official statistics.

Innovative Procurement Practices

Opening of the third Annual Stakeholders’ Forum on public procurement organised by the Procurement Policy Office (PPO) on 21 October at La Plantation Resort Balaclava. The forum aimed at providing an opportunity for stakeholders to make a critical appraisal of the procurement system and identify ways to improve it. The forum also addressed issues pertaining to delays in awards of contracts for project implementation. Actionable proposals were made to increase the efficiency of the procurement processes through innovative approaches.

November

Challenges facing the Mauritius International Financial Centre

Opening of a one-day workshop on the Challenges facing the Mauritius International Financial Centre on 01 November at the Financial Services Commission House in Ebène. An initiative of the Financial Services Commission (FSC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, the workshop served as a platform to address knowledge gaps and brainstorm the participants on the supportive role of diplomacy in the economic development of Mauritius with respect to the financial services sector.

Mauritius ranked 20th in Overall Ease of Doing Business 2011

Mauritius ranked 20th in global rankings on Overall Ease of Doing Business 2011 and topped Africa’s Sub-Saharan economies for the third consecutive year, according to the World Bank group’s Doing Business 2011 Report: Making a difference for Entrepreneurs, launched on 4 November. Mauritius has maintained its position among the top twenty economies on the overall ease of doing business followed by South Africa placed at the 34th position out of the 183 economies rated by the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank.

Workshop to Address constraints faced by Small States

Opening of a three-day workshop on “Competitiveness Strategies with Special Reference to African and Indian Ocean Small States” on 15 November at the Hotel Labourdonnais in Port Louis. Organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Small States Network of Economic Development and the Regional Multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence (RMCE) in collaboration with the Government of Mauritius, it served as a platform for the participants to deliberate on the challenges they face as small States in matters regarding competitiveness and for them to draw lessons from more mature institutions that could contribute to improvements in their institutional design and competitive advantage.

Presentation of the 2011 Budget

Presentation of the 2011 Budget at the National Assembly on 19 November on the theme “Rebalancing growth, making a great leap forward on productivity and consolidating social justice”. The three main tracks aimed at helping Mauritius to
achieving the ambition of putting the country on a modern development path of emerging opportunities to a GDP of one trillion rupees by the 2020s and to an income per capita of USD 20,000.

Mauritius Tops Mo Ibrahim 2010 Index of African Governance

Mauritius was awarded at the annual Prize Ceremony and Discussion Forum of the Mo Ibrahim 2010 Index of African Governance held on 20 and 21 November at the Swami Vivekananda International Conference Centre in Pailles amidst prominent dignitaries, namely Mr Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations, and Mr Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank. Mauritius ranked first out of the 53 African countries with a total score of 82 points. The Ibrahim Index measures the delivery of public goods and services to citizens by government and non-state actors across 84 indicators of governance and was created in recognition of the need for a robust, comprehensive and quantifiable tool for civil society to track government performance in Africa.

Visit of the World Bank Managing Director

The World Bank Managing Director Mrs Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, visited Mauritius from 19 to 22 November. She met the Prime Minister, the Vice-Prime Minister, minister of Finance and Economic Development and senior government officials, business leaders, representatives of civil society and also took part in meetings of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. The Managing Director also reviewed the Bank’s programme in Mauritius and had with talks with the government centering on the country’s development priorities and opportunities for strengthening collaboration.

Regional Initiative to Improve Doing Business Environment in Africa

Opening of a two-day regional initiative meeting to improving the environment for Doing Business in Eastern and Southern Africa on 22 November at the InterContinental Hotel, Balaclava. The aim of the initiative piloted by a steering committee made up of top performing countries, the World Bank and the Regional Multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence (RMCE), was to support countries through peer to peer learning in designing and implementing policies to improve the business environment in their countries and ultimately increased their world share of investment and exports.

Mauritius Benefitted from Rs 5.9 billion from EU

The European Union approved on 22 November a new grant of Euro 139.6 million, an equivalent of approximately Rs 5.9 billion to Mauritius to be financed under the accompanying measures for the sugar sector to support the on-going economic reform programme in Mauritius for the period 2011-2013. The grant disbursed as general budget support under a new Multi-annual indicative programme, aimed at supporting four priority areas, namely Restructuring of the sugar industry into a sugar cane cluster; Maurice Ile Durable initiative encompassing sustainable development and renewable energy; Socio-economic empowerment and Education.

December

Launching of Financial Services Commission (FSC) Training series in Islamic Finance on 03 December at the FSC House in Ebène. Dr
Muniruddeen Lallmahamood, Director of the firm Global Management and Administration Consulting Limited and specialist in Islamic Finance conducted the training sessions.

**Signing of Tax Information Exchange Agreement**

Mauritius and Australia signed on 8 December, a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) and an Additional Benefits Agreement (ABA). The agreement further strengthened the commitment of both countries to improve the integrity of the international tax system. It also provides for the implementation of tax information exchange standards developed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes currently chaired by Australia.

**Regional Multi-disciplinary Centre of Excellence to become fully operational**

The Government of Mauritius and the Regional Multi-disciplinary Centre of Excellence (RMCE) signed on 8 December in Port Louis a host agreement that would allow the RMCE to become fully operational by setting up its quarters in Mauritius and be in a position to directly manage all resources that development partners will put at its disposal. The RMCE will serve as a platform to provide a regional response to identified common needs for capacity building in the Sub-Saharan African region as concerns designing, formulating and implementing economic development strategies and policies to transform the region into an effective Free Trade Area and eventually a common market.

**Protocol on Avoidance of Double Taxation**

Mauritius and Italy signed on 9 December a Protocol to amend the Mauritius-Italy Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to taxes on income and prevention of fiscal evasion. The amended Convention will further contribute to encourage mutual trade and investment and reinforce the economic ties between the two countries.

**Signing of Agreements on Taxation and Investment**

A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) and an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) between Mauritius and Congo were signed on 20 December by the Vice-Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and La Francophonie of the Republic of the Congo, Mr Basile Ikouébé. The DTAA which will give a further spur to the positive evolution of economic ties between the two countries will provide greater tax certainty for businessmen while making clear the taxing rights of Mauritius and Congo on all forms of income arising from cross-border economic activities between the two countries. The IPPA will enhance the commercial and economic relations between the two countries.

**Mauritius Benefits from Rs 2 b from EU in 2010**

On 23 December, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the European Union announced that in 2010 Mauritius benefitted from a total of around Rs 2 billion from the EU for budget support.
Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping

Mission

- To fulfil the needs of the nation in the design, construction, maintenance and repair of roads, bridges and government buildings by ensuring the provision of functional, aesthetic and environment-friendly structures conforming to high construction standards.

- To formulate and implement policies for safe, efficient and environmentally sustainable services in the land transport sector.

- To foster a safe, secure and environmentally sound maritime transportation system based on internationally agreed standards.
January

**New traffic Arrangements for School Buses**

The Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit (TMRSU) implemented new traffic arrangements for school buses leaving the Plaine Verte Traffic Centre along with various road modifications. The new measures came into effect on 11 January.

**Extension of Railway Road and Construction of Bypass**

Cabinet gave the green light on 21 January to extend the Railway Road from Rivière du Rempart to Schoenfeld and to construct a bypass linking Hospital Road, Rose Belle to New Grove. Those infrastructure projects, estimated at Rs 180 m, aim at alleviating traffic congestion in Rivière du Rempart and Rose Belle, which are fast developing into active towns.

**Phoenix Beau Songes Link Road**

Works regarding the construction of the Phoenix Beau Songes link road started in January. The project consists of the construction of a new single carriageway to bypass the regions of Quatre Bornes and Palma, as a decongestion measure, in line with Government policy to tackle congestion in major agglomerations.

February

**Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Motor Vehicles) Regulations**

The Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Motor Vehicles) Regulations were effective as from February. They aim at regulating vehicle construction and use.

**Terre Rouge - Verdun Link Road lot 1**

Works regarding the construction of Terre Rouge-Verdun-Ebène link road: lot 1Terre Rouge-Verdun started on 18 February. The letter of award was issued in January while the signature of Contract between the Road Development Authority and the joint venture Colas Maurice/Colas Madagascar was held on 17 February. The Contract is to the tune of Rs 2.2 billion. The construction of the road will provide an outer bypass to the Port Louis regions.

**Study for Upgrading of A7- Providence to Flacq**

A study was undertaken as from February to determine the economic viability of improving, upgrading and strengthening of approximately 17 km of roads from Providence to Flacq and to perform the detailed engineering of the project including drawings and bidding documents. The main objective is to improve the main Road A7 between Providence and Flacq to give it the same standard (in terms of geometry, capacity and road safety) as the section of A7 between Réduit and Providence which was completed in 2004 under the Second Highway Project.
March

30th Anniversary of the National Transport Corporation

The National Transport Corporation (NTC) celebrated its 30 years. The NTC is one of the largest bus operators with 548 buses serving 79 bus routes across the island. It employs some 2,700 persons.

Road Safety Campaigns

Launching on 15 March of ‘Drive Safe’ – a Road Safety campaign targeting cyclists and motorcyclists through billboards, posters and the media to encourage them to adopt preventive habits and security measures to enhance road safety.

Inauguration of Bridge at Macondé

The Prime Minister inaugurated the Macondé Bridge on 19 March. The new bridge over Baie du Cap River at Macondé provides a safe link between the southern and western areas of the island across the mouth of the river.

New link Road between Camp Thorel and L’Espérance

The new link road between Camp Thorel and L’Espérance was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 31 March. The project, to the tune of some Rs 40 million, consisted in upgrading the existing 2 metre-wide road to a bituminous 6 metre wide road over 2.7 km, and other miscellaneous works including drains, railings, small aqueducts, deviation of the course of rivers and drains.
May

Pamplemousses – Grand Baie Road from Forbach to Sottise

The Road Development Authority invited bids for the construction of a second carriageway to the Pamplemousses – Grand Baie Road from Forbach to Sottise. Works would consist, among others, of the construction of a carriageway, of two 7.6 m wide lanes over an approximate total length of 5 km.

Feasibility Study of an East-West Connector

The Road Development Authority launched a call for expression of interest for the appointment of a Consultant to provide technical services in relation to the Feasibility Study of an East-West Connector. The Technical and Financial feasibility study would include a proposal for the optimum route linking the future East-Coast trunk road near Centre de Flacq to Réduit Round-about. The project is expected to run parallel to the Moka-Camp de Masque-Flacq Road (A7) bypassing villages along the same road.

July

Third Report of the Project Plan Committee

The Project Plan Committee has recommended 13 projects to the tune of Rs 6.6 b in water and sanitation, energy, road and sport complexes in its third report presented to Cabinet on 2 July. The Project Plan Committee has been set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping to assess public infrastructural project proposals to determine their feasibility and cost benefits.

Site Visit – Ring Road Phase 1

The Minister conducted a site visit on 3 July at the Ring Road Phase 1 site. The Ring Road Phase 1, to the tune of some Rs 1.2 b, concerns the construction of about 7 km of dual carriageway from Soreze to Guibies along with the development of a grade separated junction at Soreze, the construction of two roundabouts to link Morcellement Soreze and the industrial estate, the construction of two bridges of length 73m and 60 m together with the drainage structures, retaining walls and reinforced earth embankments, and construction of a link of length 500m to Swami Vivekananda Conference Centre.

Reorganising the Citizens Advice Bureaux : A priority project
Site Visit Morcellement Hermitage, Coromandel

The Minister conducted a site visit on 15 July at Morcellement Hermitage, Coromandel where a bridge to the tune of some Rs 20 m is under construction. 40% of works have been completed.

August

Workshop on Building Control Bill

A half-day workshop on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) funded project on ‘Removal of barriers to energy efficiency and energy conservation in buildings in Mauritius’ was held on 12 August. The workshop, which grouped some 60 professionals from the construction industry, aimed at providing inputs for the formulation of the new Building Control Bill to replace the existing Building Act that dates back to 1919 and is in line with Government’s ongoing efforts to promote the efficient use and conservation of energy in buildings.

Schoenfeld Bypass at Rivière du Rempart

Works concerning the construction of the Schoenfeld Bypass at Rivière du Rempart started in September. The Road Development Authority launched on 1st March bids for the Schoenfeld Bypass and the Contract was awarded on 23 June.

Rehabilitation of Motorway M2 from Quay D Roundabout to Terre Rouge Roundabout

Works concerning the Rehabilitation of Motorway M2 from Quay D Roundabout to Terre Rouge Roundabout over about 4.5 km started in September. The Road Development Authority invited bids on 3 May. The project would be financed from part of the proceeds received from the World Bank towards the cost of the “Mauritius Infrastructure Project”. The main objective of the project is to increase the structural stability of the road deteriorated with the growth of traffic and to maintain its level of service as well as increase its riding quality and enhance safety of road users.

September

Draft Regulations for CIDB

The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) in collaboration with the Ministry organised a workshop on 9 September to discuss the Draft Regulations developed by CIDB to consolidate the provisions of the CIDB Act 2008 for registration of contractors and consultants and to give an opportunity to contractors and consultants to express their views thereon.

Study on upgrading of B28- coast road Ferney to Bel-Air

The reports as regards the study on upgrading of B28- coast road Ferney to Bel-Air were submitted in September and are being examined. The study, which started in March, was carried out to determine the economic viability of improving, upgrading and strengthening of approx 35 km of roads from Mahebourg to Bel Air. The main objective is to improve the coast road between Ferney and Bel Air and to palliate the decision of Government to curtail the South Eastern Highway Project for Environmental reasons in order to decrease travel time from the south to the East.
October

Workshop on Sustainable building

A half-day workshop on sustainable building, organised by the Ministry in collaboration with Agence Française de Developpement was held on 1st October at La Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles.

Training courses to facilitate employment on board ocean liners

On 1st October, Cabinet was informed that in view of the high demand of qualified staff on board ocean liners, the Mauritius Maritime Training Academy and Sir Gaëtan Duval Hotel School would conduct training courses for those wishing to be employed on board liners as cook, waiter, bartender, house-keeper and receptionist. The first training session for a batch of 500 trainees would start end of 2011.

Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Maritime Transport

On 15 October, Cabinet was informed that a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Maritime Transport would be signed between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Mauritius. The Memorandum of Understanding aims at, inter alia, promoting cooperation for the development of merchant shipping and preventing illicit migration on board vessels and marine pollution.

Transaction advisory services for Ring Road and Harbour Bridge

3 prequalified bidders were invited on 29 October to submit a request for proposals as regards the feasibility of implementing the Ring Road and Harbour Bridge as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in terms of the PPP Act 2004.

Workshop on Draft Building Control Bill

A one-day workshop on the Draft Building Control Bill, organised by the Ministry in collaboration with the Agence Française de Developpement, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities was held on 14 October at Clos Saint Louis, Domaine Les Pailles.

November

Landslide at Bambous Virieux and Quatre Soeurs

On 4 November, Cabinet was informed of action initiated by the Ministry in respect of the landslide at Bambous Virieux and Quatre Soeurs. The Crisis Committee, set up to monitor the situation, together with Dr Emilio Saldivar, Consultant in Geotechnical Engineering, has effected site visits and suggested interim measures to arrest prevailing soil conditions, pending an in-depth study of the site.

Construction of the Terre Rouge-Verdun-Ebene link road Lot2: Verdun-Ebene

Preliminary works regarding the Construction of the Terre Rouge-Verdun-Ebene link road Lot2: Verdun-Ebene started in November. It will comprise the construction of about 11 km of dual carriage way (new road), including a new route from Bagatelle to Valentina so as to bypass the congested roundabouts commonly known as Dowlut and Pont Fer roundabouts along the motorway M1 at peak hours. The contract was awarded in October.
Construction of Triolet Bypass road

The construction of a new single carriageway to bypass the village of Triolet was completed in November. The project is expected to improve traffic fluidity and access in the region of Triolet and is in line with Government’s objective to tackle congestion in major agglomerations.

Other achievements for 2010 include

- The preparation of Draft regulations for registration of consultants and contractors.
- The finalisation of the Professional Architects Council Bill.
- The preparation of the National Schedule of Rates as a costing benchmark for construction industry.
- Major upgrading works carried out on 8 hospitals and 47 schools; additional classrooms in 14 schools; upgrading of toilet blocks in 4 schools; and new toilet blocks in 3 schools.
- Resurfacing works carried out on 28 km of classified roads, construction of 18 km of footpaths and drains across the island.
- The completion of the Gros Bois-Mare d’Albert link road. The link road that starts from Gros Bois to Mare d’Albert is about 1.4 KM long. The purpose of the project is to provide an alternative route to traffic going from and to Rose Belle, La Rosa, Mare d’Albert via the Motorway.
- The registration of 4 new vessels under the Mauritian Flag.
- The supply, installation and commissioning of automatic fixed speed enforcement cameras along the road in accident prone areas.
- The provision of one mobile speed camera which may be used on the road network across the island to detect speed limit violators.

National Development Unit

February

Belle-Rose – Clemencia Community Centre

Inauguration of the Belle Rose – Clemencia Community Centre on 17 February. The community Centre cost some Rs30 million and aims at providing leisure facilities for residents of the area. The project is part of NDU programme to enhance quality of life in remote regions.

March

Football Ground at Petit paquet, Montagne Blanche

Laying of foundation stone for a football ground at Petit Paquet, Montagne Blanche on 2 March. The project is 95% completed.

Market Fair in Roche Bois

Laying of foundation stone for a new market fair to be built in Roche Bois on 8 March by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Utilities. The construction of the market fair will cost some Rs 25 million. Bid document being finalised.
Clean up Campaign in Bel Air/Riviere Seche.

The Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit in collaboration with the Forces Vives of Bel Air/Riviere Seche region organised a clean-up campaign in Bel air/Riviere Seche on 14 March. Garbage bins were also distributed to inhabitants of several localities within the region in the region.

National Campaign to clean up drains

The Ministry launched a national campaign ‘Campagne lor Drain, Déboucé pa boucé’ to sensitise the population on the need to keep drains unblocked.

April

Handing over of Keep fit Equipment

The Ministry proceeded with the launching of Health clubs on 3 April at Sebastopol Village Hall, and on 10 April at Montagne Blanche Social Welfare Centre (SWC) as well as St.Michel La lucie Roy Community Centre with a handing-over of Keep Fit equipment. A total of 40 sets of keep-fit equipment have been handed to Social Welfare Centre (SWC), Village .Hall and Community centres throughout the island.

May

Consultancy services for Land Drainage and Watershed Management Study

Bids were launched for Consultancy Services for Land Drainage and Watershed Management Study. Tasks included under the consultancy services are the study of the rain water catchment hydrology and watershed management; the identification of flood prone areas; the study of existing land drainage system and make recommendations regarding remedial measures to alleviate flooding problem; the proposals of solutions both structurally and non-structurally to land drainage problem; the preparation of conceptual designs and cost estimates for recommended remedial works; the recommendations about setting up of a databank on land drainage schemes; and capacity building including training of field staff in relation to land drainage and watershed management.

September

A one-day workshop on ‘Reorganising the Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB)’ was held on 7 September at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre in Bell Village. The aim of the workshop was to enable CAB officers and representatives of ministries, parastatal organisations and non-governmental organisations to discuss the way forward for CAB.
Other achievements during the year

**Bridge**

Topaze Bridge in Pailles completed

**Road**

41,965 m² of new roads completed. 177 227 m² of upgrading/resurfacing of roads completed.

**Cremation ground**

5 cremation grounds in Ripailles, Clavet, Caroline, P.Piment and Triolet completed.

Contract has been awarded for the improvement of seven Cremation grounds for the amount of Rs 15 360 119. Two cemeteries at St Martin and Poste de Flaq are being improved for the value of Rs 8 418 410. Works are in progress at all sites.

**Football Ground**


In addition, the upgrading of twelve football grounds for a total value of Rs 54 461 066 has been awarded and works are in progress.

**Volleyball Pitch**

Volleyball pitch in Calebasses completed.

Upgrading works at Lallmatie is being undertaken for the sum of Rs 1 968 512.50.

**Petanque Court**

9 petanque courts in Ville Noire, Remi Ollier, Camp Carol, Triolet, T.Biches, Bramsthan, Bel, Clemencia and Camp de Masque Pavé completed.

**Children’s Playground**

26 children’s playgrounds including supply of play equipment completed.

**Embellishment works**

Embellishment works in Citadel Area and in Tranquebar completed.

**Bus Shelters**

40 Bus shelters completed.

Summary of Projects awarded

1. **Football grounds**
   The upgrading of twelve football grounds for a total value of Rs 54 461 066 has been awarded and works are in progress.

2. **Volleyball Pitches**
   Upgrading works at Lallmatie is being undertaken for the sum of Rs 1 968 512.50.

3. **Cremation grounds and Cemeteries**
   Contract has been awarded for the improvement of seven Cremation grounds for the amount of Rs 15 360 119. Two cemeteries at St Martin and Poste de Flaq are being improved for the value of Rs 8 418 410. Works are in progress at all sites.
4. **Drains**

Drain works are being implemented in Constituency Nos 7 and 11 for the sum of **Rs 28 221 102.**

Other drains works have been entrusted to the Local Authorities (Municipal Councils and District Councils) for a total of **Rs 65M.** Work is in progress.

The RDA has also been entrusted to undertake drain works and bridges in Constituency No. 4 for amount of **Rs 46 775 525.**

5. **Roadworks**

Works orders have been issued for the resurfacing/construction of roads for the amount of **Rs 41 425 476** in Constitution. Nos. 4,5,6,7 and works are in progress.

The RDA has also undertaken roadworks along unclassified roads for the amount of **Rs 70M** approximately in Const. No. 4 & 9.

The Local Authorities are also executing road improvements for **Rs 13 239 375** in Constituency No. 8 & 9.

**Summary of Projects awarded**

**Football Grounds** :

- Football ground at Ebène - In progress
- Football ground at Poste Flacq - In progress
- Football ground Naicko Stadium Terre Rouge - Completed
- Football ground at Plaine Magnien - In progress
- Football ground at Lallmatie, (Cloakroom) - In progress
- Football ground at Cité Mangalkhan (Upgrading) - In progress
- Football ground at Laventure (Fencing) - In progress
- Football ground at L’Esperance - In progress
- Football ground & Volley ball pitch at Residence Père Laval - In progress
- Football ground at Chamouny - Not yet started
- Football ground at Vale (Upgrading) - In progress
- Football ground at Jean Lebrun Govt. School - Not yet started

**Volley ball pitch**

- Volley ball pitch at Lallmatie - In progress

**Cremation grounds & Cemeteries**

- Janaza Platform at St Martin-In progress
- Fencing Cemetery at Poste de Flacq-In progress
- Cremation ground at Olivia-In progress
- Cremation ground at Cap Malheureux-In progress
- Cremation ground at Creve Coeur-In progress
- Cremation ground at Rose Belle-In progress
- Cremation ground at Pamplemousses-In progress
- Cremation ground at D’Epinay-In progress
- Cremation ground at Ville Bague-In progress

**Drains**

- Drains at Jugnauth, Nunka Road, R.du Rempart - In progress
- Drain at Seebundun Rd, Plaine des Papayes - In progress
- Drains in Constituency No.11 - In progress
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

Mission:

To develop and implement a foreign policy that -

- safeguards and promotes the national interests of the Republic of Mauritius; and
- contributes towards the building of a secure, equitable, democratic and peaceful international community.
January

Piracy in the Indian Ocean

The Minister chaired on 5 January a meeting on preventive measures taken to combat piracy in the Indian Ocean. It was decided to allow ships operating in the Mauritian territorial waters, not far where pirate attacks have occurred, to call in private security agents.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2010

A Mauritian delegation was in New Delhi, India, from 7 to 9 January to participate in the 8th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. The delegation comprised the former Vice-President, Mr. Raouf Bundhun, the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources and the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping, the President of the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) Mauritius and leaders of socio-cultural organisations.

Updates of the situation of Mauritians in Haiti

The Minister gave a press conference on 14 January on updates of the situation of Mauritians in Haiti which was struck by an earthquake of magnitude of 7.3 in Port au Prince.

Visit of Speaker of Lok Sabha

Mrs. Meira Kumar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, India, was on official visit in Mauritius from 17 to 21 January. The objective was to reinforce ties between the two countries and to exchange information. Mrs. Kumar had meetings with the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, the Speaker of the National Assembly as well as with the Leader of the Opposition.

African Union Summit

A delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities, and comprising, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Mauritius Permanent Representative in Addis Ababa attended the 14th Assembly of the African Union from 25 January to 2 February. The theme was Information and Communication Technology in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development.

African Charter on Statistics

Mauritius signed on 27 January the African Charter on Statistics which aims, *inter-alia*, at promoting a culture of evidence-based policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation, and contributing to the enhancement of statistical activities in Africa. Mauritius was among the first countries to ratify the Charter.

Mobility Partnership with the European Union

Having concluded a bilateral Circular Migration Agreement with France, Mauritius considers that a Mobility Partnership (MP) with the European Union will widen the scope of opportunities for Mauritian nationals. It will be recalled that the European Union (EU) is a Customs Union comprising 27 Member States where there is free movement of goods, services and people.

Therefore, by virtue of Article 13 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement (Cotonou Agreement), Mauritius has indicated to the EU that it was interested to be placed on the list of countries with
which discussions on mobility partnerships could be initiated.

**February**

**Meeting Between Mauritius and France on Tromelin**

A third round of discussions at Senior Officials’ level between Mauritius and France on the co-management of Tromelin was held on 3 and 4 February in Mauritius. The meeting finalised a draft Framework Agreement for the establishment of a regime of economic, scientific and environmental co-management relating to Tromelin Island as well as its territorial sea and exclusive economic zone.

It also finalised three implementing agreements on the following issues: protection of the environment, archaeological research, and sustainable co-management of fisheries.

**Regional Economic Integration of SADC**

The Minister participated on 3 and 4 February, in South Africa, in the Strategic Forum and the Ministerial Meeting of the Task Force on Regional Economic Integration of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The aim was to provide greater political guidance on the way forward towards the launch of the SADC Customs Union and the SADC engagement in the Tripartite initiative for a larger Free Trade Area among the Member States of SADC, COMESA and EAC.
Review of International Agreements and MOUs

The first meeting of the inter-ministerial Steering committee on the review of international agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) was held on 8 February under the chairmanship of the Minister. A review of agreements and MOUs signed by Mauritius since Independence was carried out. The purpose was to establish their continued relevance to Mauritius as well as a priority list of MOUs and a coordinating mechanism to ensure fast implementation and follow-up action.

Third Round of Discussions Mauritius-Turkey

The third round of discussions between Mauritius and Turkey to pursue discussions on the Free Trade Agreement between both countries was held in Port Louis on 9 and 10 February. The meeting was co-chaired by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, and by Mr. Hüsnü Dilemre, Director General for European Union Affairs, Undersecretariat of the Prime Ministry for Foreign Trade, on behalf of the Government of Turkey.

Presentation of Credentials

Mr. Mario Godinho de Matos presented on 9 February his credentials to the President of the Republic as Ambassador of Portugal to Mauritius with residence in Maputo.

Mrs. Mary Jo Wills presented on 19 February her credentials to the President of the Republic as Ambassador of USA to Mauritius.

Prof. Antonio Montilla-Saldívia presented on 23 February his credentials to the President of the Republic as Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Mauritius with residence in Pretoria.

Cooperation Agreement with the Republic of Congo

A Cooperation Agreement between Mauritius and the Republic of Congo (Congo-Brazzaville) was signed on 25 February by the Minister and Mr. Alain Akouala Atipault, Minister in the Presidency in charge of Special Economic Zones of the Republic of Congo.

Release of Mauritian Nationals

The Ministry was involved in facilitating the mission of the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Mr. Hervé Lassémillante, to the Republic of Congo to seek the release of the two Mauritian nationals who were arrested following the discovery of a financial fraud.

March

Visit of French Secretary of State For External Trade

The French Secretary of State for External Trade, attached to the French Ministry of Economy, Industry and Employment, Mrs. Anne-Marie Idrac, was on a one-day visit to Mauritius on 8 March. Mrs. Anne-Marie Idrac had a working session with the Minister during which the issue of creating an economic and commercial space within the Indian Ocean Commission to deepen regional integration was evoked.
Exclusive Economic Zone - Extension of the Continental Shelf

Mauritius and Seychelles jointly submitted to the United Nations on 12 March an addendum to the joint submission on the extension of the continental shelf, on the basis of new data obtained in the region of the Mascarene plateau.

Videoconference Session between Mauritius and US on TIFA

A videoconference session between Mauritius and US on the approach to adopt as regards the strengthening of relations in trade in services was held on 18 March. The session focused on the work plan elaborated by the two sides under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement which was signed by Mauritius and the US to deepen bilateral cooperation.

Presentation of Credentials

Major General (Retd.) Muhammad Siddique presented on 22 March his credentials to the President of the Republic as High Commissioner of Pakistan.

Ms. Adèle Dion presented on 23 March her credentials to the President of the Republic as the High Commissioner of Canada to Mauritius, with residence in Pretoria.

Djibouti Code of Conduct

Mauritius signed on 23 March the Memorandum of Understanding prepared by the International Maritime Organisation commonly known as the Djibouti Code of Conduct relating to the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean.
World Bank Mission on Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs)

A team from the World Bank was in Mauritius from 22 to 26 March to assist the country in establishing a permanent data collection mechanism on NTMs, modeled on a new classification method that would be easy to compare and convenient to calculate trade restrictiveness. This mission formed part of an initiative of the World Bank and other cooperating institutions to promote transparency and facilitation of trade.

Donation of IT Equipment by the Chinese Embassy

The Chinese Embassy in collaboration with the Ministry proceeded on 26 March with the donation of computers at the Grand Port/Savanne District Council Hall, Rose Belle.

