

## Human Resources

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.

Course	Nationalities
Sugar Cane Agronomy (9)	Ethiopia (2), Kenya (1), Mauritius (6)
Cane Sugar Manufacture (5)	Ethiopia (2), Mauritius (2), Mozambique (1)

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 Kipkering 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 *Sucrierie 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 Sufraj 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.

## chapter eight

## General

## 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.

Date	Event	Location	Representative(s)
<b>HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS AND NEGOTIATING FORUMS</b>			
23 July – 3 August 2007	12 <sup>th</sup> ESA Regional Negotiating Forum	Mauritius	Messrs Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen, Laurent Law Toon Fong
12 – 15 September 2007	Special ACP Sugar Ministers Meeting on the Future of Sugar in EPA	Belgium	Mr Laurent Law Toon Fong
17 – 24 September 2007	• ESA – EPA Meetings of Technical and Senior Officials • ESA – EC Joint Meetings	Rwanda	Messrs Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen, Laurent Law Toon Fong
15 – 21 October 2007	• ESA – EPA Meetings of Technical and Senior Officials • ESA – EC Joint Meetings	Madagascar	Messrs Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen, Laurent Law Toon Fong
29 October – 3 November 2007	13 <sup>th</sup> ESA Regional Negotiating Forum 2007	Djibouti	Messrs. Laurent Law Toon Fong, Géo Govinden
6 – 14 November 2007	ESA – EC Ministerial Meeting : Negotiations and Conclusion of EPA	Belgium	Messrs. Laurent Law Toon Fong, Géo Govinden
27 February – 3 March 2008	• ESA Interim Agreement Implementation Meeting • ESA Senior Officials Meeting • ESA – EC Senior Officials Meeting	Zambia	Mr Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen
14 - 16 April 2008	• ESA Technical Session on Market Access • ESA Sugar Stakeholders' Meeting	Malawi	Mr Laurent Law Toon Fong
23 – 26 April 2008	WTO Trade Policy Review Meeting on Mauritius	Switzerland	Mr Géo Govinden

Date	Event	Location	Representative(s)
3 – 8 May 2008	• ESA Technical and Senior Officials Meeting • ESA – EC Joint Meeting	Zambia	Messrs Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen, Laurent Law Toon Fong
28 May – 2 June 2008	ESA Sugar Stakeholders' Meeting	South Africa	Mr Laurent Law Toon Fong
8 – 13 June 2008	87 <sup>th</sup> Session of ACP Council of Ministers and 33 <sup>rd</sup> Session of ACP-EC Council of Ministers	Ethiopia	Messrs Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen, Mrinal Roy, Géo Govinden
23 – 25 June 2008	• ESA – EPA Technical Meetings • ESA – EC Joint Meetings	Belgium	Messrs. Laurent Law Toon Fong, Géo Govinden

### WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND STUDY TOURS

31 July – 5 August 2007	Foire Internationale de l'Economie Rurale (FIER) Mada 2007	Madagascar	Mr Jean Cyril Monty
29 – 31 August 2007	Conference on Market Access Offer: Perspectives and Challenges for the SADC Sugar Producers	Zambia	Mr Laurent Law Toon Fong
15 – 18 November 2007	Foire Mauricienne	Madagascar	Mr Jean Cyril Monty
17 – 20 March 2008	America – Asia - Africa Business Summit 2008	Mauritius	Mr Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen
21 – 22 April 2008	Atelier Régional du Programme Régional de Protection des Végétaux (PRPV) sur le Développement des Filières Semences et Plants de Qualité et des Zones Protégées	Madagascar	Mr Jean Cyril Monty
6 – 8 May 2008	Agro-Industry 2008 - 'Harvesting Business and Investment Opportunities in Southern Africa'	Tanzania	Mr Jean Cyril Monty
23 – 25 May 2008	Ministerial Mission on Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development (Réunion Ile Verte)	Reunion Island	Mr Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen
26 – 30 May 2008	WTO Regional Intensive Course on Trade Negotiations Skills	Mauritius	Mr Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen
Second Semester 2007	Introductory Course to Diplomacy and Foreign Trade	Mauritius	Mrs Annick Pompon – Sheik Bajjeet

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Rajesswar Goorah 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 H  l  ne 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 Kasary  
Members: Jacques d'Unienville  
H. Daruty de Grandpré  
Amal Mungur  
Denis Pilot

### Staff

#### Mauritius Office

General Secretary: Jocelyn Kwok Yin Siong Yen  
Private Secretary: Mrs H el ene 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 V eronique 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 Pottier (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 M e

### London Office

Grosvenor Gardens House, 35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, LONDON SW1W OBS, England

Telephone: 44 207 834 3381  
44 207 828 5363  
Fax: 44 207 821 7173  
Email: maurisug@btconnect.com

### Staff

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

### Brussels Office

1 Avenue du Vieux Moutier, 1640 Rhode St G n ese, Belgium

Telephone: 32 2 733 9561  
Fax: 32 2 734 0047  
Email: geo.govinden@pandora.be

### Staff

Representative: Luc G o 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'Île Maurice**  
Denis Pilot  
Raymond Rivalland (up to Dec 2007)

**Dangerous Chemicals Control Board**  
Sumantlall Seeruttun

**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  
(Food and Agriculture Standards Committee)**  
Philippe Lahausse de Lalouvière  
Alternate: Mrs Corinne Bertrand

**(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 Lahousse de Lalouvière

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