

***Official launch of UWA/University of Mtius Training Workshop
“Baseline Coastal Data Acquisition, Management and Application to
Decision Making” Monday 08 May 2017***

Your Excellency, Mrs. Susan Coles, Australian High Commissioner

Professor Erika Techera, Director UWA Oceans Institute

Professor S. Sobhee, Pro Vice Chancellor (Academia)

Dr M. Santally, Pro Vice Chancellor (Planning & Resources)

Dr Mootien-Pillay, Director, Mauritius Oceanography Institute

Distinguished Guests from overseas

Deans of Faculties & Colleagues of the University

Ladies and Gentlemen

A very Good Morning to you All.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this training workshop on *“Baseline Coastal Data Acquisition, Management and Application to Decision Making”*. This training workshop is organised by the University of Western Australia/Oceans Institute in collaboration with the University of Mauritius. On behalf of the University of Mauritius, I wish to extend a very special welcome to our guests from the University of Western Australia and from Africa.

Our collaboration with the University of Western Australia in particular the Ocean Institute was initiated in September 2014 through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between our two institutions for promoting collaboration in various sectors of the Ocean Economy. This signature ceremony event was honoured by the presence of the Hon. Julie Bishop, Foreign Minister of Australia. Since, scientists

from both UWA/OI and UoM have consolidated this collaboration through the organisation of two workshops in Mauritius: the first one on Integrated Coastal Zone Management by Professor Ryan Lowe & colleagues and a second one on Cost & Benefit Analysis on Climate Change Initiatives by Professor David Pannell.

Mr Nuzurally from the Faculty of Ocean Studies, has had the privilege to participate in a training workshop organised by UWA/OI in Australia. Scientists from UWA and from FOcS are jointly supervising the first MPhil/PhD student who has registered at the Faculty of Ocean Studies. Today's opening ceremony of this training workshop is another strong initiative from both institutions to strengthen the collaboration.

The University of Mauritius is endeavouring to support the development of the emerging ocean economy for the Republic of Mauritius. Not an easy task as we face shortage of funds year after year. But, we are particularly pleased to have the support of foreign institutions and in particular that of a very strong partner, the University of Western Australia/Ocean Institute. This event will be another strong stepping stone in consolidating our partnership. We take this opportunity to thank Professor Erika Techera, Director UWA Oceans Institute for her presence amongst us and we look forward to taking our discussions further for consolidating our collaboration. In addition to training and research and building the intellectual capital, we also need to work on tech transfer and show to the industry tangible possibilities for development in the ocean sector.

Last but not the least, I wish to place on record the unflinching support of Her Excellency, Mrs. Susan Coles, High Commissioner of Australia for promoting and strengthening this collaboration. We deeply appreciate the trust you place in our institution.

Ladies and Gentlemen I wish you well and request that you make the most of this workshop and take the opportunity to build a strong network for the development of the blue economy.

Professor D. Jhurry,

Vice Chancellor
University of Mauritius