Indian Ocean Commission’s OPL Meeting

A meeting of the OPL (Officiers Permanents de Liaison) was held in Quatre Bornes from 23 to 25 March. The objective was to review the Indian Ocean Commission’s budget for 2010 and the implementation of ongoing projects/programmes. It also examined proposals for the deepening of regional integration.

Reopening of Diplomatic Mission of Libya

A joint communiqué on the reopening of Diplomatic Mission of the Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was signed on 23 March in New York between the Republic of Mauritius and the Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

April

Chagos Archipelago

Following the decision of the British Government on 1 April to establish a Marine Protected Area (MPA) around the Chagos Archipelago, the Minister summoned the British Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. on 2 April to convey the strong objection of Government to the creation of the MPA and handed over a Note of Protest.

African Peer Review Mechanism

A high-level Coordinating and Drafting Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of the Ministry to finalise the draft response to the Mauritius Country Review Report for the African Peer Review Mechanism.

Exclusive Economic Zone - Extension of the Continental Shelf

In April, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) informed of the setting up of a Sub-Commission to examine the Joint Submission made by Mauritius and Seychelles.

Bilateral Circular Migration Agreement with France

A bilateral Circular Migration Agreement entitled: Accord entre le gouvernement de la République Française et le Gouvernement de la République de Maurice Relatif au séjour et à la Migration Circulaire de Professionnels signed with France on 23 September 2008 was approved by the French National Assembly in April. Mauritius will complete procedures for the entry into force of the Agreement after the French Government officially confirms that France has ratified it.
SAARC Summit

The 16th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Heads of State Summit was held on 28 and 29 April in Bhutan. The theme was *Towards a Green and Happy South Asia*. All members and observers, including Mauritius, participated in the Summit which marked the Silver Jubilee of SAARC since its inception in 1985.

May

Shanghai World Expo 2010

Mauritius participated in the Shanghai World Expo 2010 which was held from 1 May to 31 October. The participation of Mauritius represented a unique opportunity to promote and showcase the strategic location, economic vibrancy, modernity, environmental consciousness, harmonious blend of cultures, artistic and cultural heritage and natural beauty of the country. The theme statement of Mauritius for the Shanghai World Expo was built around the concept *Mauritius: a City State*.

Review of the Charter of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation

A sub-committee of officials made up of seven countries met in New Delhi on 6 and 7 May to review the Charter of the IOR-ARC to make the organisation more responsive to the needs of Member States in the context of changes on the international scene over the past 12 years.

Non-Proliferation Treaty

The Mauritius Mission in New York participated in the Second Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty held from 3 to 28 May in New York.

Presentation of Credentials

Mr. Ignatius Karegesa Kamali presented on 17 May his credentials to the President of the Republic as Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to Mauritius with residence in Pretoria.

Regional Approach to Fight Piracy

The Minister attended on 21 May in Victoria, Seychelles, a Regional Ministerial Conference on a regional approach to fight piracy off the Coast of Somalia. The main outcome of the Conference was the adoption of a Joint Communiqué underlining the fact that piracy can only be resolved through a combination of onshore and offshore initiatives.

Africa Day Message

Africa Day was celebrated on 25 May on the theme *Building and Maintaining Peace through Sports in Africa*. The Minister commended the choice of the theme, especially in the context of the hosting of the Soccer World Cup for the first time in history on the African continent.

Intellectual Property Policy

A working session with a team from the World Intellectual Property Organisation was held from 31 May to 1st June to assist in the finalisation of the new Intellectual Property (IP) Policy for Mauritius. The objective of the new IP Policy is to create the necessary framework for mainstreaming IP in the economic development of Mauritius.
June

Framework Agreement on Tromelin

Mr. Alain Joyandet, Secrétaire d’Etat Français chargé de la Coopération et de la Francophonie signed on 7 June in Mauritius a Framework Agreement for the establishment of a regime of economic, scientific and environmental co-management relating to Tromelin Island, as well as its territorial sea and Exclusive Economic Zone. He also had working sessions on bilateral issues, including cooperation in renewable energy, the euro crisis, piracy in the Indian Ocean, the Economic Partnership Agreement, the political situation in Madagascar and the Comoros, and the reinforcement of the Indian Ocean Commission Secretariat.

IOC Council of Ministers Meeting

Mauritius participated in the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Council of Ministers meeting on June 8 in Reunion Island. The meeting discussed cooperation in the following fields: Strategy, Politics and Diplomacy; Economy, Trade and Infrastructure; Fisheries, Agriculture and Energy; Environment and Natural Resources; Human Development and Regional Security; and Culture and Society. Mauritius assumes for one year the Chair of the IOC at the close of the Ministerial Meeting.

IOC – Workshop on Women in Politics

A regional workshop on Women in Politics, organised by the Indian Ocean Commission in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was held in Mauritius from 30 June to 1 July. A “Note Conceptuelle sur l’Empowerment des Femmes en Politique” was launched and it was agreed that a regional platform for the empowerment of women in politics would be set up within the framework of the IOC.

African Peer Review Mechanism Delegation in Mauritius

The Secretariat of the APRM conducted a follow-up mission from 9 to 11 June in Mauritius. The purpose was to iron any possible areas of misunderstanding or divergence on the draft Government response to the APRM Country Report of Mauritius. It also aimed at conducting high-level consultations regarding the eventual presentation and Peer Review of the Mauritius Country Report in the context of the African Union Summit in Kampala, Uganda.

ACP and Joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers Meetings

The Minister was on a mission on 21 June to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, where he participated in the 91st session of the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Council of Ministers and the 35th session of the Joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers meetings.

Presentation of Credentials

H.E Mr. Enrique Antonio Prieto Lopez presented on 7 June his credentials to the President of the Republic of Mauritius as Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Mauritius.
H.E Mr. Ali Saif Sultan Al-Awani presented on 14 June his credentials to the President of the Republic of Mauritius as Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Mauritius.
H.E Mgr. Eugène Martin Nugent presented on 15 June his credentials to the President of the Republic of Mauritius as Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See to Mauritius.
Consultative Workshop on the Consolidated Children’s Bill

A consultative workshop on the preparation of the Consolidated Children’s Bill was held on 18 November at La Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles. It was organised by the Ministry and regrouped some 30 participants from different Ministries, office of the Ombudsperson for Children, Non-Governmental Organisations and the Attorney-General’s Office.

The workshop provided an opportunity to all stakeholders to work together to attain the common goals of development and the protection of the child. It also had as objective to kick-start consultations that will stimulate dialogue, encourage collaboration and promote national research.

Victim Empowerment and Abuser Rehabilitation Policy

A national consultative workshop focusing on the formulation of a Victim Empowerment and Abuser Rehabilitation Policy was organised on 25 November by the Ministry at Clos Saint Louis, Domaine Les Pailles. It coincided with International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women celebrated annually on 25 November. The theme retained by Mauritius to commemorate the International Day was Women and Men: United to end violence against women.

The national consultative workshop provided participants with a platform to measure the challenges and to dissect the economic and symbolical dimensions of domestic violence and find solutions so as to put an end to this phenomenon. The Victim Empowerment and Abuser Rehabilitation Policy constitutes an indispensable tool to develop new strategies which would eventually lead to the elaboration of a national plan of action to combat domestic and family-related violence. Participants were from different ministries and departments, Non-Governmental Organisations, the private sector, federations of unions and civil society.

Visit of Chinese delegation

In the context of the cooperation between the People’s Republic of China and Mauritius, a delegation from the All-China Women’s Federation visited Mauritius from 27 to 30 November.

The delegation paid courtesy calls on high dignitaries and visited two women entrepreneurs, the National Women Development Centre, the Shelter La Colombe, the Centre de Solidarité pour une Nouvelle Vie and the Triolet Women Empowerment Centre. Working sessions were also held with officers of the Ministry and members of the Chinese Women Association.
Graduate Entrepreneurship Development Programme

The National Women Entrepreneur Council (NWEC) launched the Graduate Entrepreneurship Development Programme (GEDP) on 29 November as part of its Training Programme for Women Entrepreneurs. Some 40 participants (Graduates) benefitted from the GEDP.

The objectives of the GEDP are to motivate participants to set up their own enterprises and provide information, advice, financial support and ideas in the setting up of an enterprise.

December

High-Powered Committee on ‘Working Together’ Concept

The first session of the high-powered committee pertaining to the protection of the child according to the concept ‘Working Together’ was held on 13 December under the chairmanship of the Minister. The concept ‘Working Together’ is a consultation and decision-making platform for the protection and development of the child. The committee regrouped senior officials from different Ministries, the office of the Ombudsperson for children, the National Children’s Council, Non-Governmental Organisations and the Police.
Tourism and Leisure
Ministry of Tourism and Leisure

Mission

Tourism: To develop and champion tourism activities so as to build the sector into a key engine of growth and to make of Mauritius the best island destination in the world.

Leisure: To champion and promoting leisure, entertainment and recreational activities to enhance the quality of life of the citizens and tourists and foster peaceful co-existence.

Development of an emerging cruise hub
Introduction

- Despite the global economic downturn coupled with euro crisis and other international threats and challenges, the Ministry has, in line with the mandate of Government, left no stone unturned to maintain the visibility of Mauritius as a high end tourist destination and promote the sustainable development of the tourism and hospitality sector.

- Indeed, with a view to maintaining Mauritius as an attractive and up market tourist destination, the image of our country has been enhanced through proper marketing strategies as well as the offer of a diversified and improved tourism product. Moreover, the development of a sustainable industry has been encouraged through the creation of a diversified and sustained tourism product portfolio in an embellished as well as more attractive environment which benefit, not only tourists but our local population as well. The Ministry has thus successfully created the necessary conditions to encourage sustainable growth in the tourism sector through a more coherent strategy involving all stakeholders concerned.

TOURISM STATISTICS

Tourist Arrivals

- Tourist arrivals for the period January to November 2010 reached 819,978. This represented an increase of 6.8% over the figure of 767,626 registered for the corresponding period in 2009.

Gross Tourism Receipts

- Gross tourism receipts for the period January to November 2010 were estimated by the Bank of Mauritius at Rs 34,592 million, representing an increase of 9.1%, compared to Rs 31,720 million for the same period of 2009.

Employment

- According to the Survey of Employment and Earnings, direct employment in hotels,
Tourism and Leisure

restaurants and travel and tourism establishments employing 10 persons or more, stood at 27,161 at the end of March 2010, showing an increase of 0.6% over the figure of 27,002 at the end of March 2009. Of this number, 76.8% or 20,847 were engaged in hotels.

Inauguration of Cruise Jetty

The Cruise Jetty, named after late Mr P. Christian Decotter in recognition of his contribution to the tourism industry, was inaugurated on 15 February by the Minister. The Jetty avails of facilities designed to accommodate cruise vessels of up to 300 metres.

Visit of the Chinese Tourism Minister

The Minister met his Chinese counterpart, Mr Shao Qiwei, and his delegation on 27 February in his office at Port Louis with whom he had a working session.

The Chinese Minister is also the Chairman of National Tourism Administration in China.

MTPA Elected Best Stand in Madrid

The MTPA stand was elected Best Stand in January at FITUR, in Madrid, one of the main events in international tourism promotion in Europe. More than 13,000 exhibiting companies, 150,000 trade participants and 65,000 trade visitors, 8,000 journalists and 221,000 total visitors, were present this year at FITUR.

TOURISM STRATEGY

- The Ministry Tourism and Leisure has successfully finalized the Tourism Sector Strategy 2009-2015. In line with the Strategy, hotels are called upon to lay much emphasis on eco-friendly measures with a view to upgrading their facilities and thus making use of eco-friendly measures such as energy saving devices and installation of desalination plant, recycling plant as well as other similar services/amenities. The Ministry has also taken the necessary steps to ensure that the architecture, layouts and designs of new hotel establishments meet set requirements.

- The Ministry has also put high on its agenda the collaboration of various stakeholders for the successful implementation of various actions including the Association des Hoteliers & Restaurateurs-Iles Maurice (AHRIM), the Association des Hotels de Charmes, the Ecole Hoteliere Sir Gaetan Duval as well as other private sector stakeholders.

- The year 2010 has been marked by the opening of five hotels namely, Le Champs de Mars Hotel, the Trou aux Biches Resort and Spa, the Chambly hotel, the Sea Club Hotel as well as the Belle Riviere Hotel. These hotels, with an approximate investment of Rs 6,290 million, have added some 551 additional rooms and generated some 1,318 employment.
SUSTAINABLE TOURISM INDUSTRY

Improvement & Diversification of Tourism Product

Tourism Signage Programme

- The Tourism Signage Programme, which is an ongoing major project of the Ministry, has considerably improved the visibility of, and facilitated visitorship to the different places of attractions for both tourists and local people. Accordingly, phase I of the project that comprised five routes have already been completed and the Ministry has embarked on Phase II of the project which consist of, inter-alia, placing of directional and informational panels from Vacoas to Black River Gorges National Park.

Promotion of Cultural Tourism

- With a view to recreating the atmosphere d’antan and to eliciting unique experiences, the Citadel Fort is being rehabilitated, restored as well as embellished so as to fully tap its authentic historical appeal and high tourism potential.

Upgrading of Beach Sites with Additional Amenities

Construction of Coastal Walkways

- With a view to upgrading and embellishing our touristic infrastructure and attractions, the Ministry has taken necessary steps for the implementation of the project relating to the construction of coastal walkways in the regions of Grand Baie and Trou D’Eau Douce.

Coastal Walkway at Grand Baie

- Phase I of the project, comprising 60 metres of walkway, has been completed. Necessary actions for funding and the successful implementation of phase II the project are ongoing.

Upgrading of Albion Beach

- With a view to providing the village of Albion with a beach equipped with all necessary amenities while at the same time improving its aesthetic aspect, the Ministry has successfully completed the upgrading of the Albion Beach project which is the first phase of the Community Development of Albion. The beach has been severely degraded because of erosion due to vehicles moving in and around the beach area. In this respect, adequate parking slots have been provided while restricting vehicle access to the beach area.

Placement of Marker Buoys

- The Ministry has completed the installation and fixing of marker buoys in the swimming zones of Grand Baie, Palmar, Wolmar, Belle Mare, Trou D’Eau Douce, Trou-aux Biches and Mon Choisy.

- Furthermore, three ski lanes have been created at Trou-aux Biches, Mon Choisy, Casuarina. In addition, the Ministry has financed the purchase of marker buoys for implementation of another ski lane at Bel Ombre. Two snorkeling zones have been demarcated at Mon Choisy and Trou-aux-Biches. Moreso, the existing 5-knots
speed limit zone at Trou D’Eau Douce has been amended to 10-knots speed limit zone through the promulgation of necessary regulations.

**Reinforcing the legislative framework**

- With a view to reinforcing safety and security of tourists, the Ministry has strengthened the enforcement of the existing relevant provisions of the Tourism Authority Act as well as the regulations governing touristic activities with a view to having a better and more rigorous control with regard to tourism and tourism related activities. Accordingly, new regulations are been finalized to have more control and better monitor touristic activities such as “Dolphin Watching”, Kitesurfing, Windsurfing, Safety Equipments on board pleasure crafts, markings, etc.

**Regulation and Control of Tourism Related Activities**

- Considerable efforts have been made to formalize the non-hotel sector. In the same line, the Tourism Authority has provided assistance to small operators to enhance their competitiveness and professionalism by providing them advice on how to improve their properties through the renovation scheme for small hotels, guesthouses, tourist residence and restaurants
- Furthermore, the licencing system has been streamlined with a view to expediting the process relating to the application, examination and issue of licences

**Safety & Security of Tourists**

- The safety and security of tourists have always been high on the agenda of the Ministry. Accordingly, much emphasis has been laid on reinforcing safety and security measures in tourist residences, guesthouses, hotels and for pleasure craft activities, so as to allow tourists to experience a safe stay in Mauritius
- Indeed, with a view to improving safety and security of not only tourists but also of local people, the Ministry has taken a series of measures through the collaboration of various stakeholders including the Tourism Authority, with a view to enhancing the safety and security of tourists, as follows:-
  - Fixing of 10 permanent moorings at Flat Island and 7 moorings at Coin de Mire;
  - Creation of mooring zones at Bassin Couline, GRSE, Palmar & Mon Choisy;
  - Installation of navigational aids at passes (26 passes) completed;
  - Regular Patrols by Police du Tourisme in touristic areas;
  - Holding of meetings of the Security Committee to look into matters relating to security & safety of tourists;
  - Preparation of leaflet to be distributed in all hotels & tourist residences
  - Installation of cameras & security alarm in tourist residences as well as hotels as a condition for granting licences;
  - 24-hr policing in northern & western divisions by Police du Tourisme
  - Regular meetings in collaboration with Association des Hoteliers et Restaurateurs Ile Maurice (AHRIM) and security staff of hotels islandwide
  - Continuous monitoring by Monitoring & Enforcement Unit of the Tourism Authority and the Police du Tourisme.
  - Continuous monitoring by Police du Tourisme & personnel Monitoring and Enforcement Unit of the Tourism Authority to ensure that:-
  - operators operating according to set norms and standards;
• prevention of illegal operations; and
• enhancement of the quality of service offered to the customers as well as reinforcement of security aspects.

Improved Customer Service & New Computerized system at the Tourism Authority

• The new computerized system and user-friendly website have been upgraded to provide improved accessibility and additional information on the services, such as online application for tourist enterprise licences offered by the Tourism Authority
• Team building sessions have been organised by the Tourism Authority in view of enhancing working relationship and environment at the Authority so that the staff is in a better position to provide quality service to the public

PROMOTING THE DESTINATION

Country Promotion

• In line with the objective of the Ministry, the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) has successfully carried out promotional campaigns, including advertising campaigns, fairs, workshops, exhibitions and roadshows with a view to consolidating our traditional markets and tapping new and emerging markets as well as niche segments

Destination Promotion Strategy

• Mauritius has forged a reputation of excellence on the international tourism platform for its high standard of quality and service delivery as well as an enriched and diversified tourism product (natural assets, hospitality culture, heritage and values). This diversity and richness of the tourism offerings have strengthened the island’s reputation and brand excellence and positioned it as a label of its own that delivers a clear brand promise: a full visitor experience
• The Ministry, together with the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority, has taken a series of initiatives to promote the destination as a prime holiday and upmarket destination by consolidating our traditional markets and tapping new and emerging markets and niche market segments
• Major events were organised during 2010 which positioned Mauritius as a high end market destination, namely at AMFAR in Italy, Polo day in England and St Morritz white turf in Switzerland

Diversification of Markets/Market Segments

• The objective is to diversify our tourist sources and thus enhance the resilience of our tourism industry in the face of international threats and challenges
• Accordingly, aggressive campaigns are carried out in traditional markets such as France, UK, Germany and Italy to consolidate our image as an upmarket tourist destination in the face of international challenges and threats posed by the global economic downturn coupled with the euro crisis
• Furthermore, campaigns have been carried out to tap emerging markets such as China, Russia
and India as well as niche/market segments, namely:

- Wedding/ Honeymoon;
- Golf (participation of PGA players in Vivendi Golf tournament)
- Windsurfing & Kitesurfing
- Shopping hub for South Eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean islands
- Launching of “Ile Vanille Concept” - the positioning, on the international front, of the “Iles Vanille” tourism products will be ensured via a general European campaign based on accessibility, quality, unity, and competitiveness.

- Major luxury brands of international repute have marked their presence in Mauritius. With the large selection of signature spas – Givenchy, la Prairie, Guerlain among others, our country is often referred to as ‘Mauritius – Wellness and SPA Temples’.

### International Recognition

- Mauritius has always maintained its upmarket image and perceived as a model of excellence in quality and service and thus achieved international recognition worldwide as a destination offering high levels of tourist product and services. The MTPA has obtained various awards for the year 2010 and these include the following:
  - Best Stand- FITUR;
  - Best Stand at the China International Travel Mart;
  - Indian Ocean’s Leading Destination- World Travel Award; and
  - Indian Ocean’s Leading Beach Destination-World Travel Award.

### Positioning the Country as a Cruising Destination

- With a view to positioning the country as a cruising destination, aggressive campaigns were carried out.
- Accordingly, Mauritius is now positioned as a hub to operate cruise trips in the Indian Ocean region with calls at Reunion Island, Mayotte, Seychelles, Madagascar and Kenya. Indeed, 2010 also saw the opening of a dedicated cruise liner terminal and the emergence of Port Louis Harbour as an emerging cruise hub. Costa Croisiere is using this new infrastructure as its port of call. Cruise tourism accounted for 20,499 tourists during the period December 2009 to April 2010, a 10% increase over the corresponding period in 2008/2009.

### Improved/Redesigned Website

- Tourists are having increasing recourse to internet facilities in selecting the destinations

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**Increasing Accessibility**

- While global trends indicate the curtailing of operations as a cost-cutting measure by airlines, Mauritius has outplayed this trend on its route.
- Airlines such as Emirates, Corsair and Eurofly as well as Airfrance have shown confidence in the destination and have increased their seat capacity.
- With regard to air access, successful consultations have been held with our major stakeholders, including Air Mauritius to explore the possibilities for increasing existing seat capacity with a view to catering of our objective of increasing tourist arrivals to Mauritius.
they want to visit. The MTPA has taken the necessary steps with regard to e-marketing. Accordingly, the website of the MTPA has been upgraded and developed with additional features such as information in nine different languages including - Arabic, Mandarin and Spanish, Activity Planner, Interactive Map, Travel Search Booking facilities, Dedicated Product Pages and information relating to events.

Promotion of Leisure & Welfare

- The Ministry ensures that the population’s needs for leisure are met both through the direct provision of facilities and services and through partnership with other agencies/ NGO’s, which organise recreational and entertainment activities for the benefit of the whole community. Both scheduled and unscheduled events are organised. These include a wide range of small and large scale leisure events/activities, for the public in general for tourists as well, such as:
  - Recreational activities;
  - Visits to Natural Parks/ Attractions
  - Mountaineering
  - Hiking
  - Watersports & leisure activities

- The Ministry has also organised major national events/activities targeted at creating an animated and interesting environment which is conducive to providing relaxation and entertainment whilst at the same time creating a harmonious and stress-free society. These include activities, such as family fun days-“Loisir en Fete”, Natation Loisirs, etc.

- Furthermore, the Ministry also successfully organised the “Gran Konser” for the Festival International Kreol, which is one of the most ambitious and popular events, providing not only attractions/entertainments to the local people but also to foreign visitors and press people. This event is an open screen to the whole world which broadcasts the authenticity of our culture, beauty and prosperity.

Welfare of Employees of the Tourism & Hospitality Sector

- The TEWF has several schemes/activities that have been designed to promote the welfare of employees of the tourism & hospitality sector, as follows:-
  - Multipurpose loans;
  - Educational/Computer loans;
  - Grants(CPE/SC/HSC/Death grant);
  - Gifts(marriage/retirement/ maternity gifts/Laureate);
  - Training Sessions; and
  - Activities to complement the leisure objective of the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure such as mountaineering, hiking, etc.

- The Tourism Employees Welfare Fund (TEWF) has also redesigned its website with a view to making it more user-friendly and incorporating additional information including information on all schemes/activities.
Education and Human Resources
Ministry of Education and Human Resources

Mission

• To develop a culture of achievement and excellence by promoting an efficient and effective World Class education and training system that is inclusive and integrated, comprehensive and holistic

• To foster innovation and to generate new knowledge for the socio-economic and sustainable development of the nation

• To ensure learning opportunities accessible to all, provide learners with values and skills to further their personal growth, enhance their critical and exploratory thinking, and encourage them to innovate and adapt to changes in an increasingly globalised environment
January

Launching of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) (Secondary)

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) (Secondary) was launched on 21 January at Octave Wiéhé Auditorium, Réduit. The NCF aims at laying the foundation for the identification of the overarching learning outcomes, the development of specific competencies and skills from the different learning areas, the definition of the learning areas themselves and the teaching/learning strategies to be adopted, the assessment standards and teacher-training.

National Human Resource Development Plan (NHRDP)

The Second Edition of the National Human Resource Development Plan (NHRDP) was launched on 28 January at Octave Wiéhé Auditorium, Réduit. The NHRDP provides a policy framework for education, training programmes and career progression to meet the skills and competency needs of the country. The aim is to promote sustained economic growth by using the available human resource effectively and by drawing on their expertise and ingenuity.

MITD-SI AST Cooperation

In the context of collaboration between the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SI AST) of Canada, Dr. R. G. McCulloch, President and CEO of SI AST, and Mr. David Harvey, SI AST Director of Business Development & International Partnership, visited Mauritius from 28 January to 1st February. During their stay, they gave a lecture on “Canadian Education and skills training system and the importance of global education”.

February

Train the Trainer’s Programme in “Life Skills Management”

A training programme on “Life Skills Management” was organised by the MITD on 3 February. The aim was to provide trainers with the required knowledge in areas such as self-esteem, values, stereotypes, decision making, parenthood, sexuality risks, communication and substance abuse.

Launching of Tertiary Education Commission’s Online Library

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Online Library was launched at the MCA Lecture Theatre on 4 February. The aim is to democratise access to knowledge and higher education and improve research. The Online library has been created through subscription to two databases namely EBSCO and Emerald. The two databases provide access to more than 11,000 e-Journals. Some 21,000 licenses have been distributed to public-funded Tertiary education institutions as per their respective number of users-students and academic staff.

Review of Guidelines by the TEC

The TEC has reviewed the guidelines for the grant of awarding powers to and the use of the title “University” by private institutions offering post-secondary education in Mauritius with a view to enhancing their capability to develop into trustworthy institutions.
Implementation of the Enhancement Programme

The Enhancement Programme started on 17 February in all primary schools. This Programme is an alternative to private tuition in Standard IV which covers the pedagogical aspects of Standard IV curriculum as well as co-curricular and extra-curricular components with a view to making the learning experiences more enriching, enjoyable and rewarding.

Career World

The Career World was held from 25 to 27 February at Swami Vivekananda Centre, Pailles. The event provided students with career’s guidance and information on employment opportunities and studies opportunities for career.

March

Visit of Mr. James Buckowsky

Mr. James Buckowsy, Senior Instructor of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies at Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST-Canada), was on visit at the MITD from 1st to 7 March. The objective was to help local instructors to familiarise with the instructor guides and learning outcomes in class preparation and delivery. A one-day workshop was carried out with a
view to enhancing the teaching strategies for the local instructors in the SIAST Business Administration Diploma.

**Workshop in Technology for Educators**

Some 25 educators were trained in Technology during a five-day workshop. The workshop, which kicked off on the 5 March, was conducted in 3 stages: ICT Skills for Educators, One Step Further, and Innovation.

**10 Years Celebration of the NPCC**

To kickstart the 10 years celebration of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), Prof. Isaac Getz of the European Business School and co-author of Freedom Inc, gave, on 15 March, a lecture on ‘Liberating Leadership: How to build a freedom-of-initiative and Continuously Innovative Organisation’ at the Octave Wiéhé Auditorium, Réduit.

**MoU between the MITD and the Mauritius Prison Service**

A Memorandum of Understanding with the objective of setting up a framework for a joint collaboration between the MITD and the Mauritius Prison Service was signed on 17 March. The objective is to provide technical and vocational education and training to detainees at the MITD, Phoenix.

So far, both Prison Officers and detainees have benefitted at different levels from various MITD training courses such as NTC 3 in Welding and Metal Fabrication, Certificate Course in Livestock Rearing, Basic Course in Vegetable Production, NTC 3 Garment Making and Basic Certificate in Food Production Course.

**International Workshop on Early Childhood Care and Education**

A three-day international workshop on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), organised by the United Nations Development Programme, in collaboration with the Ministry in the context of the Mauritius-Africa Initiative, opened on 22 March at La Plantation Hotel, Balaclava. The Workshop identified capacity development needs for ECCE in African countries. Delegates focused on means to sensitize and consolidate Public-Private partnership and the South-South/North-South collaboration.

**National Assembly Votes Open University of Mauritius Bill**

The Open University of Mauritius Bill, voted by the National Assembly on 23 March, aims at giving the opportunity to a greater number of students or adults to get access to University and higher education and contribute to the setting up of the Mauritian knowledge hub. The Open University will take up the assets of the Mauritius College of the Air and will be building on the existing expertise of that institution in multimedia learning and distance Education to boost up open learning to new levels.

**Visit of a Delegation from Botswana**

A delegation of seven members from the Human Resource Development Advisory Council (HRDAC) from Botswana was on visit at the MITD on 24 March. The objective of the visit was to increase the understanding and enhance the capacity of the Governing Council, Secretariat and key stakeholders of HRDAC to implement the National Human Resource Development Strategy in Botswana.
Seminar on Higher Education and Economic Development

A seminar on Higher Education and Economic Development was held on 25 March at the University of Mauritius. The theme of the seminar was ‘Mauritius and seven other African countries’.

Funding of Zones d’Éducation Prioritaires (ZEP) Projects

In the spirit of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), several Indian companies operating in Mauritius, namely Life Insurance Corporation of India, New India Assurance, Bank of Baroda, Indian Oil and State Bank of India, handed over cheques to the Ministry for the funding of ZEP projects.

New Block of Classrooms at Emmanuel Anquetil Government School

A new block of classrooms was inaugurated at Emmanuel Anquetil Government School, Roche Bois, on 31 March.

National Competition in Biology for HSC students

The Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) in collaboration with the Society of Biology Teachers organised a Biology Olympiad (BO) between April and July, open to upper six biology students of all schools. The BO, a competition testing academic aptitude in Biology, aims at promoting biology education and at enabling pupils to show excellence in learning biological sciences.
April

Award of Certificates for Diploma, Higher Diploma and Brevet de Technicien

Around 120 students from the School of Information Technology Electronics and Lycée Polytechnique Sir Guy Forget received their Diploma, Higher National Diploma and Brevet de Technicien Certificate in different trades on 1 April at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute. The trades comprised Information Technology, Telecommunications, Mécanique Automobile and Fabrication Mécanique, amongst others.

