



WOMEN'S FORUM

FOR THE ECONOMY & SOCIETY

Building the future with women's vision

WOMEN'S FORUM MAURITIUS.16

20-21 June 2016



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Clara Gaymard

President,
Women's Forum for the Economy & Society

In June 2016 – a point halfway between the Paris climate accord of 2015, when countries pledged to cut carbon-dioxide emissions from fossil fuels, and the recent Kigali agreement limiting worldwide use of hydrofluorocarbons – we convened the first Women's Forum Mauritius at the request of Mauritius President H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim. Our discussions focussed on the specific climate challenges for Mauritius, for Small Island Developing States, and for Africa. "There is a need for solidarity and a global effort" to slow global warming, President Gurib-Fakim declared in her closing remarks. While Women's Forum Mauritius may not have made frontpage news, we believe it was an important step in the right direction – a step toward promoting a far-reaching climate agenda for our planet and for generations to come.



Jacqueline Franjou

CEO,
Women's Forum for the Economy & Society



Laetitia Colonna

Project Director,
Women's Forum Mauritius 2016

Women's Forum Mauritius 2016

Meeting the climate challenge for SIDS and Africa

20-21 June

Since achieving independence on 12 March 1968, Mauritius has gradually moved from a mono-crop agricultural economy to a more diversified one with financial services playing a lead role in the development effort and strategy. Indeed, the sustained growth of the financial services sector over the past two decades has successfully positioned the Island as a hub in the region.

Being a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Mauritius has to ensure a development process that is sustainable and at the same time, safeguards the country's precious biodiversity. The largest challenge that all African countries, including the SIDS, now face is to achieve rapid innovation towards green energy and sustainable food security in an era of continued climate disruption.

Women's Forum Mauritius takes up the innovation challenge for Island States and Africa during a high-level two-day meeting for scientists, policymakers, and business leaders. With the support and collaboration of H.E. Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius, a renowned biodiversity expert, the Forum will showcase Mauritius's remarkably rich natural flora and fauna, while underlining why it is a global biodiversity hotspot today. Drawing on international speakers and experiences, participants will debate climate and health solutions; climate, agriculture, and biodiversity best practices; sustainable energy and water and sanitation for Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS); how to advance innovation in agriculture, health and land use; improving the participation of women and youth in scientific and technological training; and processes for frugal green innovations with value-added for SIDS and African economies.

Women's leadership, vision, and ingenuity are essential if we were to better protect the world's biodiversity and advance climate action. Women's Forum Mauritius will feature women who are at the forefront of the climate and biodiversity movements, bringing them together with their men counterparts in a unique meeting that will build capacity and empower those who attend. Delegations will participate from India and South Africa, and there will be a strong African, European and Asian international presence at the meeting.

On the agenda of Women's Forum Mauritius:

Climate, agriculture, biodiversity: Challenges, opportunities, ways forward

The effects of climate change on the African continent and tropical islands like Mauritius, what these will mean for biodiversity efforts and food production, and how to advance a sustainable agriculture, including aquaculture, which incorporates biodiversity as the underpinning of food security?

Achieving resilient water supply and sanitation in an era of climate change

How climate change, demographics and population movements will together exacerbate problems of the lack of access to safe water and sanitation, and what are some innovative practical ways to meet the challenges of achieving water and sanitation for all.

Coming together around SDG 6, water & sanitation

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal no. 6 is to ensure access to clean water and sanitation for all. Looking towards the Water Summit to be held in Budapest at the end of November, what is the roadmap taking form, and what will it mean for SIDS like Mauritius?

Climate and health: Challenges and ways forward

Climate disruption will mean more malaria, fatal heat waves, poor water quality, and damaging air pollutants, to name a few of the many health impacts. How can these threats be turned into opportunities to strengthen health systems? What are the health and non-health based interventions to address and even improve public health in these conditions?

Climate and energy: Challenges and ways forward

The potential of wind, waves, and solar, to address African and SIDS energy needs. And the vision and practical next steps to bootstrap renewable energy to reach the millions who do not have electricity and who rely on wood or biomass to cook and heat their homes. It can be done!

Sci tech breakthroughs for biodiversity, agriculture, health, and energy

These presentations will introduce participants to cutting-edge scientific and technological innovations that address agriculture, health and energy from biodiversity and climate angles.

Frugal GREEN innovation

Examples of products that are affordable for the bottom of the pyramid, while being ecosystem-responsible from the supply chain to end use. And strategies for promoting such innovation locally and nationally.

Amazing women: short interviews with change leaders in the sustainability and climate fields to bring out their vision and motivation for their life work.

Bringing more women and youth into the innovation movement

How to do this for African states – for STEM and ICT – in ways that promote cultures of research, innovation and entrepreneurship?

Sunday, June 19

15:00-17:30 Registration

18:30-20:30

Restaurant La Ravane, Paradis Hotel & Golf Club

Women's Forum Mauritius welcome reception

Speaker:

Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, Journalist and author

Welcome remarks:

Gilbert Espitalier-Noël, CEO, New Mauritius Hotels

Donald Payen, Executive Vice-President Customer Experience, Ground & In-flight Services, Air Mauritius

Monday, June 20

08:00-09:15 Registration, with tea and coffee available

09:15-09:45

Conference room

MC introduction and host country and Forum welcome

H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius

Jacqueline Franjou, CEO, Women's Forum for the Economy & Society

MC:

Gillian Martin-Mehers, Founding Director, Bright Green Learning

09:45-10:15

Conference room

Unleashing the untapped knowledge-based capital of African women

For wealth acquisition and growth for a better Africa and a better world.

Speaker:

Julius O. Akinyemi, Entrepreneur-in-Residence, MIT Media Lab

10:15-10:45 Networking break

10:45-12:00

Conference room

Climate, agriculture, biodiversity: Challenges and opportunities

The effects of climate change on the African continent and tropical islands like Mauritius: what will this mean for biodiversity efforts and food production?

Moderator:

Emelia Arthur, Advisor to the President of Ghana, and Member of the Board, CARE International Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Advisory Group and IUCN/FAO Forest and Farm Facility

Speakers:

Winnie Akinyi Nyonje, Researcher, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Segenet Kelemu, Director General, ICIPE, and L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science laureate

Catherine O'Reilly, Associate Professor, Department of Geography-Geology, Illinois State University

Marjaana Sall, European Union Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius, for the Union of the Comoros and the Republic of Seychelles

12:00-12:15

Conference room

Amazing women

Jill Farrant, leading expert on resurrection plants, Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Cape Town, and L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science laureate, interviewed by **Claire Doole**, the Founder and CEO of Claire Doole Communications.

12:15-12:25 Room change

12:25-13:35

Le Manoir, Sugar Beach Resort & Spa

Women's Forum Mauritius networking lunch with the South African delegation

We invite you at this luncheon to discover the 20-strong remarkable South African delegation to the Women's Forum Mauritius.

MC :

Crystal Orderson, South Africa Editor, The Africa Report, and Reporter, Jeune Afrique

Speaker:

Philisiwe Mthethwa, CEO, National Empowerment Fund

13:35-13:50 Room change

13:50-14:10

Conference room

The impact of climate change on Small Island Developing States

Speaker:

Didier Robert, Senator and President of the Regional Council of Reunion Island, and Vice-President Africa zone, nrg4SD

14:10-15:35

Conference room

Climate, agriculture, biodiversity: Ways forward

How to advance a sustainable agriculture, including aquaculture, which incorporates biodiversity as the underpinning of food security?

Moderator:

Emelia Arthur, Advisor to the President of Ghana, and Member of the Board, CARE International Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Advisory Group and IUCN/FAO Forest and Farm Facility

Welcome remarks:

Audrey d'Hotman de Villiers Desjardins, Sustainable Development Manager, Rogers & Company Limited

Speakers:

Fetein Abay, Professor and Director of the Institute of Environment, Gender and Development Studies, Mekelle University

Mathew John, Founder-Director, Director, Keystone Foundation

Julie Lerner, Founder and CEO, PanXchange, Inc.

Karen Mapusua, Coordinator, POETCom

15:35-16:35

Conference room

Achieving resilient water supply and sanitation in an era of climate change

How climate change, demographics and population movements will together exacerbate problems of the lack of access to safe water and sanitation, and what are some innovative practical ways to meet the challenges of achieving water and sanitation for all.

Moderator:

Deborah Berlinck, Journalist and communications strategist

Speakers:

Patience Damphey, Lead UNFCCC Coordinator for Africa on Adaptation, Africa Group of Negotiator

Snowy Khoza, CEO, BigenAfrica

Patricia E. Perkins, Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University

16:35-17:05 Networking break

17:05-17:20

Conference room

Amazing women

Aisha Muhammed Oyebo, the Founder and CEO, Murtala Muhammed Foundation, and Co-convener, Bring Back Our Girls Movement, interviewed by **Claire Doole**, the Founder and CEO of Claire Doole Communications.

17:20-18:30

Conference room

Climate and health: Challenges and ways forward

Climate disruption will mean more malaria, fatal heat waves, poor water quality, and damaging air pollutants, to name a few of the many health impacts. How can these threats be turned into opportunities to strengthen health systems? And what are some of the most promising health and non-health based interventions to address the impact of climate change on people's health?

Moderator:

Deborah Berlinck, Journalist and communications strategist

Speakers:

Ildi J. Fenyvesi, Lecturer, Division of Forensic Medicine and Pathology, University of the Witwatersrand

Alexandra Henrion Caude, Director of Research, Inserm, Hôpital Necker

Robert Sebbag, Vice President, Access to Medicines, Sanofi

Nick Watts, Executive Director, Lancet Countdown to 2030: Public Health and Climate Change

18:30-19:00

Conference room

Ours will be the century of solidarity, or it will not

Moderator:

Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, Journalist and author

Speaker:

Nicolas Hulot, Founder and President, Fondation Nicolas-Hulot

19:15-19:45

Le Manoir, Sugar Beach Resort & Spa

Cocktail reception organized by HEC Paris, School of Management

HEC African Women Leaders Award for Corporate Social Innovation

20:00 -22:30

Le Manoir, Sugar Beach Resort & Spa

Dinner reception

Host welcome:

The Hon. Mrs Marie-Aurore Perraud, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, Republic of Mauritius

Tuesday, June 21

08:15-08:45 Day 3 registration, with coffee and tea available

08:45-08:55

MC welcome back

Gillian Martin-Mehers, Founding Director, Bright Green Learning

08:55-09:10

A planet where our children can still live: The essential role of politicians

Keynote speaker:

Ravza Kavakci Kan, Member of Parliament, Republic of Turkey

09:10-10:00

Keynote interviews on climate and energy

Moderator:

Sophie Lambin, Co-founder and Managing Director, Kite Global Advisors

Keynote speakers:

Laurence Tubiana, French Ambassador for International Climate Negotiations

The Hon Mr. Marie Roland Alain Wong Yen Cheong, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms and Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management, Republic of Mauritius

10:00-11:00

Conference room

Climate and energy: Challenges and ways forward

The potential of wind, waves, and solar, to address African and SIDS energy needs. And the vision and practical next steps to bootstrap renewable energy to reach the millions who do not have electricity and who rely on wood or biomass to cook and heat their homes. It can be done!

Moderator:

Sophie Lambin, Co-founder and Managing Director, Kite Global Advisors

Speakers:

Tafadzwa Chiganga, CFO, Frontier Markets

Indra Haraksingh, Professor, Department of Physics, The University of the West Indies, President, Caribbean Solar Energy Society and Member of the Steering Committee, World Renewable Energy Network

Manoelle Lepoutre, Senior Executive Vice President, Executive Careers and Management, Total

Laura Williamson, Communication & Outreach Manager, REN21

11:00-11:45 Networking break

11:45-12:00

Conference room

Amazing women

Amna Malik, entrepreneur, politician and activist, and Founder and President, Center of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR), interviewed by **Claire Doole**, the Founder and CEO of Claire Doole Communications.

12:00-12:45

Conference room

Coming together around SDG 6, water & sanitation

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 is to ensure access to clean water and sanitation for all. Looking towards the Water Summit to be held in Budapest at the end of November, what is the roadmap taking form, and what will it mean for SIDS like Mauritius?

