The Anglophone International Certificate Courses in Sugar Cane Agronomy, Cane Sugar Manufacture and Chemical Control of sugar factories were held from September to November 2007 and attracted 6 overseas participants and 8 local participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Nationalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Cane Agronomy (9)</td>
<td>Ethiopia (2), Kenya (1), Mauritius (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cane Sugar Manufacture (5)</td>
<td>Ethiopia (2), Mauritius (2), Mozambique (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Several study tours were organised for international clients from Ethiopia, Kenya and Réunion Island. Two employees of Wonji-Shoa, Ethiopia, studied mechanisation and irrigation of sugar cane in July-August 2007 and Mr Charles Kipkereng Ng‘etich, Senior Manager, Mumias Sugar Company, Kenya came to Mauritius to study Productivity Improvement for Small-scale Sugar Cane Growers. In May 2007 a group from Sucrerie de Bois Rouge, Réunion came to visit Médine S.E., Société Usinière du Sud (SUDS), Deep River Beau Champ S.E., Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI) and Alcodis Ltd.

**VRS II/ERS Training Project**

Over 6,500 employees of the sugar sector retired under the VRS II and ERS schemes in 2007, of which about 4,200 showed an interest in enrolling in the 27 different training courses identified according to the priority needs expressed. Around 2,000 VRS II/ERS beneficiaries have followed courses which aimed at facilitating the transition to other sectors of the economy such as: Introduction to Gardening, Basic Vegetable Production, Food Production Techniques, Domestic Pipe-work Installation, Basic Arc Welding, Housekeeping Operations, etc.

**Future Projects**

The downward trend in the number of participants and man-hours of training observed in 2007 has completely reversed in the first half of 2008 due to the VRS II training project. Despite this upturn, further efforts are being deployed to diversify the client base and extend the range of courses offered; it is expected that courses will be run in eco-tourism, and landscaping in the near future. Study tours for participants from the Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso are being organised and opportunities for training in-company abroad are being explored.

**Staff Matters**

Dr Linda Mamet, Director was made a Fellow of the Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology. Ms Shamnaaz Sufrauj resigned from the post of Training and Development Coordinator in September 2007 in order to follow Doctoral studies at the University of Trento in Italy. Mrs Roshan-Ara Nuthoo was recruited as Training and Development Coordinator in January 2008.
Participation in International and Regional Forums

During the year under review, in addition to activities at the national level, the Chamber continued to bring its contribution to various international and regional forums and working groups. Representatives of the Chamber participated namely in the negotiations leading to the initialing and implementation of the Interim-Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and a number of ACP countries. The meetings they attended were principally focused on the future treatment of sugar within the EPA configuration and same was also taken up at the ACP level.

Initiatives under regional integration and food security within the region were also pursued as well as new mandates under the Maurice Ile Durable project. The following tables recapitulate these activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Representative(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 – 15 September 2007</td>
<td>Special ACP Sugar Ministers Meeting on the Future of Sugar in EPA</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Mr. Laurent Law Toon Fong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 – 24 September 2007</td>
<td>• ESA – EPA Meetings of Technical and Senior Officials</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>Messrs. Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen, Laurent Law Toon Fong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 October – 3 November 2007</td>
<td>13th ESA Regional Negotiating Forum</td>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>Messrs. Laurent Law Toon Fong, Géo Govinden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – 14 November 2007</td>
<td>ESA – EC Ministerial Meeting - Negotiations and Conclusion of EPA</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Messrs. Laurent Law Toon Fong, Géo Govinden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 February – 3 March 2008</td>
<td>• ESA Interim Agreement Implementation Meeting</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>Mr. Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 – 16 April 2008</td>
<td>• ESA Technical Session on Market Access</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>Mr. Laurent Law Toon Fong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 – 26 April 2008</td>
<td>WTO Trade Policy Review Meeting on Mauritania</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Mr. Géo Govinden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Workshops, Seminars and Study Tours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Representative(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 May – 2 June 2008</td>
<td>ESA Sugar Stakeholders’ Meeting</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Mr. Laurent Law Toon Fong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 – 13 June 2008</td>
<td>87th Session of ACP Council of Ministers and 33rd Session of ACP-EC Council of Ministers</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Messrs. Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen, Mital Roy, Géo Govinden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 – 25 June 2008</td>
<td>• ESA – EPA Technical Meetings</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Messrs. Laurent Law Toon Fong, Géo Govinden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Initiatives under regional integration and food security within the region were also pursued as well as new mandates under the Maurice Ile Durable project.
Visitors from Abroad

The Chamber also had the pleasure of welcoming a number of distinguished visitors during the year under review. Some of the most noteworthy visits are summarised hereunder.