SME Training Fair

The Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaëtan Duval, the La Tour Koenig Training Centre and the Jewellery Section from Sir Rampersad Neerunjun Training Complex participated in a half-day SME Training Fair on 8 April at the Cyber City, Ebène. This Fair was held in the context of the implementation of the Training and Re-skilling Component of the Decentralised Cooperation Programme funded by the European Union.

Renewal of Signature of MoU between MITD and BAI

The MoU between the MITD and the BAI Co. (MTIUS) Ltd was renewed on 29 April. The MoU provides training in Communication Skills to instructors of National Trade Certificate Foundation (NTCF) with Caritas (Literacy programme for new readers) and to provide school material to NTCF trainees.

Signature of MoU between MITD and AVIAREPS

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the MITD-Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaëtan Duval and the AVIAREPS on 30 April at the Maritime Hotel, Balaclava. AVIAREPS Group is the world’s leading Tourism and Airline Management Company which connects tourism products to local markets and provides people with a deeper understanding of foreign cultures and destinations. An exchange platform will be set up for students with a view to providing tourism expertise project support and hence link theory and practical work.

May

Visit of Delegation from Malawi

The Technical, Entrepreneur and Vocational Education and Training Authority based in Malawi was on a study tour from 17 to 20 May. The objective of the visit was to establish working relationships with the MITD, learn the strategies used in marketing by the MITD and study the critical areas which qualified the MITD for ISO Certification.

Capacity Building of NGOs in Home Care Service

A workshop on Capacity Building of NGOs in Home Care Service was held at the MITD from 19 to 21 May. Around 25 participants from various NGOs participated in the workshop. The objective was to work towards an agreed framework between the government and NGO’s through which care and support could be provided by trained care workers to older people living on their own.
Interactive Session on Physical Exercise

An interactive session of webcasting on “Breathing and Stretching Project” was carried out at the MCA on 27 May for educators at the primary level on breathing and stretching exercises.

Job Fair Organised by the MITD

The Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaëtan Duval organised a job fair in the Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure sectors on 27 May at Réduit. More than 1,000 people visited the fair and around 4,000 applications were received. The objective was to bring a synergy between the prospective employers and students in the Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure sectors.

June

Award Ceremony of the National InnovEd project

The award ceremony for the sixth edition of the InnovEd was held on 2 June at the Octave Wiéhé Auditorium, Reduit. This project was initiated in 2005 and is implemented jointly by the Ministry in collaboration with the National Productivity Competitiveness Council. InnovEd aims at promoting innovation in the education sector and developing creativity, entrepreneurial spirit and curiosity of young students. More that 6,000 students from 260 schools: pre-primary, primary and secondary schools, participated in the competition.

National Green School Convention

Organisation of the National green school convention on 9 June at the Octave Wiéhé Auditorium, Réduit, by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to encourage secondary institutions students and the young generation to adopt a responsible and effective environment-oriented behaviour in a bid to achieve sustainable development by initiating green projects to reduce their school’s ecological footprint. An award ceremony to reward the winners of the best school projects was held at the convention.

Society for the Welfare of the Deaf Vocational and Secondary School

Inauguration of the Vocational and Secondary school run by the Society for the Welfare of the Deaf on 21 June to enable hearing impaired and deaf children pursue post primary education.

Introduction of DELF Scolaire in secondary schools

Signing of an agreement on 22 June by the Ministry and the Cooperation and Cultural Action Department of the French Embassy for the integration of the Diplôme d’Etudes en Langue Française (DELF) programme into the secondary school curriculum for Lower VI students. The DELF Scolaire tests the proficiency of students in oral and written French as a foreign language and is a prerequisite to gain admission to French universities.

Training Programmes at Mahebourg Training Centre

Launch of training programmes on Repair and Maintenance of Outboard Motors and Climatisation Automobile – Réparation et Diagnostique at the Training Centre on 23 June.

The award ceremony for the ISO 9001:2008 certification to Rose Belle North Government School was held on 24 June. The ISO 9001:2008 certification for primary schools is an initiative of the Regional Directorate Zone 3 of the Ministry aiming to improve the overall standard of schools and engage in a quality management system. A new block comprising a media library (médiathèque), a science laboratory and a new administrative office was also inaugurated.

New Educational Section for Lizié dan la Main

Inauguration of a new educational section for the visually impaired and blind children at the Lizié Dan La Main in Forest Side on 24 June, in line with the main objective of the Lizié Dan La Main association to make people autonomous.

July

Award of Certificates Ceremony

The Award of Certificates Ceremony for the Diploma in management, Certificate in the management of early childhood services and Certificate in archival science (Records Management, Care, Conservation and Reprography) was held at the Auditorium Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka on 1st July. The Certificate in the Management of Early Childhood Development Services is meant to improve quality of services offered to children. The Certificate Course in Archival Science aims at providing quality services through the Continuing Professional Development of officers. The Diploma in Management aims to allow members of the Federation of Parastatal Bodies and other Unions as well as officers of the Parastatals to shoulder higher responsibilities.

Dreams and Teams Partnership Project

A Delegation from the Queen Elizabeth School of Wimborne Minster, Dorset, United Kingdom, visited Mauritius from 3 to 8 July. The visit was in the context of the Dreams and Teams partnership project under the aegis of the British Council. The Queen Elizabeth School from UK and the Beau Bassin State Secondary School had embarked upon the project since 2007, working together on several training and education activities as well as cultural events.

Trainee Teachers of Zone 3

A welcoming ceremony was organised on 7 July for the Trainee Teachers in Zone 3 to mark the beginning of their career.

National Curriculum Framework Pre-Primary 3-5 years

The National Curriculum Framework Pre-Primary 3-5 years was launched by the Minister on 15 July at the Octave Wiéhé Auditorium, Réduit. The document provides for a proper regulatory framework with norms and standards aimed at enabling all children aged 3 to 5 years in the Republic of Mauritius to have the opportunity to develop their individual intellectual, socio-emotional and psycho-motor skills to the best of their capacity in order to build the confidence and self-esteem in learning that will not only prepare them for the next level (primary school) but more importantly, lay the foundations for learning that will support them throughout their lifetime.
Epilepsy Educational Seminar

The one-day ‘Epilepsy Educational Seminar’ for pre-primary and primary educators, organised by the EDYCS Epilepsy Group, was held at the Burrenchobay Lecture Theatre, Réduit on 21 July. The seminar aimed at empowering teachers to identify children at risk and at strengthening their capacity so as to be able to take necessary actions and care whenever a young child is suddenly subject to a seizure in the classroom setting and in the school premises.

Physical Education Training Workshop

A three-day Physical Education Training Workshop was organised in collaboration with the University of Cambridge on 26 July at the MES Conference Room. The workshop is in line with the educational reforms undertaken by the Ministry for the introduction of Physical Education as an examinable subject at O Level.

Work Placement Programme

Some 225 students from some 50 different secondary and vocational institutions embarked on the 8th edition of Work Placement Programme from 19 July to 6 August. The Programme aims at bridging the gap between school and the world of work by exposing students to the realities of the work environment during school vacations.

“Sankoré” Project

The Ministry communicated its intention to participate in the “Sankore” Project, which was initiated by President Sarkozy to achieve the Education for All Goals through digital empowerment, i.e., use of digital interactive whiteboards, interactive projectors, as well as educational software, to render teaching and learning processes more creative and lively. The Project which is in line with government programme would help to bring fundamental changes in the current teaching and learning processes, and develop the capacity of educational institutions to produce e-learning materials in English and French languages.

August

14th Model United Nations Conference

The 14th Model United Nations Conference was held from 5 to 7 August at the auditorium, Mahatma Gandhi Institute. Its main objective is to enable Form VI students to participate in an academic simulation of the proceedings of the Commissions and the General Assembly of the United Nations.

SMS-based System

As from the beginning of the third school term on 9 August, the SMS-based system to better monitor absenteeism in, and bunking off of classes by students of, secondary schools was introduced on a pilot basis in 20 secondary schools around the country by the Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology.

Interactive sessions with Mrs. Shakuntala Devi

Mrs. Shakuntala Devi, world renowned Indian Mathematician and Mathematical Genius, held a number of interactive sessions in each school zone for the benefit of Mauritian students from 18 to 23 August. About 1,000 students and 100 teachers from 156 colleges across the island benefitted from the interactive sessions with Mrs. Devi.
Civic Action Teams Conventions

The 8th and 9th national Civic Action Teams (CATs) Conventions were held on 18 and 19 August at the Octave Wiéhé Auditorium in Réduit, followed by the prize giving ceremony on 19 August. CATs are organised by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) in collaboration with the Ministry to develop a sense of civic responsibility and critical problem solving in primary and secondary school students as well as to enhance their creativity and imagination.

Recognition of Prior Learning

MQA Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Award Ceremony for 41 participants in sectors such as Tourism, Construction, Plumbing and Printing took place on 26 August at the MITD Lecture Theatre. RPL aims at enabling individuals to get recognition of their skills and competencies gained in ‘alternative’ settings by formally evaluating and giving value to the individual’s non-formal and informal learning for the purposes of receiving an award.

Bicentenary of the Naval Battle of Grand Port

Prize giving ceremony held on 26 August at Pointe Canon, Mahébourg, to reward winners of Art Competition and Mural Painting in the context of activities organised for the commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Naval Battle of Grand Port in 1810.

Open Day MITD

The MITD organised its Open Day on 27 August in nine of its different training centres. The aim of this Open Day is to provide information to students of Form III to V and the public in general about the array of training programmes available for enrolment in January 2011.

Forum on Mauritian Creole as an optional subject

A half-day forum was organised by the Ministry on 30 August in Pailles on the introduction of kreol Maurisien language as an optional subject in primary schooling. The Minister announced that the Mauritian Creole as an optional subject would be introduced to pave the way for the use of the language as a medium of instruction at a later stage. A Technical Committee, known as the Académie du kreol Maurisien and comprising persons who have linguistic and research background, was set up to advise on the standardisation, including pronunciation, syntax and grammar of the kreol Maurisien language, to validate the writing system, and provide necessary technical guidelines for the development of curriculum materials and training to teachers.

September

Training Programme of the Football for Health Project

Presentation of certificates to successful participants of the ‘Training Programme of the Football for Health Project in Mauritius’ on 13 September at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute.

Finals of National Games 2010

The finals of the National Games 2010 were held on 16 and 17 September. The games were the culmination of a series of regional competitions in five sports disciplines namely volleyball, basketball,
October

Recycling Used Mobile Phones and Batteries

A recycling programme for used mobile phones and batteries was launched on 24 October at the Municipality of Curepipe. The campaign aimed at sensitising the population on the importance of protecting the environment and inculcating a culture for recycling end-of-life electronic products. It was organised at the initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands, Mauritius Telecom and other non-governmental organisations.

November

Workshop/exhibition on low sulphur fuels and cleaner vehicles

A workshop and an exhibition on low sulphur fuels and cleaner vehicles were organised on 22 and 23 November at Clos Saint Louis, Domaine Les Pailles, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles. The objective was to sensitise the public and diesel vehicle owners on the environmental and health benefits of low sulphur diesel as well as to inform the public of the importance of the shift to 500ppm from 2500ppm diesel fuel. It also aimed at sensitising the public and decision makers on the UNEP Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles’ global sulphur diesel target of 50ppm and adoption of cleaner vehicles and vehicle technologies.

December

Sensitisation on Disaster Management

A workshop cum exhibition was held on disaster management on 11 December at Anse la Raie Youth Centre. The objective was to sensitise the youth on disaster management, in particular tsunami and floods.
Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology
Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology

Mission

To expand the Tertiary Education sector to further increase access and through the development of a research culture and the setting up of Science Parks, improve linkages between Universities and the world of work.
June

Gross Tertiary Enrolment Rate to Increase

The Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology outlined measures to increase access to tertiary education and to increase the Gross Tertiary Enrolment Rate to 72% by 2015. These include: increasing access of students from vulnerable families through the grant of scholarships and government-guaranteed loans, the provision of a wide range of programmes and greater use of open and distance learning and the establishment of brand name among overseas tertiary education institutions.

Launching of Caravane de la Science

The Caravane de la Science was first launched on 10 June at Bel Air State Secondary School. This science-based programme travels to school, community centres and other public places with a view to bringing science and technology-based activities to the population. The activities include science talks, film projections, planetarium shows, science demonstrations and experiments, amongst others.

On-Line Library

A workshop on On-Line library organised by the Tertiary Education Commission was held on 14 June at Sheraton, Ebène. The objective was to introduce the participants from tertiary institutions to the Emerald and EBSCO databases to which the Commission has subscribed to so as to allow publicly-funded institutions to have access to e-journals with a wider user coverage. Hands-on training on basic search was also provided and users were guided on how to make optimum use of available facilities.

Meeting with stakeholders of the Tertiary Education Sector

A workshop was organised by the Tertiary Education Commission on 24 June at St Clos, Domaine Les Pailles. The aim was to present the vision of the new ministry to all private and public education providers. It also provided a platform for the stakeholders to identify problems and solutions in the tertiary education sector so as to give the industry a new impetus and to develop Mauritius as an intelligent island in the region and a Centre of Excellence.

Science Communication Contest 2010

A Prize giving ceremony was held on 24 June for students of Forms I to III who participated in the Science Communication Contest 2010 organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre. More than 800 students from 68 colleges registered for the third edition which was launched in January. Participants had to identify a topic of their choice in the field of science and technology and carry out research to enhance their understanding of the topic.

Junior Science Adventure 2010

A Prize giving ceremony was held on 28 June for students of Std IV and V who participated in the Junior Science Adventure 2010 organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre. The theme of the contest was My Contribution to Maurice Ile Durable. Participants were asked to investigate a contextual science problem encountered in their daily lives and to present it in front of a jury panel and the public.

Sharing of experiences with the Open University, UK

A presentation was made by a representative of the Open University, UK, on 30 June at the Mauritius
College of the Air in the context of the opening of an Open University of Mauritius. This presentation is in line with the policy of the Ministry to open the door of knowledge to Mauritian students through distance education.

**July**

**Meeting with Delegates from Centre for Commonwealth Education**

The Minister had a meeting on 1st July with leading scholars and academics from across the Commonwealth and local academics at the University of Mauritius. Discussions focused on how the Centre for Commonwealth Education can explore and develop new partnerships with higher education institutions in Mauritius. It provided an opportunity to delve into new horizons as regards educational policy and practice as well as to help in the transformation of teaching, learning and leadership across the Commonwealth.

**Times Education Boutique 2010**

The Minister visited the Times Education Boutique 2010 on 3 and 4 July in Delhi in a bid to attract foreign students to Mauritius and to meet investors on a one-to-one basis. The objective was to enhance business prospects of education providers in Mauritius and to help promote tertiary education on a large scale.
Exhibition hosted by RGSC

The Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre hosted from 6 to 11 July an exhibition entitled *Rendons au Monde ses Couleurs* organised by the pre-primary school *Centre D’Education Prescolaire* of Quatre Bornes. Pupils aged 3 to 5 years worked on the theme ‘Air, Water, Earth and Fire’ through paintings. The exhibition was held in the context of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 which aimed at raising awareness among the public on the loss of biodiversity due to human activity and the need to protect our natural environment.

MoU between Constance Hospitality Training Centre and UTM

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 14 July between the Constance Hospitality Training Centre and the University of Technology. The agreement makes provision for students from the Constance Hospitality Training Centre following hospitality courses to benefit from management courses at the UTM as well.

Caravane de la Science at Bel Air Rivière Sèche

The *Caravane de la Science* was at St Michel Hall at Bel Air Rivière Sèche on 21 July. The *Caravane* travels to schools, community centres and other public places to conduct science activities and to keep the population abreast of developments in science and technology.

UoM to deliver medical diplomas as from 2011

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 25 July between the University of Mauritius and the faculty of medicine of the Université de Genève and the Université Viktor-Segalen, Bordeaux 2. The MoU enables the UoM as from 2011 to deliver medical diplomas without having to pass through other universities.

International Conference on Pure and Applied Chemistry

An International conference on Pure and Applied Chemistry was organised on 26 July by the University of Mauritius at La Plantation Hotel, Balaclava. The theme chosen “Chemistry for Sustainable Development” is in line with the vision of the government to transform Mauritius into a sustainable island. The aim was to sensitise participants to the fact that research in chemistry can help to integrate different aspects of new economically acceptable processes thus making possible harmonious relationships between the chemical industry and the environment.

Researchers’ Meeting

The Ministry in collaboration with the Tertiary Education Commission organised on 29 July at the Cybertower, Ebène, a meeting with researchers, PhD holders and MPhil/PhD students in Mauritius. The aim was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of research and innovation in Mauritius, find ways and means to promote knowledge and innovation and create a research alliance.

Business Angels’ Forum

A Business Angels’ Forum was held on 29 July at Four Points by Sheraton at Ebène. Organised by the Mauritius Research Council, the forum provided a platform for investors to meet, discuss and explore investment opportunities with individuals and institutions having innovative and commercially viable ideas and concepts.
August

Caravane de la Science

The Caravane de la Science was on 21 August at the Cultural and Leisure Centre at Mont Plaisir in Rodrigues. This science-based programme travels to schools, community centres and other public places with a view to bringing science and technology-based activities to the population. The Caravane made stopovers at the Municipality of Curepipe, the Recreation Centre for Senior Citizens, the Youth Centre at Barkly, Beau Bassin and Trou d’Eau Douce.

Workshop on Innovation Eco-System

A two-day workshop on the Innovation Eco-System opened on 26 August at the University of Mauritius. The objective was to formulate an innovation system that can be implemented in Mauritius and which would engage cross-institutional interactions among stakeholders.

International Research Symposium in Service Management

An International Research Symposium in Service Management 2010 around the theme Service Imperatives in the new Economy was held on 25 August at Le Meridien Hotel at Pointe aux Piments.

Award Ceremony of Science Project Competition 2010

An award ceremony for the Science Project Competition (SPC) 2010 was held on 30 August at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre at Bell Village. The SPC 2010 was open to Lower 6 students from public and private secondary schools during which participants were asked to work on a case study under the theme Promoting a Green and Sustainable Industry.

National Science Challenge Exhibition 2010

The National Science Challenge Exhibition 2010 was launched on 30 August at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre at Bell Village. From 31 August to 5 September, 86 finalists from Form IV and Form VI displayed their projects. The NSC 2010 provided students with the opportunity to investigate issues related to science and technology.

September

Electricity Generation from Coconut Oil and Waste Vegetable Oil

A demonstration was carried out over a period of seven weeks starting on 2 September on a generator of 60 KVA at Ebène pumping station which ran on coconut oil, diesel and waste vegetable oil. The project is in line with the Maurice Ile Durable vision to promote sustainable development in Mauritius and Agalega.

International Congress of Environmental Research

The University of Mauritius, in collaboration with the Journal of Environmental Research and Development of India, organised the third International Congress of Environmental Research
at the University of Mauritius from 16 to 18 September. The theme was *Energy, Environment and Development*. The Congress aimed at disseminating the concept of environmental awareness with focus on applied research and reflections relevant to scholars. Around 400 participants from India, Egypt, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, UK, USA and Mauritius attended the Congress.

**Attracting Foreign Students in Mauritius**

During a meeting held on 21 September at the Lecture Theatre of the University of Mauritius with recruiting agents, public-funded institutions and private post-secondary institutions, measures initiated by the government were presented by the Tertiary Education Commission with a view to attract foreign students in Mauritius. A brainstorming session was held to discuss, share and suggest ideas on the way forward.

**October**

**Shiv Khera Business School at UTM**

The University of Technology of Mauritius entered into an agreement with the Shiv Khera Institute for the setting up of a Shiv Khera Business School to run MBA programmes with specialisation in Leadership.

**Communication Skills for Entrepreneurs**

The Mauritius Research Council in collaboration with the Middlesex University, Mauritius Branch Campus, organised a half-day workshop on 21 October on its Campus at Bonne Terre, Vacoas. The workshop, which saw the participation of about 50 entrepreneurs and innovators, addressed the main elements with regard to making an effective first presentation to a potential investor/buyer.

**November**

**Writing Skills for Research Journals**

A course on writing skills for research journals was launched on 28 October at the Octave Wiéhé auditorium in Réduit. Organised by the Mauritius Research Council in collaboration with the University of Mauritius and the University of Technology, the course aimed at enhancing the skills of young researchers including MPhil and PhD students to write in research journals and to increase the publication output of their research activities in peer-reviewed journals.

**Second Edition of Quality Audit Handbook**

The second edition of the Quality Audit Handbook was launched on 8 November at Le Thabor at Beau Bassin. The handbook aims to ensure that quality prevails in higher education, particularly with the globalisation of higher education and the swift development of cross border higher education.

**Migration Settlement in South West Indian Ocean**

A Conference on *Migration Settlement in South West Indian Ocean-Shifting Paradigms* was held on 10 November at the Subramania Bharati Lecture Theatre at Moka. The objective was to provide new perspectives on the history of migration and settlement in Mauritius and the region. It also aimed at giving a new boost to research in the social sciences and humanities; disseminate research findings; produce teaching materials and help identify pertinent areas of research and evaluation of conceptual tools and methodologies.
MITD-UOM Project Competition

The Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) and the University of Mauritius (UOM) launched on 15 November at the lecture theatre of the MITD at Phoenix a project competition entitled More with less: Practical daily life example of efficiency improvement in the use of energy, water or materials.

Business Angels’ Forum

A Business Angels’ Forum was held on 15 November at the Octave Wiéhé auditorium at Réduit at the initiative of the Mauritius Research Council and the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Mauritius. The forum provided a platform to investors and potential entrepreneurs to meet, discuss and explore investment opportunities with individuals and institutions having innovative and commercially viable ideas and concepts in the field of agribusiness and food industry.

EDULINK Project

An EDULINK project on Capacity Building for the Financial Sustainability of ACP Higher Education Institutions was launched on 18 November at La Cannelle at Domaine Les Pailles. Funded by the European Union and implemented by the ACP Secretariat, the project is focused on capacity building among participating ACP higher education institutions to assume greater ownership for their financial sustainability.

December

National Science, Engineering and Technology Week

A National Science, Engineering and Technology was held from 2 to 4 December at the Cyber Tower1 at Ebène. This initiative of the Mauritius Research Council, Enterprise Mauritius, Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, University of Mauritius, University of Technology of Mauritius and Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, aimed at sensitising the public on the importance of science, engineering and technology for socio-economic development.

Student Charter for Post-Secondary Education Institutions

The guidelines for Student Charter in post-secondary education institutions were launched on 9 December at the University of Mauritius at Réduit. These guidelines, which are in line with Government policy to provide a modern and quality education, aim to encourage the personnel and the students from tertiary education institutions to adopt a responsible attitude towards each other.
Youth and Sports
Ministry of Youth and Sports

Mission

To create an enabling environment and act as a catalyst and facilitator for the promotion and development of youth and sports at regional, national and international levels.
January

Queen’s Baton Relay

The Queen’s Baton Relay arrived in Mauritius on 7 January in the context of the Commonwealth Games 2010 scheduled in October in New Delhi, India. The Queen’s Baton Relay was presented to the President of the Republic and then was passed on to the Minister of Youth and Sports who handed it over to a group of Mauritian athletes. Mauritius was the 20th country to welcome the Queen’s Baton Relay. The Baton contains Queen Elizabeth’s message which is read at the opening of the Commonwealth Games.

African Swimming Championship

The African Championship Competitions for Zones 3 and 4 were held from 8 to 10 January in Nairobi, Kenya. Mauritius, represented by 15 swimmers, won 30 gold medals and three trophies.

Commonwealth Championship

During the Commonwealth Judo Championship held in Singapore from 8 to 13 January, Christianne Legentil won a gold medal in the junior category.

Festival des Jeux de Loisirs

The Ministry in collaboration with the Comité Régional des Clubs de Domino de la Réunion, organised on 16 January a festival des jeux de loisirs et de l’esprit at the Pamplemousses Youth Centre.

February

Launching of Fitness Club

The Minister launched on 3 February a Fitness Club at the Pamplemousses Youth Centre. The equipment was donated by the National Development Unit.

Workshop on HIV and AIDS

The Mahebourg Youth Centre organised on 18 February at the France Boyer de la Giroday SSS, Plaine Magnien, a half-day workshop on the theme of HIV and AIDS – Teenage Pregnancy. The workshop was followed by a presentation of certificates to young people.

March

Training of National Team of Handball

The national team of handball aged less than 21 was in Reunion Island from 5 to 12 March in the context of the Interzones africaines. The athletes benefited from the expertise of trainers from Reunion.

Internationals of Reunion

Eighteen judo athletes of the national team participated in the Internationals of Reunion Island on 7 March.

Youth Dance Fiesta

The Ministry organised on 11 March on the parking of the SSR Botanic Garden, Pamplemousses, a Youth Dance Fiesta in the context of National Youth Day. The SCAS Academy from Surinam won the first prize in the oriental category, Cyber-steps from
Curepipe for the occidental/European category, and the Friendship College of Goodlands in the local category. About 7,000 young people attended the event.

**Run, Walk, Jog and Aerobic Demonstration**

The Ministry in collaboration with the Village Council of Triolet and other stakeholders organised on 14 March a three-km run, walk, jog and mega aerobic demonstration in the context of the National Day Celebrations. Around 1,000 people from Triolet and surroundings participated in the demonstration.

**Commonwealth Boxing Championship**

Mauritius won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Boxing Championship held in New Delhi, India from 15 to 17 March. Oliver Lavigilante won the medal in the -52kg category. Four other boxing athletes, namely Bruno Julie, Richarno Colin, Nivesh Gyadin and Rodney Prosper, won bronze medals in their respective categories (-56kg, -64kg, -69kg, -81kg).

**Internationaux de Maurice de Badminton**

The *Internationaux de Maurice de Badminton* was held from 18 to 21 March at the National Centre of Badminton in Rose Hill. Around 100 contestants from 11 countries participated, namely, Australia, Egypt, Scotland, Trinidad and Tobago, Nigeria, South Africa, Iran, India, Algeria, Reunion and Mauritius. Mauritius won three gold medals.
Fitness Centre Inaugurated

The Minister inaugurated on 18 March a Fitness Centre at the Baroda Building in Port Louis. The aim is to enable staff of the Ministry to take up a healthy activity in view of preventing Non-Communicable Diseases. The objective is to encourage other Ministries to set up such centres for the benefit of their staff. The Fitness Centre comprises a multi-gym and training/sports equipments such as a bench press and two treadmills amongst others.

Championnats d’Afrique Juniors

Christine Duval won on 25 March three bronze medals in weightlifting at the 2010 Championnats d’Afrique Juniors held in Cairo in Egypt.

Internationaux de Kenya

Mauritius won two bronze medals in badminton at the Internationaux de Kenya held from 26 to 28 March.

Youth Excellence Award 2010

The Minister launched on 31 March the 2010 edition of the Youth Excellence Award. The objective is to give young people the opportunity to develop their ideas in social, economic, cultural, artistic and other youth-related fields through a project. It also aims to improve their presentation skills, reward outstanding projects, and highlight such projects which demonstrate a sense of initiative and a search for excellence by young people.

April

Fire Service Course

Some 180 participants of the National Youth Achievement Award followed from 12 to 16 April a course on fire service with the collaboration of the Fire Service Department. The course provided participants with a brief insight of the Fire Service organisation and its mission, created Fire Safety awareness amongst young people and briefed them on the use of first aid firefighting equipment.

Presentation of Certificates and Cash Prizes

Presentation of Certificates and award of Cash Prizes ranging between Rs. 40 000 and Rs. 150 000 to potential young entrepreneurs who participated in a training course in entrepreneurship. The ceremony was held on 12 April in Port Louis.

Jeux de L’Espoir

The Jeux de L’Espoir were held on 14 and 15 April at the Pandit Sahadeo Gymnasium in Vacoas. Around 1 981 young people participated in the following sporting activities: athletics, basketball, boxing, taekwondo, volleyball, wrestling, weightlifting, cycling, swimming, judo, table tennis, badminton, tennis, handball and football. As far as the youth part is concerned, music, dance and spectacle vivant were on the agenda.

CJSOI Meeting

The Réunion des Experts de la Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l’océan Indien (CJSOI) was held on 15 April at Manisa Hotel in Flac en Flac. Major decisions taken at the meeting relate
to the hosting of the 8th edition of the CJSOI games scheduled in Comoros in 2012 and the elaboration of a calendar for 2010 and important dates regarding meetings at ministerial and experts levels.

**Informative Session on Delhi Commonwealth Games**

An informative session on the Commonwealth Games of Delhi was held 29 April at the seat of the Comité national olympique mauricien to disseminate information on the organisation of the Games. Aspects such as accreditation, medical facilities, security and village Games were discussed. Mauritius was represented at the Games by a delegation of 89 members.

**May**

**Championnats d’Afrique de Triathlon**

Mauritius participated on 8 and 9 May in the Championnats d’Afrique de Triathlon held in Durban, South Africa. In the category 14 to 15 years, Emilie Ng Foon Po won gold medal and Adrien Pottier won silver medal. Mathieu Mamet and Fabienne St Louis won silver medals in the -17 years and -23 years categories respectively.
Challenge Trophy

Mauritius Handball National team aged -21 participated from 9 to 15 May in the Challenge Trophy held in Congo Brazzaville.

World Cup of the World Association of Kick-boxing


Boxing Junior National Championship

The Boxing Junior National Championship was held from 26 to 30 May at the National Centre of Boxing in Vacoas. The competition was open to boxing athletes born between 1994 and 1995. Around 50 athletes participated in 13 categories.

