

Port Security Training

The MRA pursues its capacity building in collaboration with UNODC



Around thirty-seven participants from various ministries and governmental institutions including the Mauritius Revenue Authority, followed a Training on Port Security which was held from 02 to 16 August 2022 at the Regional Training Centre (RTC), Custom House, Mer Rouge. This training was organised jointly by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Interpol and it was culminated with a closing ceremony on 16 August 2022. The aim was to enhance collaboration between countries in order to response against potential threats and marine crimes.

In his closing remark, the Acting Director-General of the MRA, Mr. Dhanraj Ramdin stated that the efficiency of a port can affect the economies of the countries it serves, since more than 80% of the global trade is carried by the sea. The percentage is even higher for many developing countries including Mauritius, he observed.

Mr. D. Ramdin highlighted that the maritime trade routes in the Indian Ocean have been critical to economic development and prosperity of the East and Southern African countries as well as islands in the Indian Ocean. Linking East Africa, the Middle East and South / Southeast Asia, these routes are being exploited by criminals to move illicit goods such as narcotics and counterfeit products, he emphasized.

The Ag. Director-General underlined the two main challenges which must be addressed in a proactive manner; mitigating risk of potential disasters affecting the port's operations and preventing/detecting criminal activities in the port area. This can be achieved by strengthening the capacity of national authorities for enabling safe navigation in the region, he added. Moreover, he also seized the opportunity to thank the European Union for funding the Port Security and Safety of Navigation Programme which spans over a period of four years.

On his part, Mr. Vivekanand Ramburun, the Director of Customs at the MRA explained that the port is of strategic importance for our economy and country as 90% of our export and import take place through our port. He also laid emphasis on sharing of regional information, exchange of data on cargo and passengers to tackle emerging threats.

Mr. Samuel Lynch, Instructor at UNODC stressed on the continuous improvement to coordinate systematically with other organizations to ensure port security. In his vote of thanks, he commended the MRA for fully supporting this training.

The MRA looks forward to conduct more similar trainings with a view to constantly update its personnel's on any latest developments regarding border protection.