



# UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

## INNOVATION WEEK 2020

GOVERNMENT-ACADEMIA-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP:  
A KEY DRIVER OF INNOVATION

30 NOV - 04 DEC

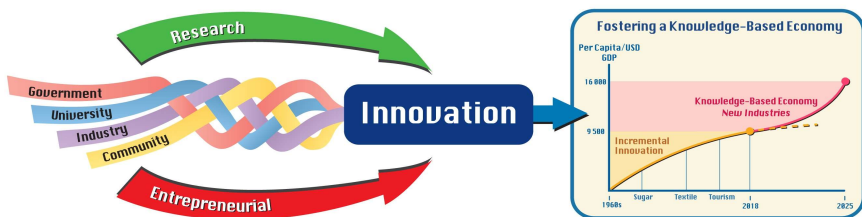


## About UoM Innovation Week 2020

The UoM Innovation Week 2020 is a first of its kind. It aims at bringing together academia, the public sector and the private sector so as to strengthen partnerships between the parties for the benefit of the country. The primary purpose of this first UoM Innovation Week is to enhance interactions between all stakeholders with a view to stimulating an innovation and entrepreneurship culture in Mauritius, in line with UoM's vision.

This new UoM vision, coined in 2017, to develop a research-engaged and entrepreneurial University focused on innovation, is itself inspired from SDG 9 which is about building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation.

### Research-engaged and Entrepreneurial University



UoM's Vision is to position itself as a research-engaged and entrepreneurial university

The Innovation Week will also be an opportunity for UoM Academics to showcase their innovative research and increase the researchers' visibility to both the public and private sectors. Importantly, it will give students the possibility to unleash their creative potential.

Each day has been designed to target a specific objective and a specific audience. On Day 1, we will launch the UoM Hackathon, where UoM Students will participate in teams to develop innovative solutions in the health and agricultural sectors in Mauritius. Day 2 will be devoted to capacity building and training of UoM academic staff and doctoral students in design thinking and developing the entrepreneurial mindset. On Day 3, UoM will engage with key Industry Players to brainstorm on opportunities for new University-Industry Partnerships as a key strategy for innovative and sustainable national economic growth. Day 4 will be dedicated to similar interactions with the public

sector and parastatal bodies aimed at identifying impediments and bridging the gaps to innovation in the sector. Day 5 will conclude the UoM Innovation Week 2020, with a Roundtable led by the University-Industry Consultative Committee.

By the end of the week-long presentations and discussions, we expect to come up with a set of recommendations to support and accelerate the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem through enhanced Government-Academia-Industry linkages.

# UoM Innovation Week 2020

## PROGRAMME

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### DAY 1 – Monday 30 November 2020

#### OPENING CEREMONY

Venue: Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium, UoM, Réduit

9.30 – 9.35 hrs	Welcome by Master of Ceremonies
9.35 – 9.45 hrs	Welcome Address by Dr Louis Jean Claude AUTREY, CSK Chancellor, University of Mauritius
9.45 – 9.55 hrs	Address by Professor Dhanjay JHURRY, CSK, GOSK, FAAS Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius
9.55 – 10.15 hrs	Address and Opening of the Innovation Week & Launching of the 4 <sup>th</sup> (Special) Edition of the UoM SDGs eNewsletter by The Hon. Mrs Leela Devi DOOKUN-LUCHOOMUN, GCSK Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology
10.15 – 10.30 hrs	Refreshments
10.30 – 10.35 hrs	Registration

10.35 – 10.40 hrs	Welcome by Professor Sanjeev Kumar SOBHEE Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academia)
10.40 – 11.40 hrs (incl. 15 minutes discussions)	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Address by Professor Dr. Stefanie BRÖRING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Title: When Biology Meets Data Science: Interdisciplinarity as a Key Driver for Innovation in the Bioeconomy</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div> <p>Stefanie Bröring is full professor for “Technology-, Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship” at the University of Bonn in Germany. Her main motivation in teaching, research and transfer is to understand the dynamics of clean technologies, interdisciplinary research and technology-based startups to foster sustainability transitions. Prior to academia she gained a wide array of consulting and industry experience working mainly in new business development-related functions in the chemical and agricultural sector. After her studies in Lübeck, Münster and Rotterdam she obtained her PhD on “The front end of innovation in converging industries” from the University of Münster in Germany, which included a research stay at the University of Quebec at Montreal and the Institute of Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods in Quebec City, Canada. Her research focuses on the challenges of technology and innovation management in the emerging bioeconomy, industry convergence as well as technology-based ventures and entrepreneurial-ecosystems (see <a href="http://www.tim.uni-bonn.de">www.tim.uni-bonn.de</a>)</p> </div> </div>