Anti-Doping Office Board Meeting

The World Anti-Doping Agency held its Regional Anti-Doping Office (RADO) Board Meeting for the Indian Ocean in Mauritius on 29 and 30 May. The RADO brings together countries of similar geographical background and interests to develop common anti-doping programmes and share knowledge. Representatives from Comoros, Seychelles, Djibouti and Madagascar attended the meeting.

Sensitisation Workshop on Anti-Doping Issues

A sensitisation workshop on anti-doping issues for 35 national coaches was organised on 31 May by the Ministry in Phoenix. Discussions centred on prohibited list of substance and side effects and therapeutic use, exemption procedure and issue of certification.

Integrity Charter for Youth

Launching on 31 May of an Integrity Charter for Youth at the Municipal Council of Port Louis. The Charter was prepared by the Ministry in collaboration with the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). The objectives are to enlist the participation of youth leaders in the anti-corruption programme, provide young people with a set of guiding principles to promote ethics and integrity, and promote collaboration between ICAC and the Ministry regarding youth empowerment.

June

Kids Athletics Programme

The Ministry in collaboration with the Association Mauricienne d’Athlétisme and the Ministry of Education and Human Resources launched on 1 June the Kids Athletics programme, for the second consecutive year. Around 284 primary schools regrouping students of standards IV and V participated in the programme. The Kids Athletics programme, initiated by the International Association of Athletics Federations, has as objective to promote a sense of discipline among youth at an early age.

Framework Agreement with Judo Club Levallois

Signature of a framework agreement on 2 June by the Trust Fund for Excellence in Sports and the Mauritian Federation of Judo with a French judo club, the Judo Club Levallois. This agreement provides for young Mauritian judokas to benefit
from French expertise in the field as well as training at the Judo Club Levallois in France.

**Football - FIFA Grassroots Project**

The second phase of the Football - FIFA Grassroots Project which consists of the finals on a regional basis was launched on 9 June. The primary objective is to promote and enhance the practice of football by developing the discipline among primary young school goers around the country. Mauritius is implementing the pilot project for the Indian Ocean as regards this international awareness programme and training for young children.

**International Day of Olympics**

The International Day of Olympics was celebrated on 27 June at Mahebourg. It was organised by the Mauritius National Olympic Committee (CNOM) in collaboration with the Ministry. Some 2 000 people participated in the Olympic race.

**July**

**PM Awards Cheque to 16th World Champion of Kick-boxing**

Kick-boxer James Agathe, African champion in the discipline and winner of the 16th World Cup of the
World Association of Kick-boxing Organisations, was presented a Rs 100 000 cheque by the Prime Minister on 7 July at the Treasury Building in Port Louis.

**Diploma in Youth in Development Work**

The Minister launched on 8 July an Induction Session leading to a Diploma in Youth in Development Work for youth cadres at the Lecture Theatre, Mauritius College of the Air, Réduit. The Diploma, a Commonwealth Youth Programme, was offered by the Indira Gandhi National Open University in collaboration with the Pan Commonwealth Office, London.

The objective is to enable young people to act on their own behalf and ensure that the youth function in accordance with value system which give a sense of purpose and meaning to how young people use their skills and knowledge.

**Jeux Africains de la Jeunesse**

A Mauritian delegation comprising athletes aged less than 17 years participated in the first edition of the *Jeux Africains de la Jeunesse* from 13 to 18 July in Morocco. Around 500 youth from 41 countries participated in 16 sporting disciplines. They served as preparatory stage for the Olympic Games for the Youth scheduled in Singapore from 17 to 23 August. Mauritian athletes competed in athletics, wrestling, taekwondo, judo, boxing, and table tennis. Mauritius won nine medals.

**Spécial Vacances Programme**

The Minister launched on 15 July the *Spécial Vacances Programme* (16 July – 09 August) on the ground floor (Esplanade) of the Emmanuel Anquetil Building, Port Louis.

Various activities were organised by the Youth Section of the Ministry for students in the context of the second term holidays. The objective of the *Spécial Vacances Programme* is to enable interaction between young people of different regions, favour self-development and create unity amongst the youth. It is recalled that the Ministry has been organising the *Spécial Vacances Programme* since 1985.

**High-Level Athletes Awarded**

A prize-giving ceremony was organised on 15 July to reward ten high-level athletes who successfully represented the country on the continental scene since the beginning of this year. The ceremony, held at the sporting complex of Beau Bassin (Judo Centre), also enabled the Minister to have an interactive session with the athletes. A total value of Rs 231 000 was distributed amongst the athletes.

**International Award Exchange Programme (Mauritius – India)**

In the context of the International Award Exchange Programme (Mauritius – India), the Minister met on 19 July young participants from the East Zone Award Authority, Kolkata, India. The Programme was hosted by the National Youth Achievement Award which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The International Award Exchange Programme between Mauritius and India constituted an opportunity for both countries to share experience as well as appreciate the culture of one another.

**Rallye Découverte**

An inter-college *Rallye Découverte* (around Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes) was organised on 20 July in the context of the *Spécial Vacances Programme*. The objective was to enable young people to discover the historical sites of Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes.
After the Rallye, winning teams were awarded prizes of Rs 10 000, Rs 6 000 and Rs 4 000 for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places respectively by the Minister.

**Chantier des Jeunes**

A Chantier des Jeunes was held on 21 July at the Rivulet Terre Rouge Bird Sanctuary in the context of the Spécial Vacances Programme. Around 100 young people participated.

**National Youth Achievement Award Programme**

The Ministry organised on 22 and 23 July a Workshop on the National Youth Achievement Award Programme for 125 educators at the Queen Elizabeth College, Rose Hill. The National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Programme will be extended to all State Secondary Schools (SSSs) as from January 2011 as an extracurricular activity so as to reach out a greater number of young people.

In this context, around 125 educators participated in a two-day workshop at Queen Elizabeth College in view of the launching of the Programme next year in the SSSs.

**CJSOI Delegation Meet**

Meeting on 24 July at Casela Leisure Park of young athletes and other members of the delegation participating in the 7th Edition of the Jeux de la Commission Jeunesse et Sports de l’Ocean Indien (CJSOI Games). The aim was to enable the participants get more acquainted with each other and to reinforce friendship ties.

**Jeunes Entreprises Project**

An Open Day on the Jeunes Entreprises project was held on 26 July at Colonel Maingard Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) Centre in Beau Bassin. This enabled the showcasing of products and services offered by various enterprise projects set up by young people, aged between 13 and 16 years, and also to put forward their skills and knowledge acquired in the entrepreneurial domain.

Jeunes Entreprises is a pedagogical project which aims at promoting an entrepreneurial culture among the youth as well as enabling them get acquainted with the business world and its opportunities through the setting up of a genuine mini-scale business enterprise within an MITD centre.

**Camping Activity for the Underprivileged Youth**

In the context of the Spécial Vacances Programme, the Ministry organised a camping activity for the underprivileged youth from 30 July to 1 August at Anse La Raie Youth Training Centre. About 55 young people from SOS Village participated. The programme comprised beach and indoor games as well as talks to ensure that these young people are not left behind during the school holidays. It also enabled them to enjoy their holidays in a healthy and safe manner, and sensitise them against risky behaviours.

**7th Edition CJSOI Games**

Mauritius participated in the 7th Edition of the Jeux de la Commission Jeunesse et Sports de l’Ocean Indien (CJSOI Games), held from 30 July to 6 August 2010 in Reunion Island. Around 95 young Mauritian athletes aged between 14 and 17 years took part. Some 20 others participated in the youth component, that is, the Volet Jeunesse.
Mauritius came out 2nd in the Games with 19 gold medals, 28 silver and 26 bronze. The main objective of the Games is to promote exchange and collaboration in the fields of youth and sports amongst the member islands/countries of the Indian Ocean.

**August**

**3rd Edition of the All Africa U15 Badminton Championships**

Mauritius hosted for the first time, from 1 to 4 August, the 3rd edition of the All Africa U15 Badminton Championships 2010 at the Centre National de Badminton in Rose Hill. Mauritius was represented by a team of around 12 players.

Eight countries participated namely, Ghana, Seychelles, Cameroun, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Uganda, and Algeria.

Mauritius came out third in the competition with four bronze medals.

**Ceremony to Honour Internationally Renowned Mauritian Athlete**

The Ministry organised on 11 August a ceremony of gratitude to honour internationally renowned Mauritian athlete Stéphane Buckland in Port Louis. The athlete had announced his retirement from competition this year. Buckland is now coaching at the Centre International d’Athlétisme de Maurice.

**Youth Excellence Award Ceremony**

The Ministry organised on 12 August the Youth Excellence Award Ceremony 2010 to mark the International Youth Day.

The Minister presented the Award to young people who came up with the most outstanding projects in five different fields: ‘Artistic Pursuit’, ‘Entrepreneurship and Initiatives for Employment Creation’, ‘Preservation/Protection of the Environment’, ‘Youth and Family Life’, and ‘Youth Leadership and Community Work’.

**Allocation of Funds**

The 24 national football clubs of the first and second divisions were allocated on 14 August a sum of Rs 4,2 million by the Ministry (Rs 250 000 for first division teams and Rs 100 000 for those competing in the second division). The aim was to help in the restructuration and professionalisation process of those clubs.

**Inter College Literary Competition**

The Bambous Youth Centre organised on 19 August at Germain Commarmond Stadium in Bambous a prize-giving and certificate presentation ceremony for students who have won an Inter College Literary Competition, including a drawing and sketch competition, and for 182 participants who have completed a life skills management and leadership training.

**First Olympic Youth Games**

Mauritius participated from 14 to 26 August in the First Olympic Youth Games held in Singapore. The country was represented by nine athletes in five sport disciplines namely, athletics, badminton, judo, swimming and table tennis.
Anti Corruption Youth Sketch Competition

The Final of the second edition of the Anti Corruption Youth Sketch Competition 2010 organised in the context of the International Youth Day 2010 was held on 26 August at the Serge Constantin Theatre.

The Competition was organised by the Ministry in collaboration with the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the National Youth Council and the Ministry of Arts and Culture, for young people aged 14 to 29 years. The theme of the competition was Corruption: Tous pour le NON.

The Competition aimed at providing an appropriate platform to young people to depict values related to anti-corruption practices through popular participation.

The first place went to Rabindranath Tagore Secondary School. The second and third places went to the L’Esper – Goodlands Youth Centre and to the Young Rovers – Black River District Council respectively. Awards, participation certificates, books and medals were presented to the winners.

On-The-Spot Painting Competition

The Ministry and the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) Botanical Garden Trust organised on 26 August an on-the-spot Painting Competition to mark the 110th Birth anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the father of the nation.

The competition had as theme ‘Salient features of SSR Botanical Garden’ and was held within the SSR Botanical Garden. The objectives were to encourage young people to develop a caring attitude and interest to the environment, and to bring out creative talents and painting skills of students.

This activity was open to Forms V and VI students of all secondary institutions of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart districts. Cash prizes were awarded as follows: 1st prize: Rs 10 000; 2nd prize: Rs 7 000; 3rd prize: Rs 5 000; and 4th to 6th prizes: Rs 1 000.

Working Session for the Jeux des Iles de 2011

The Minister had on 26 August a working session at the Phoenix Gymnasium with presidents of sports federations and trainers in the 12 sports discipline retained for the Jeux des Iles 2011 to be hosted by Seychelles. The aim was to discuss preparation processes of athletes in view of the Games.

Half-day Seminar on Human Values

The Ministry in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Centre for Education in Human Values organised on 30 August a half-day seminar on Human Values under the theme: Youth Forging Ahead Towards Human Excellence at the Pamplemousses Youth Centre.

The seminar was conducted by Dr. Suresh Kumar Govind, an eminent International Scientist, winner of several Awards worldwide in the field of Medical Science and Consultant for the Government of Malaysia in Education in Human Values.

About 100 students from colleges of the Northern region, youth leaders and youth cadres attended.
September

Symposium Marks International Day of Peace

The Ministry organised on 21 September a symposium marking the International Day of Peace 2010 under the theme Youth, Peace and Development.

The symposium, which aimed at inciting Mauritian youth to reflect on the theme of peace, was held at the Auditorium of the Rabindranath Tagore Institute, Ilot, in Pamplemousses. Some 500 young people from secondary institutions of the northern region of the country participated in discussions pertaining to ‘inner peace: the power within’, and ‘peace: an asset for sustainable development’.

October

Residential Workshop for Some 90 University Students

The Ministry in collaboration with the AIESEC Mauritius organised from 1 to 3 October a residential workshop for some 90 university students at the Anse La Raie Youth Training Centre. AIESEC is an international organisation that regroups university students all over the world for educational and cultural exchanges. Its aim is to enable young people to discover and develop their leadership potential so as to have a positive impact on society. AIESEC started its operation in Mauritius since 2007 and has been working mainly with the University of Mauritius and the University of Technology.

XIX Commonwealth Games

A Mauritian delegation comprising 89 members was in Delhi, India, from 3 to 14 October to participate in the XIX Commonwealth Games. Mauritian athletes competed in 10 sports disciplines, namely athletics, boxing, badminton, cycling, weightlifting, swimming, amongst others. Mauritius won two bronze medals in boxing competition (Bruno Julie and Richarno Colin).

The Minister of Youth and Sports was also in India in the context of the XIX Commonwealth Games, where he attended the Fifth Commonwealth Sports Ministers’ Meeting and explored cooperation with the Indian authorities for the setting up of a National Institute of Sports and discussed exchanges in youth and sports.

Training of Trainers on Education in Human Values

The Ministry organised from 19 to 21 October a Training of Trainers on Education in Human Values for its staff, youth leaders, members of the civil society and officers of the civil service and parastatal bodies.

The training had as objective to impart skills of communicating human values effectively, to demonstrate the acquired skills through best practices, and to enable civil servants to discover and activate positive values within them.

Three themes were retained namely: Human Values – the basis for an ideal society; Human Values – an effective tool for Youth Development; and, Human Values – the foundation for an effective public sector. The training was conducted by Dr. S. K. Govind and Dr. O. Jumsai, both eminent international scientists, winners of several awards worldwide in
football, badminton and table tennis intended for secondary school students across the island.

**Industrial placement in Mauritius for Trainees from Rodrigues**

The Minister met the 11 best trainees of Le Chou Training Centre, Rodrigues, on 22 September at the Conference Room of the Ministry in Phoenix. The trainees were on industrial placement for a period of two weeks – 13 to 24 September – in Mauritius.

**Award of Certificate Ceremony**

The MITD organised its Award of Certificate Ceremony on 27 September at the MGI Auditorium, Moka, where some 755 trainees from four training institutions operating under the MITD obtained their qualifications.

**October**

**350.org Global Work Party**

Launching of tree planting campaign on 7 October in the context of the 10/10/10 Global Work Party at the Forest Side SSS and the Mon Desert Mon Tresor Government School to sustain the environmental awareness campaign, foster greater environmental responsibility among the youth, as well as impart the enhanced use of the by-products of trees. The 10 October 2010 Global Work Party, initiated by 350.org, is a day where people across the world work on climate solutions. The Tree Planting Campaign would continue in 2011 and beyond, in both primary and secondary schools, as part of the Maurice Ile Durable initiative and the Green School Project, to sensitize school children on the importance of preserving the environment, encourage an eco-friendly attitude and create a green and embellished environment.

**National Examination at Form III**

The National Form III Assessment was held in some 32 identified secondary schools (16 State and 16 Private Secondary Schools) on the same basis as the end-of-year internal examinations carried out at the level of school. The purpose of the National Assessment is to provide teachers with feedback on the attainment level of their students in each of the identified subjects against a national benchmark since all of them would be sitting, after two years of further study, for the same international examination of Cambridge School Certificate. It is also an opportunity for schools to be aware of learning gaps and bring remedial measures in the next two years.

**November**

**National Award Ceremony for Enhancement Programme**

The best participants from the competitions held from June to October in the context of the Enhancement Programme were rewarded at a prize giving ceremony held on 4 November at the MGI Auditorium. Competitions in eight co- and extra-curricular activities comprised quiz, elocution, poem recitation, story telling, dictation, SLAM, drama, painting, drawing and music.

**SSR Education Award**

The ceremony marking the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) Education Award, organised to commemorate 110th birth anniversary of SSR, was held on 11 November at the MITD House in Phoenix.
The competition saw the participation of some 42 teams in two categories of participants namely the public in the age group of 19 to 25 years, and Lower VI and Upper VI students. The project aimed at establishing the continuum of pre-independence and post-independence movements that have led to the development of the Mauritian contemporary society and its place in the global community.

Discussion on School IT Projects

Meeting of Minister with Microsoft Chairman for Africa, Dr Cheick Modibo Diarra, on 18 November at the MITD House in Phoenix, to discuss ongoing projects as regards the Microsoft’s Partners in Learning (PiL) programme, and the Live@edu programme within an existing agreement between the Ministry and the Microsoft Ltd. Since 2008, PiL aims at actively increasing access to technology for teachers and students and improve its use in teaching and learning. The objective of Live@edu platform, introduced in 20 schools, is to facilitate the availability of website for each school.

December

MITD Awards of Certificate Ceremony

The MITD organised its Award of Certificates ceremony on 14 and 15 December. Around 2,500 trainees from the Basic Certificate courses, NTC Foundation, NTC 2 and NTC 3 received their certificates. Participants of “Jeunes Entreprises”, implemented this year at the MITD in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, were also rewarded.

Cooperation between Mauritius and Seychelles

The MITD and the Seychelles Tourism Academy (STA) signed a MoU on 16 December at the Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaétan Duval, Ebène. The objective of the MoU is to develop close working relations to enhance training and employability in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector and further consolidate private sector participation.

Renaming of Bell Village SSS

The official ceremony for the renaming of the Bell Village State Secondary School to Dr James Burty David State Secondary School was held on 23 December.
Agro Industry and Food Security
Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

Mission

Towards further development of agriculture and the promotion of agro industry focusing on safety, supply, quality, innovation and new technology through our service providing institutions and with stakeholders of the region.
January

New Schemes for Breeders, Planters and Fishermen

Six new schemes for the benefit of breeders, planters and fishermen and funded to the tune of Rs. 110 million by the Food Security Fund were launched on 7 January. The schemes relate to the purchase of heifers/cows of improved breed for dairy, sheep and goats of improved breed for reproduction, weaners for fattening and agricultural/agro-processing equipment; renovation/construction of infrastructure for livestock and poultry activities; pasture development; purchase of semi-industrial off-lagoon fishing vessels and the setting up of a storage cum processing unit for seafood.

Networking and Clustering among Dairy Farmers

Handing over of certificates and equipment on 19 January in Triolet to dairy cooperatives. This project is jointly sponsored by AREU and DCP-EU with the objective to enhance clustering and networking among livestock farmers in fodder production and value addition in an environmentally sustainable and cost effective manner through research and development.

Launching of a National Livestock Census

A National livestock census was launched by the Minister on 21 January at La Brasserie, Curepipe. The census pertained to: ox, cow, goat, pig and stag. The exercise was carried out to take stock of the number of livestock in the island among registered breeders and those involved in back yard farming.

Improving Professionalisation and Employability in the Agricultural Sector

An Award ceremony was held on 25 January during which 785 trainees received their certificate after following courses organised jointly by AREU and HRDC. The course aimed at improving professionalisation and employability in the agricultural sector.

Conference on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing in Africa

The Minister attended from 27 to 29 January 2010 in South Africa a Conference on “Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing in Africa”. The objective of the Conference was to ensure that strategies are being put in place to strengthen the monitoring, control and surveillance of IUU fishing, and foster regional cooperation among countries.

February

Vallée d’Osterlog Endemic Garden

The Master Plan of the Vallée d’Osterlog Endemic Garden was launched on 2 February at the Burrenchobay Lecture Theatre, University of Mauritius, Réduit.

Seminar at MSIRI for Small Planters

A seminar was held on 23 February at the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI) to share with small planters and other stakeholders of the sugar sector the findings of the FIRCOP (Fonds pour les projets Innovants et de Collaboration Régional) Project of the study: l’élaboration d’une méthodologie de diagnostic des conditions et des
facteurs limitant l’adoption par les petits planteurs de canne à sucre, des nouvelles technologies et méthode de culture de pointe.

This project was undertaken jointly by Mauritius and South Africa with the support of FIRCOP to help small planters. Some 800 small planters participated in this project which started in December 2006 and was financed to the tune of 250 000 Euros.

March

Public Lectures by AREU

Public lectures were organised on 23 March by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) at the Conference Hall of the AREU Farmers’ Training School, Wooton. The lectures were on Phytoplasmas and tea wastes as alternative substrate for oyster mushroom cultivation.

Workshop to Develop Strategies to Reduce Cane Burning

The Ministry in collaboration with the Farmers Service Corporation organised on 25 March a Workshop on mitigating the impact of cane fires in Mauritius. The objectives of the Workshop were to assess the status and causes of cane fires, to identify their impacts at various levels and to develop reduction strategies.

New Measures for Metayers

The Ministry and the Mauritius Sugar Producers’ Association signed on 29 March in Port Louis an
Agreement regarding the implementation of the package for metayers of sugar cane. The Agreement covers rental charges, land swapping, buying back of metayers’ rights and sale of land to metayers.

April

Training Course in Production of Tea Planting Materials

A training course in production of tea planting materials organised by AREU on 16 April was held at the Farmers Training School at Wooton AREU Crop Research Station. The objective of the training was to allow new generations of farmers acquire the various techniques of tea planting materials.

Lecture on Trade Policies on Biodiversity

A lecture on Impact Assessment of Trade policies on Biodiversity was held by AREU on 20 April at the Wooton Training School.

May

Fodder Research and Development for Enhanced Animal Production

AREU organised on May 25 a lecture on the theme Fodder Research and Development-Perspective for Enhanced Animal Production. As fodder production is becoming increasingly important for the development of the dairy industry AREU has introduced many new species of fodder and carried out experiments on the existent species.

Training and Sensitisation Programme for Pig Breeders

In the context of the re-launching of the pig industry a training and sensitisation programme was launched 26 May. The programme, financed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, aimed at increasing capacity building for the Division of Veterinary Services, pig breeders and the stakeholders of the private sector, and improving laboratory diagnostic to support early warning, rapid reaction and surveillance of pig diseases so as to establish disease-free status.

September

One-day workshop on emerging issues in the food crop sector

The Minister opened a one-day workshop on emerging issues in the food crop sector, on 28 September, which was attended by participants coming from the agro-Industry sector, the Ministry and its departments and 22 organisations regrouping small planters.

October

World Food Day

In the context of World Food Day 2010, the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden housed, from 14 to 16 October, a series of activities aimed at sensitizing the population on food related issues such as food crisis, food security and the impact of climate change on food production.
Ministry of Industry and Commerce

Mission

- To promote globally competitive industries based on best industrial practices
- To promote an entrepreneurial culture driven by innovation
- To foster product and market diversification
- To support green, socially responsible and quality initiatives in enterprises
- To enhance market access through internationally recognized standards
January

**Industrial and SME Strategic Plan 2010-2013**

The Ministry of Industry, Science and Research, jointly with the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives, launched in January the Industrial and SME Strategic Plan 2010-2013. The Strategic Plan contains 83 projects and programmes/activities for implementation over the next four years.

**The Support to Manufacturing and Services Sector (SMSS) Fund**

As from January, the Ministry administered the Support to Manufacturing and Services Sector (SMSS) Fund, which took over the Manufacturing Adjustment and SME Development Fund. The primary aim of the Fund is to boost the competitiveness of the domestic-oriented industry and SMEs adversely affected by the reduction in import tariffs as well as to support export enterprises to meet the challenges of globalisation.

March

**Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Programme**

In March, Government agreed to the proposal of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to put in place a Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Programme and assign Enterprise Mauritius to host the RECP Programme.

November

**Facilitating Access to industrial space**

A database on vacant industrial space has been established by the Ministry to provide updated information to investors on the availability of space. The database was reviewed and updated in November and is available on the website of the Ministry.

December

**UNIDO Representatives Global Meeting in Mauritius**

Mauritius hosted the UNIDO Representatives Global Meeting in December where all UNIDO Country representatives and the managing directors from UNIDO Headquarters were present. The Ministry together with the Board of Investment (BOI) facilitated the organisation of the meeting. The conference focused on the industrial development experience of UNIDO as well as its annual work plan. Presentations were made by the Ministry and the BOI on the industrial development of Mauritius.

**Informative Workshop on the Mauritius Business Excellence Award**

An Informative Workshop on the Mauritius Business Excellence Award was held in December at Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre to acquaint businessmen on the objectives of the Award, the rules and regulations of the competition and support provided by various institutions. About 90 persons from 55 enterprises attended the workshop.
The Assay Laboratory extended its testing services to include the assaying of silver jewellery and its alloys by the method of volumetric analysis.

March

The Assay Office participated in the “Salon Des PME 2010” organised by the SMEDA at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Pailles from 31 March to 04 April. Technical Officers demonstrated the testing of gold jewellery by the Touchstone method.

April

Participation of Mauritius as a Non-Member in the 66th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Vienna Convention on the Control and Marking of Precious Metals and the 5th Meeting of the International Association of Assay Offices (IAAO) held on 13th and 14th of April in Zurich.

Silver testing by X-Ray Fluorescent Spectroscopy was introduced

To further demonstrate its technical competence, the Assay Laboratory participated, with other 63 Assay Offices worldwide, in the Inter-Laboratory Testing Programme commonly known as the Round Robin Test Programme organized by the IAAO for the testing of gold and silver by the methods of
cupellation and titration respectively. According to reports submitted by the IAAO in July, the Assay laboratory obtained satisfactory results in the Round Robin Test Programme 2010.

**August**

The Police Department in collaboration with the Assay Office organised five Community Policing Programmes to sensitisise jewellers on the following:

- National Policing Strategic Framework
- Protective Measures for Jewellers
- Purchase of jewellery from public

**October**

To maintain the recognition of technical competence, the Assay Laboratory undergoes surveillance by Mauritas on a yearly basis. The 2010 surveillance visit was successfully carried out on 12 October. Accreditation was maintained till 2011.

**Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB)**

**January**

**New Regulation for the National Management Systems Certification Scheme**

The New Regulations for the administration of the National Management Systems Certification Scheme came into force in January. These regulations provide a legal framework for operating the various management schemes such as MS 133 (HACCP), MS ISO 22000, MS ISO 14000, MS ISO/IEC 27001 and MS OHSAS 18001.

**July**

**Accreditation of laboratories**

The Dimensional Metrology Laboratory and the Temperature Metrology Laboratory were accredited by MAURITAS/SANAS in June – July. There are presently a total of nine laboratories accredited for various scopes, namely :

i) Chemical Technology Laboratory
ii) Food Microbiology Laboratory
iii) Fibre Technology Laboratory
iv) Food and Agriculture Laboratory
v) Mass Metrology Laboratory
vi) Mechanical Engineering Laboratory
vii) Civil Engineering Laboratory
viii) Dimensional Metrology Laboratory and
ix) Temperature Metrology Laboratory

**October**

**Associate Member of BIPM**

The Mauritius Standards Bureau became an Associate Member of the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) – Organisation International pour la Convention du Metre on 5 October. This affiliation will provide world-wide recognition to MSB’calibration laboratories.
ISO/AFNOR/MSB Regional Workshop on ISO 50001

The Bureau hosted the ISO/AFNOR/MSB Regional Workshop on the Draft International Standard ISO 50001 – Energy Management Systems from 5 to 7 October. Thirty participants from African francophone countries as well as several MSB’s officers attended the workshop.

Enterprise Mauritius

International trade fairs

In 2010, Enterprise Mauritius organised 17 Mauritian pavilions in major international fair held in New York, Paris and South Africa with a total of 107 companies out of which 53 were SMEs. The sectors promoted were: textile, printing, jewellery and agriculture.

During these events, operators were able to achieve a total of 1983 contacts with potential buyers from all over the world.

Enterprise Mauritius also participated in two buyers sellers meetings which allowed operators to showcase their products.

February

Contact Promotion Program in Italy organized for the textile sector with 5 participants out of which 2 SMEs
March

Buyers Sellers Meeting in Kenya with 25 participants out of which 12 were SMEs

July

Buyers Sellers Meeting in South Africa with 26 participants out of which 19 were SMEs

Capacity building

2009-2010 Energy Audits

Enterprise Mauritius carried out a programme of audits during 2009 and 2010 in 71 operators from the manufacturing sector (of which 20 SMEs) and 9 hotels and restaurants all SMEs.

DCP programme in Rodrigues

18 mini audits were conducted with relevance to standards and norms from 2 to 6 February.

Integrated programme for the light engineering and metal sector

The objective of the programme is to assist companies in diversifying their production in order to respond to the demand from selected international markets.

December 2009 to November 2010:

Swimwear and Lingerie project

This project aimed at diversifying the production of operators by creating their own brand in order to reduce their dependence from traditional markets. 7 SMEs were part of the program.

Workshops

Training in export readiness in collaboration with Ubifrance

The objective of this workshop held from 28 June to 2 July was to give operators the basics of international trade techniques. 22 operators participated out of which 20 SMEs.

Financial training

25 operators participated in a training held to improve the financial management capabilities for SMEs held on 30 and 31 August.

Forums and meetings

State of the sector and strategy on the way forward 2015

The State of the sector and strategy on the way forward 2015 forum was held at Hotel Hilton in Flic en Flac on 18 and 19 March with 101 participants out of which 38 SMEs.
Agro forum

A forum on expanding the capacity, enhancing the quality, competitiveness and increasing export of the food and agro base industry was held on 21 and 22 July at le Maritim Hotel with 101 participants of which 52 SMEs.