Moderator:

Snowy Khoza, CEO, BigenAfrica

Speakers:

Jill Farrant, Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Cape Town, and L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science laureate

H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius and Co-Chair, UN High-level Panel on Water

Lormus Juggoo, Director, Water Resources, Water Resources Unit, Ministry of Energy & Public Utilities, Government of Mauritius

12:45-13:00 Room change

13:00-14:30

Le Manoir, Sugar Beach Resort & Spa

Luncheon session: Meet the next generation of leaders

Next-generation leaders are young Mauritian women who, based on their accomplishments and achievements, are on well on their way to becoming top executives and innovators in government, business, and civil society. Delegates will have the opportunity at this luncheon to hear from and talk with members of this group.

Moderator:

Paul Boateng, Member, UK House of Lords, and Trustee, Planet Earth Institute

Speakers:

Joana Dias Madaleno, Student, Imperial College London

Sarah Gouia, Student, University of Cambridge

Belinda Wong, Corporate Manager, Projects & Development, Rogers & Co. Ltd

13:00-15:00

Board room

CEO Champions working luncheon

By invitation only

Hosted by the Gender Gap Grader

CEO Champions is a C-suite initiative, serving as a platform for global leaders – both men and women – to establish new and innovative ways to drive the corporate empowerment and advancement of women in the workforce. This peer-peer working luncheon will launch CEO Champions in Mauritius.

Moderators:

Karima Bouaïss, Associate Professor, IAE Poitiers and CEDE- Essec Business School

Elia Carsenat, Co-Founder, Gender Gap Grader

14:30-14:45 Room change

14:45-15:45

Conference room

Sci tech breakthroughs for biodiversity, agriculture and health

Four presentations of cutting-edge scientific and technological innovations to address agriculture and health from biodiversity and climate angles.

Moderator:

Crystal Orderson, South Africa Editor, The Africa Report, and Reporter, Jeune Afrique

Speakers:

Brandi DeCarli, Founding Partner, Farm from a Box

Laurent Gilbert, Advanced Research International Development Director, L'Oréal

Evelyn Gitau, Programme Manager, Grand Challenges Africa initiative, African Academy of Sciences

Flower Msuya, Senior Researcher, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam

15:45-17:05

Conference room

Strategies for nurturing frugal GREEN innovation

How to best promote development of products that are affordable for the bottom of the pyramid, while being ecosystem-responsible from the supply chain to end use?

Moderator:

Liz Zeidler, Chair, Bristol Green Capital Partnership and Founding Director, Happy City

Opening remarks:

Jyoti Jeetun, CEO, Mont Choisy

Speakers:

Marie Connett, Portfolio Lead, Agricultural Productivity Technology, Global Good

Bertrand Moingeon, Professor, HEC Paris, and Executive Director, HEC Indian Ocean Office

Allison Robertshaw, Executive Director, SEED

17:05-17:35 Networking break

17:35-19:00

Conference room

Bringing more women and youth into the innovation movement

How to do this for SIDS and African states – for STEM and ICT – in ways that promote cultures of research, innovation and entrepreneurship?

Moderator:

Liz Zeidler, Chair, Bristol Green Capital Partnership and Founding Director, Happy City

Speakers:

Ethel Cofie, Co-Founder, Women in Tech Africa, and CEO and Founder, EDEL Technology Consulting

Anne Githuku-Shongwe, South Africa Multi-Country Office Representative, UN Women, and Senior Managing Partner, Afroes Holdings

Steena Kistnen, Senior Manager Education Development, Medine Ltd.

Adriana Marais, Postdoctoral Researcher, Quantum Research Group, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Mars One Project Astronaut Candidate and L'Oreal-UNESCO International Rising Talent

Unoma Okorafor, President, Working to Advance African Women

19:00-19:20

Conference room

Closing keynote interview

Moderator:

Crystal Orderson, South Africa Editor, The Africa Report, and Reporter, Jeune Afrique

Speaker:

H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius

19:20-19:30

Conference room

Next steps

Jacqueline Franjou, CEO, Women's Forum for the Economy & Society

19:30-21:00

Le Manoir, Sugar Beach Resort & Spa

Closing dinner

Welcome remarks:

H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius

Fatih Mehmet Kursun, CEO Mauritius & Madagascar, Turkish Airlines

MC INTRODUCTION AND HOST COUNTRY WELCOME

Speakers:

H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

President of the Republic of Mauritius

Jacqueline Franjou

CEO, Women's Forum for the Economy & Society



Jacqueline Franjou, H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

Women's Forum Mauritius 2016

Dr Ameenah Gurrib-Fakim notes that the main objective of Women's Forum Mauritius 2016 is to underscore the preparedness of Mauritius, of Small Island Developing States and of African countries in addressing the challenges and implications of climate change. Jacqueline Franjou salutes the creativity and hard work that went into creating this first Women's Forum Meeting in Mauritius and in Africa.

Women's Forum Mauritius follows the 2015 COP 21 climate conference in Paris, and the signing and ratification of the Paris agreement by Mauritius in New York last April. The Paris agreement was secured when consensus was reached by its signatories to reduce their carbon emissions. The goal of this reduction is to contain temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius before the year 2100. In Paris, it was agreed that climate change is reality, and not an abstract scientific projection. It is

estimated that climate change has already cost the global economy some USD 2 trillion over the past 20 years. The WHO estimates that 7 million people die each year from diseases related to air pollution: this makes it the largest single environmental risk to health.

Bleak prediction directly linked to climate change

Climate change projections for Mauritius are bleak, with a further increase in temperature of 2°C, a 13% decrease in total utilisable water, and a 30% decrease in actual production.



H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

“Unfortunately a disproportionate burden is and will be borne by the poorest and most vulnerable countries and populations, when in fact they are not responsible for global warming.”

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim



Jacqueline Franjou

“At the Women's Forum Global Meeting [in October 2015], Ameenah Gurib-Fakim requested that Mauritius and SIDS receive recognition at the COP21 climate talks, not as a special case climate casualty, but as fully fledged members of the global community.”

Jacqueline Franjou

UNLEASHING THE UNTAPPED KNOWLEDGE-BASED CAPITAL OF AFRICAN WOMEN

Speaker:

Julius O. Akinyemi

Entrepreneur-in-Residence, MIT Media Lab



Julius O. Akinyemi

The MIT Media Lab is one of the world's most renowned research and development centres. It's not so much about the Lab's accomplishments, Julius O. Akinyemi, says, but about the way these accomplishments are reached. The MIT Media lab accords great importance to diversity in thought and life experiences, he says. Research thrives on the different perspectives granted by competent men and women from around the world.

Gender equity will make Africa evolve

Julius O. Akinyemi insists that gender equity is of utmost importance to Africa's evolution: women must have the possibility to acquire land, for example. With this in mind, he and his team developed a solution through which every land opportunity is recorded, and ownership rights of these lands granted to the women and men working on them. The underlying idea is to empower populations and prevent these lands from existing as dormant assets. It is also an essential method in growing a sustainable economy, Julius O. Akinyemi says: "Africa has to invent the future of Africa. We need to put our heads together and create our own future. We cannot reinvent the future of Africa without women."



Julius O. Akinyemi

“Climate change is not a zero sum game! It’s not a game whereby we can achieve progression by disregarding the importance of women. Anybody we leave behind, any knowledge capital we leave behind is a lost future: we cannot afford lost futures!”

Julius O. Akinyemi

KEY FIGURES

If we consider that **50%** of sub-Saharan people are women, and that equal access to education and to non-gender specific work is granted to these women, the amount of change that will be generated is exponential.

CLIMATE, AGRICULTURE, BIODIVERSITY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Moderator:

Emelia Arthur

Advisor to the President of Ghana, and Member of the Board, CARE International Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Advisory Group and IUCN/FAO Forest and Farm Facility

Speakers:

Winnie Akinyi Nyonje

Researcher, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Segenet Kelemu

Director General, ICIPE, and L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science laureate

Catherine O'Reilly

Associate Professor, Department of Geography-Geology, Illinois State University

Marjaana Sall

European Union Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius, for the Union of the Comoros and the Republic of Seychelles

Climate change has an impact on agriculture and biodiversity. It impacts food security, and human sustenance, livelihood and incomes.

Women feed Africa

Climate change was the catalyst for Segenet Kelemu and her team to come up with a knowledge-intensive technology to help improve the lives of African women farmers. The biodiversity of plants is of the utmost importance to us, she says, adding that “Women feed Africa.” The technology she developed revolves around a leguminous plant which, when intercropped in plantations, helps to fight against weeds, pests, and to regulate the amount of nitrogen in soil. This plant also provides high quality feed for animals, is extremely climate-smart, and can be used in drought areas.

Climate change as an opportunity to develop technologies and adopt new farming techniques

Winnie Akinyi Nyonje's research focuses on leguminous vegetables (green leafy vegetables) that have been discounted as weeds. The stigmatisation of these vegetables, even though they are highly nutritious, means they are under-appreciated as a food source in Africa. Such vegetables are considered “poor people's food”, Winnie Akinyi Nyonje explains. These plants have medicinal value, but also economic benefits. They are resilient to climate change, easy to grow, and they have short maturity periods. Some examples are African nightshade, pumpkin leaves, and amaranth leaves. Many African and smaller developing nations can adopt novel ways of growing and harvesting crops that help maintain biodiversity. They must develop policies that push these novel methods forward. Catherine O'Reilly comes from Illinois, where they use a farming system that does not have the ability to rebound or change easily. Only corn and soybeans grow there as a result of traditional farming practices. She says that developing countries can learn from this particular mistake when improving their own farming systems.



Emelia Arthur, Winnie Akinyi Nyonje, Segenet Kelemu, Catherine O'Reilly, Marjaana Sall

COP21 and its effect on the change of global policy

Marjaana Sall calls the COP21 agreement a major milestone in global policy. But she says that three factors will determine the agreement's success or failure:

- Commitment
- Ambition
- Solidarity

The EU has agreed to mobilise the funds necessary to finance climate action, but this process will require time, and innovation. There is therefore the need for partnership. Financing cannot come only from public sources. The private sector and civil society will also have to play their roles in funding.

KEY FIGURES

Bees are extremely important for food security:
35-40% of crops need bees for pollination.

“Many people in Africa depend on natural resources. There are ten times more wild caught fish than farmed fish here, for example.”

Catherine O'Reilly

“Our existence is dependent on plants. In this respect, the biodiversity of plants is of utmost importance to us.”

Segenet Kelemu

“There is a proverb that says you are what you eat, and when what you eat is affected, your health will also be affected!”

Winnie Akinyi Nyonje

“It is important to make the link between Sustainable Development Goals and financial support.”

Marjaana Sall

AMAZING WOMEN: JILL FARRANT

Speaker:

Jill Farrant

leading expert on resurrection plants;
Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology
at the University of Cape Town; L'Oréal-UNESCO
for Women in Science laureate

Interviewer:

Claire Doole

Founder and CEO, Claire Doole Communications



Claire Doole

Resurrection plants are not fundamentally different from other crops – they merely use their genes differently. Jill Farrant's first encounter with one of these plants occurred when she was nine years old.

Resurrection plants similar to normal plants

There is a connection between the function of resurrection plants and seeds. Through her research Jill Farrant has discovered that resurrection plants simply switch on genes that seeds use when they face drought conditions. The plants mimic the seeds' dormant properties and can spend years waiting for water that will help them come back to life.

“There are only 135 plant species in the world that have this “resurrection” propriety. The reason why these plants look dead is because they have lost 95% of their water. That’s a phenomenon that occurs only in resurrection plants and seeds.”

Jill Farrant

During her research, Jill Farrant attempted to genetically modify certain crops by using genes from resurrection plants, but she insists this was just a side project. Her major goal lies in finding a way of switching on genes already present in the crops, so no genetic modification is required. Once the sufficient funding is obtained, she says this goal would about five years to achieve.

The overall result expected from this research is the production of drought-resistant plants, to help farmers reduce the loss of crops. She also anticipates medicinal benefits, as plants that have to overcome severe stress tend to produce chemicals with medicinal properties.

KEY FIGURES

Certain resurrection plants can lie dormant for up to **5 years**.



