

PROGRAMME

Day 1 – Wednesday 28 June 2017	
09.30 - 11.00	<p>9.30 Official Opening Ceremony</p> <p>9.30 - 9.40 Welcome Remarks by Dr Ramola Ramtohul, <i>Conference Chair</i></p> <p>9.40 - 9.50 Speech by Prof. Dhanjay Jhurry, CSK, <i>Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius</i></p> <p>9.50 - 10.00 Speech by Dr Arjoon Suddhoo, <i>Executive Director, Mauritius Research Council</i></p> <p>10.00 - 10.15 Speech by The Honourable Nandcoomar Bodha, GCSK, <i>Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport</i></p> <p>10.15-11.00 Keynote address by Prof. Thomas Hylland Eriksen, <i>University of Oslo</i></p>
End of Opening Ceremony	

11.00 - 11.30	Floor Interaction & Tea Break
11.30 - 12.30	Registration & Lunch for Registered Delegated
12.30 - 14.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Prof. Francis Nyamnjoh (University of Cape Town)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mauritius at 50 and Beyond : Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons Learnt</p> <p><i>50 years of independence offer a unique opportunity to be introspective about the past as this allows to chart a better future. As Mauritius turns 50, this panel will have a hard look at what made the Mauritian success story - an island that was predicted an extremely bleak future by two Nobel laureates and which was able to a great extent to beat the odds of economic and social mayhem. Is it still the case? What are the critical structural issues that require our attention and how do we attend to them?</i></p>

PROGRAMME

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Critical Look at the Mauritian Constitution at 50 - <i>Mr Milan Meetarbhan GOSK (Barrister-at-Law, Mauritius)</i> • After 50 Years of Independence: Population Ageing and the Elderly in Mauritius - <i>Prof Andrea Ressel (Harvard University)</i> • From Villages to Suburbs: the Radical Transformation in Mauritius's Housing since independence - <i>Dr Leo Couacaud (University of Mauritius)</i> • Leadership needed for Mauritius post 50 Years of Independence: <i>Mrs Manisha Dookhony (Rwenzori Consulting) & Dr Roukaya Kasenally (University of Mauritius)</i>
<p>14.00 - 15.00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Prof. Arnaud Carpooran, OSK (University of Mauritius)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Celebrating Intra and Transnational Identities: What is the Mauritian Melting Pot Made of?</p> <p><i>Terms such as unity in diversity, rainbow nation, the Mauritian miracle and model of social cohesion have peppered the discourse on Mauritius - these rather celebratory constructs have often overlooked the inherent complexities of what it is really to be a Mauritian and build a sustainable nation society. This panel will explore some of the fault lines that still make the concept of 'Mauritianess' elusive and what can be done to address it as we turn 50.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genèse de l'indianité et la créolité à l'île Maurice - <i>Dr Suzanne Chazan-Gillig (Paris-V Sorbonne)</i> • D'une île l'autre - <i>Dr Julie Peghini (Université Paris 8)</i> • Measuring benefits of participating in a national festival: case study of Mauritius - <i>Ms Chaya Hurnath (University of Mauritius)</i>
<p>15.00 - 15.15</p>	<p>Tea break</p>
<p>15.15 - 16.15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Dr Roukaya Kasenally (University of Mauritius)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Practising Inclusive and Representative Democratic Principles in Post Independent Mauritius</p>