Business Meetings

Enterprise Mauritius organised in collaboration with Mauritius Commercial Bank a cycle of 9 sessions for networking and informal training on business related topics from December 2009 to October 2010.

Other operations

Signature of MOU with USAID

An MOU was signed between Enterprise Mauritius and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on 10 March at Le LaBourdonnais Hotel. The objective was to enhance operations with USAID.

Opening of a liaison office in Kenya

The objective of opening a Liaison Office on 10 July is to increase export in the region and connect Mauritian exporters to Kenyan buyers.
Environment and Sustainable Development
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

Mission

To enable our republic to attain the highest level of environmental quality as a means to enhance the quality of life of our citizens, preserve our natural environment and advance our competitiveness. This will be achieved through continued innovation and vibrant partnerships with all stakeholders.
**January**

**2010 Environment Performance Index**

The 2010 Environment Performance Index released on 27 January at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting held in Davos, Switzerland, ranked Mauritius 6th on the list of 163 countries on its performance across 25 metrics aggregated into ten categories including: environmental health, air quality, water resource management, biodiversity and habitat, forestry, fisheries, agriculture, and climate change with a score of 80.6 out of 100.

**February**

**UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum**

The Minister participated in the Eleventh Special Session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum from 24 to 26 February in Indonesia. Discussions focused, amongst others, on international environmental governance and sustainable development, the green economy and biodiversity, ecosystem services, environmental law, and financing options for chemical and wastes.

**March**

**Establishment of a Climate Change Division**

The Ministry set up a Climate Change Division on 1 March with the responsibilities of developing a climate change adaptation framework, conducting and recommending studies in relation to vulnerabilities assessment for the various sectors and the appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures. The Division coordinates research and develops priorities and follows up regional and international projects with regard to climate change and sea level rise.

**Environment Protection (Designated National Authority) Regulations**

The Environment Protection (Designated National Authority) Regulations 2010 were promulgated in March. The regulations establish procedures to promote the development and implementation of projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol. The CDM enables industrialised countries to meet their greenhouse gases emissions reduction targets by funding projects in developing countries with a view to achieving sustainable development.

**AIMS Regional Review Meeting**

The Ministry participated on 9 and 10 March in the AIMS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas) Regional Review Meeting of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation (MSI) of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Maldives. This meeting provided an opportunity for SIDS and all relevant stakeholders in the region to identify achievements, challenges and lessons learned in the MSI implementation thus far, with a view to identify priorities, emerging issues and next steps to further advance the implementation of the MSI.
April

Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Mauritius and Rodrigues

The report of a study on Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Mauritius and Rodrigues was presented on 9 April. The study aimed at developing a comprehensive policy and a legal and management framework for the protection and maintenance of all environmentally sensitive areas through the demarcation and drawing up of an inventory of those areas. It identified 14 main types of environmentally sensitive areas in Mauritius and Rodrigues, such as coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangroves, inter-tidal mudflats, sand beaches and dunes, and coastal freshwater marshlands.

Africa Adaptation Programme on Climate Change for Mauritius

A two-day workshop on the theme Supporting Integrated and Comprehensive Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation in Africa – The Republic of Mauritius also known at the Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP) was organised on 21 and 22 April at La Canelle, Domaine Les Pailles. The workshop was a joint initiative of the Ministry, the United Nations Development Program Country Office and the Government of Japan. The AAP aims at assisting some 21 African countries to integrate climate change adaptation into their national development processes.

National Assessment Report 2010

The National Assessment Report (NAR) prepared in the context of the high level UN five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation (MSI) of the Barbados Programme

Clean up Campaign in Bel Air/ Rivière Sèche

The Ministry in collaboration with the Forces Vives of the Bel Air/ Rivière Sèche region organised a clean-up campaign in Bel Air/ Rivière Sèche on 14 March. Garbage bins were also distributed to inhabitants of several localities within the region.

National Campaign to Clean up Drains

The Ministry launched a national campaign Campagne lor Drain, Déboucé pa boucè to sensitise the population on the need to keep drains unobstructed.
of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was submitted to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the contribution of Mauritius to the review process. The NAR reports on progress made in various areas of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social) since 2005, on constraints encountered as well as future measures required. The Ministry coordinated and compiled the NAR with the contribution of all Ministries, the private sector and NGOs.

Consultancy Services for Coastal Protection, Landscaping and infrastructural works

In its Programme Based Budgeting for the year 2010, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development had earmarked seven sites for rehabilitation in terms of coastal protection works, namely at Grand Baie, Mon Choisy, Pte aux Sables, Flic en Flac, Baie du Cap, Palmar and Bras D’Eau. In this context, in April 2010, the Ministry commissioned the services of a Consultancy firm with the objective of carrying out detailed site surveys, preparing tender documents for the proposed works and monitoring the rehabilitation works that will be carried out.

May

National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

A two-day workshop for the review and update of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and the development of the National Dispersant Use Policy was held on 17 and 18 May. The aim of the workshop, organised by the Indian Ocean Commission in collaboration with the Ministry was to review and update the existing Oil Spill Contingency Plan and to develop a National Policy for the use of Dispersant in the territorial waters of Mauritius. The workshop concluded with a series of recommendations to improve response capabilities of all stakeholders in case of oil spill.

June

World Environment Day 2010

The World Environment Day was observed on 5 June around the theme Many Species. One Planet. One Future. It echoed the urgent call to conserve the diversity of life on our planet and stressed the importance of biodiversity for human well-being. The activities organised by the Ministry aimed at mobilising the youth, students, old people and the community at large to sensitise them to the environmental cause and encourage them to employ their individual and collective power to protect the rich diversity of plant and animal species in Mauritius.

Sustainable Consumption and Production

The distribution of newsletters on the National Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production kickstarted on 14 June. The objectives were to disseminate information and raise awareness among all stakeholders on sustainable consumption and production and to motivate them to fully engage themselves in the implementation of the National Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Mauritius.
Segregation Waste Project and the School Endemic Garden Initiative

Two projects, the Segregation of Waste in Schools Project and the School Endemic Garden Initiative, were launched on 17 June at the Sir Harilal Vaghjee Government School. The objectives of the Segregation of Waste in Schools Project are to sensitize school children to adopt the habit of sorting of waste, influence parents to sort their household waste and resort to composting and reduce the volume of waste being sent to the landfill and reduce greenhouse gases emissions. The School Endemic Garden Initiative would be implemented in about 200 schools over a period of five years.

Embellishment Project at Plaine Magnien

The Minister effected a site visit on 21 June at Plaine Magnien where an embellishment project worth Rs 7.5 million was underway. The project aimed at changing the landscape starting from the Plaine Magnien roundabout to the entrance of SSR airport. It consisted of the planting of Royal Palms, Bottle Palms and flowering plants, creation of a central verge, grass planting, construction of handrails and pavement.

July

Integrated Processes for Reporting on the Rio Conventions

A National Inception workshop for UNEP/GEF project on ‘Piloting Integrated Process and Approaches to Facilitate National Reporting to the Rio Conventions’ was held on 22 July. The project aims at creating synergies among one cluster of the Convention to which Mauritius is party, that is the three Rio Conventions, while streamlining and harmonising, in an integrated manner, reporting for those Conventions.

August

Workshop on Enforcement of Environmental Laws

A two-day workshop on the theme Enforcement of Environmental Laws opened on 12 August at Domaine Les Pailles. The workshop aimed to raise awareness of enforcing agencies on the provisions of the Environment Protection Act 2002 (EPA 2002) and on other environmental legislations pertaining to each environmental pollutant. It looked into unclear responsibilities of enforcement and overlapping functions and enhanced the coordination and synergies among the agencies and authorities. Discussions also focused on means to strengthen the existing enforcement and compliance mechanism within the EPA 2002 and other associated environmental laws.

September

Sustainable Consumption and Production

A two-day workshop on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) was held on 7 and 8 September at Le Meridien Hotel at Pointe aux Piments. The main objective was to carry out capacity building of stakeholders on green economy, sustainable tourism, sustainable ventures and SCP indicators. The workshop also aimed to target new stakeholders to promote and implement SCP as well as reach out for sustainable tourism and sustainable ventures.
the field of science and consultants in education in human values for the Governments of Malaysia and Thailand, respectively.

Youth Expo Fair under the Jeunes Entreprises project

The Ministry organised on 28 October a Youth Expo Fair under the Jeunes Entreprises project. The objective was to show to the public different items young people have produced and give them the opportunity to face the public, hence reinforcing their communication skills.

November

Workshop for Youth Leaders

The Bambous Youth Centre organised a workshop on 6 November for some 60 youth leaders. The objective was to involve youth leaders in mobilising resources to address social problems, including drug abuse.

Site Visits in the Context of Jeux des Îles 2011

In the context of the preparation of athletes for the forthcoming Jeux des Îles 2011 to be held in Seychelles, the Minister proceeded to several site visits:

- on 8 November to the Serge Alfred swimming pool in Beau Bassin as well as to the Table Tennis Gymnasium and the Centre National de Badminton in Rose Hill
- on 12 November to the Centre National de Boxe in Vacoas and also met preselected athletes in the weightlifting sports category and,
- on 17 November to the Maryse Justin Stadium in Réduit

Jeux de L’Avenir

The Ministry in collaboration with sports federations organised on 17 and 18 November the Jeux de L’Avenir at the Pandit Sahadeo Gymnasium in Vacoas. Some 1 400 athletes aged 12 and 13 years old competed in 12 sports disciplines, namely athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, cycling, football, handball, judo, swimming, table tennis, tennis and volleyball.

NYAA Training Expedition

In the context of end of year school holidays, the National Youth Achievement Award Unit of the Ministry organised on 18 and 19 November a Training Expedition for some 75 students of Queen Elizabeth College which started at Les Georges National Park and proceeded through Tamarin beach along the coast to Wolmar.

The participants camped at Flic en Flac Outdoor Centre. On the following day, they underwent special training in outdoor leadership that included knot-making, rope handling and rope confidence course.

The objectives were to equip these young people with technical skills to better prepare them for their final expedition and to face unexpected life challenges ahead.

NYAA Police Service Course

A Police Service Course was organised from 22 to 26 November by the National Youth Achievement Award Secretariat in collaboration with the Police
Training School at Curepipe. Young people (62 boys and 35 girls) aged between 14 and 25 years participated in the Course. Discussions and group work on juvenile delinquency, proactive crime prevention and human rights were held to sensitise participants on their roles and responsibilities within the society and prepare them to participate in the social development of the country.

December

Preparation of Athletes in the Context of Jeux des Iles 2011

In the context of the preparation of athletes for the forthcoming Jeux des Iles 2011 to be held in Seychelles, the Minister met on 1 December preselected athletes in the basketball sports category at the Phoenix Gymnasium.

In that same context, the Minister met on 4 December preselected athletes in the cycling sports category at the George V Stadium.

Paper Cutting Exhibition

A Paper Cutting exhibition was organised on 7 December in collaboration with the Chinese Cultural Centre at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Bell Village. The exhibition was the culmination of a training course on the art of paper cutting which had regrouped some 60 young people. The course was conducted by an eminent paper cutting Master from China.

National Sports Award 2010

The National Sports Award ceremony to reward the best athletes, coaches and teams for the year 2010 was held on 20 December at La Plantation Resort and Spa, Balaclava.
Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions

Mission

To protect, promote and enhance social welfare and national solidarity.
January

Payment of Child Allowance Up To Age 23 Years

As from January, each beneficiary of a basic pension, Basic Widow’s Pension (BWP)/Basic Invalid’s Pension (BIP)/Basic Orphan’s Pension (BOP) having children following full-time tertiary education at UOM/UTM and who have qualified for social aid in the absence of the basic pension is paid a child allowance under Social Aid Legislation in respect of each such child up to the month in which the child attains 23 years (Rs 619 per month).

Additional Social Aid To BWP/BIP Beneficiaries As From 2010

An additional social aid is paid to beneficiaries of BWP/BIP who live alone, pay rent and have no other income apart from the basic pension. The amount payable will be the same as for Basic Retirement Pension beneficiaries (Rs 1360 per month).

Allowance For BRP Beneficiaries

As from January, every beneficiary of Basic Retirement Pension aged 75 years above and certified by the doctor effecting domiciliary visit to be bedridden and suffering from incontinence, and who would have qualified for social aid in the absence of the BRP is paid a monthly allowance equivalent to the one being paid in favour of disabled children suffering from incontinence (Rs 356 per month).

Inauguration of a Documentation Centre and Training Unit

A Documentation and Training Unit was inaugurated on 22 January at the Ministry at the Renganaden Seeneevassen Building in Port Louis. The aim was to inculcate a culture of continuous learning and self development among civil servants and develop an improved customer-oriented approach with a view to enhancing service delivery. The Unit will also act as support service towards the provision of information to social partners.

Inauguration of Halfway Home

A halfway home which will address the social integration needs of former young inmates of Rehabilitation Youth centres was inaugurated on 27 January at Vacoas. The home caters for young girls aged 16 and above who overnight find themselves on the streets after their release from Rehabilitation Youth centres and Probation centres and shelters, and whose parents are absent or at risk. The halfway home will serve as an intermediate residential centre for the girls to enable them to develop their self-esteem and become self-reliant.

Award of Certificates to Inmates of Rehabilitation Youth Centre

Certificates were handed over on 27 January to 12 inmates of the RYC (Girls) for having followed a basic course in hairdressing.

February

Best Practice Guide on Integrity Building For NGOs

Best Practice Guide on Integrity Building for NGOs, a manual on good governance was launched on 18 February at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre at Bell Village. The aim of this manual is to promote a culture of integrity in the NGO sector, encourage
transparency and accountability in the management of financial operations and inculcate the values of good governance.

**Lunch for Senior Citizens at Triolet**

A lunch was offered on 20 February to some 800 senior citizens at the Triolet Social Welfare Centre in the presence of the Prime Minister and other eminent personalities.

**March**

**Launching of the Disability Watch**

The Disability Watch, a network of regional watch based in the community to ensure the security and protection of disabled persons was launched on 1st March at the Gold Crest Hotel, Quatre Bornes. The main objectives are to identify cases of abuse and neglect of disabled persons, provide psychological and psychosocial support to disabled persons subjected to abuse or neglect and mount appropriate programmes with a view to creating greater awareness on the security and protection needs of disabled persons.

**Issue of new pension cards**

New pensions cards for Old Age Pension, Basic Retirement Pension, Basic widows Pension, Basic Invalidity Pension and Basic Orphans Pension were issued as from 23 March.
Handing over of wheelchairs by Trainees of TEDPB

A batch of 50 wheelchairs having undergone repairs by trainees of the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board under the Wheelchair Project was handed over to the Ministry on Monday 15 March. On the same occasion, Certificates of Participation in the Wheelchair Project were handed over to some 20 participants.

Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy at Foyer Trochetia

Physiotherapy and Occupational services were made available to the severely disabled persons residing at Foyer Trochetia, Pointe aux Sables and 18 other charitable institutions. These services help to promote and maintain mobility of the severely disabled persons and help them perform daily activities such as feeding and bathing. The services were also extended to children with severe disabilities attending Day Care Centres.

5th Women Conference Spain-Africa

The Minister participated on 27 March in the 5th Women Conference Spain-Africa held in Valencia, Spain. The theme was Meeting of Spanish and African Women for a Better World. The Minister highlighted the situation of women in Mauritius, its evolution since Independence and the empowerment programmes allowing women to contribute to the social and economic development of the country.

April

Get Together Programme for the elderly

A first Get Together programme was organised from 26 to 30 April for some 450 elderly persons. The programme comprised the provision of a balanced meal to the elderly and entertainment by local group. The programme which targets elderly persons living alone and drawing social aid for paying rent aims at bringing together the elderly persons to socialise over a hot meal.

Protection of the elderly

From January to April, some 3524 cases of elderly abuse have been reported to the Ministry. The cases are being dealt by the Welfare and Elderly Persons Protection Unit. Awareness campaigns on the protection of the elderly are ongoing at Recreation Centres, Social Welfare Centres, Community Centres, Secondary Schools, Women Centres and Youth Centres.

May

Anti-Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The 2010 Anti-influenza Vaccination Campaign kicked off at Mohith Hall, L’Agrément, St Pierre on 17 May. The programme covered different regions of the country as well as Rodrigues. This year the campaign covered all elderly persons aged 60 years and above instead of 65 years and above as was the case in previous years. Inmates from charitable institutions and children attending specialised schools were also covered.
June

Better Management of Conflicts in Rehabilitation Youth Centres

A series of workshops on conflict management was organised at the Probation Quarters at Beau Bassin. The workshops were intended for wardens of the Rehabilitation Youth Centres (RYC), boys and girls, for the staff of the Halfway Home, as well as for girl inmates. The objective was to provide tools and insights to participants for preventing, managing and peacefully resolving conflicts.

François Sockalingum Award

The 19th edition of the François Sockalingum Award was held at the Social security House, Rose Hill on the 17 June. The François Sockalingum Award is a scholarship scheme set up by the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons. The Award, in the form of a monthly stipend to students with disabilities, aims at encouraging disabled students to pursue higher studies as well as promoting the concept of self-reliance and independent living among them. This year, there were 24 beneficiaries of the Award.

Cooperatives and Entrepreneurship Development for disabled artisans

A training programme on Cooperatives and Entrepreneurship was launched on 21 June at the Gold Crest Hotel, Quatre Bornes. The objective was to empower disabled persons by helping them to acquire skills in entrepreneurship, cooperative undertaking, marketing, access to finance and preparation of business plans.

July

Awareness Campaign on Road Safety for the Elderly

An awareness campaign on road safety for the elderly was launched on 5 July at the Recreation Centre for Senior Citizens at Pointe aux Sables. The objective was to make the elderly people aware of road safety rules and sensitise them on the importance of observing road signs and taking precautionary measures to avoid road accidents. A distribution of fluorescent jackets for an increased visibility on the road was also made on that occasion. The campaign comprised of talks, film projections on road safety and interactive sessions with the elderly.

Holiday Camp for 200 children with severe disabilities

Some 200 children with severe disabilities participated on 26 and 27 July in a holiday camp at the Recreation Centre for Senior Citizens at Pointe aux Sables. The camp was organised under the Respite Care Programme of the Ministry. The children had the opportunity to take part in several recreational activities such as indoor games, magic shows, swimming and face painting. On the same occasion, around 75 parents followed a training programme to empower them on ways and means to cope with severely disabled children.
August

In-Service Training Course for officers of the Social Security Cadre

A batch of 18 Social Security Officers received certificates on 12 August after having successfully completed an in-service training course carried out last year by the Training Unit of the Ministry. The objectives of the course were to promote the concept of customer care, to empower the Officers to have a better knowledge of legislations and procedures governing the different services provided by the Ministry. This course is also a pre-requisite for promotion to the grade of Higher Social Security Officer.

Integration and Empowerment of persons with disabilities

Representatives from around 75 institutions took part in a meeting which was held on 16 August at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre in Bell Village between the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions and heads of parastatal organisations and government companies. The objective of the meeting was to promote the integration of persons with disabilities in the world of work.

Elder abuse Awareness Campaign

An awareness campaign on Elder Abuse which aims at sensitising the public on the need to report any form of abuse physical, emotional, psychological, negligence or financial against the elderly, was launched on 19 August, at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre at Bell Village. It comprised of distribution of posters, talks on prevention of elderly abuse in colleges, inter-generational activities, regional programmes in Youth Centres and, projection of clips and talks.

Observatory on ageing

Mr. Greg Shaw, Director of International Federation of Ageing was on a week long visit in Mauritius as from 22 August with a view to working out a road map for the setting up of an Observatory on Ageing. The Observatory aims at studying the various dimensions of ageing, its general impact on the different sectors of the economy and its implication on the quality of life of elderly persons.

Rewards for athletes with disabilities

Five athletes with disabilities were rewarded for their outstanding performance at the 7th Jeux de la Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l'Océan Indien(CJSOI) on 24 August. The CJSOI was held in Reunion Island from 30 July to 6 August 2010. The athletes received cash prizes and shields. Mauritius was ranked 2nd as a result of the 15 medals obtained by athletes with disabilities in the following disciplines: long jump, javelin, shot-put, discus, 100 metre race and the 100 metre wheel-chair race.

September

UN Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities

Dr. Purna Sen, Head of the Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat launched, on 2 September, a guide on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Braille for sighted and non-sighted persons at the Renganaden Seeneevassen Building, Port Louis.
Website launched to mark World Suicide Prevention Day

In the context of activities marking the World Suicide Prevention Day, an interactive website was launched on 9 September at the Municipal Council of Port Louis. The website which is hosted by the Suicide Prevention Unit (SPU) provides support to people who are going through difficult times. The website allows the public to have one to one live chats with officers of the SPU whenever they feel emotionally disturbed.

Inauguration of Mental Rehabilitation Unit at Gayasing Ashram

A Mental Rehabilitation Unit at Gayasing Ashram, Port Louis was launched on 15 September. The Mental Rehabilitation Unit aims at promoting active and healthy ageing through activities such as physical fitness, dancing, painting, drawing, special care of self and other social skills.

National Action Plan for the NGO sector

The formulation of a National NGO Policy was the focus of a one-day workshop held on 15 September at La Canelle, Domaine Les Pailles. Around 75 NGOs participated in the workshop which was organised by the Non State Actor Unit of the Ministry and the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS). It provided a common platform to the different stakeholders to meet and to make recommendations towards the elaboration of a National Action Plan which will serve as a guide for the NGO sector.

Training Programme for senior citizens for Suicide Prevention

A training programme for senior citizens in connection with community activities for suicide prevention in the context of the World Suicide Prevention Day was launched on 16 September at the Renganaden Seeneevassen Building, Port Louis. The aim of this programme is to train the senior citizens so that they are equipped with appropriate skills by involving them in detecting signs of suicidal behaviour in people of their region, irrespective of age group and sex.

Award of Certificate to NGO volunteers

Around 43 volunteers from NGOs received certificates on 21 September in the Town Hall of the Municipality of Port Louis after having followed a training course on Essentials of NGO Management and Accounting and Budgeting. The course run by the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development aimed at providing the participants with the core knowledge, practical skills and tools to effectively manage NGOs and their financial resources.

Interactive session on Peace

Around 150 participants took part on 23 September in an interactive session on Peace which was organised in collaboration with the MACOSS in the context of the International Day of Peace at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre at Bell Village.

Handing over of racing wheelchairs

Racing wheelchairs were handed over to four athletes with disabilities on 23 September at the Training Unit of the Ministry in the wake of their participation in the 19th Commonwealth Games which was held from 3 to 14 October 2010 in New Delhi, India.
October

International Day of the Elderly

A series of activities were organised from 27 September to 2 October in the context of the International Day of the Elderly observed on 1 October. The activities included an open-day in charitable institutions, a recreation day for vulnerable elderly persons, a programme by elderly people and a workshop on the welfare of the elderly. The official function was held on 2 October at State House, Réduit.

Care of Elderly and Disabled Persons

A training programme relating to the care of the elderly and the disabled persons was launched on 26 October by the Minister at the Social Security House, Rose-Hill. The training programme, leading to a National Certificate, was organised in collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Health (MIH). The programme targeted the young and the unemployed persons so as to provide them with necessary skills to look after the elderly and the disabled persons.

December

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

A job fair on the placement and the employment of persons with disabilities was held on 1 December at the Freeport Operations at Mer Rouge in the context of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to be observed on 3 December. The objective of the job fair was to provide an opportunity for employers and qualified persons with disabilities to meet on a common platform. Other activities in the context of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities comprised a workshop on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a cultural programme and a Fun Day for handicapped persons.

The Mauritius National Volunteer Programme

The Mauritius National Volunteer Programme was launched on 5 December at the Octave Wiehe Auditorium, Réduit in the context of the International Volunteer Day. The objective was to establish a national volunteer scheme to promote volunteerism as an instrument for economic and social development in general and for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). About 30 volunteers have been placed in some 20 NGOs on a pilot basis during the period September to December 2010.
Local Government and Outer Islands
Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands

Mission

- To ensure that Local Authorities adhere to the principles of good governance
- To empower and provide appropriate support to Local Authorities so as to enable them to manage the affairs of the local communities effectively and efficiently
- To engage all stakeholders in local community affairs
- To protect the environment and human health through an effective and sustainable management of solid waste
January

Télédon in Solidarity with Haiti

In solidarity with the victims of the earthquake which hit Haiti, the Ministry in collaboration with the Attorney General’s Office and the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment and Ministry of Information and Communication Technology organised a télédon on 27 January at the Municipality of Port Louis. More than Rs 13 million have been collected. Contributions were received until Wednesday 10 February. Government agreed to contribute an amount of USD 500 000 to the reconstruction process of Haiti.

Swearing-in Ceremony

Mr. Louis Hervé Aimée was sworn in as Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands at the State House, Réduit on 21 January.

February

Working Session With local authorities

The Minister, Mr. H. Aimée met the Lord – Mayor, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chief Executives of the five municipalities and the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Chief Executives of the four District Councils on 3 February at the Ministry.

March

With regard to infrastructure on public beaches, the following projects were completed by the Beach Authority as at March 2010:

- Parking space at Belle Mare
- Construction of stone masonry parapet wall at Soufleur
- Reinstatement of lighting system at St-Felice
- Removal of damaged jetty at Le Goulet
- Tree planting at Belle Mare and Flic en Flac

July

Work Attachment for Seychelles District Administrators

A group of 12 District Administrators from Seychelles were on work attachment at the Ministry from 28 June to 5 July with a view to familiarising with the type of Local Government which Mauritius has developed over the years.

Delegation of Nantong Municipal Congress of China

A delegation of Nantong Municipal Congress of China was on official visit to Mauritius from 30 July to 1 August in the context of the signature of a Sister City Agreement between the City of Nantong and the Municipal Council of Vacoas-Phoenix.

September

Distribution of Compact Fluorescent Lamps

In line with the concept of Maurice Ile Durable project adopted by the Government 50 000 compact fluorescent 40w lamps were distributed to Local
Authorities on 3 September at the Black River District Council, Bambous. The Ministry has embarked on a project aimed at reducing energy consumption and encouraging savings on electricity bills by Local Authorities through the implementation of energy efficient solutions and public lighting.

**October**

**Mission to Uganda**

The Minister was on mission from 21-25 October to Uganda where he participated in the Global Forum on Local Development and the Pan African Ministerial Workshop on Leadership Development and Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction in Africa. The theme of the Forum was Pursuing the MDGs through Local Governments. The objectives were to bring together key players to support the growing importance and significance of democratically elected Local Governments and make them champions for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

**Outer Islands**

**February**

**Coconut Oil as Bio Fuel**

The OIDC, in collaboration with the Mauritius Research Council, undertook research work with a view to replacing diesel with coconut oil. The aim is
to reduce the dependency of Agaléga on fossil and imported fuels. The project will also help to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide.

April

National Coast Guard Quarters

Construction works for the National Coast Guard Quarters started in April. The building of about 2200 sq ft, will be used for residence and office purposes.

July

Construction of Refugee Centre

The construction of a Refugee Centre in the north island was completed in July. This 4000 sq ft building will be used as a shelter in the case of a tsunami.

August

Cleaning of Coconut Fields

As at August 2010, 200 hectares of land have been cleaned with the help of a back hoe loader which was sent to the island in November 2008.
Health and Quality of Life
Ministry of Health and Quality of Life

Mission

- Enhance the health status of the population
- Improve the quality of health care delivery with a view to increasing patients’ satisfaction
- Enhance social equity through the provision of a wider range of health services to the whole population
- Ensure that the health sector is consolidated and that the health services remain accessible to every citizen
January

Post Graduate Course on Hospital Management

A post graduate course on hospital management dispensed in collaboration with the Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève was launched on 5 January at the Mauritius Institute of Health in Pamplemousses. The training programme conducted in four modules runs over a period of two years.

Mauritius and Australia to collaborate on NCD Surveys

The Ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 14 January with the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute of Melbourne, Australia, with a view to further pursuing research on Non-Communicable Diseases in Mauritius mainly relating to Type 2 diabetes. The Institute will collaborate with the Ministry, the University of Mauritius and the Mauritius Research Council to undertake more profound research as regards genetic analysis in the field of diabetes.

Cardiac and Neonatal Intensive Care Services at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital

To further decentralise hospital services and increase accessibility to the community, Neonatal Intensive Care Services were introduced in January 2010 at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, Rose Belle. In order to avoid difficulties to new born babies and their parents, a fully equipped new Neonatal ICU would also be set up. Cardiac services have also been introduced at the J. Nehru Hospital.

Mission of Professor Pierre François Unger

Professor Pierre François Unger, Conseiller d’Etat en Charge de l’Economie et de la Santé of the Canton and Republic of Geneva was on his second visit in Mauritius from 29 December 2009 to 4 January 2010. He had working sessions with officials of the Ministry and signed a new Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU provides for technical assistance from Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève for the creation of an Allergology Clinic in one of the regional hospitals, technical assistance for the setting up of a specialised unit in the field of organ transplant, and reinforcement of the programme of cooperation in the field of paediatric cardiac surgery.

Medical Team from Reunion for Cardiac Surgeries

A team from Reunion Island led by the Director General of the Groupe de Santé Clinifutur, Mr Aimery Delefile, met the Minister on 28 January to discuss avenues of cooperation in different fields of medicine, namely cancer treatment and interventional cardiology.

Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Services to Severely Disabled People

As from January, Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy services are provided to the severely disabled people residing at Foyer Trochetia and 18 charitable institutions with a view to promoting and maintaining their mobility and helping them perform daily activities such as feeding and bathing.
Launching of Mobile Dental Screening Programme

A Mobile Dental Screening Programme targeting primary school children was launched at the Louis Serge Coutet Government School at Baie du Tombeau. With a view to allowing the children to have a good oral health, the Ministry implemented several other measures, namely the ban of sale of candies and soft drinks as well as other non-nutritious food in school canteens.