Rapporteur:

Assoc. Professor (Dr) Shakuntala BAICHOO

Faculty of Information, Communication and Digital Technologies

DAY 1 – Monday 30 November 2020 (Continued)

PARALLEL EVENTS



## DAY 2 – Tuesday 01 December 2020

Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius  
Target Audience: UoM Academic Staff and PhD Students

Training on Design Thinking, Entrepreneurial Mindset and Presentation  
“Empower Staff to Use Innovation Technologies in Delivery of Lectures and  
Take Research Findings to Commercialisation”

9.00 – 9.30 hrs

Registration

9.30 – 9.40 hrs

Welcome by Associate Professor Mohammed I. SANTALLY Pro-  
Vice-Chancellor (Planning & Resources)

9.40 – 12.00 hrs

Interactive Session on Design Thinking led by  
Mr James VAN DER WESTHUIZEN  
Founder and Managing Partner of KnowHouse, South Africa



James Van der Westhuizen is the founder and managing partner of KnowHouse. Founded 20 years ago out of a passion work differently with the challenge of learning and change in organizations. James’s Formal education has been in Psychology and Humanities. He has been a Human Resources Manager (SA Ports Authority), Interim Organisational Development Manager (MTN), Business Consultant (QData, Brainware) and for the last 20 Years the Managing Member of KnowHouse cc. James is a global consultant and facilitator working across the African continent, the Middle East, Europe & Asia. Serves as faculty on multiple business school programs and coach to leaders and executives of many blue-chip companies. James is one of very few global master facilitators & accreditation partners of ExperiencePoint & IDEO for the ExperienceInnovation range of learning tools and methodologies.

KnowHouse: As the name indicates KnowHouse is all about spaces for learning, conversation and reflection. The African master accreditation partner of four of the world’s most innovative learning solutions providers KnowHouse is committed to interactive and compelling learning.

12.00 – 12.55 hrs	Lunch Break (UoM Cafeteria)
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## PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN MAURITIUS

12.55 - 13.00 hrs	Welcome by Associate Professor Mohammed I. SANTALLY Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Planning & Resources)
13.00 – 13.30 hrs	Presentations by: Mr Ken POONOOSAMY Ag. Chief Executive Officer, Economic Development Board Theme: Universities as an Engine of National Entrepreneurship
13.30 – 14.00 hrs	Mr Ravin RAMPERSAD Chief Executive Officer, SME Mauritius Ltd Theme: Innovation –The SME Perspective
14.00 – 14.30 hrs	Mr Ranjive BEERGAUNOT Ag. Controller, Industrial Property Office Theme: Awareness Program on the Importance of Intellectual Property Rights
14.30 – 14.45 hrs	Q & A
Moderator: Associate Professor M I SANTALLY Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Planning & Resources)	
14.45 – 15.00 hrs	Tea Break
15.00 – 16.00 hrs	Keynote Address by Mr Marc BLUMENTHAL Executive Director of Social Ventures Foundation, USA Title: Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation



Rapporteurs:  
Mr Khusal JUGURNATH  
Faculty of Information, Communication and Digital Technologies  
Miss Gwendoline CHAN MPhil/PhD  
Student

DAY 3 – Wednesday 02 December 2020  
Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius

UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS  
THE WAY FORWARD

8.45 – 9.10 hrs	Registration
9.10 – 9.15 hrs	Welcome address by Professor Dhanjay JHURRY Vice Chancellor, UoM

9.15 – 9.25 hrs

Keynote Speech by  
Dr Yousouf ISMAËL  
Secretary General, MCCI

What the Industry is expecting from the UoM and what opportunities exist to build synergy?



