The Prime Minister at the 13th Francophonie Summit in Switzerland

The Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, led the Mauritian delegation at the 13th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Francophonie, held on 23 and 24 October 2010 in Montreux, Switzerland, under the presidency of Doris Leuthard, President of the Swiss Confederation.

The Summit culminated in the Déclaration de Montreux, a substantive text accompanied by several resolutions. The Déclaration gives concrete expression to the Summit’s discussions which focused on the ‘Challenges and Visions for the Future of the Francophonie’ and were divided into three themes:

- ‘The Francophonie as a player in international relations and its place in global governance’,
- ‘The Francophonie and sustainable development’, and
- ‘The French language and education in a globalised world’.

In his address at the Summit, the Prime Minister spoke of peace and
security as the basis of world governance. He dwelt specifically on the issue of piracy in the Indian Ocean and the situation prevailing in Madagascar. Piracy, said Dr Ramgoolam, has an international dimension and is a threat to international maritime trade. As such, the Francophonie has an important role to play in helping to frame regional efforts in the fight against piracy.

On that note, he observed that Mauritius recently hosted the Second Regional Ministerial Meeting on Maritime Piracy which adopted a strategy offering a regional framework for the prevention and the fight against piracy and the promotion of maritime security. He also reiterated the political commitment taken by Mauritius to judge pirates arrested in the region. On that score, the Prime Minister said that Mauritius is closely working with the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime and the European Union to set up a special tribunal in Mauritius.

As regards the establishment of constitutional order in Madagascar, Dr Ramgoolam evoked the fact that Mauritius is actively engaged in the process of mediation initiated by the SADC and coordinated by former President Joacquim Chissano and in this context Mauritius has delegated a judicial expert. Moreover, on assuming the presidency of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Mauritius has along with other Member States of the SADC participated in the lobbying against all forms of commercial sanctions or regarding aid in Madagascar, he said.

**Sustainable Development and Challenges Ahead**

Sustainable development, the erosion of biodiversity and the concept *Maurice Ile Durable (MID)* were also mentioned by the Prime Minister. ‘Mauritius, as a small island State, is already feeling the impact of climate change. The MID project ambitions to put the protection of the environment and the preservation of the country’s biological heritage at the centre of our development strategy. The country is exploring new means of energy production so as to increase renewable energy from 20% to 35% by the year 2025’, he said.

The erosion of biodiversity was qualified as a worrying issue by the Prime Minister who also emphasised that we all have to measure and manage the impact of our activities on the environment. According to him, every adaptation strategy depends on research capacity, the introduction of new technologies and the sharing of knowledge. The Francophonie, he stated, offers a forum of exchange and of discussion as well as an opportunity to debate on the challenges pertaining to sustainable development and to engage towards similar initiatives.
The African Women's Decade 2010-2020 aiming at accelerating the implementation of agreed global and regional commitments on gender equality and women’s empowerment was launched on 21 October 2010 in Mauritius at the Grand Bay International Conference Centre. The theme for the Decade is “Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Bottom up Approach”.

In December 2008, at the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Ministers of Gender and Women Affairs, the African Union Ministers for Gender and Women’s Affairs called on the African Union to declare 2010-2020 as the African Women's Decade.

Focus on ten thematic areas

During the Decade, there will be a special focus on ten thematic areas (See Inset). A Women’s Decade Coordinating Committee has been established and comprises representatives of key Ministries working on the different thematic areas, as well as strategic partners. The term of reference of the Women’s Decade Coordinating Committee is to oversee the implementation of activities in the different thematic areas.

Nine Women’s Decade Working Groups have been set up with a view to ensuring the successful implementation of the Decade. These Working Groups have met on a number of occasions to brainstorm and identify activities to be implemented during the first phase of the Decade initially scheduled during 2011. The Working Groups would, thereafter, come up with additional activities for the years 2012-2015.

The Decade coincides with a time when the world is reviewing thirty years of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), fifteen years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and ten years of the Millennium Development Goals.