February

Mobile clinic and Methadone Day Care Clinic

A Mobile clinic for Non-Communicable Diseases Screening programme and a Methadone Day Care Clinic were launched on 4 February at Mahébourg. Since September 2009, the very first Day Care Induction Clinic in Mauritius is operational at Mahébourg.

Certificate Award Ceremony

An award of certificate ceremony was held on 4 February at the Municipality of Port Louis for
some 253 participants who attended a Community Prevention Programme on substance abuse and HIV and AIDS prevention organised in 2009 by NATReSA.

Telemedicine Centre at SSRN Hospital in Pamplemousses

A Telemedicine Centre aimed at using telecommunication technology for medical diagnosis, treatment and patient care became operational on 18 February at the Cardiac Centre in Pamplemousses. The Telemedicine project which extends over five years offers free telemedicine services and continuing medical education to 53 African Union countries under the Pan-African E-Network initiative of the Government of India.

Workshop with NGOs engaged in Public Health

A Workshop with NGOs engaged in Public Health was held on 4 February at the Imperial China in Trianon at the initiative of the MACOSS. The aim was to sensitise the NGOs on their role as active partners and also as a pressure group to bring about changes in the health policy.

Workshop on Training Modules for Integrated Vector Management

A workshop on Training Modules for Integrated Vector Management aimed at developing appropriate curriculum on hands-on education in vector biology, epidemiology, analysis and decision making and facilitation as well as brainstorming on appropriate sampling methods for decentralised vector surveillance was held from 3 to 5 February at La Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles.

Launching of Mobile Clinics

Mobile clinics were launched at the Montagne Blanche Social Welfare Centre, SSR National Hospital and Grand Bay. Services provided include screening for diabetes, hypertension, breast and cervical cancer, HIV and AIDS, obesity, vision and dental caries as well as counselling on nutrition, dental health, the practice of physical activities, healthy cooking demonstration, blood collection and Ayurvedic medicine.

Website for Sub-Saharan Africa Harm Reduction Network

A Harm Reduction network website for Sub-Saharan Africa was launched on 16 February at the Dr Idrice Goomany Treatment Centre. The objective was to promote and advocate harm reduction in the region and develop capacity building. The development of the network has been financially supported by the International Harm Reduction Association.

Diabetes and Vascular Health Centre at Souillac Hospital

A Diabetes and Vascular Health Centre was inaugurated at the Souillac Hospital on 5 February in line with the recommendations of the National Service Framework for Diabetes. In the first instance, the Centre is operating as a training centre for medical and paramedical staff and professionals involved in diabetes prevention. At a later stage, it will operate as a referral centre.

Conference on Diabetes

A one-day conference on diabetes in the context of enhancement of diabetes treatment in Mauritius, organised by the Diabetes Parent Support Group, was held on 19 February at La Petite Canelle, Domaine
Les Pailles. According to the Non-Communicable Diseases survey carried out in 2009, nearly 50% of the population are either pre-diabetic or diabetic and 50% affected are not aware they have the disease.

**Inauguration of Pandit Sahadeo Community Health Centre**

The new Pandit Sahadeo Community Health Centre (CHC) at Vacoas was inaugurated on 25 February. The CHC was temporarily closed down in August 2008 for construction works. This infrastructural project is in line with the commitment of the Government to upgrade and modernise health services.

**March**

**Training course for dental hygienists**

Training courses for dental hygienists were launched in March to allow them to carry out awareness campaigns in schools and the community.

**Prevention Campaign on Vector Control**

A sensitisation campaign on Vector Control was launched on 3 March at Champ de Mars with a view to sensitising the public on effective prevention strategies to lower the impact of chikungunya and dengue.

World Heart Day: Food exhibition highlights importance of eating healthy
Visit of Professor Atul Bhaskar

Professor Atul Bhaskar, Paediatric Orthopaedic/Spinal Surgeon from India was in Mauritius from 15 to 21 March to operate on 20 complex scoliosis patients.

New Operation Theatres and Wards project for Victoria Hospital

The Ministry and the People’s Republic of China signed on 23 March a design contract for the New Operation Theatres and Wards Project to be implemented at Victoria Hospital in Candos. The project estimated at a total cost of Rs 270 million, inclusive of the health equipments, is being financed under the bilateral agreement with the People’s Republic of China.

Mauritius Blood Service Act 2010

The Mauritius Blood Service Act was passed on 23 March 2010. The Act makes provision for the setting up of the Mauritius Blood Service, a body corporate which will establish an effective and sustainable national blood service.

April

Visit of Dr Sulleman Moreea

Dr Sulleman Moreea, Consultant Gastroenterologist/Hepatologist and Deputy Director of Medicine, Bradford Hospitals Trust, was in Mauritius from 30 March to 4 April 2010 to conduct operating sessions at the Endoscopy Unit of SSRN Hospital.

Workshop to Address Violence in Hospitals

A half-day workshop on violence in hospitals, organised in collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Health (MIH), was held on 1 April in Pamplemousses. The workshop addressed several topics pertaining to the different risk factors associated with violence. The findings and recommendations of a study on violence in hospitals carried out by the MIH were also on the agenda.

Meeting on Vector-borne Diseases

A meeting on Vector-borne diseases chaired by the Minister was held on 5 April. The aim was to review the operational plan for the prevention and control of chikungunya and dengue fevers and review the roles of all partners in the implementation of the plan as well as define the targets for the coming months.

World Health Day 2010: Urbanisation and Health

A series of activities was launched on 7 April at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Moka in the context of the World Health Day 2010. The theme chosen by the World Health Organisation for 2010 was Urbanisation and Health. The objective was to raise awareness about health problems linked to increasing urbanisation around the world, as more and more people leave villages to settle in towns.

Workshop to enhance Management of Breast Cancer

A one-day workshop on Breast Cancer in Mauritius was held on 29 April at the Four Points By Sheraton in Ébène. Cancer health professionals attended the workshop which was designed to address several risk factors associated with breast cancer, the commonest
cancer in women in Mauritius. A new Breast Cancer Reform Strategy which covers all aspects of cancer control and to be implemented over the next four years was also elaborated at the workshop.

**Visit of Dr Hans Bürkle**

Dr Hans Bürkle, German Medical Specialist in conservative orthopaedic treatment of spine injuries was in Mauritius from 3 to 17 April to conduct workshops and treat patients with disc prolapse and continuous sciatic pain.

**Visit of Dr Lindsay Cabon**

Dr Lindsay Cabon, a Mauritian medical practitioner working in France, was in Mauritius in April for a training programme in acupuncture for doctors in the public sector.

**May**

**Visit of Professor Cyrus Tabatabay**

Professor Cyrus Tabatabay, Ophthalmic surgeon from the Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève, was in Mauritius from 9 to 15 May to operate on complex vitreo retinal cases.

**Regional Workshop on National Health Accounts**

A regional training workshop on National Health Accounts (NHA) was held from 24 to 29 May in collaboration with the Eastern, Central and Southern African Health Community. The objectives were to introduce the participants from Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe to concepts and methodology of NHA, to identify data and data sources for use in the process and to discuss the relevance of NHA information in health policy.

**World No Tobacco Day**

In the context of the World No Tobacco Day celebrated on 31 May, several activities were organised around the theme *Gender and Tobacco with an emphasis on marketing to Women*. A march was organised in Chemin Grenier and sensitisation campaigns in women centres, schools, social and community centres to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco smoking and aggressive media campaigns in the media, workplaces and community at large were carried out.

**June**

**Workshop on Findings of Tobacco Studies**

A workshop focusing on the findings of tobacco studies was organised on 3 June by the Mauritius Institute of Health in collaboration with the University of Waterloo, Canada in the context of the presentation of the International Tobacco Control Mauritius National Report 2010. The Report comprises information generated by the situational analysis of four studies namely the International Tobacco Control Policy evaluation, monitoring of air-quality in smoke-free public places, Health Information System and Health Professional Survey.

**Additional Operation Theatre at Subramania Bharati Eye Hospital**

The Lions Club of Mauritius and the Ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of an additional Operation Theatre at
the Subramania Bharati Eye Hospital, Moka. The project is financed by Lions Club to the tune of US$ 194 000.

**World Blood Donor Day**

Several activities were organised on 14 June in the context of the World Blood Donor Day 2010 with focus on young donors around the slogan *New Blood for the World*. The aim was to inspire young people to make an important contribution by donating blood and by encouraging other young people to become donors.

**Cardiac Unit at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital**

The Minister inaugurated on 10 June a Cardiac Unit at the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital at Rose Belle. The launching of new cardiology services at J. Nehru Hospital and Souillac Hospital is in line with government’s commitment to bring specialised health services closer to the population of the southern part of the country.

**Award of Certificate Ceremony**

An award of certificates ceremony was held on 21 June for participants who successfully completed the Pharmacy Dispensers Training Course, the Speech and Hearing Therapy Assistants Training Course and the Pharmacy Store Managers Training Course.

**International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**

Several activities were organised on 26 June by the Ministry in collaboration with the NATReSA and other stakeholders in the context of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The theme was *Think Health-Not Drugs*. The aim was to sensitise young people on the harmful effects of drugs and on actions for the prevention of drug abuse.

**Decentralisation of Vaccination Campaign**

The vaccination campaign against influenza A (H1N1) was decentralised to District and Community Hospitals and to Area Health Centres in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The campaign which initially targeted health care workers, pregnant women and persons suffering from chronic medical conditions was extended to children aged six months to two years and later to the whole population.

**Reinforcement of Vector Surveillance Activities**

Vector surveillance was reinforced to control diseases transmitted by mosquitoes. Surveillance of passengers at the airport was reinforced, the thermal scanner at the airport reactivated, fogging and larviciding operations reinforced and anti-mosquito and clean-up campaigns intensified.

**July**

**World Population Day**

A workshop on *Data Use for Policy and Planning of Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme* was organised on 7 July at Gold Crest Hotel in the context of the World Population Day on the theme *Everyone Counts*. The aim was to sensitise participants on how reliable data can drive good decision-making and help illuminate important trends as regards adolescent sexuality, teenage pregnancy, motherhood, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health.
Workshop on Logistics Management Information System

A regional training of trainers’ workshop on the Logistics Management Information System (LMIS), Country Commodity Manager (CCM) and Channel was organised from 19 to 31 July by the Mauritius Institute of Health and the United Nations Population Fund. Around 13 countries from Eastern and Southern African participated. The objective was to strengthen the countries’ capacity in reproductive health supply chain management through the provision of a comprehensive LMIS package including CCM and Channel for programme managers and logisticians.

Open Days at the Diabetes and Vascular Health Centre at Souillac

Open days were held from 22 to 26 July at the Diabetes and Vascular Health Centre at Souillac. The objective was to raise awareness of Type 1 diabetes and improve the management of the disease amongst young patients. The activities included medical assessment of patients, counselling and demonstration on blood glucose monitoring and insulin therapy, and sensitisation of patients and their parents on nutrition and healthy lifestyle.

World Breastfeeding Week

Several activities were organised to mark the World Breastfeeding Week, celebrated annually from 1 to 7 August, to inform people of the benefits of breastfeeding on the development and the health of a child and that of the mother. Activities included a workshop on the Ten Steps Towards Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative-Each Step Counts, the setting up of a Breastfeeding Committee in each regional hospital and sensitisation campaigns on the benefits of breastfeeding. The theme was Just Ten Steps-The Baby-Friendly Way.

August

Congress for Regional Health Cooperation

The 8ème Congrès de Coopération Régionale de la Fédération Hospitalière de France Océan Indien was held from 2 to 4 August. The objective was to reinforce cooperation and collaboration in the health sector among member countries of the Indian Ocean Commission. The themes addressed include public health, management of health crisis, training of health professionals and collaboration in the fields of management and maintenance of biomedical equipment.

Conference on Cardiovascular and Related Diseases

Mauritius hosted a Conference on Cardiovascular and Related Diseases from 23 to 24 August at Maritim Hotel, Balaclava. The Conference which was organised by the Ministry in collaboration with Prof. D. Yellon, Director of the Hatter Cardiovascular Institute, UK drew the participation of renowned professors in cardiology, internal medicine, nephrology and diabetes. The Conference addressed issues pertaining to the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular and related diseases and provided a platform to the medical and paramedical personnel to interact with eminent professors.

Workshop on Findings of Injecting Drug Users Survey

A workshop on the dissemination of findings on the Integrated Behavioural and Biological Surveillance among Injecting Drug Users in Mauritius was organised on 25 August at Gold Crest Hotel. The aim was to disseminate the findings of the study among stakeholders. The survey was carried out from October to December 2009 by Dr Lisa Johnston, WHO Consultant.
Certification Ceremony of Central Health Laboratory

A ceremony was organised on 26 August at Victoria Hospital, Candos in the context of the certification of the National Blood Transfusion Service of the Central Health Laboratory to MS ISO 9001-2008.

September

Staggered Appointment System at Hospitals

A Staggered Appointment System for outpatients attending hospitals became operational as from 1 September so as to reduce waiting time. Appointments for outpatients were staggered in slots for morning and afternoon sessions.

World Heart Day

A series of activities was organised and a Nutrition Education Month launched on 27 September at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Phoenix to mark the World Heart Day. The theme for 2010 was Workplace Wellness. It underlined the importance of the workplace to disseminate heart healthy messages and promote long-term behavioural changes among employers, employees and the community.

October

World Mental Health Day

The World Mental Health Day was observed on 7 October. Activities organised include a cultural programme and an exhibition of creative activities by inmates of Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre, an open day at the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, continuous medical education sessions on mental health in regional hospitals and a workshop on Communication Skills while Dealing with Psychiatric Patients. The theme chosen for 2010 was Mental Health and Chronic Physical Illnesses.

Regional Meeting of Viral Hepatitis Working Group

The Ministry in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Africa organised on 14 and 15 October a regional meeting of the Viral Hepatitis Working Group to finalise a policy document for the African region to ensure that health systems can adequately accommodate the implementation strategies for prevention and control of viral hepatitis.

SAMU Computerised Control Room

A Computerised Control Room for the Service d’Aide Médicale d’Urgence (SAMU) was inaugurated on 14 October at the Victoria Hospital, Candos. The SAMU services, which can be reached on the hotline number 114, are now fully computerised and are equipped with a sophisticated recording system and a Global Positioning System which will allow doctors to identify where the SAMU ambulances are located and whether they are on a mission or available for an emergency.

Healthy Lifestyle-Healthy Family

A workshop on Healthy Lifestyle-Healthy Family was organised on 28 October for housewives at Bassin Community Centre. The objective was to sensitise housewives on better nutrition and healthy lifestyle practices in order to improve their health and that of their families. A similar workshop was held at Quatre Bornes.
November

Endoscopy Workshop at SSRN Hospital

An endoscopy workshop was held from 9 to 12 November at the SSRN Hospital, Pamplemousses. The training, which targeted doctors and nurses from all regional hospitals, consisted of live demonstrations of endoscopy procedures, hands-on training and one-to-one training in diagnostic and routine endoscopy. The objectives were to ensure a good patient experience, consolidate the progress made and ensure that the equipment is used by trained personnel.

Seminar on Fight against Non-Communicable Diseases

A residential seminar on community involvement in the fight against non-communicable diseases was held on 10 November at the Pointe aux Sables Recreation Centre.

World Diabetes Day

A series of activities were organised on 13 November at Bel Ombre Football Ground in the context of the World Diabetes Day around the theme *Let’s take control of diabetes. Now*. The objectives were to raise awareness of the warning signs of diabetes and promote action to encourage early diagnosis, to prevent or delay the complications of diabetes. The activities included exhibitions on the causes, prevention and treatment of diabetes, workshops for medical and paramedical staff and patients, counseling sessions and physical activity demonstrations.

Trainers’ Workshop on Reproductive Health

A regional training of trainers’ workshop on reproductive health commodity security was held from 15 to 26 November at the Mauritius Institute of Health, Pamplemousses. This joint initiative of the Institute and the United Nations Population Fund aimed at strengthening knowledge and awareness of reproductive health commodity security so as to improve reproductive health at the country level. Around 30 participants from 11 African and Asian countries participated.

New Children Cancer Ward at Victoria Hospital

A new Children Cancer Ward was inaugurated on 22 November at Victoria Hospital, Candos. The construction of the specialised children care unit to the tune of Rs 8 million is a joint collaboration of the Ministry and the Sun Resorts Cancer Trust. It is equipped with 14 beds for children aged less than 14 years who suffer from cancer, a waiting room, a consultation room, a patient corner, a play room with toys and television for the children, a room for the preparation of medicines and a room for the medical and paramedical staff.
**December**

**World AIDS Day**

Several activities were launched on 1 December at Port Louis Waterfront in the context of the World AIDS Day. They comprised, amongst others, an exhibition, counseling and testing facilities, workshops and sensitisation programmes. The theme for the period 2005-2010 was *Stop AIDS-Keep the Promise* and the slogan for 2010 was *Universal Access and Human Rights*.

**Launching of Specialised Ambulances**

Two specialised SAMU ambulances to attend to emergency cardiac cases were launched on 22 December at Victoria Hospital, Candos. The ambulances are equipped with sophisticated equipment such as electrocardiograph, cardiac monitors, defibrillators and other cardio-respiratory resuscitation materials.

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

**National E-Health Strategic Plan for Mauritius**

In line with the overall objective to continue investing in the modernisation of the health service with a view to rendering it more patient-friendly, Government is implementing the National E-Health Strategic plan for Mauritius at the cost of Rs 125 million. The objective of the plan is to enhance patient safety and comfort, improve clinical outcomes and streamline overall hospital operations through ICT.

**Implementation of ISO Project**

The MS ISO 9001:2008 is being implemented in 12 hospitals and 142 Area Health Centres, Community Health Centres and Medi Clinics as well as the Headquarters of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life which include 42 divisions and sections. This standard which promotes the adoption of a process based approach aims at enhancing customer satisfaction and improving the quality of health care delivery services.

**Acquisition of State of the Art Medical Equipment**

Government is investing massively in the acquisition of state of the art medical equipment including mammography machines for the screening of breast cancer, anaesthetic machines, new operating tables, new haemodialysis machines for extension of dialysis services as well as endoscopy units. An amount of Rs 230 million has been provided in the 2010 budget. In addition, the new Dr A.G Jeetoo Hospital project also comprises the acquisition of new state of the art equipment including one 1.5 Tesla MRI and one 64 slice CT Scan at the cost of Rs 50 million and Rs 35 million respectively.
Arts and Culture
Ministry of Arts and Culture

Mission

To foster a balanced and harmonious Mauritian Society through consolidation of existing pluralism, promotion of creativity and the celebration of cultural values.
January

Artist Counter Set Up

An artist counter has been set up since 19 January to provide guidance and assistance to artists in relation to their projects and proposals. It also facilitates access to schemes and incentives put in place for their benefit and to make a follow-up on their requests and applications.

Spring Festival

To mark the Spring Festival, a cultural show with the participation of the Hubei Art Troupe from the People’s Republic of China and local artists was held at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute. Other activities included a photo exhibition entitled *Les Découvertes Archéologiques Majeures de la Chine au 20ème Siècle* at the Gallery of the Mauritius Museums Council, Port Louis and an exhibition on Chinese New Year Prints by the China Cultural Centre.

February

175th Anniversary of The Abolition of Slavery

The former President of the Republic of Mozambique, Mr Joaquim Chissano was the Chief Guest for the 175th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery. The activities comprised a wreath-laying ceremony at the “Monument des Esclaves” at Pointe Canon, Mahebourg and at the Slave Route Monument at Le Morné, followed by the unveiling of a rock sculpted by an artist from Mozambique.

Creative Arts Portal

The Ministry in collaboration with the Board of Investment has initiated the development of a Creative Arts Portal to allow artists to showcase their products and services locally and internationally. The Creative Arts Portal will also be a one-stop-shop to enable artists to establish contacts and to negotiate with buyers for possible direct sales through the e-market platform.

Exhibition on Dutch Colonisation

In the context of the commemoration of the 300 years of departure of the Dutch from Mauritius, a one-month exhibition was held at National History Museum in Mahebourg. The exhibition comprised 24 panels and two showcases containing Dutch artifacts excavated at the Fort Frederik Hendrik to explain and interprete the Dutch colonisation.

March

Festival Mauricien

As a build-up campaign for the National Day Celebrations 2010, a Festival Mauricien was held from 5-11 March. The objective was to highlight creative Mauritian skills in artistic and cultural activities. The activities catered for all linguistic and age groups.

National Day Celebrations

The National Day was celebrated on 12 March at Champ de Mars and the Chief Guest was Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, former Director of UNESCO. The theme of celebrations was *Nou Pays Nou Fierté*. The programme of activities comprised March Past
by disciplined forces and uniformed organisations, helicopter flypast, défilé of cultural groups, fusion music and dance. A ceremony to honour Mauritians having won recognition at the international level in the fields of sports, arts and literature was also held during the Garden Party at the State House, Réduit.

**Mega Slam Poésie**

In the context of the Mega Slam Poésie 2010, workshops were held from 15 February to 9 March in seven regions, namely in Rose Hill, Flacq, Quatre Bornes, Curepipe, Mahebourg, Port Louis and Souillac. The workshops were conducted by Stefan Hart de Keating, international slammaster. One adult per school (primary and secondary) comprising amongst others teachers, headmasters and secretaries was chosen to undergo training on Slam.

**Journée de la Francophonie**

In the context of the Journée de la Francophonie which was celebrated on 20 March, a forum and video conferences on entrepreneurship and creativity, quiz and painting competitions, poetry recitals and a cultural programme was held at the Serge Constantin Theatre, Vacoas.

**Elocution Contest in the Context of Black History Month**

The finals of the elocution contest organised in the context of Black History Month marking the 175th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery were held on 29 March at the Municipality of Port Louis. The theme of the elocution contest was: *I have a dream.*
April

100th Birth Anniversary of Renganaden Seeneevassen

The Prime Minister unveiled a bust of Renganaden Seeneevassen on 11 April at the Renganaden Seeneevassen Building, Port Louis in homage to his contribution in the development of the country.

International Day of Monuments and Sites

Intangible Cultural Heritage was the leading theme of a three-day workshop which was held from 13 to 15 April at Domaine Les Pailles in the context of the International Day for Monuments and Sites which was celebrated on the 18 April. This year, the theme was Agricultural Heritage. In this context, various activities were organised by the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund and Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund, namely guided visits of the site, exhibitions, pedagogical activities for children and projection of a film on Aapravasi Ghat, amongst others.

World Book Day

This year the theme of the World Book Day celebrated on the 23rd April was Rapprochement des Cultures. To mark the event, Book Festivals were held at the Municipality of Beau-Bassin/Rose-Hill, at the Port Louis Waterfront and in the month of August in Rodrigues.

May

Africa Day

An exhibition on artworks of sculptors and artists was organised on 25 May by the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture at Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis to mark Africa Day 2010. Africa Day is the official day of the African Union to celebrate African unity.

June

Dragon Boat Festival

The Dragon Boat Festival 2010 was held on 12 June at the Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis. Eight groups comprising 250 participants performed during the festival. The programme of activities comprised a cultural show, Lion and Dragon dance, demonstration of martial arts and Chinese dance.

European Union Infopoint at National Library

The European Union Infopoint was launched on 16 June at the National Library. This system gives access to up-to-date books, reports, periodicals and CD-Roms issued by the Publications Office of the European Union on a wide range of subjects such as agriculture, culture, ecology, economy, education, energy, environment, external relations and finance.

Music Day

Various activities were organised in June by the Ministry of Arts and Culture in collaboration with the Municipal and District Councils, the Conservatoire
National de Musique François Mitterrand and the Centre de Lecture et d’Animation Culturelle.

**July**

**Bicentenary of the Naval Battle of Old Grand Port**

Celebrations marking the commemoration of the bicentenary of the Naval Battle of Old Grand Port which is a landmark in the history of Mauritius, kicked off on Friday 30 July at Pointe Canon, Mahebourg. In that context, a historical village depicting life during the period 1810 in Old Grand Port and Saint Malo in France was set up. The historical village was painted by artists from Mauritius and St Malo. Other activities comprised the inauguration of a Musée de Peuplement de Maurice which depicted the history of the peopling of Mauritius. The public had the opportunity to have a view of a battle scene showcasing the preparation for the Battle of Old Grand Port through an exhibition.

**August**

In the context of the Commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Naval Battle of Grand Port: a First Day Cover on Al-Idrissi was issued by the
Mauritius Post Ltd. on 5 August. The website of the Maritime History of the Indian Ocean and a documentary film entitled Maritime Memory of the Arabs were launched and a planisphere of Al-Idrissi was unveiled in the month of August 2010 at the Company’s Garden, Port Louis.

**International Book Fair**

The First International Book Fair organised by the National Library in collaboration with the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and the association of students from the University of Mauritius was held from 25 to 29 August at the Cyber Tower, Ebène. Some 19 exhibitors from Mauritius, Lebanon, South Africa/UK and India showcased and offered on sale at discounted prices books and publications for different school age-groups and the public at large. There were interactive sessions with young local authors.

**November**

**176th Anniversary of the Arrival of Indentured Labourers**

A book on Health, Disease and Indian Immigrants in the 19th Century Mauritius was launched by the Prime Minister, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, in the context of the 176th anniversary of the arrival of indentured labourers in Mauritius which was held on 2 November at the Aapravasi Ghat in Port Louis. The President of the Republic, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, proceeded with the launch of a CD of Bhojpuri songs. Several activities were held at regional levels.

**Renovation of the Frederik Hendrik Museum**

The Frederik Hendrik Museum at Vieux Grand Port was re-opened on 18 November after renovation works undertaken by the Mauritius Museums Council in collaboration with the Tropen Museum of Holland. The objective is to attract more visitors such as tourists and students with a view to sensitizing them on the Dutch period which consists of an important part of the history of Mauritius.

**December**

**The Festival International Kreol**

The Festival International Kreol kicked off on 10 December in the presence of the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, at the Plantation Hotel, Balaclava. Other activities organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure from 10 to 12 comprised a Swaré Tipik at Le Morne Public Beach, a lespas kreol at Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis, a Konser Teatral on the theme REKIEM at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, and an All Night Concert at Domaine Les Pailles.

**Exhibition on Mauritius Campaign, 1809-1810**

An exhibition on the Mauritius Campaign 1809-1810 was held on 28 December at the Natural History Museum in Port Louis. It was organised by the Mauritius Museums Council in the context of the commemoration of the bicentenary of the Battle of Grand Port and the British take-over of Mauritius. It comprised panels depicting key historical figures and events unfolding the Mauritius Campaign 1809-1810 which gave Britain complete mastery of the oceans.
Information and Communication Technology
Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

Mission

To provide the right environment for the harnessing of Information & Communication Technologies to generate employment, increase national wealth, improve quality of life and create new opportunities for sustainable socio-economic development of Mauritius.
January

Universal ICT Education Programme

The National Computer Board (NCB) launched the second phase of the Universal ICT Education Programme on 19 January at the Industrial and Vocational Training Board premises in Plaine Verte. The programme provides quality ICT education at low cost in order to enlarge the ICT workforce.

Beauty and Spa Wellness with ICT

The NCB organised a seminar on 21 January at the Municipal Council of Port Louis on using ICT in the Beauty and Spa Wellness sector for women entrepreneurs. The seminar is in line with government policy to democratise access to ICT. The Minister also launched the Indian Ocean Beauty and Wellness Network and the website ‘E-Regional Platform for Beauty and Wellness’.

Introduction to ICT

Children aged nine to fifteen years living in Plaine Verte and its vicinities were initiated to ICT through the cyber caravan of the National Computer Board on 23 January.

Mini-business parks in Vallée Pitot

During a site visit in Vallée Pitot on 26 January, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Renewable Energy and Public Utilities, announced, in the presence of the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, that a mini-Business Park to the tune of some Rs 100 millions would be established on 4 acres of land at Reservoir Diego Garcia in Vallée Pitot. A building which would house office facilities, a training centre and incubators for SMEs would be built on 2 acres. ICT Training in the area of Vallée Pitot was initiated prior to the implementation of the project.

Developing ICT as a Strong Pillar of the Economy: The India Experience

The NCB in collaboration with the University of Technology Mauritius organised a public lecture on 29 January on ‘Developing ICT as a Strong Pillar of the Economy: The India Experience’. The public lecture was delivered by Mr Som Mittal, President of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) of India.

Memorandum of Understanding to build capacity in ICT

The NCB, the University of Technology Mauritius, and the Mauritius IT Industry Association (MITIA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 29 January in a bid to develop and build capacity in ICT in Mauritius and thus achieve the country’s objectives in terms of human resources development. The MoU provides a framework of cooperation to explore potential collaborative opportunities such as exchange of information, technology, expertise, development of training and other capacity building programme, promotion of entrepreneurship development in ICT, among others.

ICT Night 2010

The NCB organised an ICT Night, in collaboration with MITIA, in January with the objective to foster interaction and networking between ICT stakeholders. The President of NASSCOM, Mr Som Mittal, was the Guest Speaker of the ICT Night 2010 and delivered a speech on “Role and Importance of ICT for Developing Countries”.

Google Cache servers

Google Cache Servers, located at the Mauritius Internet Exchange Point at Ebène, were officially launched on 4 February. The Cache Servers are the vector between users and the Internet for a faster access to information being searched. They are the second cache servers hosted on the African continent.