PROGRAMME

	<p><i>Democracy is work in progress which requires societies to constantly adopt and adapt to new processes. Celebrated as a democratic model to be emulated, Mauritius tops the democracy table of league in Africa. However, there is more to the story about democracy than just topping the table of league as evidenced by the numerous democratic deficits found in the Mauritian model - rise of ethnopolitics, dynastic leadership, outdated form of representation among others. As we turn 50, what are the key challenges that await us to ensure that our model is inclusive, representative and participatory?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Démocratie, Partis Politiques et Société Plurale à l'île Maurice - Dr Juvence F Ramasy (Université de Toamasina, Madagascar)</i>• <i>The media as agents of democracy in Mauritius: Issues and challenges since independence - Mrs Christina Chan Meetoo (University of Mauritius)</i>• <i>The application of democracy in the Republic of Mauritius: The case of devolution to the island of Rodrigues - Ms Tania Diolle (University of Mauritius)</i>
<p>16.15 - 17.45</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Prof. Vinesh Hookoomsing (University of Mauritius)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alternative Mauritian and Islander Modes of Identity and Belonging</p> <p><i>Independence ushered in a new set of realities that has profoundly affected the way Mauritians and the outer island populations view themselves and one another. On the one hand, the period was marked by racial riots and the displacement of the Chagos islanders; on the other hand, it also witnessed the birth of a new nation and the coming together of disparate groups and populations. How have these years and subsequent post-independence events being part of an archipelago offer the possibility for imagining alternate identities? Or are Mauritians still largely beholden to their ancestral origins and hesitant to explore new modalities of identification and belonging?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>For Mauritians, joy; for Chagossians sadness': The sacrifice of the Chagos Archipelago and the suffering of the Chagos islanders - Dr Laura Jeffery (University of Edinburgh)</i>• <i>Sharing their / our fates / fights: the outer islands of Mauritius and Japan - Dr Rie Koike (Tokoha University)</i>• <i>Over the rainbow: the problem of belonging in contemporary Mauritian fiction - Dr Julia</i>

PROGRAMME

	<p><i>Walter (University of Reading, UK)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>L'ethnicité: des stratégies d'évitement aux confrontations salutaires - Dr Kumari Issur (University of Mauritius)</i>
17.45 onwards	End of Day 1: Free Evening

Day 2 - Thursday 29 June 2017	
09.00 - 09.45	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Rethinking Citizenship in 21st century Africa : Some Conceptual Considerations</p> <p><i>Prof. Francis Nyamnjoh, University of Cape Town</i></p>
09.45 - 10.45	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Prof. Thomas Hylland Eriksen (University of Oslo)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Celebrating Diversity and Representation : Zooming on being Mauritian</p> <p><i>Mauritius is often celebrated for its approach to diversity and the ability of its ethnic groups to co-exist peacefully. However this view was seriously shaken by the riots following the death of the famous musician Kaya in police custody in 1999. Hence to what extent is the Mauritian multicultural model still relevant to today's times? What are the main categories or criteria according to which Mauritians continue to relate to one another? Does the future offer the possibility for change to these dominant modes of perception?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of religion in the making of a particular Mauritian identity - <i>Dr Marianne Qvortrup Fibiger (Aarhus University, Denmark)</i> • Who are we as Mauritians? - <i>Dr Fiona Grant (Charles Telfair Institute)</i> • Living Cultural Diversity: Representation and Identities - <i>Dr Caroline Ng Tseung-Wong (University of Mauritius)</i>
10.45 - 11.00	Tea Break / Networking

PROGRAMME

11.00 - 12.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Dr Kumari Issur (University of Mauritius)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Politics of Language and Identity Building in Mauritius</p> <p><i>Like religion, language is often at the forefront of discussions pertaining to the construction of identity in Mauritius. The role that Kreol should play in the education system and other national institutions is still subject to debate. And whole industries have been created around the promotion and teaching of so-called ancestral languages. How viable are the state's present language and education policies? And how have Mauritians themselves responded to, sought to engage with, and or tried to challenge these national policies?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Langue(s) et identité nationale dans l'île Maurice indépendante – <i>Prof. Arnaud Carpooran, OSK & Dr Yannick Bosquet-Ballah (University of Mauritius)</i>• Thanks to our plural Creole Language; Nou tou pe vinn Morisien – <i>Prof. Vinesh Hookoomsing (University of Mauritius)</i>• The Politics of Language - <i>Mr Geerjanandsingh Bissessur (Mahatma Gandhi Institute)</i>• The communicative strategies in writing Standard French used by Mauritian students - <i>Dr Muhsina Alleesaib (University of Mauritius)</i>
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch Break and Networking for Registered Delegates
13.30 - 15.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Uma Bhowon (University of Mauritius)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Women's Status in Post Colonial Mauritius : Where we were, where we are and where we want to be?</p> <p><i>Mauritius has come a long way regarding progress made on women's rights since independence. Following demands made by the women's movements, laws were amended to remove previous discrimination against women and to give women equal rights. Yet,</i></p>