Jill Farrant

WOMEN'S FORUM MAURITIUS NETWORKING LUNCH WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION

Speaker:

Philisiwe Mthethwa

CEO, National Empowerment Fund



Crystal Orderson

South Africa will be the site of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP17, from 24 September to 5 October 2016 in Johannesburg). In addition to addressing wildlife conservation through the regulation of trade, the CITES event will tackle issues such as Africa's involvement in global human progress, education, food production and security and conflict resolution.

Africa is involved in climate change mobilisation

Land degradation, drought, and desertification are major issues faced by African populations, and many entities are involved not only in addressing these problems, but in finding sustainable solutions for agriculture, for energy, and for the clothing and textile industries. A majority of African people live on marginal lands and rural areas and they practice rain-fed agriculture. In certain African countries (Somalia, for one example) the impact of climate change threatens agricultural production and is causing extreme hardship for many women. In this way,

climate change exacerbates poverty and undermines socioeconomic development.

An invitation to South Africa for the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society

Philisiwe Mthethwa extended an invitation to Jacqueline Franjou to produce a Women's Forum Meetings in South Africa in 2017 or 2018. Philisiwe Mthethwa pointed out that Africa has many women heroes, such as the late environmental activist Wangari Muta Maathai, who was the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize the Nobel Peace Prize for «her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace».



Philisiwe Mthethwa

“Throughout Africa there is a growing recognition that the continent needs to start protecting itself against the threat of environmental and economic degradation.”
Philisiwe Mthethwa

KEY FIGURES

2/3 of Africa is classified as deserts or dry lands.

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Speaker:

Didier Robert

Senator and President of the Regional Council of Réunion, and Vice-President Africa zone, NRG4SD



Didier Robert

Is it already too late to combat climate change? There is no point in asking such a question, insists Didier Robert – the time for action is now. Cyclones are becoming more intense, flash rains occur more frequently, and the climate is rapidly altering. “Our own livelihoods are being threatened,” he said.

In light of such changes, Réunion has been looking into the matter and attempting to devise solutions by stimulating dialogue. According to Didier Robert, the questions of how to combine food production and food security, how to put fossil energy behind us, and how to create shared prosperity demand a multi-faceted, holistic approach at local, regional, and international policymaking levels.

Renewable energy is the way forward

Réunion is determined to lead in harnessing green and renewable energy with a view to minimizing its contribution to adverse climate change. Didier Robert noted, for example, that more than 33% of electricity produced in Réunion comes from renewable energy sources. Moreover, to date, 2000 families have saved between 30 to 40% on their electricity bills thanks to the deployment of solar panels.

Looking into the near future

Réunion has earmarked funding for ensuring that future policy measures will have moderate adverse environmental impact, Didier Robert explained, adding that a new eco-friendly means of transportation, called Trans Eco Express, and carpooling stations are in the pipeline.

Efforts on behalf of the environment must be shared collectively, said Didier Robert. “We all have, each at our own level, a share of responsibility.” He highlighted the example of Les Iles Vanilles, a consortium of Indian Ocean islands comprising Réunion, Mauritius, Maldives, Madagascar, Comoros, Mayotte, and Seychelles, which has been working to establish best practices for environmental protection and preservation.



Didier Robert, H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Jacqueline Franjou

“Economic development must go hand in hand with environmental protection and preservation.”

Didier Robert

“We all have, each at our own level, a share of responsibility.”

Didier Robert

KEY FIGURES

More than **33%** of electricity produced in Réunion comes from renewable energy sources

In 4 years, **2000** families were equipped with solar panels in Réunion, allowing savings of up to **30 to 40%** on electricity bills.

CLIMATE, AGRICULTURE, BIODIVERSITY: WAYS FORWARD

Moderator:

Emelia Arthur

Advisor to the President of Ghana; Member of the Board, CARE International, Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Advisory Group, and IUCN/FAO Forest and Farm Facility

Welcome Remarks:

Audrey d'Hotman de Villiers Desjardins

Sustainable Development Manager,
Rogers & Company Limited

Speakers:

Fetein Abay

Professor and Director of the Institute of Environment,
Gender and Development Studies, Mekelle University

Mathew John

Founder-Director, Director, Keystone Foundation

Julie Lerner

Founder and CEO, PanXchange, Inc.

Karen Mapusua

Coordinator, POETCom

Agriculture is a prime component of the climate change agenda since it has the potential not only to mitigate but also to adapt to climate change, Karen Mapusua said. It is thus important to engage all stakeholders in the agricultural field on a common dialogue on the ways forward. According to Fetein Abay, the way forward is to bring the discussion back to the farmers. They are the change makers who possess knowledge and expertise on working the land.

Agricultural demand in times of climate change

People are looking for healthier and higher-yield crops to address food security issues on the African continent. Researchers can help introduce more resilient seeds and crops to farmers. It is nonetheless not enough to develop the technology. "A crop cannot exist without utilization," Fetein Abay said. Julie Lerner agrees that the farmer is the key to meeting agricultural demands. She advocates for a demand-driven approach. The end-user is ultimately the one who needs to be willing to adopt new technologies.



Emelia Arthur

In order to build climate-resilient crops, it is not necessary to look to the West. "Transformation is not about introducing new seeds," Fetein Abay said. According to Karen Mapusua, it is important to look at building up resilience of existing crops. Not only have these crops been adapting to local landscapes, they also have been adapting to cyclones, salinity and even pests. Developing more resilient seeds from local cash crops stands as a better solution to facing climate change and meeting the demand for food than relying on crops from abroad.

Reaching out to farmers

"The Internet is a solution," Julie Lerner said. In the most remote regions, where connectivity and Internet penetration is low, farmers can be reached by SMS technology. These text-messaging systems could keep farmers updated with the latest pricing, allowing them to make better-informed decisions and enhance their livelihoods. Making use of communication technology should be part of the solution.



Emelia Arthur, Fetien Abay, Julie Lerner, Karen Mapusua, Mathew John

Within Africa's diverse technology landscape, a one-size-fits-all model is not a viable solution. A text messaging system will be poorly used if language stands as a barrier or if the cost of telephony itself constitutes an obstacle to access to technology. It is therefore important to look for other avenues for effecting change. For Mathew John, we all need to take a step back and allow space for transformation: "Tradition and culture bring this space for reflection."

Changes also need to operate at the policymaking level. Food diversity for local consumption should be a priority with decision-makers. Rice, maize and wheat, the top three cash crops in Africa, could be traded off for local crops such as cassava. Being able to produce for export has little value if local communities are not able to meet their demands for food.

KEY FIGURES

There are **500** million small farmers in India, Mathew John said.

“What we need is to look at building up resilience of what we have on our islands.”

Karen Mapusua

“It has to be a demand-driven solution.”

Julie Lerner

“We need to take a step back and allow space for transformation.”

Mathew John

“Every opinion, every action, small or large, matters.”

Audrey d’Hotman de Villiers Desjardins

“The way forward is to bring it back to the farmers.”

Fetien Abay

ACHIEVING RESILIENT WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Moderator:

Deborah Berlinck

Journalist and communications strategist

Speakers:

Patience Damphey

Lead UNFCCC Coordinator for Africa
on Adaptation, Africa Group of Negotiator

Snowy Khoza

CEO, BigenAfrica

Patricia E. Perkins

Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies,
York University



Deborah Berlinck, Gillian Martin Mehers

Water is essential for maintaining livelihoods of communities. The impacts of climate change on water supply and sanitation are real and need to be addressed urgently. “Climate change is leading to new migration,” Patience Damphey said. In fact, climate change is responsible for displacing communities, who move closer to water supply and heighten stress on these resources. Patricia E. Perkins noted that, because the world is not very well equipped for migration and because of the additional stress on water resources, conflicts will eventually break out.

“Water is the new money,” Snowy Khoza said, adding that countries will eventually fight over water. Water wars will ultimately happen, she warned, pointing to the recurring debate over “ownership” of the Nile.

Local solutions

In times of climate change, according to Patricia E. Perkins, there needs to be a bioregional way of promoting dialogue. The issue of water supply has deep sociopolitical implications; communities must work together towards achieving resilient water supply. “This cross-fertilization will bring about these resilient systems,” Ms Perkins noted.

While it is crucial to take on board people at the local level in the discussion around resilient water supply, it is a matter of political will at the decision-making level as well. Patience Damphey said that it would be more effective to ensure resilience in water supply and sanitation if policymakers are committed to the issue.

Governments in Africa have different ways of looking at the problem and proposed solutions. For Snowy Khoza, who has worked in the water sanitation business for 30 years, some governments simply will not listen to the solutions. Without political will, no real change will take place. “I have seen countries succeed with political will and commitment,” she said.

Harvesting rainwater

Rainwater can be a viable alternative to reducing consumption strain on water grids. For example, rainwater can be used to flush toilets and water plants. But due to varying geographical and climatic conditions, all communities cannot rely on rainwater. This is why solutions must be tailor-made for each country and each community.



Deborah Berlinck, Patience Dampthey, Snowy Khoza, Patricia Perkins

Desalination could be another solution for communities with easy access to seawater. Despite desalination increasingly being heralded as a modern solution, it is an expensive process. It therefore becomes a solution of last resort, Snowy Khoza said.

To help finance resilient water supply and sanitation projects, the setting up of a continent-wide climate fund was proposed. Such a fund would help not only secure access to resilient water supply but also empower those most vulnerable to climate change. These are generally women. Women need water for cooking, cleaning, caring and rearing. Many walk long distances to fetch water, sometimes even fighting over scarce water supplies. “We need to bring women together to address the problem collectively,” Snowy Khoza said.

The shift toward dry sanitation was another solution proposed to build up resilience in water supply and sanitation. “We have to find a more ecological way of living,” Patricia E. Perkins said. This progressive way of living can be inspired by Small Islands Developing States. These SIDS, Patience Dampthey noted, are already dealing with extremely limited water supplies and sanitation resources.

KEY FIGURES

30 million people depend on Lake Chad for water resources.

About **75%** of Africa's natural resources are contained in **8** river basins.

Snowy Khoza has been in the business of water sanitation for **30** years.

“It has to be a global transition toward dry sanitation.”

Patricia E. Perkins

“Not all governments will listen to the solutions.”

Snowy Khoza

“Climate change is leading to new migration.”

Patience Dampthey

“Water is the new money.”

Snowy Khoza

“We need to put up a climate fund for this continent.”

Snowy Khoza

AMAZING WOMEN: AISHA MUHAMMED OYEBODE

Interviewer:

Claire Doole

the Founder and CEO of Claire Doole Communications

Speaker:

Aisha Muhammed Oyeboode

Founder and CEO, Murtala Muhammed Foundation;
Co-convenor, Bring Back Our Girls Movement

Trained as a lawyer and recipient of a Master's Degree in finance, Aisha Muhammed Oyeboode founded the Murtala Muhammed Foundation in 2001 to work in the disaster-response sector. The rise of discrimination against and persecution of young girls and women, which set the stage for the activities of the Boko Haram terrorist group, pushed the foundation to work more closely on the plight of terror victims, mostly girls and women.

Boko Haram is responsible for huge numbers of undocumented rapes, explains Aisha Muhammed Oyeboode. Boko Haram members pay as little as 30 cents in dowry for a wife, who is then raped. This brutal reality was revealed only when the Nigerian army began to regain territory lost to Boko Haram in the conflict. Women had been beaten and raped and were coming back pregnant. Many of them were young girls. Once Boko Haram used a 12 year old girl as a suicide bomber. She was told to walk with the suicide vest as part of her work, Aisha Muhammed Oyeboode explained.



Aisha Muhammed Oyeboode

Building resilience in women's livelihoods

Boko Haram victims who had managed to flee torture were unwelcome in their own villages, where they were called Boko Haram wives. Even pregnant victims were shunned by their communities. Aisha Muhammed Oyeboode is trying to rehabilitate these victims into society: "Our centres are very discrete because we don't want these girls and women to be stigmatized."

Aisha Muhammed Oyeboode is now collecting data on the 276 girls abducted from their school in Chibok, Nigeria, in April 2014. She will use this data for an upcoming book on the mass kidnapping. Her book will be her weapon to combat the culture of denial in Nigeria, where for more than 24 hours authorities refused to acknowledge that the abduction had even taken place.

Aisha Muhammed Oyeboode is also trying to improve the lives of the Chibok families as they await their daughters' return.

