

# University of Mauritius



▶ Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020

▶ Open Days

▶ Distinguished Awards

▶ International Women's Day

# NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 4 May 2015

# Contents

## Page

- 2 Open Days - 24 to 26 February
- 3 Debate on 'Constitutional Law :  
Perspective from UK and Mauritius'
- 4 Commemoration of the 20 years of  
existence of the WTO
- 4 Délégation de la prestigieuse  
université de Tongji à l'université de  
Maurice
- 5 International Year of Light and light  
Based Technologies 2015
- 6-7 Strategic Plan 2015-2020
- 8-9 Distinguished Awards
  - Installation of New Chancellor
  - Meritorious Awards
  - International Awards
  
- 10-12 International Women's Day
- 13 ICAC- Anti-Corruption Public Speaking  
Competition 2014/15
- 14 Students Activities
  - UOM Female Rugby players to  
Reunion Island
- 15 2015 National Day Celebrations



## Publication

Office of the  
Pro Vice-Chancellor  
(Planning & Resources)  
Associate Professor  
R T D Juwaheer

## Public Relations Office

Newsletter Team  
Amreeta Nivault (*Chairperson*)  
Suhayla Mohamedhosen (*Research  
Assistant*)  
Anoopa Boodhram, *VC's Office*  
Sandhya Gunness, *CILL*  
Tejshree Auckle, *FSSH*

## Photos

S. Jignesh  
P Bhoothoo

## Design

A Beetul, *CILL*  
D Ujodha

UoMPress

## VC's Message



*Professor, (Mrs) Romeela Mohee*

We are proud to present to you all the University of Mauritius Strategic Plan 2015-2020 which aims at providing us with the vision and strategic directions for the next few years and also sets out the ways in which the University intends to meet the new challenges.

Our vision is to be one of the leading international tertiary education providers and a research-led university. Six key strategic directions have been identified to bring about the change agenda from where we are currently to where we would like to be positioned in 2020.

The groundwork for the development of the Strategic Plan started in February 2014 and it involved the input and contribution of over more than 100 staff members and external stakeholders. The process was a very complex one as satisfying the aspirations of all staff, students and external stakeholders was our priority. I seize this opportunity to thank everyone who have contributed to this exercise.

Our next challenge is the implementation of the Strategic Plan where the collaboration of all members of staff as well as the support of our external stakeholders is crucial. At Senior Management level, we are formulating policies and adopting new processes through the setting up of committees and workgroups, to facilitate the implementation of same. A proper alignment between the overall KPIs and those of Faculties/Centres is vital to ensure that we move towards one common vision.

I am confident that by achieving the targets set out in this Strategic Plan, the University of Mauritius will strengthen its position as a leading international tertiary provider and contribute to responding to the developmental needs of the country and the global community.

I rely on your unflinching support, as a team, for the successful implementation of the University of Mauritius Strategic Plan 2015-2020.



# Open Days - 24 to 26 February



Some 6000 HSC school leavers attended the Open Days organised by the University of Mauritius. All Faculties and Centres offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses were present for the event.

Students, often accompanied by their parents, had the opportunity to discuss and interact directly with dedicated academics regarding the wide range of programmes offered

and possible job prospects after the completion of their studies.

They were also closely guided by representatives of the Admissions & Student Records Office on the procedures to follow for online application. In order to assist them in making more relevant choices, they were provided with an overview of their respective programme requirements.

Furthermore, the online toolkit which they could consult at leisure with regards to their enrolment at the University was of great assistance.

25 515 hits were recorded on the toolkit and 21 415 applications have been received for the admission exercise for the academic year 2015/2016

A.N

---

## Debate on “Constitutional Law: Perspectives from UK and Mauritius”

A public speaking competition on the theme Constitutional Law: Perspectives from UK and Mauritius was organised by the Department of Law, Faculty of Law and Management in collaboration with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) on 4 March 2015.

Twelve LLB students from the UK and eight from the UoM participated in the event. Mr Micheal Doherty and Mr Peter James Kay, both Senior Lecturers at UCLAN Law School, were present.

Our chief guest was Dr Satya Bhooshan Gupt Domah, Former Judge of the Supreme Court. In addition, Dr Domah along with Mr Pramod Bissessur and Mr Micheal Doherty acted as members of the jury.