PROGRAMME

	<p><i>equal rights have not been sufficient to ensure gender equality and especially gender equity. Inequities are highly visible on the economic and political fronts and many women continue to suffer from domestic abuse and institutionalised discriminations. It becomes important to question the role of the women's movements in contemporary Mauritian society. Also, the panel will try to explore what are the obstacles to the achievement of gender equity in Mauritius.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Speaker - Prof. Janki Andharia (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai) - Rising prosperity and women in Mauritius: Whither Collective Agency? • Intersectionality and the women's movements in postcolonial Mauritius - <i>Dr Ramola Ramtohol</i> (University of Mauritius) • A feminist economist, sustainable development and human rights lens to chart the way forward for Mauritius - <i>Ms Nalini Burn</i> (Freelance researcher/international consultant) • A feminist analysis of the provision of old-age pension in the Mauritian welfare state - <i>Mr Horatio Caine & Ms B. Nabeela Fokeerbux</i> (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade)
15.00 - 15.15	Tea Break and Networking
15.15 - 16.45	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Dr Caroline Ng Tseung Wong (University of Mauritius)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Re-engineering Human Capital : Exploring New Models and Methods</p> <p><i>Mauritius' only resource is its human capital. The years following independence saw the government invest massively in a comprehensive welfare state. Another notable achievement was the resistance shown towards the Structural Adjustment Programmes imposed by the World Bank in the 1990s allowing for the further development of the Mauritian human capital. As we turn 50, a number of questions are looming: What type of human capital will provide us with the much needed comparative edge? How do we bring to fruition the proposal of making Mauritius a knowledge hub? What about the quantity versus the quality of our human capital?</i></p>

PROGRAMME

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mauritian Styles of Multiculturalism and their limits illustrated through the Introduction of Citizenship Education – <i>Prof. Barbara Waldis (University of Applied Sciences, Western Switzerland)</i>• Positioning Mauritius as a Knowledge-based Economy: Insights from US Academic Innovation Models - <i>Dr Rajeev Sooreea (Dominican University of California, USA) & Mr Jaydoyal Sooreea (Focus Global Ltd Mauritius)</i>• Sustaining Social Cohesion through Intercultural Education in the Small Island Developing States: Analysing the pertinence of Intercultural Education in Mauritius - <i>Mrs Jabeen Bibi Soobratty (Doshisha University, Japan)</i>• Engaging the Mauritian Diaspora in Development - <i>Dr Amenah Jahangeer Chojoo (Mahatma Gandhi Institute)</i>
19.30 - onwards	Conference Dinner for Registered Delegates