“We are tired of the sexual exploitation of our daughters.”
Aisha Muhammed Oyebo

“Our women have to be economically empowered.”
Aisha Muhammed Oyebo

KEY FIGURES

9 million people living in the periphery of Lake Chad are potentially affected by Boko Haram activities there.

Boko Haram members pay as little as **30** cents as dowry for young girls before marrying them.

Of the **276** girls abducted by Boko Haram, **218** are still missing.

Over the past two years, **19** parents of the 276 abducted girls have died without being reunited with their daughters.

Claire Doole, Aisha Muhammed Oyebo



CLIMATE AND HEALTH: CHALLENGES AND WAYS FORWARD

Moderator:

Deborah Berlinck

Journalist and communications strategist

Speakers:

Ildi J. Fenyvesi

Lecturer, Division of Forensic Medicine and Pathology,
University of the Witwatersrand

Alexandra Henrion Caude

Director of Research, Inserm, Hôpital Necker

Robert Sebbag

Vice President, Access to Medicines, Sanofi

Nick Watts

Executive Director, *Lancet Countdown to 2030:*
Public Health and Climate Change

Climate change and health are often considered to be two distinct issues. Only rarely is health addressed within a broader discussion on climate change. Alexandra Henrion Caude noted that a mere 1.5% of international funds allocated to climate change is channelled into health-related areas. Yet more than 270,000 deaths every year are due to climate change. According to Nick Watts, fluctuations in heat temperature have allowed for the spread of vector-borne diseases which have, in the wake of outbreaks, put strain on social systems, proving that climate change and health are inextricably linked and deserve to be addressed within a common dialogue.

Engaging local communities

“For the most part, people know that climate change will affect their health,” Nick Watts said. But climate change science was developed in such a technical way that communication about both climate change and its impact on health has been very constrained. Communicating about greenhouse effect is too technical for the layman. Carbon emission is a vague, intangible and invisible concept that does not engage communities in a meaningful way. For people to feel included, Robert Sebbag said, it is necessary to talk about concrete, tangible and visible impacts on their health.



Deborah Berlinck, Alexandra Henrion Caude

Blurring the boundaries of preparedness

The warmer climate, which facilitates the spread of diseases such as malaria, has increased the vulnerability of traditionally cooler regions. For example, people living on high ground, where traditionally cooler weather once kept at bay vector-borne diseases, are particularly vulnerable to epidemics, as their bodies have never had to develop an immunity against, for example, malaria. On top of that, affected communities are socially unprepared for such epidemics, Robert Sebbag noted.

Forensic science is another field faced with unforeseen challenges, according to Ildi J. Fenyvesi. Forensic science uses insect life inside a corpse to help determine the moment of death. Increased heat temperatures can seriously affect the development of insect life, which then threatens to leave room for misinterpretation of the forensic study. In a real-life situation, this could mean derailing a murder trial case with serious consequences for the application of justice.

Bridging the gap

Enhancing awareness of climate change-induced health risks requires all hands on deck. Non-governmental organizations, local communities, private enterprises and



Deborah Berlinck, Alexandra Henrion Caude, Ildi Fenyvesi, Robert Sebbag, Nick Watts

political actors have to partner up and share responsibility. “We have to work together to bridge the gap,” Robert Sebbag said. “We have to adapt the business model.”

“The response to climate change is a political problem,” Nick Watts explained. It is entirely a political question of looking at climate change, at the implications of climate change on the livelihoods of people, and at the impacts of proposed solutions of climate change on human lives. In order to trigger a real conversation on health and climate change, it is necessary to break the silos and share knowledge between policymakers and communities at large.

KEY FIGURES

Over **7%** of deaths among children in Africa are due to malaria.

A mere **1.5%** of international funds allocated to climate change is channelled into health-related areas.

270,000 deaths every year due to climate change is an underestimate.

“The response to climate change is a political problem.”

Nick Watts

“Any sort of change in temperature or precipitation will have a tremendous effect on genes.”

Alexandra Henrion Caude

“We have to work together, we have no choice.”

Robert Sebbag

“There is a need for a balance between adaptation and mitigation.”

Nick Watts

OURS WILL BE THE CENTURY OF SOLIDARITY, OR IT WILL NOT

Moderator:

Patrick Poivre d'Arvor

journalist and author

Speaker:

Nicolas Hulot

Founder and President, Fondation Nicolas-Hulot



Nicolas Hulot

We have waited too long before working on the issue of climate change, Nicolas Hulot said. At the same time he said there is still hope, and he is optimistic about our capacity for solidarity. Nicolas Hulot was clear: we have no choice but to show solidarity. “Solidarity is not an option but a condition for peace,” he stated.

In a highly connected, mobile and fluid world, democratic inequalities and injustices are increasingly being exposed. While the rich are becoming richer, the poor fall prey to humiliation, which can be, according to Nicolas Hulot, a catalyst for conflict. On top of it all comes climate change: “Climate change is not only an environmental change; it is the ultimate form of injustice.” This is because climate change directly affects those men and women who have not contributed to causing climate change. Vulnerable communities across Africa and Small Island Developing States, with their relatively low carbon footprint, are the first victims of climate change, of extreme weather conditions and droughts and rising seawater levels.

Renewable energy instead of fossil fuel

Renewable energy serves as an equitable system of energy production. Wind, solar, and wave energy are all free, Nicolas Hulot noted. To overcome the high initial capital required for the exploitation of such renewable energy, the North should remunerate the South. The North needs also to rehabilitate the agricultural lands that have been unsustainably exploited for decades by the wealthy few.

“The climate crisis is the duty of the wealthy,” Nicolas Hulot explained. In fact, capitalism does not respond to the urgency of climate change, he said. In order to advance society, we need to have a systemic approach.

We are to win the climate change battle only if we bury two-thirds of our oil pits, Nicolas Hulot warned. Collective action linking efforts between the North and South is the only way forward.



Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, Nicolas Hulot



Nicolas Hulot

KEY FIGURES

1% of the world's population concentrates 93% of the global wealth.

According to international organizations, the negative externalities associated with fossil fuel utilization amounts to USD **4,000** billion every year.

In the world, a total of **67** million people have been displaced. Of these, **22** million refugees are living away from their homelands.

“Capitalism does not respond to the urgency of climate change.”

Nicolas Hulot

“We need optimists to build airplanes and pessimists to build parachutes.”

Nicolas Hulot

“Solidarity is not an option but a condition for peace.”

Nicolas Hulot

A PLANET WHERE OUR CHILDREN CAN STILL LIVE: THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF POLITICIANS

Speaker:

Ravza Kavakçı Kan

Member of Parliament, Republic of Turkey



Ravza Kavakçı Kan

Turkey, where Ravza Kavakçı Kan is a Member of Parliament, has seen an influx of nearly 3 million Syrian refugees since the war in Syria began. She pointed out that war and terrorism are often neglected as factors that affect the environment, yet they destroy human, animal, and plant life.

A balanced world

Achieving balance is crucial for the planet and for our survival on it, Ravza Kavakçı Kan said. When one species disappears from the planet, it affects the balance of the ecosystem. She acknowledged the historic friendship between Turkey and Mauritius, which she said dates back to the 1800s

What can politicians do?

To leave a better planet for future generations, humanitarian and environmental perspectives have to be adopted in policymaking. Each country has to find solutions that are optimal for their societies and environments. When laws are made, institutions have to consider the basic needs and demands of the society – they must listen to the people.

“As human beings, let us care for each other; let us smile at each other; we may then live in a better world.”

Ravza Kavakci Kan



WOMEN'S FORUM MAURITIUS.16

20-21 June 2016



WOMEN'S FORUM
MAURITIUS.16
20-21 June 2016



WOMEN'S FORUM
FOR THE ECONOMY & SOCIETY
Building the future with women's vision

WOMEN'S FORUM
MAURITIUS.16
20-21 June 2016



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20-21 June 2016

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WOMEN'S FORUM
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Building the future with women's vision

WOMEN'S FORUM
MAURITIUS.16
20-21 June 2016

WOMEN'S FORUM
MAURITIUS.16
20-21 June 2016

KEYNOTE INTERVIEWS ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY

Moderator:

Sophie Lambin

Co-founder and Managing Director,
Kite Global Advisors

Speakers:

Laurence Tubiana

French Ambassador for International Climate
Negotiations

The Hon Mr. Marie Roland Alain Wong Yen Cheong

Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms;
Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development
and Disaster and Beach Management, Republic of Mauritius



H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Laurence Tubiana

A lot has been achieved by the COP21 climate agreement, but much remains to be done. According to Laurence Tubiana, COP21 was a historic moment: it gave the opportunity to 189 countries to commit to a national contribution in working towards establishing a resilient and low-carbon economy.

Politics may hinder but will not stop climate action

Climate action will not be deterred by political tremors. We do not have to be fearful of any potential change of policy in the United States or of Brexit, because even if such events may hinder the progression of the fight against climate change, they will halt it. Small Island Developing States are pushing the world towards the development of a progressive economy that incorporates policies for climate action. Small islands such as Reunion are planning for their energy base to be 100% renewable by 2040.

Funding is key

Marie Roland Alain Wong Yen Cheong noted that most of the world's energy comes from fossil sources. The accessibility of renewable energy because of the high cost of investment is the main challenge. At the COP21 talks it was mentioned that funding of up to USD 100 billion would become available for the SIDS's shift to renewables. Mauritius is currently listed as 13th among countries facing the highest risk of climate-related disaster, and 7th on the list of most vulnerable countries in the world, according to the 2015 ranking. Marie Roland Alain Wong Yen Cheong noted that the Mauritius government needs to be informed as to how to access the funding discussed at the COP21.



Laurence Tubiana

“The focus is now on providing technical and financial support to countries that have prepared strategies to tackle climate change. The COP22 [talks] in Marrakech will be a milestone. It will not be the end of the line.”

Laurence Tubiana



Marie Roland Alain Wong Yen Cheong

“Mauritius is attempting to move towards renewables, with the plan to have 35% of our energy from renewables by 2035.”

Marie Roland Alain Wong Yen Cheong

KEY FIGURES

175 countries have signed the [COP21] agreement, and many of them still have to ratify it by going through the proper parliamentary processes.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY: CHALLENGES AND WAYS FORWARD

Moderator:

Sophie Lambin

Co-founder and Managing Director, Kite Global Advisors

Speakers:

Tafadzwa Chiganga

CFO, Frontier Markets

Manoelle Lepoutre

Senior Executive Vice President, Executive Careers and Management, Total

Laura Williamson

Communication & Outreach Manager, REN21

Indra Haraksingh

Professor, Department of Physics, The University of the West Indies, President, Caribbean Solar Energy Society and Member of the Steering Committee, World Renewable Energy Network



Tafadzwa Chiganga, Indra Haraksingh

The energy sector can be divided into three areas according to use:

- Electricity (Power)
- Heating and cooling
- Transport

There is an increasing uptake in distributive renewables, which are renewable energy sources that are off the grid. Renewables are now cost-competitive with fossil fuels, which is a critical marker from the perspective of climate and environment. Communities are coming together to create their own power-generation sources, which are usually focused on the creation of electricity. An increasing amount of companies are also sourcing and committing to 100% renewable electricity. Companies are taking coal out of the equation to decarbonise their activities. Governments need to create the environment that makes companies want to adopt renewable energy to meet the needs of their own customers. They can do so through implementation of well-informed and well-researched policies.

Funding is important to facilitate the adoption of renewables

Indra Haraksingh mentioned that many issues faced by Mauritius are the same faced by Trinidad and Tobago. The Caribbean Islands have been using renewable energy for quite some time now, especially in the form of hydro and biomass. Trinidad and Tobago is the only oil and gas country in the Caribbean. According to Indra Haraksingh, the reason for this is that fossil energy is cheap, and this discourages the movement towards renewable energy. Funding is the major issue in the process of shifting towards renewables. The private sector has been helpful in Trinidad and Tobago. International collaborations have been extremely important: the EU, the World Bank, and the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) have also been helpful.



Sophie Lambin, Tafadzwa Chiganga, Indra Haraksingh, Laura Williamson, Manoelle Lepoutre

Innovation in the clean energy sector

Tafadzwa Chiganga, from Frontier Markets, mentioned that people who desperately need these innovations do not have access to them. Frontier Markets has had to deal with distorted markets, where people were resistant to renewable energy because NGOs and governmental agencies had provided them with low-quality products. Frontier Markets has managed to empower women in Rajasthan by educating them about the use of clean energy distribution, and by encouraging these women to educate others about these products.