Messrs Girish Nadkarni and S. Sriram, respectively Vice-President and Head of Biofuel Projects of TATA Chemicals, India, called at the Chamber in September 2007 and were met by the President of the Chamber, Mr Jean Ribet and by Mr Jacques d’Unienville, CEO of SUDS, as well as the General Secretary. The aim of their visit was to assess investment opportunities in Mauritius.

In October 2007, an European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) delegation, comprising Mrs Susanna Baizou and Mr Gérard Dantin, respectively Administrator, External Relations Division, and President of the ACP-EU Follow-up Committee of the EESC called at the Chamber to discuss the EPA negotiations and the implications for the farming sector in Mauritius.

In the context of the 3rd Trade Policy Review, a WTO delegation visited the Chamber in November 2007 to discuss the trade policies implemented in Mauritius.

In March 2008, a delegation from the Economic Development Board of Madagascar (EDBM) made a presentation to members of the Chamber in the context of a rehabilitation programme involving four sugar factories under SIRAMA SA.

Administration

Nominations

During the year under review, two nominations are to be noted. First, at the level of the Small Planters Welfare Fund, Mr Rajeswar Goonah of the Mauritius Sugar Cane Planters Association was nominated as the Chamber’s representative on the Board for the 2008-2010 period. Mr Thierry Merven, CEO of Compagnie de Beau Vallon was nominated as the Chamber’s representative on the Board of the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute.

Congratulations from the Chamber have also been extended to our General Overseas Representative, Mrinal Roy, on his elevation to the rank of OSK, Officer of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean.

Changes in Staff and at Office Level

The year under review was marked by many changes in staff and at office level at the Chamber.

After thirty three years of loyal and dedicated service, Mrs Murcia Harter, the Chamber’s Receptionist, retired with effect from 31 December 2007.

Mrs Marie Hart de Keating, the Chamber’s Treasurer, who took up employment in 1989 as Administrative Assistant, also went on retirement with effect from 1 July 2008.

Mrs Hélène Henri, Private Secretary, resigned with effect from 15 October 2007 to take up employment at CIEL Agro Industry. Mrs Henri joined the Chamber in April 1977 as Office Secretary and was successively promoted as Head of the secretarial department and as Private Secretary.

Mrs Chantal Pottier, Head of the secretarial service at the Chamber, requested and eventually agreed upon the terms of a pre-retirement leave as from 1 March 2008. She had joined the Chamber in 1978 as Office Secretary.

The above has been followed up with appropriate reshuffling of responsibilities within the Chamber as well as two new nominations.

Following an internal recruitment exercise, Mrs Dominique David, Assistant in the secretarial service, was recruited as Assistant Treasurer with effect from 1 December 2007. She remarkably obtained the Certificate Level (4 modules) of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA) in December 2007 and was subsequently promoted to the post of Treasurer with effect from 1 July 2008.

Mrs Juliette Cunniah, Private Secretary in the Diversification, Natural Resources and Environment Service, was promoted to the post of Office Manager under the direct supervision of the General Secretary, with effect from 1 March 2008.

The Chamber wishes to record its warmest appreciation of the dedication and loyalty, with which Mrs Harter, Hart de Keating, Henri and Pottier carried out their duties during the many years they had served at the Chamber.

We wish Mrs Harter, Hart de Keating, and Pottier a happy retirement and to Mrs Henri every success in her new post.

Obituary

The Chamber has learnt with much regret the passing away of Mr Philippe de Labauve d’Arifat, former President of the Chamber in 1972-73.