Safer Internet Day

A series of activities were organised to mark Safer Internet Day, observed on 9 February. The theme for the year 2010 was “Think B4 U post” and focused on how images are managed online and consequently, how privacy are dealt in digital environments. The activities comprised a half-day workshop on ‘Social Networking Principles’ targeting ICT primary school teachers, launching of pamphlets on social networking and cyberbullying and distribution of brochures on Internet Safety for Children.
Mobile World Congress 2010 – Global Conference for Mobile Technology

The Minister participated in the Global System for Mobile Communications Association Ministerial Programme in the context of the Mobile World Congress 2010 – Global Conference for Mobile Technology held in Barcelona from 15 to 18 February 2009. The theme of the meeting was ‘Vision in action’. Among issues on the agenda: the challenges and opportunities of the ICT sector, the future of mobile internet and its role as an enabler for cross-sector growth and innovation, consumer empowerment via the mobile internet and the spectrum policies and management for Mobile Broadband Regulators.

Technology Update Workshop on Vulnerability Management

Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-MU) organised a half-day workshop on Vulnerability Management on 25 February at La Canelle, Domaine les Pailles, targeting IT professionals, System Administrators, IT Auditors and Information Security Practitioners. The aim of the workshop was to enable some 125 participants to understand the concepts of vulnerability management effectively, allowing them to successfully manage an entire range of process, from analysing the vulnerability till its mitigation.

Issue of stamps

The Stamp Issue Programme for year 2010 was released on 26 February. The programme would include Embossed Gold Stamp of Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, Father of the Nation, FIFA World Cup 2010, Shanghai Expo 2010, Coats of Arms (District Councils) and Battle of Grand Port.

March

Cyber Tower Job Fair

The 3rd edition of the Cyber Tower Annual Job Fair organised by Business Parks of Mauritius (BPML) in collaboration with the Outsourcing Telecommunication Association of Mauritius (OTAM) took place on 5 and 6 March at the Cybercity in Ebène. The aim of the job fair was to provide Mauritians with the opportunity to learn about employment in the BPO sector. Some 12 enterprises were present at the event.

ICTA’s website awarded best website in Africa

The Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA)’s website was awarded the best website in the African region by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), in front of Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa.

Mauritius Telecom Foundation

The Mauritius Telecom Foundation was officially launched by the Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment at the headquarters of MT on 9 March in presence of the CEO and the Minister. The Foundation aims at facilitating the implementation of projects under the Corporate Social Responsibility scheme.
Free Entrance at Postal Museum

To mark the Independence Day Celebrations, Mauritius Post Ltd organised free visit at the Mauritius Postal Museum on 12 and 13 March to enable the public to discover the history of the island through the rich collection of stamps and other historical artefacts.

Participation in SECA

Mauritius participated in the Salon des Solutions, Conseils et Technologies pour L’Entreprise Innovante (SECA) for ICT sector, which was held in Paris from 16 to 18 March.

MoU with the National Informatics Centre Services Inc

The Ministry and the National Informatics Centre Services Inc, a Government of India enterprise, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 16 March in New Delhi during the mission of the minister to India from 15 to 18 March. The MoU provides for capacity building in e-government strategic planning, security, design and implementation of systems, sharing of applications used in Government bodies in India/ Mauritius and collaboration on best practices in the use of IT in government and in research areas of mutual interest.

National Cyber Law Seminar

A National Cyber Law Seminar was organised by the ICTA on 22 March at the Swami Vivekananda International Conference Centre. The objective was to sensitise stakeholders on the promotion of a national culture of cybersecurity. The key speaker was Justice Rajesh Tandon, Presiding Officer, Cyber Regulations Appellate Tribunal of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of India.

Lecture on cybercrime

Justice Rajesh Tandon, Presiding Officer, Cyber Regulations Appellate Tribunal of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of India, delivered on 25 March a lecture on cybercrime related alertness to Form VI students. The lecture aimed at empowering Mauritian youth with tips and tools on how to avoid being the victims of cyber crimes or worse unwittingly being a perpetrator of such cyber crimes. ICTA launched a guide entitled ‘Be Safe in Cyberspace’ on the same occasion.

Competition Commission signs MoU with the ICTA

The Competition Commission of Mauritius (CCM) signed the first of several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) that is required under the Competition Act to conclude with sector regulators. The first MOU with the ICTA was signed on 18 March at the Labourdonnais Hotel in Port Louis. The MoU provides for the promotion of co-operation and coordination between the CCM and the ICTA when dealing with cases of anti-competitive behaviour, especially where such powers is overlapping.

LION Submarine Optical Fibre Cable System

The Lower Indian Ocean Network (LION) Submarine Optical Fibre Cable System was officially inaugurated by the Prime Minister at the Cable Landing Station located at the Mauritius Telecom Terre Rouge Exchange on 24 March. The LION Project which is a joint initiative of Mauritius Telecom, France Télécom and Orange Madagascar aims at enhancing the security, resiliency and reliability of the international connectivity of Mauritius and provides additional capacity to connect to the world.
April

Joint SAPOA Stamp Issue for the 2010 FIFA World Cup

The official and almost simultaneous launch of the Southern Africa Postal Operators Association (SAPOA) Joint Stamp Issue on the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa by nine of the 14 countries of the SAPOA i.e. the Postal Operators of SADC was held on April 9. Mauritius Post Ltd organised the launching ceremony at the Postal Museum. A golden sheet with nine stamps representing the nine participating countries and a first day cover with a three stamp series were issued.

ICT Indicators Web Portal

The ICT Indicators Web Portal was launched by the Minister on 15 April at Clos St Louis, Domaine les Pailles. The launching ceremony was followed by a workshop aimed at gathering inputs from the ICT industry and relevant stakeholders with a view to finalising the report on the state of the Information Society development in Mauritius.

Joint CERT-MU and AfriNIC Training on Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6)

CERT-MU in collaboration with AfriNIC, a regional Internet Registry for Africa, hosted training on Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) on 28 and 29 April at the Centre for Information Technology and Systems (CITS), University of Mauritius. The main target audience for the training was network administrators, system administrators and IT Security professionals.

May

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2010

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was commemorated on 17 May and the theme for 2010 was ‘Better city, better life with ICTs’. The National Computer Board organised a half-day workshop on 17 May at La Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles where discussions focused on a policy on green ICT for Mauritius.

Quality of Service (QoS) framework for ICT services

The ICTA released a Consultation Paper on 17 May aimed at defining a Quality of Service (QoS) framework for ICT services in Mauritius. Quality of Service (QoS) as defined by the International Telecommunication Union is “the collective effect of service performances which determine the degree of satisfaction of a user of the service”. The public consultation is in line with international regulatory trends to improve standards in ICT service performance via measurable and rigorous indicators. It aims at fostering a more effective industry monitoring and protection of end-users of ICT services.

Two-Way Broadband Service for Aircraft in Flight

The ICTA released a Consultation Paper on two-way Aeronautical Mobile Satellite Service (AMSS) in the 14 – 14.5 GHz band on 17 May. AMSS networks have been designed to provide in-flight data (e.g. access to Internet on board aircraft) and entertainment content to passengers and operators of commercial and business aircraft. The Authority sought public
views and comments on its proposal to authorise the operation of AMSS on board of Mauritian aircraft and for aircraft in flight in Mauritian airspace subject to specific conditions.

**Mobile Communication Services on Aircraft**

The ICTA issued its decision on 17 May to allow foreign aircraft engaged in innocent passage in Mauritian airspace to operate Mobile Communication Services on Aircraft (MCA Services) as long as they respect conditions laid out in a recommendation by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, ICAO. In making its decision, the ICTA took into consideration the advice of the Department of Civil Aviation which was in turn based on a recommendation of the International Civil Aviation Organisation, namely that certification of MCA Systems be withheld until all the potential effects of the GSM on board aircraft are studied and safety requirements are met.

**Training workshop for CERT-MU and CIRT**

A two-day training workshop for CERT-MU and Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) was held under the patronage of the National Cybercrime Prevention Committee at the Swami Vivekananda International Conference Centre, Pailles on 24 and 25 May. The workshop aimed at providing participants with a better insight into the establishment and the functioning of the Computer Emergency/ Incident Response Team to enable the handling and managing of computer incidents in a proactive and reactive way.

**2010 International Cable Protection Committee Meeting**

The Mauritius Telecom Ltd hosted “The 2010 International Cable Protection Committee Meeting” from 31 May to 4 June. The main objectives of the Committee are to promote the safeguarding of submarine cables against man-made and natural hazards and to provide a forum for the exchange of technical and legal information pertaining to submarine cable protection methods and programmes.

**June**

**African ICT Best Practices Forum**

Participation of the Minister in the African ICT Best Practices Forum held in Burkina Faso in partnership with Microsoft and the European Union, from 17 to 19 June. The Forum brings together governments, industry and development agencies to discuss on the means and ways to protect and enhance Africa’s burgeoning ICT infrastructure by sharing their own specific experiences and demonstrating practical examples of successful technology solutions in their respective countries.

**Workshop on ‘Youngsters Online: Role of School’**

A workshop on ‘Youngsters Online: Role of School’ was organised on June 22 at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute by the National Computer Board/CERT-MU in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and Microsoft Indian Ocean Islands. The workshop, designed for rectors and managers of State and private secondary schools, addressed the concerns of the Internet risk
at the level of schools and the countermeasures which can be adopted so that the children can use the Internet safely. It focused on guidelines that would enable participants to protect their computer, their family and themselves, on online safety measures at school level and on the risks of posting information on the Internet.

July

**MoU between India and Mauritius**

On the occasion of the official visit to Mauritius from 2 to 4 July of the Indian Minister of External Affairs, Mr Krishna, the National Computer Board and the Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate, Department of Information Technology, India, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop cooperation in the area of Information Security and Information Technology, particularly the setting up of an IT Security Audit of complex critical Government Information Systems, such as the Treasury Accounting System and the Registrar General’s Department System.

**Work from Home Business Process Outsourcing Scheme**

The launching of the Work from Home Business Process Outsourcing Scheme was held on 8 July at the Conference Room, Cybertower I, Ebene Cybercity. The scheme offers the possibility for an operator to access his load of BPO work on the systems of Quattro in India and in the USA from his respective personal computers via the Internet.

**Visit of Minister to Rodrigues**

The Minister was on mission in Rodrigues from 14 to 15 July. He inaugurated the new Post Office at Port Mathurin and opened a Public Internet Access Point and an Automated Counter in the new post office. He also launched the Universal Education Programme (UIEP) Phase II programme in Rodrigues. Some 300 Rodriguans received their certificate for the IC3 Computer Literacy Programme. The Minister signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chief Commissioner on the cooperation avenues between his Ministry and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

**Recommendations of the National Cybercrime Prevention Committee**

The National Cybercrime Prevention Committee, set up under the aegis of ICTA to enhance the national approach to combat cybercrime, presented on 23 July its recommendations to Cabinet. They include, among others, the improvement of the policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to adapt to international legal instruments and provide for proportionate and dissuasive sanctions; the establishment of a mechanism to increase exchange of information on IT security and cybercrimes at local, regional and international levels; the provision of a safe and secure environment to users, particularly children and young adults; and improved detection of and responses to cybercrime.

**August**

**First Day Cover Pays Tribute to Al-Idrissi**

The Mauritius Post Ltd released on 5 August at the Postal Museum, Port Louis, a first day cover with a
postage stamp of Sharif al-Idrissi, Arab geographer and cartographer of the 12th century, and his planisphere, built in 1154, with a special cachet.

**Launching of IC3 Educational Clips**

The Minister launched on 5 August at the Conference Room of the Ministry a first series of 12 Educational Programmes, produced by the NCB in collaboration with the Mauritius College of the Air. The Educational Programmes, based on the internationally acknowledged Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC3) course syllabus, aimed at enabling people with no prior knowledge of IT to have a basic guide on how to use a computer. The clips were also broadcasted on TV.

**Telecommunications Senior Management Training Programme**

The Mauritius Telecom Ltd., in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union and the Southern Africa Telecommunications Association, organised the Telecommunications Senior Management Training Programme from 16 to 20 August. Participants included Senior Executives and Senior Managers of Ministries, Regulatory Bodies, Telecom Operators and the telecommunication industry. Issues discussed comprised Value-based Management and Elements of Financial Analysis; Telecommunications in the New Environment; Interconnection; and International Telecommunications.

**First Day Cover in Context of Shanghai Expo 2010**

Mauritius Post Ltd released on 20 August a First Day Cover to mark the Mauritian Day which was celebrated on 1st September at the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai, China. The stamp shows a representation of the famous Blue Penny stamp with the logo of the Shanghai World Expo and ‘shi’ meaning ‘world’ in Mandarin.

**Joint India Mauritius Task Force on e-Governance**

The first meeting of the Joint India Mauritius Task Force on e-Governance was held in Mauritius from 23 to 26 August, following the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI) of the Republic of India on 16 March. The Joint Task Force was officially opened by the Minister.

**Infotech 2010**

The 17th edition of Infotech was held from 26 to 29 August at Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre. The theme for 2010 was “Intelligent Mauritius”, in line with Government’s vision to position Mauritius as a strategic ICT hub. The objectives of Infotech 2010 were, among others, to provide information on developments and achievements in the ICT sector in Mauritius and the region; create awareness on emerging technologies; demonstrate and promote talents, expertise, and know-how; sensitise on the applications of ICT and the choice of technology for effective business and individual solutions; and offer a platform for local ICT operators to develop collaboration and deal with potential technology partners and customers.
**September**

**Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Ministerial Conference**

The Minister was on mission to Seoul, South Korea, where he participated in the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAFEC) Ministerial Conference held from 14 to 17 September. The main objective of the Conference was to discuss the KOAFEC Action Plan 2011-2012, which aims at establishing collaboration amongst partners to improve the capability for the development of Africa in capacity building and IT through technical assistance and knowledge sharing.

**Data Loss Prevention workshop**

A workshop on Data Loss Prevention was organised by CERT-MU on 30 September at La Canelle, Domaine Les Pailles. There were some 130 participants who attended the workshop namely IT Professionals, System Administrator, Network Administrators, Database Administrators, IT Auditors and IT Security Professionals. The aim of the workshop was to enable the professionals to understand the concepts of data loss prevention, allowing them to successfully manage the data of their enterprise.

**Centralised Content Filtering System**

The ICTA put in place a Centralised Content Filtering System to curtail harmful and illegal contents on the Internet with a view to restricting access to inappropriate websites by children using computer, in line with the Child Safety Online Action Plan.

**October**

**International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary Conference**

The Minister was on mission in Guadalajara, Mexico, where he participated in the International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary Conference held from 4 to 22 October. The main objectives of the Conference were the setting of the Union’s general policies and the adoption of the four-year strategic and financial plans. In the margins of the Conference, the Minister had discussions with his counterparts and it was agreed that Mauritius would act as the focal point for coordinating a cooperation programme in ICT among the Members of the Indian Ocean Commission. It was also agreed that the Agence Nationale de Fréquence of France would conclude a collaboration agreement with the ICTA aimed at exchanging skills in spectrum management and ensuring proper frequency coordination between Mauritius and Reunion Island.

**Open Access Policy**

On 15 October, Cabinet gave its approval to an “Open Access Policy” being applied for the operation of undersea cable landing stations in Mauritius. This measure aims at further stimulating competition in the Information and Communication Technology market. The Open Access Policy would allow interested parties, on equal conditions with a transparent relation between cost and pricing, to get access to and share communication resources on one level to provide value-added services on another level in a layered communication system architecture. It also encourages market entry from smaller local companies and seeks to ensure that no entity can take a position of dominant market power.
November

ICT (Universal Service Fund) (Amendment) Regulations

The Information and Communication Technologies (Universal Service Fund) (Amendment) Regulations which provide for the change in the contribution payable into the Universal Service Fund came into effect on 1 November, following the promulgation of the Information and Communication Technologies (Fraud Tracking Account Charge) Regulations 2010.


Launching of the consultancy project for the review of the National ICT Strategic Plan 2007 – 2011 and signature of the contracts between the consultants and the Ministry on 1 November. The review exercise is part of activities of the Competitiveness and Public Sector Efficiency programme funded by the African Development Bank. The objectives are to assess the implementation of the NICTSP and come up with a revised proposal, including cost plan and Human Resource requirements, for an appropriate and responsive institutional set up.

5th SATA Human Capital Development Workshop

The Fifth Southern Africa Telecommunications Association (SATA) Human Capital Development Workshop was held in Mauritius from 17 to 19 November. The Workshop provided a platform to delegates to share knowledge and experience in managing and developing human capital to face the challenges in the ICT Sector. Some 30 participants, comprising members of the SATA, Executives and Senior Managers from Regulators, Telecom Operators and the telecom industry participated in the Workshop.

Computer Security Day

To mark Computer Security Day which is an annual event observed worldwide on 30 November to raise awareness and to promote best practices in Information Security, CERT-MU organised an Information Security week. The objective was to help business executives, senior management and Information Security Professionals keeping up-to-date with the latest developments in Information Security. Activities comprised a full day conference and interactive panel discussion on specific tracks, an exhibition to demonstrate computer security based products and the holding of several training programmes conducted by STQC, India.

December

Electronic Transactions Act 2000

Parts and sections of the Electronic Transactions Act 2000, came into operation on 1 December. The Minister also promulgated the Electronic Transactions (Certification Authorities) Regulations to provide for the setting up of a licensing scheme and criteria for Certification Authorities and the laying down of the administrative framework for licensing by the Controller of Certification Authorities.

Mauritian Public Key Infrastructure

Launching of the Mauritian Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) on 6 December at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Les Pailles. PKI has emerged worldwide as the trusted technology of choice for ensuring the trustworthiness of identity credentials in three key areas: e-government, national identity programs, and e-passport programs.
Fisheries and Rodrigues
Ministry of Fisheries and Rodrigues

Mission

To provide an enabling environment for the promotion of sustainable development of the fisheries sector and to ensure continued economic growth and social development within the framework of good governance.
**July**

**Mission to Australia**

The Minister was on mission from 29 June to 1 July to Brisbane, Australia where he participated in the International Workshop on Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. Discussions focused mainly on fisheries development in developing countries, perspectives on the management and transfer of harvesting capacity to retain profitability, future management options and initiatives, recognition of interests including those of Small Island Developing States, aspirations and participation of developing States and issues relating to excess capacity for tuna fishing.

**August**

**FITEC obtains MS ISO 9001:2008 Certification**

The Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC) obtained the MS ISO 9001:2008 Certification on 26 August in recognition of the quality system in its training programme. The MS ISO 9001:2008 is a written standard that defines the basic elements of a quality system that organisations should adopt to ensure that their services meet the citizens’ expectations. One of the objectives of the Centre is to organise training programmes for the fisheries sector.

**Scholarship Award Ceremony 2010**

Some 107 children of registered fishermen from Mauritius and Rodrigues were awarded scholarships for studies at the secondary, tertiary and vocational levels by the Fishermen Welfare Fund at Pointe aux Sables on 26 August. The objective of the Fund is, amongst others, to develop schemes and projects for the welfare of registered fishermen.

**September**

**National Action Plan for prevention of unreported and unregulated fishing**

The National Action Plan to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (NPOA-IUU) was launched on 2nd September at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre. The NPOA-IUU charts out the way forward in fisheries management measures contributing to combat IUU fishing. The Plan outlines amongst others, State responsibilities such as enactment of appropriate legislations, flag State responsibilities, coastal State responsibilities, port State measures and trade related measures.

**Mission To Gambia**

The Minister was on mission from 20-23 September to Gambia where he participated in the First Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture. The objectives of the Conference, which had as theme African Fisheries and Aquaculture: Contributing Towards Agricultural Development and Economic Growth, were to identify clear evidence-based priority actions to be implemented in fisheries and aquaculture development in Africa and determine strategies to support fisheries governance and policy reforms necessary to improve the role of sustainable fisheries in contributing to African Union Member States economies and welfare.
October

Fisheries and Marine Resources Regulations Amended

As from 30th October, the Ministry of Fisheries and Rodrigues was designed as the Competent Authority for the issue of health certificates for the export of fish and fish products to the European Union. The Fisheries and Marine Resources (Export of Fish and Fish Products) Regulations was amended accordingly.

Mission to Mozambique

The Minister was, from 31 October to 4 November, on mission to Mozambique and he pursued discussions on the identification of potential extra-territorial activities, and investments that would boost the contribution of the fisheries sector to the economic development of Mauritius and Mozambique and meet the demand of seafood in both countries.

November

Evaluation of Balaclava Marine Park Environment

A one-day workshop on the Environmental Evaluation of Balaclava Marine Park was held on 17 November at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre. The Balaclava Marine Park was first proclaimed as a National Park in 1997 under the Mauritius Wildlife Act 1993 and was later declared a Marine Park in 2000 under the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 1998. It covers a sea area of 485 hectares, which starts from Batterie des Mortiers to Petite Pointe aux Piments along the coast.
December

**Fishing boats skippers complete training session**

A batch of 15 fishermen from Mauritius and Rodrigues received certificates on 1st December at the Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC) at Pointe aux Sables. The fishermen had completed a training course for skippers for fishing boats less than 12 metres, under the third project of the “Rehabilitation of Fisheries Facilities for Fisheries Development in Mauritius” implemented in collaboration with the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) of Japan.

**Pelagic Resources Survey in the EEZ**

In the context of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP), the Research Vessel “Dr Fridtjof Nansen”, conducted a multi-disciplinary survey from 6-21 December to investigate pelagic and demersal resources in the exclusive economic zone of Mauritius. SWIOFP is a five-year regional fisheries project funded by the World Bank/GEF and other donor countries through a grant of US$ 25 million.

**Tourism**

- An increase of 23.4% in tourist arrival has been noted for the period January to August compared to the same period in 2009. Figures in 2009 stood at 23 503 whilst in 2010, 29 002 tourists visited Rodrigues.

- Signboards have been placed at Montagne Cabris Ouest, Dans Coco and Pointe Diable. New pathways have been identified to allow visitors to use horizontally and vertically across Ile au Cocos.

**Agriculture**

- Free services for land ploughing and insect control have been reorganized to better meet the growing demand of farmers.

- 658 new agricultural permits were issued, while 300 permits were recommended for allocation of agricultural lease.

- Limes villages were established in Grand Bay and Graviers.

- A Chilli village has been set up at Baladirou and about 51 growers have been connected to an irrigation network.

- With the rehabilitation of pastures and the planting of fodder, milk production per unit of production of St Gabriel which was of 15,791 litres over the past year, rose to 10,471 litres just for the first six months of the year.

- The first community kitchen to be used for the processing of fruit and vegetables has been completed and the design of a second community kitchen at Citronelle for honey production is being finalised.

**RODRIGUES**

**Integrated Development Planning**

In line with the concept of Integrated Development Planning and the setting up of land use planning, six Integrated Regional Offices in each of the electoral region of Rodrigues have been set up.
Fisheries

- Payment of compensation for the voluntary retirement of in-lagoon fishermen. The aim is to reduce overexploitation of the lagoon.
- Setting up of marine reserves at Rivière Banane, English Bay, Grand Bassin and Passe Demie.
- Conversion of in lagoon fishermen into off lagoon fishermen.
- Completion of the construction of six 32-feet boat for offshore fishing.
- Dredging of the channel between Pointe Monier and Oyster Bay is on going and is expected to be completed by early December
- Six new fishing aggregate devices were installed at depths of 70 to 1000 metres. To date a total of 15 FADs is operational around Rodrigues.

Information and Communication Technology

Signature of a MoU by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with the Ministry of Information, Technology and Communication for a better collaboration in the field of ICT development. Consultations have already been initiated with the Ministry for the installation of the optical cable between Rodrigues and Mauritius.

Water Resources

The Cascade Pigeon dam with a storage capacity of 10 000 m³ has already been completed and is ready for use. The construction of two reservoirs each of a storage capacity of 1000m³ at Rivièrè Coco and Montagne Patate has been completed and the reservoirs are operational.

In addition, a pumping station has been completed as well as an additional reservoir of a storage capacity of 50m³ has been built at Jean Tac.

Road Infrastructure Development

- Phase II of the construction of the Baie Topaze – Camp Pintade road has been completed.
- The start up of the road from Roseaux to Creve Coeur. Besides maintenance works have been entertained on about 60 kms of road from Roseaux to Creve Coeur.

Construction of Port Mathurin Market

The construction of the Port Mathurin Market is in progress.

Projects in villages

Several projects relating to children playground, green Space, construction of drains and bus shelters have been implemented in the villages.

Airport Development- Extension of runway at SGD Airport

The project has reached the technical evaluation stage.

Education

Regarding educational infrastructure, classrooms have been built at Mangues Government School and 2 classrooms at Grand La Fouche Corail Government School are under construction.

Housing

Under the NHDC casting of slab scheme, 107 beneficiaries received grants from the Government.
Civil Service and Administrative Reforms
Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms

Mission

- To be a driver, catalyst and facilitator for the development of effective and efficient human resources in the Civil Service.
- To spearhead administrative reforms so as to enable the delivery of timely and quality services to the public.
- To provide training to Public Officers.
January

Launching of Training and Documentation Unit

Launching of a Training and Documentation Unit on 22 January at the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, Senior Citizens Welfare and Reforms Institutions. The aim is to provide public officers a place where they can update their knowledge and be at the forefront of social development.

February

Certification Programme for Procurement Officials

Award ceremony of certification programme held on 17 February for some 104 procurement officials who completed award courses in procurement dispensed by the Ministry in collaboration with the University of Technology Mauritius and the Public Procurement Office. The courses fit in the objective of the Ministry to empower the officers through capacity building in order to equip them with the necessary tools to meet new challenges with an increased level of professionalism.

Civil Service Quiz Competition

The Annual Civil Service quiz competition was organised by the Public Officers’ Welfare Council on 24 February, with the objective to motivate public officers to get involved in intellectual pursuits and enhance their interaction with officers from other governmental departments.

Award Courses for Executive Officers

Launching of award courses on 25 February at the University of Technology Mauritius for some 63 Executive Officers of the General Services cadre. The objectives of the training programme were to acquaint the officers with the new concepts and latest trends in public sector management, help them develop effective inter-personal and communication skills as well as understand the importance of the administrative reforms process in the Civil Service so that they can fully participate in such reforms.

March

Award of Certificates for 155 Public Officers

Award of certificates on 18 March for some 155 public officers across the public sector, who successfully completed a four months training course through Open Distance Learning on “Supervision and Leadership for Change”. The objective was to enhance the leadership and supervisory skills of the officers who have the responsibility of leading and supervising the work of teams of officers within their respective organisations.

Blood Donation Week

The Public Officers’ Welfare Council organised a Blood Donation Week from 23 to 26 March across several regions.

June

Certificate Award Ceremony for Officers of the General Services Cadre

Award of certificates on 9 June to some 64 officers of the General Services cadre having completed courses mounted by the Ministry in collaboration with the UTM. The overall objectives of the courses were to acquaint the officers with the new concepts
and latest trends in public sector management as well as help them develop effective inter-personal communication skills and understand the importance of the administrative reforms process in the civil service.

**UN Public Service Day/Africa Day of the Civil Service**

Celebration of the United Nations Public Service Day and Africa Day of the Civil Service and Administration on 23 June. In Mauritius, where the number of civil servants is around 83,000, this celebration gives recognition to the importance of the civil service and its positive contribution to the advancement of the country.

**July**

**Organisation of 2nd Edition of AAPSIA**

A meeting aimed at exchanging information on the second edition of the All Africa Public Sector Innovation Award (AAPSIA) 2010 on the theme: Promoting Good Governance through Innovative Service Delivery, was held on 1st July at the seat of the Ministry. AAPSIA is a continental-wide awards initiative of the Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Civil Service, which promotes and encourages best practices, innovation and improvement in service delivery of public sector organisations across Africa.

Football tournament for public officers: Presentation of trophies
Finals Football Tournament

The finals of the football tournament organised by the Public Officers’ Welfare Council was held on 2 July. The objective of the event was to provide opportunities to public officers to maintain their physical fitness.

Award of Certificates Ceremony

Award of certificates on 28 July for officers having completed courses on “Supervision and Leadership for Change” through the Open Distance Learning mode. The course aimed at enhancing the leadership and supervising skills of public officers within their respective organisations.

August

Award Courses for HEOs

An award course for Higher Executive Officers and Senior Officers/ Executive Officers was held on 12 August at the University of Technology Mauritius. The overall objective of the course was to acquaint officers of the General Services cadre with new concepts of and latest trends in public sector management.

Award of ISO Certificate to Fisheries Training and Extension Centre

Award ceremony of MS ISO 9001:2008 on 26 August to the Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC) at Pointe-Aux-Sables. By achieving this award, the FiTEC has gained a label of recognition which is that of operating according to international ISO quality managements standards.

September

Scrabble and Essay Competition

Prize giving ceremony for the scrabble and essay competition organised by the Public Officers’ Welfare Council on 21 September with the objective to motivate public officers to get involved in intellectual pursuits and enhance their interaction with officers from other government departments.

October

Induction Course for Office Care Attendants

Opening of an Induction Course for Temporary Office Care Attendants on 7 October. The objectives of the course were to sensitize the new recruits on their roles, functions and responsibilities and help them develop the right mindset, positive attitude and ethical behaviour in performing their duties with a customer and performance oriented approach.

Award of Certificates Ceremony

Award of Certificates on 11 October to successful officers of the General Cadre having followed courses offered by the Ministry. The objectives of the courses were to impart the appropriate knowledge and skills to officers with a view to better equipping them with the essential tools for the efficient conduct of their various functions and for the enhancement of performance in the service.
Minister’s Mission to Malta

The Minister went on mission to Malta from 18 to 21 October where he participated in the Third Commonwealth Ministers Forum on Public Sector Development which was preceded by the 2010 Biennial Conference of Commonwealth Association of Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) which took place on 18 – 20 October. On the agenda at the Forum: valuing good governance in the Commonwealth and innovating public policy development. The Minister also discussed areas of cooperation with the delegation of Singapore and the Commonwealth Secretariat for the setting up of the Civil Service College.