Manoelle Lepoutre said that Total has set goals for 2035 to tackle the climate issue: 25% of its energy mix will come from renewables. The company has integrated plans in its business strategy to work toward making this a reality.

KEY FIGURES

Renewables now account for just fewer than **20%** of production in the energy sector.

In 2004, **48 countries** had renewable energy policies. This number is now up to **146**.

In 2015 some **USD 286 billion** was invested in renewable energy, excluding large hydro.

“Total will stay in the oil business, because it is important for the transportation sector for the coming 20 years at least. We have abandoned coal two years ago and have adopted gas.”

Manoelle Lepoutre

“People who desperately need innovative renewable energy products do not have access to them.”

Tafadzwa Chiganga

“Good decisions require good information.”

Laura Williamson

“The Dutch Caribbean islands have had wind energy for quite some time. Curaçao is a good example of this. Aruba now has a 30mW wind farm. Barbados has been a world leader in the sphere of implementation of solar water heaters [solar thermal energy].”

Indra Haraksingh

AMAZING WOMEN: AMNA MALIK

Interviewer:

Claire Doole

Founder and CEO, Claire Doole Communications

Speaker:

Amna Malik

Entrepreneur, politician and activist;
Founder and President, Center of Pakistan
and International Relations (COPAIR)

Amna Malik's Center of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR) has effectively incorporated products such as energy-efficient building blocks, cool roof systems, and cool tiles. They have come up with complete green buildings and townhouses in Islamabad. Initially there was a bit of resistance in the adoption of these technologies, because of cost, yet more cost-effective products are finding their place in industry. This has encouraged the adoption of green-energy solutions in urban areas of Pakistan.

The empowerment of women and youth is crucial

Women and young people have been encouraged and motivated to work on green solutions. They are collaborating with organisations such as UNIDO to educate women and young people about climate change issues and about solutions in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Women comprise 60% of the Pakistani population. There is a so-called digital divide between women and men, because many women are unemployed and have to take care of their households. They also do farm work, and most of the time, men reap the benefits.



Amna Malik

ICT as an empowerment tool

ICT can play a very important role in the education and empowerment of women, but to achieve substantive change, policymakers must be on board. Pakistan is a diverse country; every region is culturally different. Amna Malik has embarked on a project to train women and then link their acquired ICT competencies to the international market.

“I am one of the empowered women, but we have a large population. Organisations have to visit Pakistan. We are not a terrorist country. People like me and Malala live there. I believe that women from around the world can support us, so that we can help women in Pakistan.”

Amna Malik

KEY FIGURES

Women comprise **60%** of the Pakistani population.



Claire Doole, Amna Malik

COMING TOGETHER AROUND SDG 6, WATER & SANITATION

Moderator:

Snowy Khoza

CEO, BigenAfrica

Speakers:

Jill Farrant

Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Cape Town; L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science laureate (in absentia)

H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

President of the Republic of Mauritius and Co-Chair, UN High-level Panel on Water

Lormus Juggoo

Director, Water Resources, Water Resources Unit, Ministry of Energy & Public Utilities, Government of Mauritius



Amna Malik

Climate models predict increased desertification in tropical and mid-latitude regions due to rising temperatures and declining or unpredictable rainfall. We urgently need to find innovative solutions to provide security in the face of environmental extremes. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has posited that boosting agricultural productivity is among the best ways to raise living standards. However, according to the World Bank, this sector does not lend itself to easy solutions that might attract funders.

How to face the challenges of the SDGs

Lormus Juggoo says it is important to recall that the rationale behind the emergence of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which was to provide momentum to address issues the world was facing at the time: the eradication of poverty, gender equality, HIV/AIDS, and such. The MDGs comprised 8 goals and 18 targets. Since then a lot of progress has been made, but a lot of challenges also emerged. In terms of access to water and sanitation, in the year 2000 it has been estimated that billions of people did not have access to water.

The MDGs have increased the momentum of global implications in dealing with the world's various problems. As we move forward with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there are a new set of challenges. Financing as well as the political will for the implementation of policies are two fundamental issues that arose during the implementation of the MDGs.

Lormus Juggoo pointed out that the Government of Mauritius ratified the BOT act in 2016, which facilitates the involvement of the private sector in the creation of infrastructure. However, the risk attached in creation of appropriate infrastructure for water management is impeding the involvement of the private sector. This is not only happening in Mauritius, but in the rest of the world as well.



Ipeleng Mkhari, Snowy Khoza, H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Mathew John

Solidarity is essential when dealing with climate change

In looking at the SDGs, Ameenah Gurrib-Fakim recalled what Nicholas Hulot said during Women's Forum Mauritius: solidarity is essential. Water in agriculture is becoming an important issue. The African continent holds almost 60% of the world's agricultural land, and the World Bank figures have stated that by 2030, 40% of this land will no longer be usable for sustainable agriculture. Climate change will greatly affect access, delivery and preservation of water. We have to think collectively in tackling such issues, because they affect the climate of the planet as a whole.

“Government and private sector funding could be sought to assist farmers in fragile societies to become part of sustainable market-based systems.”

Jill Farrant

“Water is a right, and it is a commodity. We need to consider the management of water.”

Ameenah Gurrib-Fakim

KEY FIGURES

Women comprise **60%** of the Pakistani population.

“We have to learn from our experience with MDGs and address the issues of financing and implementation of policies when implementing SDGs.”

Lormus Juggoo

LUNCHEON SESSION: MEET THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Moderator:

Paul Boateng

Member, UK House of Lords, and Trustee,
Planet Earth Institute

Speakers:

Joana Dias Madaleno

Student, Imperial College London

Sarah Gouia

Student, University of Cambridge

Belinda Wong

Corporate Manager, Projects & Development,
Rogers & Co. Ltd



Sarah Gouia, Joana Dias Madaleno, Belinda Wong

Paul Boateng pointed out that 65 of the 169 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reference young people specifically. He noted there are about 2.5 billion young people in the world who are agents of change and transformation. Ban Ki-Moon has said that young people are the best hope of delivering the sustainable development goals, and that young people must speak out and inspire change.

Leaders of the next generation

Joana Dias Madaleno has studied mechanical engineering and says she has “a very mathematical approach” to problem solving. But she credits her experience with social work in Angola as helping her to develop empathy and incorporate empathy in the way she sees the world. She says that CEOs, students, and anyone who ranks among the world’s privileged few should spend time in the field and see the issues people encounter every day.

Belinda Wong has worked on the Domaine de Bel Ombre project with Rogers & Co. She typically monitors the financial aspects of projects. However, she says she has started to adopt a more social approach to KPIs, to include social and sustainable aspects. In the business world, she believes that integrated frameworks can help with this.

Sarah Gouia has three nationalities and is studying in the United Kingdom. Her multicultural background has given her the perspective to better interpret the concept of global solidarity. She believes that to be able to truly work together, we have to understand our differences. She quoted Jacques Chirac as saying, “Our house is burning, and we are looking away from it.” She insisted we are no longer looking away from the burning house, but that we are working together to solve the problems we are facing.

Difficulties we face as women?

For Belinda Wong, self-confidence is the most important aspect of being a woman in male-dominated sectors. Discrimination does not come as a surprise to Joana Dias Madaleno, as a woman studying mechanical engineering. Sarah Gouia noted the dynamic whereby women compete against other women for limited available places for them.

KEY FIGURES

When Joana Dias Madaleno was studying mechanical engineering, there were **300 students** in her year, and only **6** were girls.



Belinda Wong, Joana Dias Madaleno, Sarah Gouia, Paul Boateng

“The integration of manufactured capital, social capital, and human capital can capture the social aspect as well as the financial aspects of a project. This framework can be used to better implement sustainable goals in companies’ way of doing business.”

Belinda Wong

“We need to change our linear consumption pattern. We have to adopt a circular pattern so that we can motivate a progressive change in the economy.”

Joana Dias Madaleno

“Global solidarity is not homogenous: we all have our differences, and if we want to efficiently move forward on the path of solidarity and sustainability, we need to understand and accept this.”

Sarah Gouia

“Solidarity and emancipation should not be the exception, but the norm.”

Paul Boateng

GENDER GAP IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE: AFRICA



H.E. Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, president of the Republic of Mauritius, has changed the face of the country and opened the door for women to succeed in their professional goals.

Yet despite the advances Mauritius has made on behalf of gender parity, there are still prevailing discrepancies between women and men in the workforce. Today in Mauritius, working women are more likely than men to be employees and contributing family workers but less likely to be heading businesses. Women are fewer in the labour force and more numerous among the unemployed. Average income tends to be lower for women than for men – MUR 14,800 against MUR 19,900 monthly in 2014. (Source: <http://statsmauritius.govmu.org/>)

The discussion on how and what should be done to achieve gender parity is, therefore, crucial. The government of Mauritius has adopted measures to enable women to participate in the running of the country. The Local Government Act, for example, provides for a mandatory gender ratio of one to three candidates in local elections, thus ensuring a participation rate for women of at least 30%. (source: www.govmu.org)

The participants in the CEO Champions workshop at Women's Forum Mauritius gathered for practical peer-to-peer discussions of how to best foster gender parity. Their discussions revolved around the need for Mauritius and the countries of Africa to better integrate women into the workforce and promote more women corporate and public sector leaders. These CEO Champions leaders



asked themselves how they could draw more women out of the informal sector, encourage more women to become researchers and entrepreneurs, and create more equitable career opportunities for those working in corporations and the public sector.

The group noted that statistics for Africa are difficult to gather, and that more data transparency is needed. Many issues related to gender disparity depend on governments and the policies they adopt or do not adopt. A cultural shift will have to happen in order to break stereotypes and enable mothers the opportunity to work outside the home without reprisal. Fathers should also be able to take paternity leave.

We have to think about the pipeline and ask ourselves how many women have access to jobs.

Ethical investors should not be the only means of pushing companies for gender parity. Everyone should push for it. Gender parity is not a narrowly defined cause – it's about meritocracy.

Every leader must look in the mirror and say, 'This is about you.' You have the power to change the narrative of your own organization. It is an economic imperative. Do you want to be the champion? Do you want to change the model and understand that in order to survive, we all need to incorporate more diversity? If you have a vision of gender equality, then follow that vision. Change the company's hiring policies and the company's profit margins will change.

Complete list of CEO Champions Members present at the workshop:

Ethel Cofie,
CEO, EDEL Technology Consulting and Founder,
Women in Tech Africa

Anil Currimjee,
Managing Director, Currimjee Jeewanjee & Co.

Nicolas de Chalain,
General Manager, Sugar Beach

Patrick De L. D'Arifat,
CEO, Alteo

Gilbert Espitalier-Noël,
CEO, Beachcomber

Philippe Espitalier-Noël,
CEO, Rogers & Co.

Jacqueline Franjou,
CEO, Women's Forum for the Economy & Society

Daniel Giraud,
CEO, Medine

Anne Githuku-Shongwe,
Founder and CEO, Afroes Transformational Game

Mathew John,
Founder-Director, Keystone Foundation

Segenet Kelemu,
Director General and CEO, International Centre
of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)

Snowy Khoza,
CEO, Bigen Africa Services

Fatih Mehmet Kursun,
General Manager, Mauritius & Madagascar,
Turkish Airlines

Manoelle Lepoutre,
Senior Vice President Top Executive careers
and management, Total

Julie Lerner,
Founder and CEO, PanXchange Inc.