Activities to mark the Decade

On the occasion of the launching of the African Women’s Decade, screenings of Non-Communicable Diseases and dental check-ups for women attending the event were carried out. Plants were handed over to the National Women’s Council (NWC) to inculcate a “green” culture amongst women. Eco-friendly bags aiming to limit the use of

The ten thematic areas

• Fighting Poverty and Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women through Entrepreneurship
• Women’s Role in Agricultural sector
• Improving Women’s Health with focus on maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS
• Women’s Education through adult literacy and their increased participation in Science and Technology
• Women’s role in Environment and Sustainable Development, with focus on their participation in mitigating climate change
• Peace and Security
• Governance and Legal Protection with focus on elimination of violence against women
• Women’s increased access to financial resources through gender responsive budgeting
• Increased representation of women in decision making processes
• Reinvigorating young women’s movements.
plastic bags were distributed and computer literacy was promoted via the cyber-caravan.

Other activities included the projection of a clip highlighting the different strategies to be implemented to redress gender gaps and the launching of a Newsletter entitled “Time to Accelerate Action for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment”. The Newsletter will be a bi-annual publication with updates on innovative actions taken in the different thematic areas.

The ‘Rupees for Solidarity’ initiative, a fund-raising activity by the NWC, was also officialised. Members of women’s associations each donated symbolically a token amount of Rs. 1/ to the cause of solidarity. The funds will be used to assist those women in distress who are not eligible for any financial assistance under current schemes but who still need to be supported. Moreover, young women were encouraged to register their names by joining different women’s associations to rejuvenate the women’s movement in Mauritius.

To mark World Food Day, commemorated on 16 October each year, the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security organised a series of activities to raise awareness on food related issues namely food crisis, food security and the impact of climate change on food production.

This year’s main event was the Agri-business exhibition held from 14 to 17 October at the SSR Botanic Garden. More than 68 000 visitors attended the event. Some 75 stakeholders participated in the exhibition putting on display and for sale, at preferential prices, various products ranging from agri-food, food crops, vegetables, fruits, ornamental plants, fertilisers to fish and fish products, as well as agricultural equipment.

Institutions working under the aegis of the Ministry were also present, showcasing the services provided to planters and breeders. Information and advices on production techniques could be sought from officials of the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit, the Agricultural Services, the Agricultural Marketing Board, the Sugar Planters Mechanical Pool Corporation, the Farmers Service Centre, the Irrigation Authority and the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute.

World Food Day is commemorated each year since 1979 when it was first proclaimed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation. This year’s theme is ‘United against Hunger’ in recognition of efforts made to fight world hunger at national, regional and international levels and in line with the Millennium Development Goal 1 calling for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by halving the number of hungry people in the world by 2015. In Mauritius, to sensitise stakeholders and the public on the issue, the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security organised a two-day conference on the theme of this year’s observance, highlighting the need for more public’s concern and participation in matters relating to food security.

Other activities in the context of World Food Day comprised an award ceremony to reward deserving farmers and the launching of an agricultural guide and a DVD on ‘Plante pou zanfan dime’.
The Second Ministerial Conference on Piracy, hosted by Mauritius on 7 October 2010 at the Grand Bay International Conference Centre, adopted a regional strategy and an action plan that provide for a framework to prevent and combat piracy and promote maritime security through a three-pillar approach.

The Conference, which was preceded by a Senior Experts Meeting on 6 October, was opened by the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

The objectives of the Ministerial Conference were to build on the momentum created by the previous meetings held this year in Seychelles and to agree on a regional strategy to fight piracy based on an Action Plan with short-term, medium-term and long-term measures.

Mauritius agreed to host the Conference in view of its commitment to collaborate with the international community to fight piracy.

Piracy: A burden on Governments and on global maritime industry, states PM

Piracy inevitably poses significant burdens on Governments and on the global maritime industry, stated the Prime Minister in his keynote address. As the current Chairperson of the Indian Ocean Commission, Dr Ramgoolam commended the United Nations, the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU) and their agencies, as well as piracy missions of friendly countries, such as the United States, China, India, Japan, United Kingdom and the Russian Federation for their efforts to combat this scourge.

The primary cause of piracy along the maritime highway of the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean rests in the state of disorder that has plagued Somalia for more than 20 years, said the Prime Minister. He urged the international community to join hands to support Somalia in its endeavour to finalise a new constitution. The AU, noted Dr Ramgoolam, has an important role to play in this process particularly as the Year of Peace and Security is being celebrated in Africa.