The purpose of this elocution contest was to provide high-performing



students with an interactive platform, allowing them to express themselves on controversial issues pertaining to Constitutional Law. This was also a unique experience for the British students from UCLAN who were, thus, introduced to the intricacies of our written Constitution and could, subsequently, compare it with their own unwritten legal instrument. Topics ranging from the Separation of Powers, Parliamentary Sovereignty, Constitutional Supremacy, the

Best Loser System, Human Rights Protection and Judicial Committee of the Privy Council were the subjects of the debates.

This competition, therefore, proved to be of significant intellectual benefit to our students. Following the deliberations of the members of the jury, prizes and certificates were awarded to participants.

V. Jugoo-Hurhinidee

# Commemoration of the 20 years of existence of the World Trade Organisation

► “The World Trade Organisation, 20 years on: Achievements and Prospects”.



In order to mark the 20th anniversary of the creation of the World Trade Organisation, the Department of Law, Faculty of Law and Management in collaboration with the World Trade Organisation Chairs Programme organised a roundtable discussion and a series of presentations on Thursday 19 March 2015.

The discussion of the various panellists centred firstly on the various economic, social and environmental challenges faced by many countries and secondly on the ways in which measures agreed upon during the Bali Meeting in 2013 would help in overcoming these difficulties.

Dr Micheal Waibel, from the University of Cambridge, emphasised on the role played by the TRIPS Agreement in international trade while Mrs Mooneeram-Chadee made an overview of the reasons motivating the creation of the WTO.

Other panellists, namely Mr Rajen Narsinghen and Dr Milan Meetarbhan discussed about the status of emerging economies at the WTO and how the dispute mechanism system of this institution is one of the most effective dispute resolution systems that exist.

For his part, the Co-Chair of the World Trade Organisation Chairs

Programme (WCP), Associate Professor Boopen Seetannah, explained the commitment of the University of Mauritius and the WCP to enhance outreach and further research in the field of international trade.

It should be noted that the University of Mauritius has, since 2009, been working in close collaboration with the WTO through the WCP which was awarded to the university following a competitive bidding process.

*V. Uppiah*

## Délégation de la prestigieuse université de Tongji à l'université de Maurice

Sous la présidence du nouveau Pro-Chancelier de l'université de Maurice, Mons Preaduth Chitamun, un protocole d'accord a été conclu le 16 Mars 2015, lors de la visite de la délégation de l'université de Tongji. Ce protocole comprend notamment les programmes de mobilité des étudiants et des perspectives de coopération dans des secteurs pointus de la recherche.

Après les introductions d'usage par les représentants des deux institutions, Prof R Mohee, Vice-Chancelière de l'UoM et Dr JIANG Bo, Vice-Président de l'université de Tongji, et en présence des autres membres de la délégation, le Prof CAI Sanfa et de Mme YAN Aihua, les discussions se sont portées sur les collaborations universitaires avec les membres académiques des différentes facultés de L'université de Maurice.

Cette rencontre comprenait également un volet important sur la francophonie, étant donné que le Dr JIANG Bo, est aussi le représentant officiel de l'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie de Tongji en Chine.

Professeur Romeela Mohee a par ailleurs rappelé un projet important, notamment la mise en place d'un Institut Confucius à l'université de Maurice pour lequel le soutien de l'université de Tongji est grandement attendu.



A.N



# International Year of Light and Light Based Technologies 2015



**TALKS** as part of IYL-2015:  
“Progress in neon art and lighting through R&D in Mauritius”  
by Mr Henri Bondar.

**Electronic structure of 2d materials**  
by Prof Lok C. Lew Yan Voon Dean,  
School of Science and Mathematics and Traubert Chair at  
The Citadel, US

**“Celebrating the Synthesis of Thiocrown Ether Complex with Sodium”**  
by Miss Hanusha Bhakhoa, Computational Chemistry  
Group, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science,



On 20 December 2013, the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the Year 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL 2015). The Year 2015 was chosen because it marks several significant milestones in the field of light and light-based technologies, such as the millennial anniversary of the appearance of the seven-volume treatise on Optics called *Kitab al-Manathir*, by Ibn al-Haytham of Cairo.

In proclaiming an International Year focusing on the topic of light science and its applications, the UN has recognised the importance of raising global awareness about how light-based technologies promote sustainable development and provide solutions to global challenges in energy, education, agriculture and health.