Raj Makoond,
CEO, Business Mauritius

Philisiwe Mthethwa,
CEO, National Empowerment Fund

Peyami Oven,
Managing Director, TOTAL Mauritius

Donald Payen,
Executive Vice President, Customer Experiences,
Ground and In-flight Services, Air Mauritius

Rajesh Rai,
Chief Technical Officer, Mahanagar Telephone Limited

Allison Robertshaw,
Executive Director, SEED

Jean-Louis Roule,
CEO, CIDP Mauritius

Marjaana Sall,
European Union Delegation to the Republic of Mauritius

Robert Sebbag,
Vice President Access to Medicines, Sanofi

Alvaro Sobrinho,
Chairman, Planet Earth Institute

Jacques M. d'Unienville,
CEO, Omnicane

Faouzia Vitry,
Regional Council of Reunion Island



Allison Robertshaw, Mathew John

SCI-TECH BREAKTHROUGHS FOR BIODIVERSITY, AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH

Moderator:

Crystal Orderson

South Africa Editor, The Africa Report, and Reporter,
Jeune Afrique

Speakers:

Brandi DeCarli

Founding Partner, Farm from a Box

Laurent Gilbert

Advanced Research International Development Director,
L'Oréal

Evelyn Gitau

Programme Manager, Grand Challenges Africa initiative,
African Academy of Sciences

Flower Msuya

Senior Researcher, Institute of Marine Sciences,
University of Dar es Salaam

Technology can be a powerful tool for advancing human livelihoods. Issues adversely affecting agriculture and health, among many other areas, can be addressed with the appropriate technology. Across Africa, numerous projects have allowed for sci-tech advances to make a positive impact on communities.

Four sci-tech breakthroughs for biodiversity, agriculture and health have generated social transformation by coupling scientific knowledge with a sustainable business model.

Enhancing livelihoods in communities

African women continue to face numerous challenges, especially in maternal and neonatal health, Evelyn Gitau said. Through Grand Challenges Africa, Evelyn Gitau supports innovators that address health challenges for women. So far, only 20% of the proposals she receives at Grand Challenges Africa are from women. Evelyn Gitau is working to increase not only this percentage of proposals from women but also the quality of these proposals. To that effect, mentorship schemes for women by women have been developed.

During a five-year period, from 2010 to 2015, Grand Challenges Africa and its partners have collectively invested USD 120 million in a total of 380 projects. We



Crystal Orderson, Evelyn Gitau, Laurent Gilbert

continue to put women and children at the center of the development agenda, Evelyn Gitau said.

For Brandi DeCarli, it is all about bringing together consumption and production. Farm from a Box reinvents the concept of farming. Putting essential farming equipment and technology into the hands of small farmers, this intelligent farming method focuses on producing locally and seeks to transform mass production into production by the masses.

The Farm from a Box project supports growth on two acres of land and generates up to three kilowatts of solar energy, which is then used to pump water for irrigation. This low-carbon emission system is revolutionizing the way small farmers grow crops.

Sci-tech innovation for bettering women's lives

For Laurent Gilbert, L'Oréal's Advanced Research International Development Director, addressing health issues can be connected to organic and sustainable practices. "We are really committed to sustainable beauty," he said, noting that an increasing amount of ingredients for L'Oréal products come from bio-sustainable sources and green chemistry. The sourcing of Shea butter in Burkina Faso, for example, is part of the company's "green strategy" and has enabled 20,000 women in Burkina



Crystal Orderson, Evelyn Gitau, Laurent Gilbert, Flower Msuya, Brandi DeCarli

Faso to gain employment. This program in Burkina Faso is helping the integration and empowerment of women, Laurent Gilbert said.

Thanks to a new technology developed by Flower Msuya, Senior Researcher at the University of Dar es Salaam, rural women in Tanzania have also enhanced their livelihoods. With rising seawater levels and increasing sea temperatures, a sea algae called Cotoni, one of the main cash crops for rural Tanzania, could no longer be viably cultivated. So Flower Msuya created a tubular net and floating raft system to work around the effects of climate change and allow for the sustainable cultivation of Cotoni. She then encouraged women to create value added products from Cotoni, which further increased their income from the Cotoni harvest. “My technology has helped put smiles on the faces of many rural women in Tanzania,” Flower Msuya said.

KEY FIGURES

1,000,000 UV patches will be distributed free of charge worldwide by La Roche Posée.

From 2010 to 2015, USD **120** million was collectively invested in **380** projects by Grand Challenges Africa and its partners.

Only **20%** of proposals received by Grand Challenges Africa are from women.

“It’s time to connect consumption and production.”
Lormus Juggoo

“Technology has the power to be an enabling mechanism.”
Brandi DeCarli

“My technology has helped put smiles on the faces of many rural women in Tanzania.”
Flower Msuya

“Technology is not a stand-alone solution.”
Brandi DeCarli

“If we want to be sustainable tomorrow, we need to innovate.”
Laurent Gilbert

STRATEGIES FOR NURTURING FRUGAL GREEN INNOVATION

Moderator:

Liz Zeidler

Chair, Bristol Green Capital Partnership
and Founding Director, Happy City

Opening remarks:

Jyoti Jeetun

CEO, Mont Choisy

Speakers:

Marie Connett

Portfolio Lead, Agricultural Productivity Technology,
Global Good

Bertrand Moingeon

Professor, HEC Paris, and Executive Director,
HEC Indian Ocean Office

Allison Robertshaw

Executive Director, SEED



Liz Zeidler

To be frugal is to be low-cost and to make the best use of any available resource. Frugal green innovation adopts bio-sustainable methods for production and consumption.

According to Bertrand Moingeon, ‘innovation’ is a term that needs to be more broadly defined. “Innovation is not about creating something from scratch,” he said –it is not necessarily about inventing something totally new. The Ghana Bamboo Bikes initiative is an example frugal green innovation, he pointed out. Although the bicycle was an existing invention, the innovation comes with the fact that it is now made with bamboo. Adapting existing technology to new patterns of consumption is an innovation itself.

More than just being frugal

For Allison Robertshaw, it is not frugality that is crucial in an innovation – effectiveness is. For an innovation to be adequately utilized, it has to be effective, even if it means that large sums of money have to be invested in the creative process.

Technology that is inexpensive to use can often be expensive to develop. For example, Marie Connett is working on a chilling mechanism to store milk and vegetables that does not require using electricity. The engineering cost to develop such a mechanism is high, she says: “[Frugal green innovation] does take money to develop.”

For frugal green innovation to be successful within communities, it not only needs to be ecological but also financially sustainable. In fact, there should be an incentive for both the end-user and the seller. Frugal green innovation should be inexpensive enough for small farmers to be able to afford it while allowing the seller to make a profit out of selling it. Only then can the innovation survive in the marketplace.

Adopting innovations

There is a risk in shifting to new technology and innovations in general, Marie Connett warned. There is a question of trust that has to be nurtured between small farmers and innovators. Small farmers need to trust that frugal green

innovations can enhance their livelihoods. Only then will they adopt and adapt to new technology.

Frugal green innovations can also be nurtured by creating the right legal incentives within a community. Changing laws that can create the appropriate market conditions for frugal green innovations to prosper is also an important strategy for policymakers to adopt. In developing countries, Allison Robertshaw noted, systemic changes must be undertaken. To this end, all stakeholders need to work together and find common ground to effect change. But that alone will take time and effort, she explained: “Making systemic changes is a ground war.”

Finally, there needs to be a cultural shift towards failure. Small farmers and individuals should stop fearing failure. According to Bertrand Moingeon, we need to culturally embrace failure. “You need to accept that failure is part of the learning journey,” he said. If small farmers and entrepreneurs accept that failure is but part and parcel of innovating, then frugal green innovations would flourish.



Jyoti Jeetun

KEY FIGURES

8,300 bottle bricks can be used to build an innovative low-carbon-footprint house in Nigeria.



Liz Zeidler, Marie Connett, Allison Robertshaw, Bertrand Moingeon

“Technology has to be very inexpensive to use.”

Marie Connett

“It's not about frugality but effectiveness.”

Allison Robertshaw

“You need to accept that failure is part of the learning journey.”

Bertrand Moingeon

BRINGING MORE WOMEN AND YOUTH INTO THE INNOVATION MOVEMENT

Moderator:

Liz Zeidler

Chair, Bristol Green Capital Partnership
and Founding Director, Happy City

Speakers:

Ethel Cofie

Co-Founder, Women in Tech Africa, and CEO
and Founder, EDEL Technology Consulting

Anne Githuku-Shongwe

South Africa Multi-Country Office Representative,
UN Women, and Senior Managing Partner,
Afroes Holdings

Steena Kistnen

Senior Manager Education Development,
Medine Ltd.

Adriana Marais

Postdoctoral Researcher, Quantum Research Group,
University of KwaZulu-Natal, Mars One Project
Astronaut Candidate and L'Oréal-UNESCO
International Rising Talent

Unoma Okorafor

President, Working to Advance African Women

For women to be part of the innovation movement, young girls and women first have to be encouraged to join the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) fields. Research shows that girls in STEM fields almost always complete their formal education and are more likely to pursue higher studies. But many challenges remain, one of them being sexual harassment.

Unoma Okorafor was confronted with sexual violence in university. She was told some boys were planning to rape her if she achieved higher test scores than they did. This mindset has been culturally bred into young boys, Unoma Okorafor explained: "We were told girls should be seen and not heard." This is why it is important to bring men on board as partners in changing mindsets. "We now have to talk about partnerships to face and tackle these challenges."



Liz Zeidler

Education is key

For Steena Kistnen, there is only one way to bring more women and youth to the innovation movement, and that is through education. It is indeed education that brought Ethel Cofie to the innovation movement. Thanks to her computer degree and supportive family – her dad was an engineer and STEM fields always attracted her as a little girl – she joined the tech industry. The industry did not allow women to fully participate, though. "I wanted to provide a space for women who were struggling," Ethel Cofie said. She thus brought together 70 women in Ghana and has now expanded her organization, Women in Tech Africa, to 30 countries.



Liz Zeidler, Steena Kistnen, Ethel Coffie, Unoma Okorafor, Adriana Marais, Anne Githuku-Shongwe

Role models

Leading by example is also an avenue to explore for African women who are already in the STEM fields. One such woman is Adriana Marais. She is trying to be a role model for young people by showing that one is allowed to have dreams and work toward achieving them, the way she has been doing. “I hope to be able to inspire others to reach for their dreams as well,” Adriana Marais said. She hopes one day to travel to Mars and to live there.

For Anne Githuku-Shongwe, video games can also be a source of role models. Children find role models in hero figures in video games, she said. After realising that video games have enormous potential for transmitting knowledge, she changed her career at 44 to start learning coding for games. She then developed mobile game-based learning platforms that seek to challenge young people to be more critical.

Anne Githuku-Shongwe’s experience shows that people should get out of their comfort zones and be curious, and be ready to explore new horizons. “No experience is as liberating as entrepreneurship,” she said.

She also noted that recruitment policies should be more flexible. In order for more women to be employed, recruitment policies should not only be simplified but also made more appealing. In order for space to be created for innovation, traditional recruitment policies must evolve and go beyond being curriculum vitae checklists. Passion and creativity should matter as much, or even more, than work experience.

KEY FIGURES

If every woman participates in the [world] economy as much as men do, by 2025 the economy would increase by USD **26** trillion.

2500 post office buildings across South Africa are being used to give training to women.

From an initial group of 70 women in Ghana, Women in Tech Africa is now present in 30 countries.

“I think it is time for African women to seize the agenda.”

Unoma Okorafor

“Discipline. Planning. Professionalism.”

Steena Kistnen

“I fell in love with the idea that I could create something.”

Ethel Coffie

“I believe people will be on Mars within 20 years.”

Adriana Marais

“I wanted to prove that we can create the future that we want.”

Anne Githuku-Shongwe

CLOSING KEYNOTE INTERVIEW

Moderator:

Crystal Orderson

South Africa Editor, The Africa Report, and Reporter,
Jeune Afrique

Speaker:

H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

President of the Republic of Mauritius

Mauritius has been able to show to the world that it can do so much more than simply serve as a tourist destination, said Ameenah Gurib-Fakim. This conference has brought together powerful women from the world and allowed space for innovation geared at addressing the climate change agenda. «This forum will help to bridge the gap and empower women in health, technology and finance,» noted the President of the Republic of Mauritius.

She recalled the “promises” made at the 2015 COP21 climate conference in Paris. After the world came together and tried to formulate a cohesive consensual agenda to address climate change, the time has come to act on these promises: “Now is the time to exchange ideas that are coherent, practical and results-oriented.»

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim also drew attention to the “strong bonds” shared by Small Island Developing States. The SIDS are all facing the same risks and challenges relating to climate change. This Women’s Forum Meeting – the first Women’s Forum event in Mauritius and in Africa – is an opportunity for networking and for sharing best practices within this alliance of states.