Dr. Yousouf Ismaël is currently the Secretary- General of The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI). He held several positions of responsibility in both private and public sectors namely: banking and finance, agro-business and utilities. He has served on the boards of several key institutions in the country including Central Water Authority, the Central Electricity Board and MCCI. He is currently board member of Mauritius Investment Cooperation (MIC), Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB), MCCI Business School (MCCI BS) and CEO of GS1 (Mauritius) Ltd. He holds a PhD and a post- doctoral in Economics from the University of Reading, UK.


## PANEL SESSION LED BY INDUSTRY CHAMPIONS

9.25 – 10.25 hrs

Co-Chairpersons & Moderators:  
Dr Yousouf ISMAËL and Professor Dhanjay JHURRY

	<p>Panel Members:</p> <p>Mr Bruno DUBARRY Chief Executive Officer, Association of Mauritian Manufacturers</p> <p>Mrs Jaqueline SAUZIER Secretary General, Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture</p> <p>Mr Anthony R. COOMBES Managing Director, Archemics Ltd</p> <p>Mr Shatecaum SEWPAUL General Manager, Harel Mallac Technologies Ltd</p> <p>Mr Kendall TANG Chief Executive Officer, RT Knits Ltd</p> <p>Mr Geerish BUCKTOWONSING Head of Manufacturing, Economic Development Board</p> <p>Mr Ramanathan VENKATASAWMY Head, Collaborative Economic Development, Business Mauritius</p>
10.25 – 10.50 hrs	Panel Discussions
10.50 – 11.00 hrs	Tea Break
11.00 – 12.00 hrs	<p>What can UoM offer to Industry?</p> <p>Chairperson: Professor Boopen SEETANAH Faculty of Law and Management</p> <p>Session led by UoM Faculties &amp; Research Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Engineering</li> <li>• Information, Communication &amp; Digital Technologies</li> <li>• Law and Management</li> <li>• Science</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Sciences and Humanities</li> <li>• Centre for Innovative and Lifelong Learning</li> <li>• International Centre For Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality</li> <li>• Center for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research</li> </ul>
12.00 -12.45 hrs	<p>Debrief on opportunities for collaboration and Strategising the University and Industry link</p> <p>Rapporteurs:</p> <p>Assoc. Professor Robin NUNKOO Faculty of Law and Management</p> <p>Dr Nowsheen GOONOO L'Oreal-UNESCO International Rising Talent Research Fellow</p>
12.45 – 13.30 hrs	Lunch Break

13.30 – 14.00 hrs	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fintech and Innovation</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Presentation by Mr Michal SZYMANSKI Chief Executive Officer, Mauritius African Fintech Hub Title: Innovation and Opportunities for Fintech in Mauritius</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>Michal was in the teaching profession before being headhunted to join one of the leading incubators in South Africa. He has personally interviewed, worked with, mentored over 6000 entrepreneurs from idea stage to established businesses. He has run his own businesses and was a guest speaker around SMME development for many corporates across numerous industries.</p> <p>Michal was part of a team that successfully developed and executed B-BBEE (economic empowerment) strategies for multinational and listed companies in South Africa. As Head of Incubation for the oldest technology hub in Africa, he worked in clusters of innovations such as Fintech, EdTech, BioTech etc., having launched some of Africa’s first dedicated entrepreneurial development programmes in some of the clusters.</p> </div> </div>
	<p>Michal joined the board of the WHEAT Trust in 2017, an organisation dedicated to upskilling and uplifting disadvantaged women, through skills and entrepreneurial development.</p> <p>He was appointed as the CEO of the Mauritius Africa Fintech Hub in 2018, to position the country as the global Fintech Hub for Africa.</p>
14.00 – 14.15 hrs	Q & A

14.15 – 14.45 hrs	<p>Showcasing of 3 Fintech Startup</p> <p>Mr Paul PERRIER Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Fundkiss</p> <p>Mr Sébastien LE BLANC Chief Executive Officer, MIPS</p> <p>Mr Hishaam IBRAHIM and Ms Marie Christine LASPLACES Co-founders, Metenkoste</p>
14.45 – 15.30 hrs	Discussions

**DAY 3 – Wednesday 02 December 2020 (Continued)**

Venue – Raised Plaza

**PARALLEL EVENT – Closing of UoM Hackathon**

16.20 – 17.00 hrs	Announcement of Winning Team and Award Ceremony
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**DAY 4 – Thursday 03 December 2020**

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius

**UNIVERSITY-PUBLIC SECTOR COLLABORATIONS**

**“Bridging with the Public Sector to Find Impediments to Innovation in the Sector”**

9.00 – 9.30 hrs	Registration
9.30 – 9.40 hrs	Welcoming Address by Professor Rajendra P. GUNPUTH Dean of Faculty of Law & Management

9.40 – 10.00 hrs

Keynote Address by

Mr Rajcoomar AUCKLOO

Director, Human Resource Development Council

Title: “Making Space for Partnership and Collaboration:  
Government-Academia-Industry.”