The Prime Minister also mentioned the collaboration of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, the EU and friendly countries with a view to strengthening capacities for timely prosecution and subsequent imprisonment of pirates. The fight against piracy must be a collaborative effort that leverages not only military strength and diplomatic engagement but also the experience of the shipping industry and a focused effort to bring pirates to justice, he said.
About the Conference

The Ministerial Conference was organised in collaboration with the East African Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, regional organisations such as the COMESA, SADC and the Indian Ocean Commission with the support of the European Union.

It was co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Dr Arvin Boolell and Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission.

Mr. Jack Lang, United Nations Special Adviser on legal Issues also attended the Conference, which saw the participation of the following countries: Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Maldives, Reunion Island, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania.

Delegates 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, United States, Russia, China, Australia, France, United Kingdom, Egypt and Pakistan completed the list of participants.

Promoting Social Dialogue

National Tripartite Forum set up

The National Tripartite Forum comprising representatives of Government, employers and workers, held its first meeting on 25 October 2010 in Port Louis under the chairmanship of the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment, Mr S. Mohamed, who was assisted by two vice-chairpersons, one from the employers’ organisations and one from the workers’ organisations.

The National Tripartite Forum comprises seven representatives of Government departments, seven representatives of employers’ organisations and seven representatives of workers’ organisations within the existing confederations of trade unions.

As enunciated in the Government Programme 2010-2015, the tripartite mechanism is in line with the measures for the promotion of social dialogue. The new tripartite body will act as a permanent forum for discussion among social partners, with special attention to work issues. The rationale behind the National Tripartite Forum is to promote, through effective social dialogue, consensus building on issues of national importance, especially those related to the world of work, owing to daunting challenges facing the labour market.

The first meeting served as a discussion platform to initiate dialogue as regards the setting up of the different tripartite technical sub-committees to examine specific issues and make proposals thereon relating to labour and industrial matters; social and economic policies in the light of changes in the world of work; and productivity, competitiveness and efficiency at the workplace as well as the distribution of economic rewards and regulation of salary compensation.

The meeting also identified several topics to be dealt with by the technical sub-committees. Among these: salary compensation which will be among the major concerns of the tripartite forum, for the determination of the quantum of the annual salary compensation in view of the forthcoming budget; labour market, employment creation, skills and training; occupational safety and health; and economic and social development.

It will be recalled that the National Pay Council has been phased out following the institution of the National Tripartite Forum.
**Academie du Kreol Morisien**  
**Fast tracking the introduction of Kreole in schools**

The Academie du Kreol Morisien, a technical committee set up to fast track the introduction of the Mauritian Kreole as an optional subject in schools, held its first meeting on 27 October 2010 at the seat of the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) in Phoenix.

The members of the Academie du Kreol Morisien, mainly experts in the fields of linguistics as well as researchers and academics, are regrouped into four working groups. They have been entrusted the task of providing advice on various aspects as regards the introduction of Kreole at the level of Standard I and Standard II in primary schools, especially modalities pertaining to curriculum development, production of textbooks and training of teachers. The committee’s mandate also covers the standardisation of the Kreole Morisien including pronunciation, syntax and grammar, validation of the writing system, provision of necessary technical guidelines for the development of curriculum materials and training of teachers as well as promotion and development of the language.

Present at the meeting, the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Dr Vasant K. Bunwaree, stressed that the Academie du Kreol Morisien has been conferred the responsibility of formulating an agreed standardised spelling and grammar regarding Kreole to be taught as subject. He underlined that the final deliberations of the committee will lead towards the materialisation of the project and made an appeal to the stakeholders to adopt techniques that will make the different aspects of the Kreole language relatively easier so that this facilitates the teaching and learning of the subject in schools.

**Tertiary Education**  
**Shiv Khera Business School to be set up at the UTM**

The University of Technology of Mauritius (UTM) will shortly set up a Shiv Khera Business School to run MBA programmes with specialisation in leadership, the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology, Dr Rajeshwar Jeetah, announced on 19 October 2010 during a press conference at the Cyber Tower in Ebène.