To the members of the bereaved family, the Chamber reiterates its deepest sympathy.
The Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture

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2007 – 2008 Bureau

President: Jean Ribet
1st Vice-President: Jacques Forget
2nd Vice-President: Pravin Kumar Kasany
Members: Jacques d’Unienville
H. Daruty de Grandpré
Amal Mungur
Denis Pilot

Staff

Mauritius Office
General Secretary: Jocelyn Kwek Yin Siong Yen
Private Secretary: Mrs Hélène Henri (up to 15 October 2007)
Office Manager: Mrs Juliette Cunniah (Private Secretary up to 29 February 2008)
Officer for Legal and International Affairs: Laurent Law Toon Fong
Supporting Officer, Communication: Mrs Véronique Ho Wan Kau

Internal Budget and Finance Service
Treasurer: Mrs Marie Hart de Keating
Assistant Treasurer: Mrs Dominique David (from 1 December 2007 to 30 June 2008)

Finance and Accounts Service
Accounts Clerk: Miss Ginette Emamally

Diversification, Natural Resources and Environment Service
Officer in Charge: Jean-Cyril Monty
Analyst: Mrs Annick Pompon Sheik-Bajeet

Information Management Service
Head: Miss Danielle Bonne

Secretarial Supporting Service
Head: Mrs Chantal Potier (up to 29 February 2008)

Reception Desk Service
Receptionist: Mrs Murcia Harter (up to 31 December 2007)

Auditors

Kemp Chatteris Deloitte & Touche
BDO De Chazal du Mée

London Office

Grosvenor Gardens House, 35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, LONDON SW1W OBS, England
Telephone: 44 207 834 3381
Fax: 44 207 828 5363
Email: maurisug@btconnect.com

Staff

General Overseas Representative: Mrinal Roy
Private Secretary: Mrs Romily Leeper
Consultant: Andrew Gilmour (up to Dec 2007)

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1 Avenue du Vieux Moutier, 1640 Rhode St Génèse, Belgium
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Email: geo.govinden@pandora.be

Staff

Representative: Luc Géo Christian Govinden
Representatives of the Chamber on External Boards and Committees

Advisory Committee for the National Quality System Certification Scheme
Roland Nicolin

Advisory Council of the Mauritius Sugar Authority
Pierre du Mée

Agricultural Marketing Board
Jean-Cyril Monty

Board of Trustees of the Morris Legacy Fund
The President

Conseil d’Administration de La Revue Agricole et Sucrière de l’Ile Maurice
Denis Pilote
Raymond Rivalland (up to Dec 2007)

Dangerous Chemicals Control Board
Sumantlall Seerutun

Electricity Advisory Committee
Soopayah Samy

Food and Agricultural Research Council
Jean-Cyril Monty

Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)
Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen

Human Resource Development Council – Sectoral Committee (Agriculture)
Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen

Industry Training Advisory Committee in Agro Industry
Philippe Lahausse de Lalouvière

Joint Economic Council
The President
The General Secretary

Maurice Ile Durable Fund
Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen

Mauritius Standards Bureau
Philippe Lahausse de Lalouvière
Alternate: Mrs Corinne Bertand

(Chemical Standards Committee)
Sydney Catherine
Alternate: Assenjee Bholah

Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute Board
Cyril Mayer (up to Feb 2008)
Thierry Merven (as from Feb 2008)

MEF Council
Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen

MSIRI Main Research Advisory Committee
Jacques Forget

MSIRI Research Advisory Sub-Committees
(Agronomy)
Jean Arthur Lagesse
Bernard d’Arifat
(Biology)
Jean-Robert Lincoln
Marc Lincoln
(Sugar Technology)
Raymond Rivalland (up to Dec 2007)
Jean-Claude Desvaux de Marigny

Mauritius Sugar Terminal Corporation Board
Jack Kong Win Chang

National Biofuel Committee
Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen

National Biosafety Framework – National Coordinating Committee
Jean-Cyril Monty

National Climate Committee
Jean-Cyril Monty

National Information and Communication Technologies Strategic Plan – 2006 - 2010
Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen

SADC National Committee
Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen
Sir Dayendranath Burrenchobay Foundation  
The President

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Foundation  
The President

Small Planters’ Welfare Fund  
Mr Rajesswar Goorah

Sugar Insurance Fund Board  
Georges Leung Shing  
Alternate: Jean Raymond Hardy

Sugar Planters’ Mechanical Pool Corporation Committee  
Bernard d’Arifat

Tea Board  
Paul Chan

Technical Advisory Committee on Rivers, Streams and Canals  
Jean-Cyril Monty

Technical Committee on Guidelines/Standards for Pesticides Residues  
In Raw Agricultural Commodities, Food and Animal Feeds  
Mrs Marie Agnès Bumma

University of Mauritius  
(Court of the University)  
Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen

(Advisory Committee - The Faculty of Agriculture)  
Dr Claude Ricaud, CBE

(MSc Food Technology with Processing Engineering)  
Philippe Lahausse de Lalouvière