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim joined Nicolas Hulot’s vision and call for solidarity. “There is a need for solidarity and a global effort in order for us to see the change that we seek,” she said. Positive socio-political transformation



Crystal Orderson, H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

can be effected only by working together and looking at the common good. These societal transformations should come from citizens. There has to be a shift in mindsets. Too much emphasis has been laid upon political actors and what they can do about climate change. If change is to be truly effective, Ameenah Gurib-Fakim added, it must come from the layman, from the general public: “Change comes down to individuals. Change is not about politicians.”

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim thanked the organizing team and reiterated her support for the work of the Women’s Forum for the Economy & Society.

“Now is the time to exchange ideas that are coherent, practical and results-oriented.”

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

“Change comes down to individuals. Change is not about politicians.”

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

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MAURITIUS. 16
20-21 June 2016



Crystal Orderson, H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

NEXT STEPS

Speaker:

Jacqueline Franjou

CEO, Women's Forum for the Economy & Society



Gillian Martin Mehers, Jaqueline Franjou

Jacqueline Franjou delivered the closing speech in front of an ecstatic crowd of powerful and motivated change agents. She first applauded the attendees and participants for their respect and presence during the numerous sessions throughout the two days of Women's Forum Mauritius.

Jacqueline Franjou said she was delighted by the quality of the audience at this first Women's Forum Meeting in Mauritius and in Africa. The participants should not see these two days as a completed assignment, she said. The Meeting is not an end but a beginning. From the network created over the two days of the Meeting, change makers will have to continue their work and their fights for enhancing the livelihoods of the communities they represent. This network should amplify their efforts and attract more support for local and regional issues.

Jacqueline Franjou also seized the opportunity to thank Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius, for her unflinching support. "The chief of state in Mauritius is fantastic," she said. Mauritius is a country with a vision and is aptly represented by Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, an eminent biodiversity scientist listed as one of Forbes' Most Powerful Women in 2016.

African women are breaking the glass ceiling, Jacqueline Franjou noted. This Women's Forum Meeting has shown that African leadership can be seen differently. With this leadership come new and innovative ways of educating young people. Jacqueline Franjou stressed the plight of youth. Child welfare remains at the center of our preoccupations, she said.

Jacqueline Franjou confirmed that the next Women's Forum will be held in a country on the African continent. She also allowed herself to dream about the future. "I dream about holding a Women's Forum Meeting in Cuba," she concluded.

“I never fight, I just talk.”

Jacqueline Franjou

“It's a beginning for change.”

Jacqueline Franjou



Crystal Orderson, Jacqueline Franjou, H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

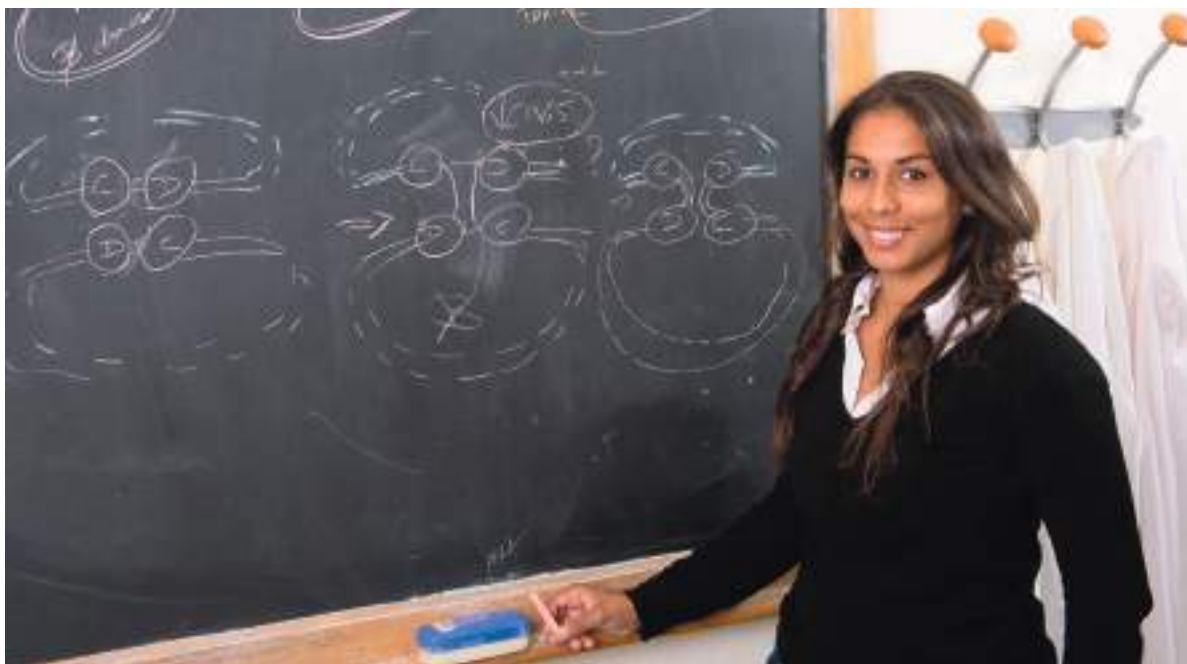
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The L'Oréal Foundation's programs focus on identifying and supporting women through actions developed around two dynamic themes: For Women in Science and Beauty for a Better Life. For Women in Science encourages the vocations of girls in high school, supports women in research, and recognizes excellence in fields where women are underrepresented. The Foundation is convinced that Beauty contributes to feeling better and living better. Its program Beauty for a Better Life has developed well-being and beauty treatments to restore the self-esteem of women affected by illness, poverty and isolation, to help them regain confidence and rediscover their femininity, to find the force to pull together the threads of their lives. The program also assists women in building toward the future by providing training in beauty occupations.

Inspired by a company known for its creativity and innovation, the L'Oréal Foundation is characterized by its commitment to the audacity and fighting spirit of women throughout the world. A commitment to pushing its challenges, actions and achievements to their furthest limits.



LEAD PARTNERS



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Inspiring the future female scientists of tomorrow! The Planet Earth Institute Foundation is now running the Science and Technology Enrolment Program in Mauritius

The Planet Earth Institute is an international NGO and charity focused on science, technology and innovation in Africa, accredited to the United Nations, World Bank and African Union. The PEI launched in Mauritius in 2015, as the PEI Foundation, and is now running scientific programs in country, including the HE Mrs Ameenah Gurib-Fakim PhD Scholarship Program, and the Science and Technology Enrolment Program.

To find out more or if you are interested in working with us please visit:
www.planeteearthinstitute.org.uk or email info@pei-foundation.mu



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



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Beachcomber is the pioneer of the tourism industry in Mauritius; it currently has eight beach resorts in Mauritius, one hotel in the Seychelles and one in Marrakech, Morocco. Beachcomber is conscious that safeguarding the natural beauty of the country and its biodiversity is critical for the sustainable development of Mauritian tourism. It therefore has a policy to minimise its consumption of water and energy; use renewable energy; minimise and recycle waste; purchase food produced from bio-agriculture; and plant endemic species. This contributes to mitigating climate change effects and to reducing its ecological footprint.

Women at all levels of society play a key role in development and youths must be encouraged to adopt a sustainable lifestyle. Through its CSR foundation, Fondation Espoir Développement (FED), Beachcomber helps women artisans to produce and sell on the tourism market innovative craft wares made with recycled local materials. FED also runs a youth employability project and programs to sensitise youths on the importance of keeping their environment clean and beautiful.

These actions fall within the major themes of Women's Forum Mauritius 2016, of which Beachcomber is proud to be a partner.



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Forbes Afrique is the French speaking African version of the famous american business magazine Forbes, specialized in lists and ranking. Forbes Afrique unveils the African economic take off and highlights the strategies and values of the builders of modern Africa. Published monthly, the magazine is available in French speaking Africa (23 countries) as well as in France, Belgium and Switzerland.

Forbes Afrique joins and supports the Women's Economic Forum (Mauritius) and will reveal in its July-August issue the 2016 list of the most powerful women of the continent.



MEDIA PARTNERS



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watch and listen to the world

Day after day, RFI, France 24 and Monte Carlo Doualiya address issues related to women's rights across the world, in news bulletins, reports and magazines in 15 languages. The weekly magazine "The 51%" on France 24 is one of these programmes, looking at women reshaping our world. Through this commitment to women's rights, the France Médias Monde channels endeavor to educate their audiences and contribute to changing attitudes around the world.

France Medias Monde, partner of the Women's Forum Mauritius 2016



France Médias Monde, the group in charge of French international broadcasting services, comprises three media: the trilingual news TV channel France 24, the international radio station RFI and the Arabic-language radio Monte Carlo Doualiya, all defending shared values such as human rights, gender equality and promotion of diversity on a global scale in 15 languages. The three French international media pay particular attention to the status of women around the world and feature topics and programs about the realities women face in all areas. They are also committed to gender equality within their respective companies. RFI, France 24 and Monte Carlo Doualiya are pleased to support this edition Women's Forum Mauritius.



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(Source: Alexa.com)

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Since it was first established in 1960, Groupe Jeune Afrique has played a key role in every major stage of African development and has promoted Africa's progress worldwide. Groupe Jeune Afrique is a leading media group which specialises in the African continent. It is a major player in event management, audiovisual production, electronic media, publishing and consulting industries, and also publishes the two biggest-selling international magazines in Africa: Jeune Afrique and The Africa Report.



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Over the last decade, Madame Figaro has been writing extensively about women in business and entrepreneurship. It's the only French women's magazine to have chosen this focus. Creativity in all fields – fashion, culture, luxury, etc. – is Madame Figaro's DNA since its founding and business is part of this surge in creativity in France as well as in the world. This trend has reinforced Madame Figaro's investment in covering women in business. In particular, we have been following women in the digital economy.

Our coverage has not been limited to France. Madame Figaro has been reporting about women in business all over the globe, from Silicon Valley or Wall Street to young startups in Burma or Ramallah.

We have been covering and following the Women's Forum each year since its inception. It's a natural step to partner with the Women's Forum today.

Madame Figaro is France's largest weekly women's magazine with an audited circulation of 426,000 copies (2.1 million readers). Its web site, madamefigaro.fr has 70 million monthly page viewed and 3.6 million unique visitors.



The Outremers 360 Media Group is a leading digital news source with three platforms: Outremers 360 for general information; Be You which is dedicated to young people and urban culture; and Outremer Metamorphoses which is dedicated to sustainable development and innovation for Small Island States (SIDS). Outremers 360 features news from the 11 French territories, focusing on local, regional and international issues. Luc Laventure, CEO of the Outremers 360 Media Group, has made providing equal access to information and equal opportunity for women a key part of the company's strategy. Diversity, women's issues and sustainable development for Small Island States and all territories are important to the Outremers 360 group, and the company's digital platforms promote various culture and gender issues and specifically emphasize the leading role of women. The Outremers 360 Media Group is pleased and honoured to be part of the first edition of Women Forum Mauritius, sharing the same values for the promotion of women around the world and sharing a belief in the urgent need for innovation to combat the effects of climate change. We salute Mauritius and our country's president for playing a leading role in climate action.

NATIONAL
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Air Mauritius is the national airline of the Republic of Mauritius and was incorporated in 1967, a few months before the country became independent. For nearly half a century now, it has fulfilled its mission of bridging the island to the world while remaining committed to the safety of its passengers and to service excellence. It is one of the leading airlines of the region and has received the reputable 4-Star professional quality rating from Skytrax.

The national airline of Mauritius is one of the largest companies of the island and an equal opportunity employer providing for around 3,000 Mauritian jobs.

As from July this year, Air Mauritius will be flying to 24 destinations in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and the southwest Indian Ocean region with a fleet of 13 aircraft.

AIR MAURITIUS SUPPORTING THE WOMEN FORUM

As a responsible corporate citizen Air Mauritius spares no effort in fulfilling its responsibility in the community within which it operates. It is therefore actively involved in supporting causes in which it firmly believes and has identified several key focus areas for its social engagement including education, culture, sports and health among others. The airline's participation in the Women's Forum Mauritius 2016 is therefore consistent with its convictions.

SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT

As the national Airline of an insular destination, Air Mauritius understands the vulnerability of small islands to global climate change. It is committed to IATA (International Air Transport Association) initiatives targeting a constant reduction in carbon emissions, a carbon-neutral growth as from 2020 and a 50% absolute reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.