According to Dr Jeetah, Mr Shiv Khera, hailed as a management guru, is himself a brand and the setting up of the Business School will not only enable students to take advantage of new techniques but will also help to attract foreign students. The Government, he said, is working towards making Mauritius a knowledge hub where emphasis is on quality education. The Shiv Khera Business School will therefore give a new boost to the tertiary education sector which, the Minister said, is becoming very dynamic.

For his part, Mr Shiv Khera recalled that Mauritius is a gateway to connecting two different continents and has a progressive environment. He said that the setting up of the Shiv Khera Business School at UTM comes at an ideal time as there is a dearth of good leaders in the world. The MBA course, which will focus on leadership with marketing management, will help to train people to become leaders who can manage. The objective is to bridge the gap by developing human capital and excellence as well as blending competence and character.

“Very often, people are hired for their skills but fired because of their behaviour,” Mr Shiv Khera pointed out. He also stated that one of the greatest challenges today is that employers cannot find employability skills in people. The collaboration between the Shiv Khera Institute and the UTM will therefore enable students to benefit from appropriate training in leadership, management and marketing, he concluded.

Mr Shiv Khera is the founder of Qualified Learning Systems Inc, USA. As an educator, business consultant, much sought-after speaker and successful entrepreneur, Mr Khera inspires and helps people to realise their full potential.
**Bilateral Relations**

**Mauritius and Switzerland sign short-stay visa waiver agreement**

An Agreement on Short-Stay Visa Waiver and on Mutual Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Service Passports between Mauritius and Switzerland was signed on 26 October 2010 in Port Louis. The Secretary for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. A. P. Neewoor, and the Swiss Ambassador accredited to Mauritius with residence in South Africa, Mr. R. Baerfuss, signed the Agreement on behalf of Mauritius and Switzerland respectively.

The Short-Stay Visa Waiver Agreement was concluded on 10 March 2010 after two rounds of negotiations in Brussels. It is to be noted that under this Agreement, a young Mauritian student can travel to Switzerland and if admission in a recognised educational institution is obtained, a student visa by the Swiss authorities may be issued. The Agreement removes the need for the potential bona fide student to return to Mauritius to apply for visa in the country of residence.

In addition, and with regard to the current definition of ‘gainful activity’ by the national laws of Switzerland, certain categories of Mauritian travellers to Switzerland are not only dispensed from visa requirement but may also carry out paid activities there. Those categories of persons are limitative and include participants in economic and scientific conferences, athletes, cultural organisations and media people. Businessmen and women may also travel visa-free to Switzerland for the purposes of conducting business interviews.

It is recalled that on 28 May 2009 Mauritius and the European Community (EC) signed a Short-Stay Visa Waiver Agreement allowing Mauritian citizens to enter and stay without prior visa in the territory of European Union (EU) Member States within the Schengen Area for a maximum of three months during a six-month period.

The Joint Declaration of the Agreement between Mauritius and the EC called upon the Associated States to the implementation, application and development of the Schengen Acquis, that is, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein on the one hand, and Mauritius on the other hand to conclude similar bilateral agreements.

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

In his address, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs observed that facilitating the movement of people of both Mauritius and Switzerland will further consolidate the already warm and friendly relations that exist between the two countries, adding that this Agreement signifies a new step in the bilateral relations.

For his part, Ambassador Baerfuss stated that it is important to have the agreement legalised and formalised, as a sign of trust and confidence between the two governments.
GBOT, which is promoted by the Financial Technologies Group from India, 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 state-of-the-art electronic exchange will boost an efficient clearing and settlement system to ensure counterparty guarantee for all trades.

Operational at Ebène since October 18, GBOT has invested some 50 million US dollars in the project in the first instance and the company is planning to invest a further 50 million US dollars.

Dr Ramgoolam further stated that the establishment of GBOT will add depth to the domestic financial markets and bring entirely new dimensions to financial services systems by providing knowledge, technology and business know-how to the country. He also underlined that GBOT offers an ideal platform for global investors to access many of the world’s fastest growing economies from Mauritius while expanding the financial sector which is the most productive sector in Mauritius.