Goals for the year include educating young people about the science behind light-based technologies so as to promote careers in these fields and highlight the importance of research into the fundamental science of light and its applications in order to support the use of lighting technology in sustainable development projects.

Under the leadership of Prof. P. Ramasami, Chairperson of the local organizing committee of the International Year of Light, the University of Mauritius will be organising a series of activities throughout the year. These will include regular talk series by eminent scientists, video and poster presentation competitions for secondary and tertiary students, outreach programmes and a festival of lightworks, among others.

Relevant information and more details are available on <http://sites.uom.ac.mu/iyl2015/> and <http://www.light2015.org/>

Dr. S Z Sayed Hassen



# Strategic Plan 2015-2020

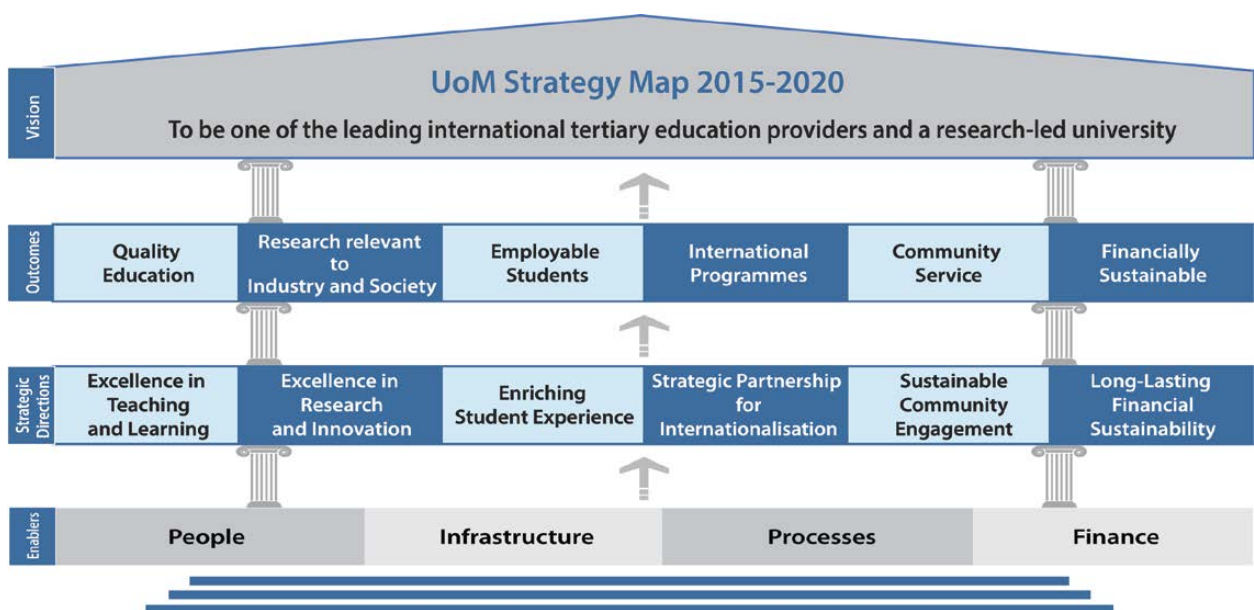
In view of the competitive tertiary education environment and to better serve the needs of the country and the global community, the University of Mauritius has developed a Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2020. The University of Mauritius Strategic Plan 2015-2020 was launched officially by the Honourable (Mrs) Leela Devi Dookhun-Luchoomun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research in the presence of external and internal stakeholders on Friday 30 January 2015.

The strategies outlined in this plan will shape the future of the University in the next 6 years and will enable the University to be the leading university in the country and a research-led university. The Strategic Plan is envisioned as a guiding document and a reference tool to be used by all staff members of the University in order to work collaboratively towards our common vision for 2020. The overarching strategic directions, objectives and key actions have been cascaded down to each faculty and centre,

which have developed their own operational plan with clear targets, actions, budget and timeline.