Mr Rajcoomar Auckloo is the Director of the Human Resource Development Council since June 2009. He is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified (UK2000) and Fellow, Mauritius Institute of Directors (FMIoD). Mr Auckloo holds a Master of Business Administration with specialisation in Finance, an MSc Information Technology, Certificate in Business Studies, a BSc (Hons) Accounting and a Diploma in Accountancy from the University of Mauritius. He has completed his MPhil and is in the process of completing his PhD in Human Resource Development at the University of Mauritius. Mr Auckloo joined the HRDC in 2005 as Manager - Corporate. He started his rich career as Officer/ Executive Officer at the National Transport Authority before he was promoted to Road Transport Inspector. He worked as Accounting Technician/Senior Accounting Technician, and was subsequently appointed Financial & Management Analyst, Senior Financial & Management Analyst at the Ministry of Finance, where he worked for 10 years. In 2000, Mr Auckloo was seconded for duty, as Programme Coordinator/Financial Controller, to be responsible for two IFAD (a UN Agency)



	<p>funded projects, namely the Community Development &amp; Micro Enterprise / Micro Finance Development Programme.</p> <p>He is presently a member of the Board of the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) and also the treasurer of the Board of the World - International Federation of Training &amp; Development Organisations (IFTDO) grouping around 1500 training and development organisations across the globe. Mr Auckloo was the Chairman of the IFTDO Board for period 2017/2018. He is also presently a member of the Senate of the University of Mauritius.</p>
10.00 – 10.15 hrs	Tea Break
<p>10.15 –12.00 hrs</p> <p><b>PUBLIC SECTOR NEEDS</b></p>	
10.15 –10.25 hrs	<p>Mrs Amrita CRAIG</p> <p>Marketer, Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority</p> <p>Title: Tourism &amp; Innovation: Latest Trend in Technology to Promote Tourism</p>
10.25 – 10.40 hrs	<p>Professor Mohamed KHAN</p> <p>Director, Financial Services Institute</p> <p>Title: Addressing Impediments to Innovation in the Public Sector</p>
10.40 – 10.55 hrs	<p>Mr Viswajithsing TUHOBOL</p> <p>Director, Financial Reporting Council</p> <p>Title: Financial Regulatory and University as a Partner</p>
10.55 – 11.05 hrs	<p>Mr Aveenash APPADOO</p> <p>Head Planning &amp; Research Unit, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare</p> <p>Title: Alignment of the actions/interventions of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare with the Public Sector Business Transformation Strategy</p>

11.05 – 11.15 hrs	Mr Rishi DOMUN Principal Analyst, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives Title: Innovation, Manufacturing Industry – Academic Linkages
11.15 – 11.25 hrs	Mr Kishore BUNJUN Ag, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives Title: Post Covid-19. Opportunities and Challenges at the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives
11.25 – 11.35 hrs	Captain Mahendra BABOOA Marine Superintendent, Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd Title: Factors Influencing the Shipping Industry in Mauritius
11.35 – 11.50 hrs	Presentation by Erik Von UEXKULL Country Economist/ Representative for Mauritius and Seychelles, World Bank Title: Innovation and State Support in Mauritius
11.50– 12.15 hrs	Q&A/ Discussions
12.15 – 13.15 hrs	Lunch Break (UoM Staff Cafeteria)

13.15 – 15.00 hrs

Highlights – UoM Commissioned Programs/Trainings/Short Courses/  
Consultancy related to Innovation

