

**THIRD NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CD4CDM
OPENING CEREMONY**

Speech by

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Development Unit**

La Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles

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Mr Seebaluck, Permanent Secretary of my Ministry

Mr Glenn Hodes, Representative of UNEP Risoe Centre on Energy, Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Mrs Ng, Director of the Environment

Chief Executive Officers of Public and Private Sector Organisations

Mr Randall, Resource Person from South South North

Members of the Press

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I welcome you this morning to the opening of the third workshop in the context of the Capacity Development for Clean Development Mechanism, that is, CD4CDM. The more so, as this is my first official function after assuming duty as Minister of Environment and National Development Unit.

There is no doubt that climate change is the greatest long term threat to humanity and, as Sir Nicholas Stern puts it “the costs of inaction would far outweigh the costs of action”. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirms that there is sufficient scientific evidence to conclude that global warming is accelerating and that human activities are contributing substantially to this effect. The predicted consequences will be huge, and small island developing states (SIDS), such as Mauritius, will be among the first countries to face the full adverse impacts of climate change, although our share of emission is most negligible.

Climate Change and sea-level rise cause severe coastal erosion and impact on our unique island ecosystems, including fisheries, coral reefs and mangroves. This may have adverse implications for our economic sectors, such as tourism and agriculture, as well as food security and nutrition. Change in rainfall patterns and saline water intrusion will further aggravate the situation.

Government has already initiated adaptation measures such as coastal protection works and mangrove propagation with a view to increasing resilience to climate impacts. On the other hand, although we have no binding emission reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol, Government has taken major policy and fiscal measures to encourage reduction in greenhouse

gas emissions in our country in order to contribute to global efforts to combat climate change. The National Energy Policy and Action Plan for 2008-2025 lays emphasis on the following 3 key areas:

- (i) Improving energy efficiency;
- (ii) Enhancing security of energy supply, and
- (iii) Reducing the need for energy services

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To sustain its efforts, the Ministry of Environment has developed a National Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) for Mauritius, with the assistance of UNEP. One of the key areas addressed in the programme is Sustainable Energy Consumption. The ultimate challenge for a sustainable energy sector is to satisfy the appropriate level of energy-related needs of every citizen by using a variety of technologies tailored to local conditions, rather than merely increasing energy supplies, while keeping the overall cost and environmental damage as low as possible.

It is in this spirit that the 2008/2009 Budget provides concrete measures to displace imported fossil fuels. The intention is to achieve a 40 percent share of renewable energy in the energy mix in the next decade or so.

The Government has also taken a series of measures aimed at reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, increasing energy efficiency while at the same time improving the quality of our environment. The measures include:

1. Grants for the purchase of solar water heaters;
2. Development of energy standards for tools and equipment;
3. A national campaign to promote use of energy saving bulbs in households;
4. Replacement of sodium vapour lamps use for street-lighting by energy saving lamps;
5. Reduction in taxes on solar water heaters and hybrid vehicles;
6. Renewal of bus fleets with energy efficient ones; and
7. Increase in road tax for vehicles based on the Polluters Pay Principle

Moreover, the Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, takes a keen interest in the protection, preservation and the conservation of the environment and his Government has set up a "Maurice Ile Durable Fund" (MIDF) of Rs 1.3 billion whose main objective is to enhance efficient use of energy, increase the share of renewable energy by providing the necessary incentives, promote recycling and support other sustainable development initiatives. The MIDF, created in the 2008/2009 Budget, supports financially the solar water heater, the bus fleet renewal and the energy saving bulbs schemes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The CDM has the dual target of reducing emissions and contributing to the sustainable development of the developing country which hosts the projects. In practice, however, the CDM has so far provided uneven benefits for different developing nations around the globe. Some of the larger countries get the better share in the CDM market, while Africa and SIDS, the most vulnerable, do not benefit adequately from technology transfer and additional revenues derived through the sale of carbon credits. This is due mainly to lack of capacity and the complexity of the CDM process.

Mauritius is therefore fortunate to benefit from capacity building through both the UNEP CD4CDM Project and the UNDP Regional CDM Capacity Development Project. I am informed that most of the key objectives of these two complementary capacity building projects have been or are being met. Our Policy Makers, Private Sector Operators and NGO's are becoming aware and are being empowered to identify, design and implement CDM projects.

A national legislative framework on CDM is also being finalised through this workshop. I am pleased to announce that I will soon introduce into the National Assembly a Clean Development Mechanism Bill. The Bill will inter-alia, provide for the establishment of a statutory Designated National Authority (DNA) for the CDM and a CDM National Committee. It will further define their respective functions and prescribe the procedure for approval of a CDM project.

I understand that the technical team at UNEP Risoe and South South North will continue to provide assistance until the completion of the CD4CDM project. I hope by then Mauritius

would have developed a portfolio of Project Idea Notes (PINs) and Project Design Documents (PDDs) to attract CDM investment.

Ladies and gentlemen

I am told that one of the key components of the CD4CDM was the design and development of a website for CDM for Mauritius. I am particularly pleased that this has been successfully achieved. I will later have the pleasure to officially launch this website which contains very useful information on CDM, and the process involved. The website has been professionally designed and I have no doubt it will be an important tool to catalyze Foreign Direct Investment through the CDM.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before ending, let me convey my heartiest thanks to the resource persons from UNEP Risoe, South South North and UNDP for sharing their experience and knowledge with the workshop participants. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the staff of my Ministry for organising this workshop. This is the last in the series, but I hope that this sets the landmark of a sustainably fruitful collaboration with UNEP RISOE, UNDP, our sponsors and the participants.

With these words, ladies and gentlemen, I have the pleasure to declare this workshop open.

Thank you.