The diagram of the Strategy Map below summarises the University of Mauritius Strategic Plan 2015-2020. Both the full and the abridged versions of the UoM Strategic Plan 2015-2020 are available at:

<http://www.uom.ac.mu/index.php/about-us/strategic-plan.html>

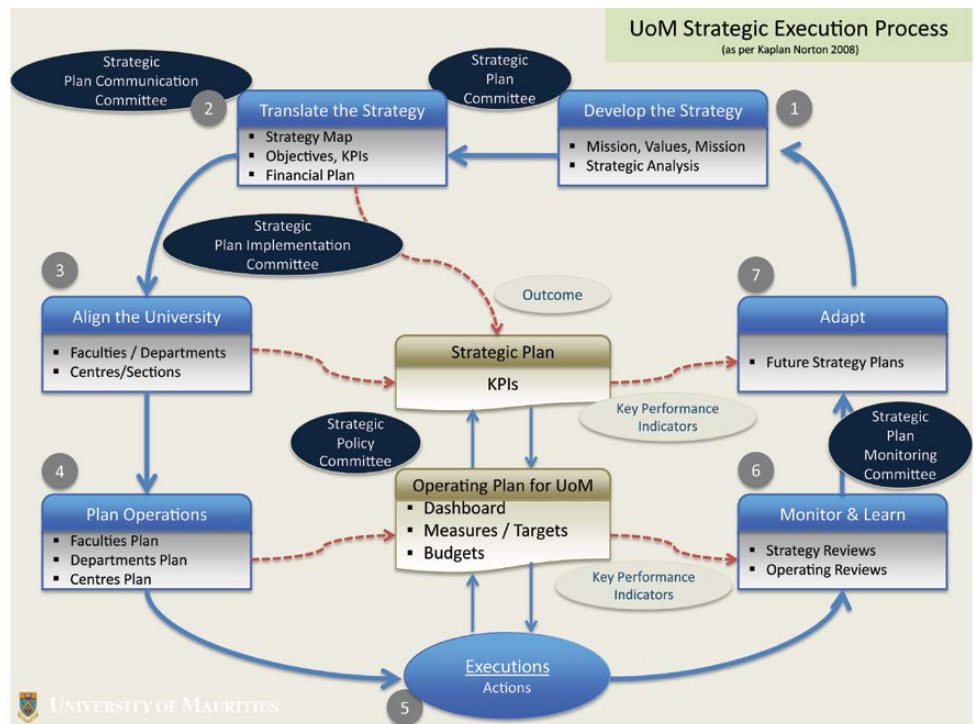


In order to drive the implementation process, several committees and working groups have been set up to ensure a proper alignment between the overarching KPIs and those of faculties/centres as well as to look into existing policies and to come up with new policies, as required.

The execution part has been modelled as per the Kaplan-Norton Executive Premium Process. The Execution Premium Process is based on the Kaplan-Norton Strategy Management System™, a comprehensive management model designed to address one of management's greatest challenges namely that of linking strategy formulation and planning with operational execution.

A vital part of the implementation of the UoM Strategic Plan is the participation of all staff members and a Strategic Plan Communication Committee has the mandate to communicate the Strategic Plan to all stakeholders.

A series of communication sessions were conducted by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. The first one was held on 14 January 2015 with all members of Senior Management and Presidents of Union. Members were requested to start working on their respective operational plan with clear key actions, timeline and budget which were to be finalized by the end of March 2015. The Strategic Plan 2015-2020 was also presented to external stakeholders on Friday 30



January 2015. The Communication process continued during the months of February and March 2015 with faculties/centres presenting their operational plan.

The Strategic Policy Committee will review existing policies and come up with new policies which will facilitate the achievement of the objectives set. 6 Sub-Committees namely the Sub-Committee for Teaching and Learning, the Sub-Committee for Research and Innovation, the Sub-Committee for Student Experience, the Sub-Committee for Internationalization, the Sub-Committee for Community Engagement and the Sub-Committee for Financial Sustainability have been set up.

The Strategic Plan Implementation Committee will, in turn, look into the implementation process of the Strategic Plan and will monitor and review progress towards the objectives set.

