

Signing Ceremony

Agreement between the University of Mauritius and Confucius Institute Headquarter, Hanban

Friday 04 March 2016 @ 10.00 am

Speech by Mrs N D Goorah, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research

His Excellency Ambassador Li

Mr Ramlugun, Acting Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Education & Human Resources, Tertiary Education & Scientific Research

Dr Autrey, CSK, Chancellor, University of Mauritius

Professor Mohee, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

All protocol observed

Good Morning

Today's event shall be a memorable one for everybody presents here as we are witnessing the start of a new avenue of cooperation between two countries, Mauritius and the Republic of China.

Allow me, before I continue, to present to you all the apologies of the Minister of Education & Human Resource, Tertiary Education & Scientific Research, Honourable Mrs Leela Devi Dookhun-Luchoomun who could not make it today due to prior commitments and has requested me to convey her message and appreciation for the considerable amount of works achieved to culminate to the

part-signing of the agreement which will pave the way for the setting up of the Confucius Institute at the University of Mauritius.

Allow me also to express my heartfelt thanks to the Acting Senior Chief Executive of the Ministry, Mr Ramlugun, for, despite heavy personal commitments, making it today to be present as witness for this important event.

There is no doubt that as for all Confucius Institutes around the world, the one to be set up will also have as mission to enhance intercultural understanding in the country by supporting and organizing Chinese language and culture programs. I am also sure that the University of Mauritius, with the support of its partner University, the Southeast University, Nanjing, will benefit from the Institute's range of educational and outreach activities for students, teachers, businesses, and community members. This can only help to offer enriching cultural opportunities for the community and helps organizations and businesses improve their international knowledge.

Confucius was a great Chinese philosopher whose thoughts and theories not only remain influential today, but also play an important role in handling relationships between countries around the world. It has been more than 150 years since the earliest Chinese immigrants landed Mauritius, and they have made tremendous contributions to the country's social and economic development. The opening of the Confucius Institute in the very near future will undoubtedly further strengthen the cultural exchanges and mutual understanding between China and Mauritius.

I know that thousands of Mauritian people are doing their business in China everyday, and another hundreds of young Mauritians are studying in various Chinese universities. The establishment of the Confucius Institute is just on the time to meet the educational and cultural demand and I am sure this new development will benefit a great number of Mauritian people, particularly those

of non-Chinese origin, who would be keen to speak Chinese and be familiar with Chinese culture. We believe that the Institute will do its best and make its due contribution to the further understanding and cooperation between the two peoples. On behalf of the Ministry, I wish to assure you of our help so that the collaboration between the University of Mauritius and the Confucius Institute shall stand out and be looked at as an exemplary one in this part of the world.

Thank you.

Mrs Nemah Devi Goorah
Permanent Secretary

04 March 2016