Annual Civil Service Kermesse

Annual Civil Service Kermesse organised by the Public Officers’ Welfare Council held on 31 October 2010 on the Gymkhana Grounds, Vacoas. The Kermesse aimed at enabling public officers to interact in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and also provided a platform for Staff Welfare Association and Departments to raise funds for the benefit of their members. The Civil Aviation Staff Welfare Association won the best stall competition.

November

Volleyball Tournament: Finals

The Finals of the Volleyball Tournament organised by the Public Officers’ Welfare Council was held on 08 November. The objective of the event was to provide opportunities to public officers to maintain their physical fitness through sport activities.

9th Annual Residential Seminar

The 9th annual residential seminar organised by the Club Le Flamboyant was held from 13 to 15 November at the Recreational Centre at Pointe-Aux-Sables. The seminar provided a platform for retired public officers to meet regularly and encouraged them to adopt the concept of living with dignity through productive activities.

Badminton Tournament: Finals

The finals of the Badminton Tournament organised by the Public Officers’ Welfare Council was held on 18 November. The objective of the event was to provide opportunities to public officers to maintain their physical fitness through sport activities.

Haemodialysis Unit, Flacq Hospital Won PSEA

At the Public Service Excellence Award (PSEA) 2009 ceremony held on 24 November at Le Meridien Hotel, at Pointe aux Piments, the Haemodialysis Unit at Flacq Hospital won the first prize out of the thirty-three public service organisations which participated in the fourth edition of the competition and was awarded a cash prize of Rs 100 000 and a trophy. The theme for the 2009 edition of the competition was: Sustainable Development through Organisational Excellence.
Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment

Mission

- To promote industrial peace and harmony and to protect the fundamental rights and dignity of workers.
- To enhance productivity and the general well-being of the workforce through improvement in standards of safety and health and prevention of occupational diseases and injuries at the workplace.
- To facilitate the employment of jobseekers, provide assistance and guidance with regard to employment prospects and regulate the employment of migrant workers.
- To regulate the functioning of associations and trade unions.
- To regulate the operation of agents for the recruitment of Mauritians for employment locally and/or overseas.
- To promote decent work.
January

Meeting with the RS Denims Administrator

The Minister met the designated administrator of RS Denims on 25 January to study possible measures to help the company restore itself so as to save jobs after facing difficulties due to the global financial crisis. RS Denims had benefited from assistance from the Mechanism for Transitional Support to the Private Sector.

February

Review of the Work Permit System/Processes

Taking into consideration the current economic situation, the need to preserve local employment and the pressing requirement of companies for skilled labour, the Ministry started work on 5 February on the possibility of streamlining the current procedures for the grant of work permits and several measures have been recommended.

Two-day workshop for Trade Unionists

A two-day workshop for trade unionists organised by the International Labour Office/ACTRAV (ILO’s Bureau for Workers’ Activities) in collaboration with the International Trade Union Confederation (Africa) and major trade unions organizations, was held on 18 and 19 February at the Four Points by Sheraton in Ebène. The workshop aimed at sensitising the unions to work towards unity to foster better cohesion and obtain optimum results for the upliftment of workers socio-economic interests and welfare.

March

Visit of Ugandan State Minister for Labour, Employment and Industrial Relations

The Minister met on 17 March, in Port Louis, the Ugandan State Minister for Labour, Employment and Industrial Relations, Dr. Emmanuel O. Otaala, who was on a three-day visit in Mauritius. The aim of the visit was to learn how Mauritius succeeded in attaining the middle-income status, in creating jobs and opportunities and in the formulation and implementation of new labour legislation. Moreover, the delegation sought to have first hand information on trade unionism and the tripartite structures in Mauritius.

Meeting for Rodriguans to benefit from jobs in Mauritius

The Minister met the Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues and the Rodrigues Commissioner for Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment in Port Louis on 24 February. The focus was the pool of manpower that can be created in Rodrigues to address the shortage of workers in specific industries in Mauritius, such as the construction industry.

Sensitisation Programme for Members of GPA

A half-day sensitisation programme on 17 March for the members of the Government Professional Engineers’ Association on the provisions of the Employment Relations Act. The initiative was in line with the new labour legislation, that is, all stakeholders including the trade unions and other professional associations should make it their responsibility to inform their members of the main...
provisions of the new labour laws, as well as of other legal instruments relating to the world of work.

**Elimination of Discrimination in Mauritian Law**

The 4th round of consultations on the Elimination of Discrimination in Mauritian Laws was held on 18 March at the Ministry. Trade unionists expressed views regarding various issues which they considered discriminatory namely, the treatment of expatriate workers, the review of Remuneration Orders on a five-year basis, the consideration of all categories of workers in sectors such as health and education and other issues pertaining to the law.

**Tripartite workshop on Risk Assessment**

Tripartite workshop on Risk Assessment on 22 March at the Imperial China Restaurant in Trianon. An initiative of the Ministry in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the workshop aimed at creating a longlasting and sustainable safety and health culture in Mauritius and provided stakeholders with the appropriate skills, knowledge and attitude with the view to enhancing the general knowledge of safety and health at workplace.

**Site Visit at Princes’ Tuna Mauritius Factory**

The Minister visited on 25 March the various plants of the Princes’ Tuna Mauritius Factory at Riche Terre, including the cold room and the canning
and packing units. The Minister gauged the state of industrial relations in the company, as well as the various health and safety measures taken there.

**Works progress reviewed for the New Labour Office**

The Minister was apprised on 29 March of the progress on the new labour office at Forest Side. The new office would accommodate housing officers from the Labour and Industrial Relations Division, in charge of dealing with all work-related complaints, the Employment Division responsible for dealing with employment enquiries and placements and Officers from the Mediation and Conciliation Unit.

**April**

**Meeting with New Resident Representative of Friedrich Ebert (FES)**

The Minister met the new resident representative of the FES on 15 April. Both parties reviewed the different projects that had been conducted under the aegis of the foundation and with organisations such as Labour Watch and explored new areas of collaboration between the Government, the FES and NGOs, of which the promotion of the Decent Work agenda.

**Annual Conference of the Asia-Pacific Occupational Safety and Health**

The 25th Annual Conference of the Asia-Pacific Occupational Safety and Health Organisation was held in Mauritius from 19 to 22 April on the theme “Emerging safety, health and environmental issues in a changing world”. The objective was to promote mutual understanding and cooperation among the communities in the region and to contribute to the enhancement of occupational safety and health through the exchange of information and views among member organisations.

**National Tripartite Workshop on Risk Assessment**

A five-day national tripartite workshop on Risk Assessment was held from 22 to 26 April. It aimed at creating a longlasting and sustainable safety and health culture in Mauritius. Twenty four participants from the public and private sectors, representatives of the trade unions as well as workers’ and employers’ organisations attended the workshop. Participants were sensitised on the concepts and principles of occupational safety and health, risk assessment and management and equipped them with the necessary skills relating to hazard identification, risk evaluation and control.

**May**

**Association of Human Resource Professionals’ Meeting**

Annual general meeting of the Association of Human Resource Professionals held on 27 May at the Le Labourdonnais Hotel in Port Louis in the presence of the Minister. The meeting served as a forum for members of the organisation to analyse, assess, discuss and reflect on issues that are of direct relevance to them and to the future of the organisation as well as take stock of achievements and discussed the way forward.
June

99th Session of the International Labour Conference

The Minister led a tripartite delegation to the 99th session of the annual International Labour Conference held from 2 to 18 June, in Geneva, Switzerland. The conference served as a platform for the different stakeholders to discuss issues pertaining to labour and social progress across the world as well as the application of Conventions and Recommendations required by the ILO at national level.

July

Major Future Projects of the Labour Sector

Various key projects were presented on 8 July at the seat of the ministry in Port Louis, among which: the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) for Mauritius, the setting up of the National Tripartite Forum after the phasing out of the National Pay Council, the signing of bilateral labour cooperation agreements with sourcing countries to address the problems of double contract of employment and recruitment of foreign workers, the setting up of a pool of barristers and attorneys, the harmonisation of the national legislation in relation to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and the implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health (Employees Lodging Accommodation) Regulation.

Launching of e-Tribunal System at the Employment Relations Tribunal

The e-tribunal system for the Employment Relations Tribunal (ERT) was launched on 21 July at the new venue of the Tribunal at Newton Tower in Port Louis. With the e-tribunal electronic case management system, ERT will post online its awards and statements of case and of defence or other documents presented before the Tribunal. The e-system will also allow lawyers, disputants, witnesses and the tribunal to gain time between the lodging of a case and its final disposal.

August

Agreement between MSPA and Sugar Industry Unions

Signing of the final collective agreement between the Mauritius Sugar Producers’ Association (MSPA) and the Sugar Industry Unions on 5 August at the seat of the Ministry. The agreement, effective from 1 January 2010 up to 31 December 2013, covers a salary increase of 20 percent and other fringe benefits to all agricultural workers employed by the MSPA as well as a review of the terms and conditions of employment of the workers.

Launching of the Commission for Conciliation and Mediation

The Commission for Conciliation and Mediation was officially launched on 9 August. Its main function is to provide conciliation as well as mediation services on any labour dispute referred to it as well as in the resolution of labour disputes both from the public and private sectors. A manual on the functional structures of the Commission for Conciliation and Mediation was also launched.
**EPZ held 21st Assembly of beneficiaries**

The Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Labour Welfare Fund organised its 21st Assembly of Beneficiaries under the Export Enterprise Scholarship scheme on 9 August at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka where several scholarships were awarded to children of the EPZ workers.

**October**

**National Tripartite Forum Set Up**

The National Tripartite Forum (NTF) comprised of seven representatives of Government departments, seven representatives of employers’ organisations and seven representatives of workers’ organisations, held its first meeting on 25 October in Port Louis under the chairmanship of the Minister who was assisted by two vice-chairpersons, one from the employers’ organisations and one from the workers’ organisations. The meeting served as a discussion platform to initiate dialogue among social partners and also discussed the setting up of the different technical sub-committees to examine specific issues and make proposals thereon relating to labour and industrial matters.

**Workshop on National Tripartite Forum**

Opening of a one-day tripartite workshop on 29 October at Domaine Les Pailles on the National Tripartite Forum (NTF). The workshop which was conducted by Mr Tayo Fashoyin, Director, Industrial and Employment Relations Department (Dialogue) ILO, aimed at further consolidating the structure of the NTF as well as its functioning.

**December**

**Job Fair**

A job fair organised by the Employment Division of the Ministry was held on 11 December in Port Louis with a view to raising awareness on the different job opportunities available on the labour market. The Job Fair with the participation of various ministries and departments served as a platform bringing together job seekers and job providers to have a first hand opportunity to know each other’s expectations in the field of employment. Job seekers also obtained information on the skills and competencies required in specific jobs, the range of salary they can expect, the working conditions and the career prospects.

**Migrant Day**

The annual Migrant Day organised by the Export Processing Zone Labour Welfare Fund (EPZLWF), for expatriates working in the manufacturing sector in Mauritius was celebrated on 12 December at Le Waterpark Leisure Park at Belle Mare.
ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE

Mission

To provide, without fear or favour, hatred or ill-will, to the Government sound and independent legal advice, and representation as well as to contribute to the development of a fair and just legal system and the promotion of the rule of law, in the interest of the State and the People.
Major Achievements

No. of Bills gazetted: 21

No. of Government Notices gazetted: 224

As at date 131 Bills are being worked upon by the Attorney General’s Office. It is proposed that 16 bills will be presented before the National Assembly by the Attorney General, namely:

1. Code Civil (Amendment) Bill
2. Divorce and Judicial Separation (Amendment) Bill
3. International Criminal Court Bill
4. Law Practitioners (Amendment) Bill
5. Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies Bill
6. Asset Recovery Bill
7. Constitution (Amendment) Bill
8. Judicial and Legal Provisions Bill
9. Courts (Amendment) Bill
   • Vexatious Litigants
   • Intimated Witnesses
   • Trial by Jury
   • Summon of Witnesses
10. Criminal Investigations and Proceedings Bill
11. Court Ushers (Amendment) Bill
12. Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill
13. Environment and Land Use Tribunal Bill
14. Family Court Bill
15. Law Revision (Amendment Bill)
16. Mauritius Law Society (Amendment) Bill

A report on Reforms to be brought to the Legal Aid Act prepared by Professor V.P. Torul has been made public and the Attorney General’s Office has invited comments on same.

4972 requests for advice/legal opinions from Ministries/Departments have been dealt with whilst there have been 2905 requests for representation before Courts.

Distribution of Copies of Constitution and ‘Code of Ethics’

The Attorney General has taken the initiative to distribute copies of the Constitution to students, youth clubs and Non Governmental Organisations.

A copy of the ‘Code of Ethics’ for Barristers and one for Attorneys will be remitted to each prospective barrister and attorney.

Achievements of Law Reform Commission

The Law Reform Commission has produced nine reports, namely:

• Issue paper on Evidence of Reluctant/Intimidated Witness in Criminal Proceedings;
• Issue paper on Criminal Investigation: Reform of Police Procedures and Practices;
• Progress Report on ‘Review/Reform of Aspects of Consumer Laws’;
• Background Paper on ‘Evolution of Codes and Reform Prospects’;
• Review Papers on aspects of the ‘Code Civil Mauricien’;
• Draft Issue paper on ‘Reform of Code de Procedure Civile’;
• Draft Issue paper on ‘Reform of Code de Commerce’;
• Draft Issue paper on ‘Restriction on Vexatious Litigation and Protection to Judicial and Law Officers against Abuse of Judicial Process by Vexatious Litigants’; and
• Draft Issue Paper on ‘Constitutional Protection of Fundamental Rights; Proposal for Reform’.
Business, Enterprise, Cooperatives and Consumer Protection
Ministry of Business, Enterprise, Cooperatives and Consumer Protection

Mission

- To ensure that there is smooth exchange of goods and services at national and international levels, regular supply of essential commodities, fair trading, competition and protection of consumers on the local market.
- To promote, consolidate and modernise the SME sector for tapping market opportunities at local, regional and international levels.
- To facilitate and assist the development of co-operatives through the creation and provision of favourable and conducive legal and institutional environment together with adequate support and incentives.
January

Fairtrade Certification

A workshop on Fairtrade Labelling Organisation (FLO) Certification was organised by the Ministry on 21 January at the National Institute for Co-operative Entrepreneurship, Terre Rouge.

The objective was to provide adequate information and technical support relating to the process of FLO Certification and sensitize a greater number of Cooperative Credit Societies to undergo the certification process.

SMEDA Act 2009 Proclaimed

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority Act (SMEDA) 2009 was proclaimed and took effect from 22 January 2010. The SMEDA Act aims at:

- promoting a conducive business environment and empowering SMEs to emerge and grow
- promoting a service delivery network which increases the contribution of SMEs in the national economy and enhances economic growth
- enhancing competitiveness of SMEs
- devising and implementing development support programmes and schemes for SMEs
- facilitating, assisting and providing the necessary support to SMEs to gain market access and business opportunities and to compete successfully in the national and international markets
- promoting and developing entrepreneurship

Caravane de l’Entrepreneuriat

The SMEDA in collaboration with the Business and Enterprise Division of Ministry launched the Caravane de l’Entrepreneuriat at the Le Morne Public Beach on 31 January. The Caravane de l’Entrepreneuriat was at Rivière du Rempart from 26 to 28 February.

February

SMEDA Portal Launched

A Mauritius SME Portal and a logo competition for the SMEDA were launched on 19 February at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre in Pailles.

The Mauritius SME Portal is a platform which enables interaction between the various stakeholders of the SME sector, such as, entrepreneurs, investors, firms and the public, and provides tailor-made information and services to entrepreneurs with a view to eliminating administrative bottlenecks and reducing processing time.

March

Espace Artisanal de Mahebourg

The Espace artisanal de Mahebourg, located in the courtyard of the Naval Museum, was launched on 9 March. Espace artisanal de Mahebourg is an initiative of the Tourist Villages Co. Ltd and SMEDA.
Salon des PME

The Salon des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (PME) was launched on the 31 March at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Pailles. The objective was to promote the marketing and showcasing of the products manufactured by small and medium enterprises. About 150 small and medium enterprises, including those from Rodrigues participated.

April

Commercial Fair in China

SMEDA participated in a commercial fair in the province of Yiwu in China. The aim was to enable some 20 small and medium enterprises to market their products at international level and to gain experience/expertise and benefit from the know-how of Chinese entrepreneurs.

May

Training programme in Co-operative Management

A training programme was launched in co-operative management on 31 May. The training programme was organised by the National Institute for Cooperative Entrepreneurship in Terre Rouge.

The objective was to upgrade the management knowledge and skills of 40 cooperative leaders.
Topics discussed included understanding cooperation, cooperative legislation, cooperative management and cooperative financial management.

**Consumer Protection**

**February**

**Workshop on Consumer Issues**

A workshop was held on 23 February in the context of the celebration of the World Consumer Rights Day at Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Caudan, Port Louis. The aim was to highlight consumer issues in relation to financial services and to raise awareness on the rights and interests of consumers.

**March**

**World Consumer Rights Day**

World Consumer Rights Day was observed on 15 March on the theme Our Money, Our Rights. The objective was to sensitise the public to get value for money in any purchase transaction. To mark this event, brochures on advice and information on loans, credit cards and budgeting were distributed at various retail points such as hypermarkets and supermarkets. Talks, panel and group discussions and presentations on MBC/TV and radio were carried out by the Consumer Protection Unit.

**April**

**Sensitisation Campaigns in Women Centres**

A series of talks were conducted in Women centres by the Consumer Protection Unit in different regions from April to June. The sensitisation campaign focused on the rights of consumers, family budget, loan facilities and credit cards. On the same occasion pamphlets on “Nou l’argent nou droits” and the magazine Savoir Choisir were distributed.

**June**

**Manufacturing And Services Development and Competitiveness Project**

A workshop on the Manufacturing and Services Development and Competitiveness (MSDC) Project was held on 18 June at Le St Georges Hotel in Port Louis at the initiative of the Ministry in collaboration with the World Bank. The MSDC is a US $ 20 million project which is funded by the World Bank.

**Launching of a Magazine for Consumers**

The first issue of a magazine for consumers Savoir Choisir was launched on 22 March at the Sheraton Hotel, Ebene. The magazine provides a wide range of useful information to consumers so as to allow them to do any transaction concerning goods and services efficiently. On the same occasion, an exhibition based on the history of the Consumer Protection Unit and on the rights of consumers was held.
July

Increasing Productivity And Competitiveness Of Cooperative Societies

A one-day workshop on the theme “Making Cooperatives more Productive and Competitive” was held on 1 July at Terre Rouge in the context of the International Day of Cooperatives. It focused on ways and means of rendering cooperative societies more productive and competitive and sensitised them on challenges confronted by the Cooperative movement within the changing global environment. Around 40 leaders of cooperative societies participated in the workshop.

Agricultural Cooperatives Ensuring Sustainable Development And Empowering Women Project

The Agricultural Cooperatives Ensuring Sustainable Development and Empowering Women Project was launched on 2 July at the Social Welfare Centre, Grand Sables. The Project implemented by the Mauritius Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd in collaboration with the University of Mauritius and other institutions, aims at controlling soil erosion, protecting coastal and marine environment and alleviating poverty in the South East region. The project is financed by the European Union under the ReCoMaP to the tune of Rs 4.3 million.

Directory of Co-operative Products and Services for Mauritius and Rodrigues

A Directory of Co-operative Products and Services for Mauritius was launched on 3 July at Réduit in the context of the International Co-operative Day 2010. The directory was also launched in Rodrigues in July. This directory will help to increase the visibility of the co-operative movement as well as provide a marketing tool to the co-operatives.

88th ICA International Cooperative Day

Around 800 persons participated in a gathering of cooperative society members on 3 July at the Octave Wiehe Auditorium, Réduit to mark the 88th ICA International Cooperative Day and the 16th UN International Day of Cooperatives. The theme for 2010 was Cooperative Enterprise Empowers Women. An award ceremony for students who participated in drawing competitions was also held on that occasion.

Incentives In The Dairy Sector And Good Farming

A one-day workshop on Incentives in the Dairy Sector and Good Farming was held on 7 July at the Maison des Eleveurs, Henrietta. Around 30 participants attended the workshop which was organised by the Ministry in collaboration with the Mauritius Livestock Marketing Co-operative Federation Ltd in the context of the International Co-operative Day. The objectives were to inform the participants about the various incentives provided to cowbreeders, good farming practices and encourage networking among participants.

Accounting Package For Cooperative Credit Societies

A workshop on the implementation of the Accounting package for Cooperative Credit Societies was organised by the Mauritius Cooperative Agricultural Federation Ltd (MCAF) on 8 July at Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Pailles. The MCAF has invested Rs 125,000 in the development of an Accounting Software for Cooperative Credit societies. The objective was to
help participants acquire the basic technical skills for manipulating the accounting software. This software will help affiliate societies to have standardised information and facilitate record keeping.

Mission of the Minister to Rodrigues

The Minister was on mission to Rodrigues from 23 to 26 July in the context of the International Cooperatives Day. During his visit, he opened an exhibition of cooperative products at Malabar. He also launched a Directory of Rodrigues Cooperative Societies and a pamphlet highlighting cooperative principles. The Minister had working sessions with the Rodrigues Consumers Cooperative Federation Ltd. and several cooperative societies.

September

Launching of Second Edition of the Magazine “Savoir Choisir”

The second edition of the magazine Savoir Choisir was launched on 9 September at the Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port Louis. This issue highlights the rights of consumers. The objective of the magazine, which contains a wide range of useful and precise information pertaining to various subjects, is to provide consumers with necessary information so as to allow them to efficiently carry out transactions concerning goods and services.

Mauritius Business Growth Scheme (MBGS) Launched

The Mauritius Business Growth Scheme (MBGS) was launched on 27 September at Le Sirius, Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port Louis. The 90-10 MBGS pays 90 % of the cost of practical, focused, “field based” activities undertaken by a company and the 50-50 MBGS can pay up to 50 % of the cost of activities or programmes of activities undertaken by a company. The objectives of this Scheme are to improve access to professional and sustainable quality Business Development Services and to boost economic growth.

October

Workshop for Bakery Owners

A workshop on the prerequisites for good bread production for bakery owners was held on 4 October at the Municipality of Curepipe. The objective was to sensitisie bakers of their obligations towards consumers. On the same occasion an exhibition of weighing scales was held.

Training in Co-operative Law and Practice

A training programme in Co-operative Law and Practice was organised by the National Institute for Cooperative Entrepreneurship from 12 to 14 October for some 60 leaders of Co-operative societies. The aim was to enhance knowledge and skills of co-operative leaders in critical legal aspects of the Co-operative Law such as the rights and obligations of Directors of co-operative societies.

Launching of a New Hotline Service

A new Hotline Service 185 was launched by the Consumer Protection Unit on 15 October at the Newton Tower in Port Louis. The objective is to give a better protection to consumers.
November

Launching Of The Genuine Mauritian Product

The Genuine Mauritian Product was launched on 29 November at Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port Louis. The GMP is a joint initiative of the Ministry and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority. The aim is to protect local entrepreneurs from unfair competition and to boost sales of locally manufactured products among tourists.

December

Third Edition of the Magazine Savoir Choisir Released

The third edition of the magazine for consumers Savoir Choisir was launched on 16 December in Port Louis. This issue lays emphasis on the useful purchase of products and futile expenses incurred particularly with the end-of-bonus. It also gives useful information regarding water issues, alcoholic drinks, cyclones, smartphone, firecrackers and toys.
National Assembly
BILLS INTRODUCED, PASSED AND PROCLAIMED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 2010

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (2009) ACT

Introduced on 6 July, passed on 27 July, proclaimed on 14 August


Introduced on 6 July, passed on 27 July, proclaimed on 14 August

THE SUGAR CANE PLANTERS TRUST (REPEAL) ACT

Introduced on 6 July, passed on 13 July, proclaimed on 24 August
Object of the Act: Repeal the Sugar Cane Planters Trust Act

THE MAURITIUS BLOOD SERVICE ACT

Introduced on 24 November 2009, passed on 23 March, proclaimed on 17 April
Object of the Act: Provide for the establishment of the Mauritius Blood Service which aims at ensuring a safe and adequate supply of blood and blood products; promote blood donation and recruit and retain blood donors from low risk population groups, ensure the appropriate testing and processing of blood and blood product, promote and protect the health and confidentiality of blood donors and recipients of blood and blood products; promote the appropriate clinical use of blood and blood products; devise, develop and determine adequate policies, strategies and plans and promote research and training in the field of transfusion medicine.

THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) ACT

Introduced on 10 November 2009, passed on 30 March, proclaimed on 17 April
Object of the Act: Amend the Food and Agricultural Research Council Act whose purpose was the setting up of a council for the promotion and harmonisation of research activities, in agriculture, fisheries and food production and matters incidental thereto.
**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS ACT**

Introduced on 10 November 2009, passed on 23 March, proclaimed on 17 April.

Object of the Act: Provide for the establishment of the Open University of Mauritius to, among others, advance and disseminate learning and knowledge through a diversity of means, with emphasis on information and communication technologies; provide wider opportunities for education and training to the population, through open and distance learning, and promote lifelong learning and encourage the use of open and distance learning at all levels of education and training through collaboration, optimal use of existing resources and good practices.

**THE TRADE (ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES) ACT**

Introduced on 27 October 2009, passed on 30 March, proclaimed on 17 April

Object of the Act: Protect the domestic industry against the negative effects of dumped and subsidised imports.

**THE APPROPRIATION (2011) ACT**

Introduced on 19 November, passed on 14 December, proclaimed on 24 December

Object of the Bill: Provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure of Mauritius for the financial year 2011 and for the appropriation of those sums by programmes.

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) ACT**

Introduced on 3 December, passed on 9 December, proclaimed on 10 December

Object of the Bill: Amend the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2003 to provide for the election of councillors of local authorities to be held in 2011 instead of 2010, the extension of the mandate of municipal, district and village councillors, currently in office, until 2011, the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of each municipal council and the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of each district and village council to be held between 13 and 17 December in 2010, the existing local authorities under the Local Government Act 1989 to continue to be deemed to be local authorities for the purposes of the Local Government Act 2003.

**THE FINANCE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT**

Introduced on 14 December, passed on 17 December, proclaimed on 24 December

Object of the Bill: Provide for the implementation of measures announced in the Budget Speech relating to taxation and national finance and matters consequential or incidental thereto.

**THE ADDITIONAL REMUNERATION (2011) ACT**

Introduced on 14 December, passed on 14 December, proclaimed on 24 December

Object of the Bill: Provide for the payment of
additional remuneration to employees of the private sector, drawing a monthly basic wage or salary of Rs 30,000 rupees or less.

**THE CRIMINAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL**

Introduced on 23 March
Object of the Bill: Empower the Court to impose a minimum term of 3 years’ penal servitude on a person convicted of assaulting a ministerial officer, an agent of the civil or military authorities or any person entrusted with a public duty, where there has been wounding or premeditation and empower the police to arrest, without warrant, a person on reasonable suspicion of his having committed such an offence.

**THE SANSKRIT-SPEAKING UNION BILL**

Introduced on 23 March (Fourth National Assembly),
Introduced on 20 July (Fifth National Assembly)
Object of the Bill: Provide for the establishment, operation and management of the Sanskrit-speaking Union.

**THE MANDARIN-SPEAKING UNION BILL**

Introduced on 23 March (Fourth National Assembly),
Introduced on 20 July (Fifth National Assembly)
Object of the Bill: Provide for the establishment, operation and management of the Mandarin-speaking Union.

**THE CREOLE-SPEAKING UNION BILL**

Introduced on 23 March (Fourth National Assembly),
Introduced on 20 July (Fifth National Assembly)
Object of the Bill: Provide for the establishment, operation and management of the Creole-speaking Union.

**THE BHOJPURI-SPEAKING UNION BILL**

Introduced on 23 March (Fourth National Assembly),
Introduced on 20 July (Fifth National Assembly)
Object of the Bill: Provide for the establishment, operation and management of the Bhojpuri-speaking Union.

**THE ARABIC-SPEAKING UNION BILL**

Introduced on 23 March (Fourth National Assembly),
Introduced on 20 July (Fifth National Assembly)
Object of the Bill: Provide for the establishment, operation and management of the Arabic-speaking Union.

**THE CODE CIVIL MAURICIEN (AMENDMENT) BILL**

Introduced on 17 August
Object of the Bill: Amend the Code Civil Mauricien so as to reduce the time limits applicable to declare a person absent. The Bill provides that where there has been a judicial decision to the effect that a person is presumed absent, the time lapse of 5 years be reduced to 3 years, for the purpose of declaring the
person absent. The Bill further provides that where there has been no such judicial decision, a person can be declared absent if he is no longer seen at his place of residence for a period of more than 5 years, instead of more than 10 years.

THE CLINICAL TRIALS BILL

Introduced on 9 December

Object of the Bill: Provide the legal framework for the conduct of clinical trials for the purpose of discovering or verifying the effects of investigational medicinal products. The Bill provides also for the setting up of the Clinical Research Regulatory Council, responsible for the issue, amendment, extension, review, suspension or cancellation of trial licences, the Pharmacovigilance Committee which will collect, analyse and classify information on adverse events and adverse reactions in relation to subjects involved in clinical trials and will advise the Clinical Research Regulatory Council and the Ethics Committee and the Ethics Committee which will give an opinion on any proposal to start a clinical trial and will advise the Clinical Research Regulatory Council on the health, welfare, safety and protection of subjects in clinical trials.