## Monitoring and Review

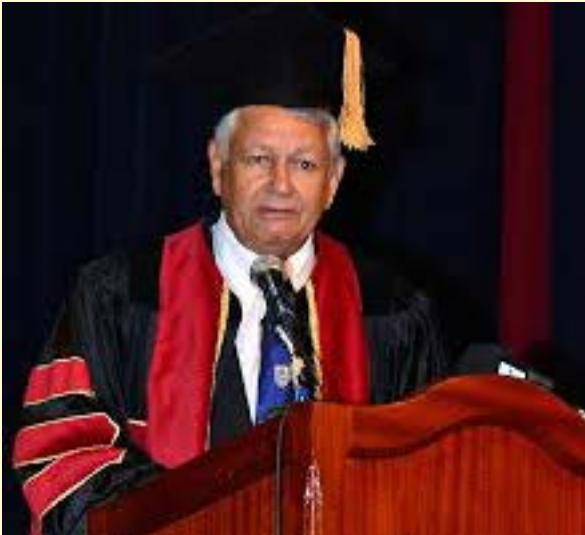
The operational plan of all faculties/centres/unit will be compiled to prepare an overall operational plan of the University with clear targets, actions, timeline and budget. These targets will be used to monitor and review our progress in 6 months' time. Based on the findings, remedial actions will be taken to ensure that we achieve the targets set and reach where we have aspired to be in 2020.

The strategies outlined in this plan will reinforce our position as the leading university of the country and will enhance the international competitiveness of the institution. The level of engagement, dedication and enthusiasm shown by our students, academic staff and members of the UoM community in developing this plan gives us the confidence that together the UoM will achieve its ambitions for the future.

A. Boodhram



## Meritorious Awards



**Dr. Louis Jean Claude Autrey, CSK**

Nominated as Chancellor of the University of Mauritius on 11 February 2015  
Installed as Chancellor of University of Mauritius on 20 April 2015



**Mr Preaduth CHITAMUN**

Nominated as Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, UoM - 11 February 2015  
Elevated to the rank of Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (C.S.K) for contribution to the education sector on 12 March 2015 by the President of the Republic of Mauritius



**Professor (Dr) Theeshan BAHORUN,  
National Research Chair (NRC)**

Elevated to the rank of Grand Officer of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (G.O.S.K) for contribution to the fields of scientific research and education on 12 March 2015 by the President of the Republic of Mauritius



**Professor (Dr) Muddun BHURUTH,**

Dean Faculty of Science,  
Elevated to the rank of Officer of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (O.S.K) for contribution to the educational field, on 12 March 2015 by the President of the Republic of Mauritius



# International Awards



**Dr Huda Neetoo**,  
Runner Up for the  
Mauritius Research  
Council (MRC) Best  
Young Mauritian  
Scientist 2015 Award

The Best Young Mauritian Scientist competition 2015 award aims at recognising the efforts of young Mauritian scientists in the field of Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Technology. Competitors were assessed by a panel of local experts and was chaired by Professor Ameenah Gurib-Fakim. The process involved an application, followed by a presentation and an interview by the jury members.



**Mrs Zahra Mungloo-Dilmohamud**,  
Lecturer in the  
Department of  
Computer Science,  
Faculty of Engineering

Travel Fellowship to attend and present the work entitled **"Implementation of a Trainee/Trainer DB for H3Africa using Drupal"** at the The Sixth Meeting of the H3Africa (Human Heredity and Health in Africa) Consortium, Livingstone, Zambia May 2015



**Dr Shakuntala Baichoo**, Senior  
Lecturer, Computer  
Science and  
Engineering  
Department,  
Faculty of Engineering

Travel Fellowship to attend and present a paper entitled **"Infect-DB - A data warehouse for infectious diseases"** at the ISCB-Africa ASBCB Conference on Bioinformatics March 2015, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania



**Award of Emerging Scholar of Distinction**  
**Dr Robin Nunkoo**,  
Senior Lecturer and  
Head, Department of  
Management, Faculty of  
Law and Management

The "Emerging Scholar of Distinction" award by the International Academy for the Study of Tourism (IAST) recognises emerging talent which can be nurtured over time to enhance the quality of international tourism research and scholarship. The condition which applies for the award is that the scholar must be (a) ten years or less out of their doctoral degree and (b) be exceptional in their tourism research contributions to date. This distinguished award was conferred upon Dr Robin Nunkoo, during the Biennial meeting of IAST to be held in Rhodes, Greece, in May 2015.

# International Women's Day

## Women in Senior Management Positions at the UoM

The UN theme for International Women's Day 2015 "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!" set for this year engaged everyone to reflect upon the unfortunate reality of girls and women still being denied access to basic human rights. In keeping with the above, the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare of Mauritius, set the theme for Mauritius as being "Gender Equality is my agenda".

An awareness campaign was held at the UoM on 8 March 2015 emphasising upon the need to uphold women's achievements, recognise challenges, and focus greater attention on women's rights and gender equality.