Air Mauritius also supports the 'One take-off one tree programme' which enables the planting of over 6,000 trees annually over the Mauritian territory, including Rodrigues.



CIDP, the first CRO in Mauritius. Established in 2004, CIDP is a global Contract Research Organization (CRO) that carries out high-performance R&D activities.

CIDP is an international CRO which pioneered cosmetic and pharmaceutical Research & Development in Mauritius. With over 12 years of experience in clinical research, CIDP has now a strong foothold on each continent with centres located in Brazil, India, Mauritius, Romania, and Singapore.

CIDP has not only expanded geographically, but has also branched out into new sectors, and new clusters of activities. The services provided by CIDP are segmented into five main areas of expertise: Research & Development activities, Preclinical in vitro testing, Clinical research, Biostatistics and Data Management and Regulatory Affairs.

CIDP has a team of 160 staff members and has built over the years an international network of investigators who are highly qualified and have contributed to the successful conduct of clinical trials. The state of the art offices and equipment reflect CIDP's high quality standards. These standards have been recognized and have enabled CIDP to gain the trust of leaders within the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries.

Through its CIDP Research & Innovation cluster, the centre in Mauritius focuses its investigation on plants and their potential applications in the field of cosmetic, nutrition and pharmaceutical. Its geographical position at the heart of the Mascarenes Islands and proximity to the African continent gives it an enviable access to a rich and unexploited flora.

With its know-how and the quality of its services, CIDP has earned the recognition of the world leaders in the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industry.



The mission of the Ministry is to:

- Devise appropriate legal and policy framework regarding environment related issues such as climate change, solid and hazardous waste management, disaster risk reduction and beach management to effectively respond to emerging challenges;
- Incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation measures to ensure sustainable development initiatives;
- Preserve our beaches through integrated coastal zone management;
- Devise effective waste management policy to minimize the negative impacts of solid and hazardous wastes; and
- Ensure effective disaster preparedness and response to enhance the safety and security of the citizens.

The Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management is also the National Focal Point to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Mauritius was also among the first 15 countries to sign and ratify the Paris Agreement on climate change. Furthermore, the Ministry has developed a collaborative partnership approach and engaged successfully with various target groups such as youth and women communities in addressing Sustainable Development and Climate Change initiatives in Mauritius over the past decades. The theme of Women's Forum Mauritius 2016, is therefore highly relevant towards enhancing actions to strengthen resilience towards climate change in Mauritius.



The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare is responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies for the rights and welfare of women, children and families.

It comprises four main units, namely:

- The Planning and Research Unit;
- The Gender Unit;
- The Child Development Unit; and
- The Family Welfare and Protection Unit.

Three Councils, namely, the National Children's Council, the National Women's Council and the National Women Entrepreneur Council operate under the aegis of the Ministry.

Our vision is to have a society free from violence and discrimination based on sex, where fundamental rights of women and children are respected and where human values within the family and the civil society are cherished.

Our mission: We undertake to design and implement policies and programs geared towards promoting gender equality and equity, protecting the rights of children and enhancing their overall development and promoting the welfare of families.

Our objectives: To implement policies, programs, projects and activities geared towards:

- i. Protection of women and children against violence and abuses;
- ii. Combatting gender – based violence, promotion of the welfare of women, children and families;
- iii. Safeguarding the rights of women and children; and
- iv. Economic empowerment of women through basic skills development and entrepreneurship development



Rogers

www.rogers.mu



Rogers sees Women's Forum Mauritius as a tremendous opportunity for mobilising support for driving a game-changing agenda for the sustainable economic, environmental and social development of the two-and-a-half century old Domaine de Bel Ombre. Since the turn of the century, our Group is well advanced with a quantum shift in the economic fabric of this region situated in the pristine South of the island, from traditional sugarcane cultivation into environmentally responsible tourism.

Domaine de Bel Ombre – and Mauritius as all SIDS – is facing environmental threats such as climate change, which is inextricably linked to coastal and marine resilience. The serious deterioration of our island's coastal ecosystem and the challenges posed by sea-level rise and coastal erosion have prompted us as a responsible corporate citizen to engage in the protection and preservation of our rich marine biodiversity.

Our current efforts are dedicated to enhancing awareness through wide stakeholder dialogue and participation. Our projects include a biodiversity corridor along a river's course, an Integrated Land and Marine Educational and Research Centre and lagoon management.

Rogers equally values women's contributions and decision-making; they are indeed at the forefront of our actions for a sustainable future for Domaine de Bel Ombre, quite simply because we firmly believe that this is an issue that affects us all without distinction, and all must have a voice.



PLATINUM PARTNERS



www.sugarbeachresort.com



Sugar Beach Golf & Spa Resort is proud to host this year's 2016 Women's Forum Mauritius. Our 5 star hotel offers a tasteful celebration of island living with its unique combination of enhanced plantation style architecture on the west coast of Mauritius.

Being part of Sun Resorts Hotel Group, Sugar Beach is concerned by the impact of tourism on its environment. In 2007, Sugar Beach became the first beach resort of the southern hemisphere to hold the ISO system 14001 for its environment management. A series of guidelines have been drawn up to reduce tourism's negative impact on the environment and to foster respect and appreciation for other cultures and traditions. These achievements shed light on the commitment of the Sugar Beach team whose contribution is invaluable in making a difference.

We have taken great pride in this partnership, especially since this year's theme "Meeting the climate for SIDS (Small Island Developing State) and Africa" is aligned with our environmental action plan.

Sustainability is embedded in Sun's core business. We work to advance environmental and social progress and conduct business that creates value for our guests, communities and employees.



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We would like to bring our support to this event and make it a complete success. Our aim for participating at this event is that we want Mauritius and Africa to achieve rapid innovation towards green energy and sustainable food security in an era of continued climate disruption. Being an airline that flies to more destinations than any other one, we would be please to assist Mauritius and Africa to bring people to discuss on subject like climate, health solutions, agriculture, and best practices of biodiversities, and sustainable energy in order to help small developing Island states to go beyond. Nowadays the world is changing into a more sustainable developing world and we want to help small countries like Mauritius to find solutions in order to continue growing up economically and sustainably.

With the changed in the climate, climate disruption will mean more malaria, fatal heat waves, poor water quality, and damaging air pollutants, to name a few of the many health impacts. The only way to avoid all this is to only be prepared in advance against all these.

This Women's Forum Mauritius 2016 will be very helpfull to everyone. Our presence here in Mauritius goes beyond making people fly from one destination to another. We are here also to make not only the country but it's people understand about the awareness of growing sustainable for the future.



Founded in 1911, Medine Group features amongst the key economic players in Mauritius, having successfully deployed an expansion strategy from a sugar producing company to a widely diversified group.

With a land bank of 10,000 hectares located mainly on the West coast, Medine occupies some 6% of the total land area of Mauritius, of which 4,900 hectares are still under sugarcane cultivation. Medine Group is listed on the Development and Enterprise Market (DEM) of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius, with a market capitalization of 6.1 billion (USD 240M).

For over a century, Medine Group has been acknowledged as a significant actor in the socio-economic development of Mauritius, reshaping the western landscape. As part of its diversification strategy, the group has designed a Master Plan over 20 years from 2005 till 2025 with the aim of developing its land in a sustainable manner. It comprises a long term strategic plan providing the framework for a diversified, harmonious and sustainable property development of 3,000 hectares of prime land on Mauritius' west coast.

The main purpose behind the property projects is to develop the region in a coherent way ensuring a balance of residential, industrial, commercial, educational, medical and recreational developments. These offerings will position the west coast as the new 'live-work-play-learn' hub of Mauritius.

Medine Limited has undergone a rebranding exercise in 2009. The new identity reflects the current ambition of this visionary and pioneer entity whose activities have been restructured into four different activities.

- Medine Agriculture is injecting a new momentum to the agricultural activities of the Group through a modernisation and diversification programme.
- The leisure activities of the Group, among which Casela World of Adventures and Tamarina Boutique hotel are constantly innovating.
- Medine Property department is developing the property portfolio of the company, through the implementation of its MasterPlan and Smart City project.
- Medine Education is being portrayed as the next international and integrated campus of the island through the venue of world-class and internationally ranked institutions in Mauritius, namely Ecole Centrale de Nantes, Université Pantheon-Assas, ENSA Nantes, ESSEC Business School under the International Campus for Sustainable and Innovative Africa (ICSIA) concept, as well as ESCP-Europe, SUPINFO, VATEL and Middlesex University.



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Le Parc de Mont Choisy entails an Integrated Resort and Golf Course that will transform the northern landscape. Set in an old sugar plantation, the historical patrimony from the agricultural and family past will be rehabilitated using traditional materials and building techniques in order to preserve and enhance the unique landscape identity of Mont Choisy.

The unique residential and beach resort in the north of Mauritius, designed by award winning architect, Stefan Antoni, and boasting an 18-hole championship golf course designed by Peter Matkovich will provide a compelling lifestyle to home owners. This beautiful lush green site is located alongside Mont Choisy public beach in the heart of Grand Bay, the island's lifestyle and tourism town.

Our developments also include re-using waste water for irrigation and green energy supply through photovoltaic farm. The company's CSR will enhance the social, cultural and environmental projects including the rehabilitation of coral reefs in our lagoon. We also aim in encouraging the participation of women in the community by providing training in the respective field of our projects and future employment.

The landscape project of Mont Choisy includes the re-introduction of many indigenous and endemic species which have disappeared from the northern plain of Mauritius as well as the specific vegetation of our coastline.



omnicane

Integrating Energies



Omnicanne Limited, incorporated in 1926, is a public company on the Official List of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius. Sustainable development is at the heart of Omnicane's business strategy and we firmly believe in an inclusive societal model where the economy coexists harmoniously with the social and environmental dimensions.

With sugarcane cultivation and transformation at the core of its activities, and its sugar, energy and bioethanol operations centered on the flexi-factory complex situated at La Baraque, 'Integrating Energies' translates Omnicane's resolve to plan and execute its entire production as an integrated whole, for optimum flexibility, maximum efficiency and minimal waste. Omnicane's strategy is to export its cane-cluster model to Africa and to seize new opportunities in the renewable energy sector in the region. In addition, sustainable property development is becoming a major development pillar for the Group in line with the vision of the Government of Mauritius to promote smart cities.

Omnicanne is fully supportive of this Women's forum as we believe that women can play a pivotal role in fighting and adapting to climate change especially in the context of Africa and SIDS.



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SINOHYDRO Corporation Limited (SINOHYDRO), fully stated-owned enterprise with registered capital of USD 498 million and headquartered in Beijing, is the Chinese dominant leader and largest company with over 60 years professional experiences in various power plants & transmission lines, hydraulic works, as well as other infrastructure including ports, railways, roadways, airports, housings etc. Business revenue of 2015 reached USD 43.6 billion, and total assets reached USD 66.6 billion. Today, SINOHYDRO is the international flagship of POWERCHINA Corporation, which is a Fortune Global 500 company and ranked 7th in ENR 2015 Top 250 Global Contractors (the 1st in Power Construction Sector), 11th in ENR 2015 Top 250 International Contractors.



POWERCHINA ranked 211th among Fortune Global 500 in the year 2015.

ENR TOP 500



250



As the one-stop solution provider, SINOHYDRO is highly interested and ready in developing and implementing various projects on win-win basis in kinds of flexible models, such as EPC + Financing, PPP, IPP and BOT. SINOHYDRO is committed to delivering world-class quality, while meeting contractual deadlines, striving for technological innovation, and safeguarding the environment. We proactively engage in technology transfer and local training in the countries where we operate. We enter into strategic alliances with world leaders, such as Alstom, Siemens, Tractebel, Caterpillar, HHI, Gauff, Aecom to expand its capabilities and remain on the cutting edge of change.

Together, we are Building a Sustainable Future!



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Albert Einstein

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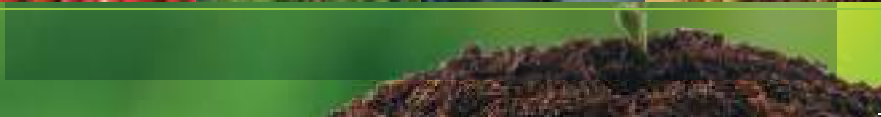
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