Commenting on the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from India, Dr Ramgoolam added that from 2006 to date investment flows have reached Rs 5.7 billion and for 2010, some Rs 2.8 billion of investments have so far been registered, a situation he qualified very encouraging.

GBOT has started its operations with trading in gold and silver futures as well as currency derivatives. At a later stage, it will also offer commodity derivatives products.
Weather Forecast
2010-2011 Summer Season Outlook

In its 2010-2011 summer season’s report issued on 20 October 2010, the Mauritius Meteorological Services gives an indication of the likely cyclonic activity, summer rains and the temperatures expected in Mauritius and Rodrigues for the said period.

The number of named storms for 2010-2011 would be about eight to ten in the South-West Indian Ocean basin. Statistical analysis, highlights the report, shows that on the average at least one tropical storm evolves within 100 km of Mauritius and/or Rodrigues. As such, all named storms that will develop in the South Indian Ocean will not necessarily approach the islands of the Republic of Mauritius or be a direct threat.

As regards rainfall, it is to be noted that the amount of precipitation may be slightly below normal at the start of the season and normal as from mid-season. Isolated rainfall over localised areas is scheduled to start by early December. Also, heavier summer rains are expected to start as from late December 2010 and cumulative rainfall during summertime will be near normal. Cumulative rainfall over Mauritius is about 1345 mm on the average and about 725 mm over Rodrigues.

**Conditions conducive to extreme weather events**

As from January, it is likely that atmospheric conditions will periodically become conducive to the occurrence of extreme weather events such as torrential rains and strong winds that may adversely affect the local weather. Severe flash floods, indicates the report, are likely to be more significant as a result of excessive rainfall.

The temperature will be generally above the long-term mean. On a few days however, it is expected that temperatures will exceed the normal by about two degrees Celsius. Maximum temperatures reaching 35 degrees Celsius are not to be excluded on coastal areas on some occasions.

Above normal maximum temperatures with high humidity and calm wind conditions over extended periods of time may be expected, with risks of severe discomfort to the vulnerable groups.
Initiating Innovative Procurement Practices to Enhance Efficiency

The third Annual Stakeholders’ Forum on public procurement organised by the Procurement Policy Office (PPO) was held on 21 October 2010 at La Plantation Resort Balaclava, in the presence of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr Pravind Jugnauth, and Mrs Caroline Nicholas, Senior Legal Officer at the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs.

The forum aimed at providing an opportunity for the stakeholders to make a critical appraisal of the procurement system and identify ways to improve it. Over a hundred participants, among whom procurement officials, suppliers, contractors, consultants and service providers, reflected on ways to ensure that the objectives of the government on procurement are met.

Participants focused on delays in awards of contracts for project implementation which ultimately lead to overrunning of costs. Actionable proposals were made to increase the efficiency of the procurement processes through innovative approaches.

In his address during the forum, the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr P. Jugnauth, made an appeal to public bodies to spend judiciously and to see to it that procurements are carried out smartly and professionally in the wake of the current difficult international economic environment. He also invited them to initiate, under the guidance of the PPO, innovative procurement practices for more efficiency. He stressed that the public procurement system will be further reviewed, modernised, and decentralised. “The recent introduction by the PPO of a dedicated portal for government procurement is the first phase of e-Procurement,” he said.

Mr Jugnauth also reiterated the intention of the government to set up a Project Monitoring Unit at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. “The government will continue to empower ministries and departments by improving their capacity to implement capital projects and delivery of services,” he added.

It will be recalled that the World Bank has already submitted an interim report for the development of a prioritised action plan to bring improvements in the procurement system following an assessment of the system in Mauritius and a team of the Bank is expected in Mauritius in November to validate the report. In addition, as regards the recommendations made by the COMESA following a review of the procurement legislation in the country recently, a committee has been set up to consider changes that need to be brought to further improve the procurement system to make it compliant with international norms.
Some 50 participants from different Ministries attended the workshop. The objective was 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. As spelt out in the Programme, Government will sustain its policies, programmes and projects from a gender perspective while extending technical assistance to all Ministries for the formulation of gender sectoral policies.