Also, in the context of these celebrations, UoM academics participated in the Open days held at the National Women Entrepreneurship Council.

Mr D. Seethiah, Lecturer in Entrepreneurship - FLM and Mr Shane Hardwar, Lecturer in Agricultural Management and Economics - FOA, gave a talk on "Socio-economic importance of Entrepreneurship and SMEs" and "Competencies, characteristics and skills needed by women entrepreneurs", respectively.

75% of the Top management Team at the UoM are, in fact, women.  
Their inspirational mottos



Vice -Chancellor  
Prof Mohee R, C.S.K

*"A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform." - Diane Mariechild*



Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Planning & Resources)  
Assoc Prof Juwaheer T D

*'Define success in your own terms, achieve it by your own rules, and build a life you're proud to live.' - Anne Marie Sweeney*



Registrar  
Mrs Issur-Goorah S R

*'I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved.' - B. R. Ambedkar*





**Finance Director**  
**Mrs Bholah K.C**

*"Do your best and the rest will follow"*



**Dean, Faculty of Ocean Studies**  
**Assoc Prof (Dr.) Nowbuth, M D**

*"You can have unbelievable intelligence, you can have connections, you can have opportunities fall out of the sky. But in the end, hard work is the true, enduring characteristic of successful people." - Marsha Evans*



**Dean, Faculty of Agriculture**  
**Prof Jaufeerally-Fakim Y**

*"Follow your instincts. That's where true wisdom manifests itself " -Oprah Winfrey*



**Dean, Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities**  
**Assoc Prof (Dr) Bhowon U**

*"Strive to achieve yet to be content in life"- U. Bhowon*



**Director, Quality Assurance**  
**Dr Khodabocus B F**

*"Woman`s contribution to humanity must be duly appreciated and valued for the betterment of this world," - F. Khodabocus*

# You make a difference ... Be an inspiration



**T**he Faculty of Ocean Studies celebrated International Women's Day on Friday 6 March 2015 by hosting a symbolic lunch with members of staff from the University. This was an occasion to share good moments and genuine camaraderie around the theme set for the day: You make a Difference... Be an Inspiration. An Achievement Coral tree designed by the FOCs was signed by all those present along with quotes which corresponded to each one's sense of achievement and their identity as a woman.





# Anti-Corruption Public Speaking Competition 2014/15



First year, LLB student of the University of Mauritius, A. K. Advik Goorah, was the winner of the 2015 Public Speaking Competition organised by the Independent Commission for Anti-Corruption (ICAC).

For the past three years, the ICAC Public Speaking Competition has seen the participation of many enthusiastic UoM students. This year, this competition pitted 145 students from 13 Tertiary Education Institutions against each other. After going through the preliminary rounds and the semi-finals, 3 out of 5 UoM students were qualified for the finals.

An insight into the topic of the students' talks and their overall rank in the competition:

1	<b>Aynesh Kushveer Advik Goorah (WINNER) FLM</b>	<b>University of Mauritius</b>	<b>Multinationals from developed countries contribute significantly to perpetuate corruption in developing countries.</b>
2	Allan Christopher Koi-Chin (1st Runner-up)	University of Technology, Mauritius	In this modern era, tertiary education institutions need to encourage would-be young professionals to take ownership of anti-corruption actions.
3	Ridwaan Jaulim (2nd Runner-up)	London College of Accountancy	Corruption is seen as a growing challenge for businesses and society.
4	Yashvi Ramparsad, FLM (Fourth prize-winner)	University of Mauritius	Reinforced partnership with professional associations is a must in the enhancement of organisational integrity.
5	Visha Jeewon, FSSH (Fifth prize-winner)	University of Mauritius	Corruption is the main hindrance to national development especially for developing countries.

The ICAC Anti-Corruption Public Speaking Competition 2014/15 has been a very rewarding experience for me. Thanks to this competition, I've been able to gain a deeper understanding of corruption and how we can remedy this problem. We should all



be aware that turning a blind eye to corruption, just because it does not seem to affect us, is one of the most significant contributing factors to its spread. That is because the perpetrators of corruption will not get caught unless we help the authorities. Therefore we should not be hesitant in denouncing all acts of corruption. Doing so fearlessly will effectively diminish the tolerance we have for corruption and instil

a mindset of integrity and honesty. On a personal level, participating in the competition has helped me refine my research, analytical, writing and oratory skills. I encourage fellow students to take part in such competitions because, whatever the outcome, the experience you gather is always extremely enriching.