PROGRAMME

Day 3 - Friday 30 June 2017	
09.00 - 09.45	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>A Vulnerability and Resilience Framework</p> <p><i>Prof. Lino Briguglio, University of Malta</i></p>
09.45 - 11.15	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Dr Harshana Kasseeah (University of Mauritius)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Exploring Beyond the Mauritian Economic Model</p> <p><i>The Mauritian success story is multi-faceted. Researchers have deemed the growth of the Mauritian economy to be nothing short of a 'miracle' and it has famously been mentioned in the literature, the performance of the Mauritian economy has proved Nobel prize winners to be wrong about the growth prospects of the economy. This panel will first look at the various ingredients in the Mauritian success story and also explore the routes ahead. Given that trade has been an important contributor to the success of the country, the panel will focus on trade and foreign direct investment and related issues.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Success of Mauritius: The Story Line down the Road and what Lies Ahead? - <i>Prof. Sanjeev Sobhee (University of Mauritius)</i> • Going out: Explaining Mauritian Outward Foreign Direct Investment (with a specific look at Africa) - <i>Dr Saileshsingh Gunessee (Nottingham University Business School China)</i> • Should Policymakers Be Concerned About the Volatility of Inward Foreign Direct Investment In Mauritius? - <i>Dr Brinda Sooreea-Bheemul (University of Mauritius)</i> • Mauritius, the Trading Hub for Africa: An In-depth Analysis - <i>Dr Verena Tandrayen-Ragoobur (University of Mauritius)</i>
11.15 - 11.30	Tea Break and Networking
11.30 - 12.30	<p>Panel 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Mrs Christina Chan-Meetoo (University of Mauritius)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Mauritian Fabric: Understanding the Multiple Dynamics</p>

PROGRAMME

	<p><i>Social Mobility and equality are two aspirational concepts that help consolidate the process of nation building. Unfortunately, these terms become loaded and even problematic when applied to a society like Mauritius where race, ethnicity, class and identity continue to generate different groups and sub-communities. This panel will try and explore some of the underlying currents that continue to define the way that Mauritians interact in different spheres of their social, economic and cultural activities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Les services domestiques à l'île Maurice. Un secteur-clé du développement économique et des mutations sociales - <i>Dr Colette Le Petitcorps</i> (University of Lisbon) • Who belongs to the elite? Insights from the study of the Franco-Mauritians - <i>Dr Tijo Salverda</i> (University of Cologne, Germany) • Socio - economic mobility and ethnicity - a case study of Mauritius - <i>Mrs Esther Hanoomanjee</i> (Open University of Mauritius)
12.30 - 13.15	Lunch Break for Registered Delegates
13.15 - 14.45	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Mrs Manisha Dookhony (Rwenzori Consulting)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contemporary Development Challenges Facing Independent Mauritius</p> <p><i>Mauritius as part of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is currently facing and will have to face a number of key challenges - climate change, water resources, eco-tourism, clean energy, appropriate urban planning just to name a few. We will also have to face the fact that we only have a small land mass but at the same time have access to rich maritime footprint. Therefore how do we ensure that development remains sustainable and inclusive and that in the process we ensure that our citizens develop a sense of resilience to an increasingly hostile and protectionist global environment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Growth in Paradise: What do people need? - <i>Ms Meelan Thondoo</i> (Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Landscape Mauritius)

PROGRAMME

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modelling the economic forces influencing Mauritian tourism demand from France, UK and Germany - <i>Dr Jameel Khadaroo & Mr Riad Sultan (University of Mauritius)</i> • Mauritius and its ties with Africa - <i>Ms Ambareen Beebeejaun (University of Mauritius)</i> • An analysis of the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programmes available in Mauritius - <i>Ms H.D.Komal Boodhun & Ms Heenah Ransbeeharry (University of Mauritius)</i>
14.45 - 15.00	Tea Break
15.00 - 16.30	<p>Round Table The Mauritian Development Model - Where we were and where we are heading to? Chair: Dr Vinaye Ancharaz (International Consultant) Panelists: Mr Afsar Ebrahim (Deputy Group Managing Partner, BDO), Dr Arjoon Suddhoo (Executive Director, Mauritius Research Council), Ms Min Lee (Founder, PlayMoolah), Mr Kevin Ramkaloan (Director, Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority), Dr Chintamane Sanmukiya (Deputy Rector Modern College Central Flacq) & Mr Jean Noel Humbert (Chief Corporate Affairs Officer Eclasia)</p>
16.30 - 16.45	Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks
18.00 onwards	Networking and Drinks for Registered Delegates