13.15 – 13.25 hrs	<u>SDG 1: POVERTY</u> Mr Nicolas RAGODOO, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Long Term Holistic Accompaniment of Families Living in Poverty: A case study of Lovebridge
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13.25 – 13.35 hrs	<p><u>SDG5: GENDER EQUALITY</u></p> <p>Dr Ramola RAMTOHUL, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities</p> <p>Gender Mainstreaming for Innovation</p>
13.35 – 13.45 hrs	<p><u>SDG 17: PARTNERSHIP</u></p> <p>Dr Bhavish JUGURNATH, Faculty of Law and Management</p> <p>Digital Innovation in Eastern and Southern Africa</p>
13.45 – 13.55 hrs	<p><u>SDG 8 &amp; 11: ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY</u></p> <p>Dr Vijaya TEELock,</p> <p>Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities</p> <p>The Public Image of Heritage</p>
13.55 – 14.05 hrs	<p>Dr Riad SULTAN</p> <p>Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities</p> <p>The Quest for Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs Creation</p>
14.05 – 14.15 hrs	<p><u>SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION</u></p> <p>Professor (Dr) Rajendra Parsad GUNPUTH, Faculty of Law and Management</p> <p>Labour Legislation Workshops</p>
14. 15 – 14.25 hrs	<p>Mrs (Dr) Yannick BOSQUET, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities</p> <p>Language Lab</p>
14.25 – 14.50 hrs	<p>Dr Goonesh BAHADUR</p> <p>Officer-in-Charge and Senior Lecturer &amp;</p> <p>Mrs Rubina RAMPERSAD, Educational Technologist, Centre for Innovative and Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Innovative and Responsive Programme Design for the Public Sector</p>

<p>14.50 – 15.00 hrs</p> <p>Rapporteur Intervention:</p> <p>Dr Taruna RAMESSUR</p> <p>Faculty of Social Sciences &amp; Humanities</p>	
15.00 – 15.30 hrs	<p><b><u>SDG 9: INDUSTRY AND INFRASTRUCTURE</u></b></p> <p>Mrs Hemlata RAMSOHOK JOMADAR</p> <p>Lead Research, Advisory and Knowledge Management, National Productivity and Competitiveness Council</p> <p>Productivity in Mauritius: Status, Trends, and Priorities for Action</p>
15.30 – 15.55hrs	Q & A/ Discussions
15.55 – 16.00 hrs	Closing Remarks
<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Dr Muhsina ALLEESAIB</p> <p>Faculty of Social Sciences &amp; Humanities</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>Dr Taruna RAMESSUR</p> <p>Faculty of Social Sciences &amp; Humanities</p> <p>Ms Krishnee A. APPADOO</p> <p>Faculty of Law and Management</p>	
16.00 hrs	Refreshments

**DAY 5 – Friday 04 December 2020 Venue:  
Lecture Theatre 1, New Academic Complex**

**PRESENTATIONS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

09.30 – 10.30 hrs	<p>Presentation of Reports for Days 1 to 4 by Rapporteurs for each day:</p> <p>Day 1: Assoc. Professor (Dr) Shakuntala BAICHOO Faculty of Information, Communication &amp; Digital Technologies</p> <p>Day 2: Mr Khusal JUGURNATH Faculty of Information, Communication and Digital Technologies</p> <p>Day 3: Assoc. Professor Robin NUNKOO Faculty of Law and Management</p> <p>Dr Nowsheen GOONOO L'Oreal-UNESCO International Rising Talent Research Fellow</p> <p>Day 4: Ms Krishnee A. APPADOO Faculty of Law and Management</p>
10.30 – 11.00 hrs	Debriefing and Reflection Session
11.00 – 11.15 hrs	Tea Break
11.15 – 12.15 hrs	<p>Charting the Way Forward for Innovation to Thrive</p> <p>Roundtable Discussions led by The University-Industry Consultative Committee (UICC)</p> <p>Chairperson: Mr Shateeaum SEWPAUL General Manager, Harel Mallac Technologies Ltd</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Rapporteurs:  Assoc. Professor (Mrs) Verena TANDRAYEN-RAGOOBUR  Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities  Dr Riad SULTAN  Faculty of Social Science and Humanities</p>
12.15– 12.30 hrs	<p style="text-align: center;">Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks by  Professor Dhanjay JHURRY, Vice-Chancellor</p>
<p>End of Innovation Week</p>	