A. Goorah

# Congratulations



*Ms Shamimtaz B. Sadally,  
MPhil/PhD Student,  
Department of Biosciences,  
University of Mauritius*

Ms Shamimtaz B. Sadally won the second prize for the Best Research for the Mauritius Research Council Sponsored Postgraduate - May 2015

The research theme was "Studies on diversity, distribution patterns and photo-physiology of marine microalgae from tropical ecosystems around an oceanic island, Mauritius".

The Multi-disciplinary Research Work was co-supervised by Dr Taleb-Hossenkhan, Department of Biosciences, Faculty of Science and Dr Ranjeet Bagooli, Department of Marine & Ocean Science, Fisheries & Mariculture, Faculty of Ocean Studies.

## Student Activities:

**T**alk on Human Resources. Guest Speaker: Mr Kevin Keenoo, HR Specialist organised by Human Resource Management Society

**C**ulture Sharing Day 2015- Musical animation, culture sharing kiosks, entertainment corner, fashion show organized by Awake Society

**T**alk by Transparency Mauritius. Guest Speaker: Mr Rajen Bablee, Executive Director of Transparency Mauritius organised by Students' Union

## UOM Female Rugby players visit Reunion Island

Six students, selected to form part of the Rugby Union National Team, participated in the "7's Tournament (tackle)" from 3-5 April 2015 in Réunion Island.

1	Adeela	Emamally	BSc(Hons) Tourism, Leisure and Recreation Mgt Year 4
2	Astrid	Marie	BSc (Hons) Psychology Year 3
3	Yovania	Mariolle	BEng(Hons)Mechanical Engineering Year 4
4	Yoanna	Grivon	Bsc(Hons) Social work Year 2
5	Marie Joan Prianca Pooja	Leung Kwok	BSc (Hons) Tourism, Leisure and Recreation Mgt Year 2
6	Ratnali Mala	Ramdewar	BEng(Hons) Civil Engineering Year 1



# 2015 National Day Celebrations



## Flag Raising Ceremony at POWA

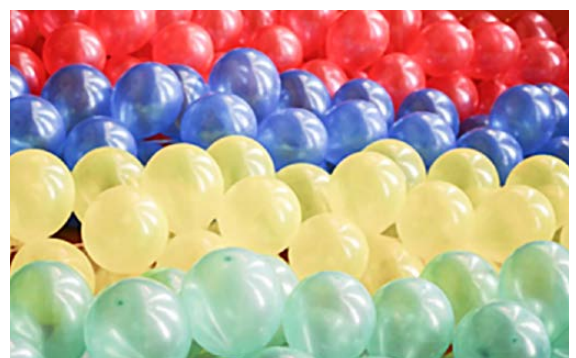
Each year, on the occasion of the Independence Day Celebrations, staff and students of the University proudly gather in the Auditorium for the Flag Raising Ceremony. This year marked the 47th Anniversary of Independence Day and the 23rd Anniversary of the Republic of Mauritius. The theme for celebration was “Nouveau Destin Avek Lepep”.

After the traditional address of Rishikesh Poorun, the President of Students' Union to his peers, Prof. R Mohee, the Vice Chancellor, provided an insight to the UoM community on the achievements of the University and the six key directions elaborated upon in the Strategic Plan of the University.

Addressing the audience for the first time in his capacity as the Pro-Chancellor, Mr. P Chitamun offered warm words of encouragement to UoM students and advised them to make the best of their University lives and to strive hard to follow in the illustrious footsteps of their predecessors “I have no doubt that you will be the best ambassadors of this University”.

After having read the message of the Prime Minister, Dr J.C. Autrey, the newly appointed Chancellor and guest speaker on that occasion, addressed the students. He asserted that the University has known remarkable achievements. He stressed upon the two major landmarks in the history of the UoM namely the Centenary of the College of Agriculture and the half-century Anniversary of the UoM and also reiterated his commitment to support the University in its endeavour to achieve excellence and be a leader in the field of tertiary education in the region.

A.N







**Pro Vice-Chancellor  
(Planning & Resources)**

Public Relations Office

Tel: 403 7535/7587 - Email: [pro@uom.ac.mu](mailto:pro@uom.ac.mu)

Website: [www.uom.ac.mu](http://www.uom.ac.mu)