Topics covered include steps towards the formulation of a Gender Policy Statement; identification of information for drafting of gender policies; and success factors and common challenges for gender mainstreaming and role of Gender Cells. Participants were also given an overview of the National Gender Policy Framework (NGPF) and will have practical sessions pertaining to sector specific gender analysis. The workshop was conducted by an International Consultant for the Implementation of the NGPF, Mrs Edda Van Den Bergh Collier.

Gender Cells

It is to be noted that Gender Cells have been set up in various Ministries with representatives from different sections comprising finance, human resource, administration as well as technical cadres. A gender cell is a comprehensive ‘task force’ which oversee and ensures gender mainstreaming within an entire sector. So far, sectoral gender policies have been successfully formulated at the level of the Ministries of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment; and Youth and Sports.

Following the workshop, the International Consultant, Mrs Collier, developed a template for sectoral Ministries to guide them on the formulation of their respective gender policies. To assist them further, she held working sessions with the Gender Cells of the Ministries of Agro-Industry and Food Security; Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping; and Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment. The Consultant will be finalising their respective gender policies by November 2010, and same will be adopted by respective Ministries by the end of the year.

National Gender Policy Framework

The National Gender Policy Framework, launched in March 2008, provides the guiding principles, strategies and institutional arrangements for achieving gender equality at national level. The document outlines the vision of Mauritius for gender equality and women’s empowerment, that is, a society where men and women live in dignity and mutual respect and are equal partners in the process of decision making.
Energy Sector
Projects for securing availability of electricity supply

Government is focused on diversifying the country’s energy supply, improving energy efficiency, addressing environmental and climate changes and modernising energy infrastructure in order to meet challenges ahead. This strategy is in line with the objective of promoting sustainable development in the context of the Maurice Ile Durable vision.

In this context, several projects are in the phase of implementation or have already been commissioned. The commissioning of two diesel turbines at Fort Victoria and the recent construction of a mini hydro power plant at La Nicolière Feeder Canal aim at making energy supply available, secure and affordable to the population.

New Turbines at Fort Victoria

The Central Electricity Board (CEB) proceeded on 6 October 2010 with the commissioning of two medium speed diesel generators of 15 MW each at Fort Victoria Power Station (FVPS) at Bain des Dames in Cassis.

This project, namely the FVPS Redevelopment Phase 1, to the tune of Rs 1.6 billion, will enable the CEB to ensure availability of generation capacity to meet short and medium term demands. The two turbines will annually produce 240 GWh, representing one tenth of the energy requirement of the country.

Environmental considerations were taken into account at the design and construction stage of the new power station. It is equipped with modern features optimised for low emissions, waste incineration and a 65-metre high stack. The carbon dioxide emission is about 3 times lower than that of a coal plant. Furthermore, it has been provided with a state-of-the-art sludge treatment technology to ensure that the level of oil in the water outlet from the power plant is below 10 PPM. The plant will operate on both base and semi-base mode so as to provide flexibility to meet load variation on the grid.

The contract for Phase 1 of the FVPS redevelopment project was awarded in April 2009. Phase 2, which consists of an addition of four engines...
of 15 MW each at the cost of Rs 3 billion, will generate 60 MW. The total capacity of the new power plant will be 90 MW. Tender for Phase 2 was launched in April 2010 and the contract will soon be awarded.

La Nicolière Hydropower Plant

La Nicolière Power Station of a capacity of 350 kW was inaugurated on 27 September 2010. The mini station, which cost about Rs 65 million, will produce two million units of electricity per year.

The mini hydropower plant which is located near La Nicolière feeder canal, some 3.5 km from La Nicolière reservoir, will supply energy to some 1,000 customers. The project consists in directing water from Midlands Dam to La Nicolière. The water is intercepted for the running of the turbines and flows back to La Nicolière reservoir. The energy produced will be injected in the Central Electricity Board network.

According to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities, Dr Beebeejaun, wind and solar energy are the two pillars around which the government will build its energy policy. Several projects have been initiated with a view to increasing the country’s renewable energy potential while contributing to the protection of the environment. They include the construction of wind farms at Plaine des Roches and Curepipe Point and the commissioning of two additional wind energy units at Grenade in Rodrigues.

The power station will be operational on a 24-hr basis throughout the year.