

THIRD NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CD4CDM

OPENING CEREMONY

LA CANNELLE, DOMAINE LES PAILLES

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Statement

By

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Hon. Lormus Bundhoo, Minister of the Environment & NDU

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Ms. Ng, Director of Environment

Chief Executives of Public and Private sector Organisations

Mr. Randall, Resource Person from South South North

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you all to the Third National Workshop under the project "Capacity Development for Clean Development Mechanism", the CD4CDM project.

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment & NDU, I would like to thank you all most heartily for attending this capacity building workshop on the Clean Development Mechanism. I hope that this will be yet another opportunity to be enlightened on the CDM and the business opportunities that this mechanism can provide for stakeholders and businessmen in Mauritius.

Let me also thank the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), more specifically the UNEP Risoe Centre (URC) in Denmark for their continued support and collaboration towards successful implementation of the CD4CDM project in Mauritius. I take this opportunity to place on record our sincere appreciation to the Regional Teams in South Africa, namely South South North and ECON Analysis, for their technical support in the different project activities; and I welcome them back to Mauritius, it is always a pleasure to work with you all. You will during the four days of the workshop present to us the latest trends and update us on the carbon market. You will also share with us specific information on CDM contract negotiations, the Voluntary Carbon Market, and the role of the financial sector in the CDM market.

As Project Manager of the CD4CDM project, I have made it a point to ensure that all the deliverables are being met as charted out. I must say that I am personally satisfied with the progress on this project. The project organizational structure set up at the Ministry is innovative in its approach; it is team based and the whole project team did indeed a marvelous job. We shall, as a team, ensure that all the project activities are completed on time and to the satisfaction of the UNEP Risoe Centre.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The ultimate aim of the three workshops planned under this project is to empower local policymakers with knowledge of the potential benefits of the CDM and to enhance the political will needed to support CDM activities in the country.

The First National Workshop was held in January, 2008 and produced the following outcomes:

- We had a clear Understanding of CDM and its benefits,
- We were introduced to CDM Modalities & Procedures, and CDM Institutions & Regulatory Bodies,
- A list of potential avenues for CDM In Mauritius were identified, and
- We were trained to prepare PINs and Concept Notes on potential CDM projects.

The Second National Workshop was organized in March 2008, and the main issues covered were:

- Preparation of Project Idea Note (PIN) and Project Design Document (PDD) preparation,
- Baseline methodologies: examples of baseline method relevant to national circumstances,
- Additionality- how to demonstrate the additionality factor,
- Understanding the Validation Process: how the auditors work together with project developers to establish the eligibility of CDM projects,
- CDM project financing: approaches to investment analysis, benchmarks, sensitivity analysis for CER price impact on project economics,
- Financial Aspects of CDM and Carbon Finance, and
- Status of global carbon market

A Sectoral workshop with focus on Energy Efficiency Projects and targeting the industrial sector was organized back to back with the Second National Workshop. The objective was to create awareness at top management level on the CDM process and on the benefits of CDM. It provided examples to participants on the type of CDM energy efficiency projects that are presently in the pipeline, and identified and developed potential Energy Efficiency projects in Mauritius.

We are now at the third and last CD4CDM National Workshop. During the next two days policy makers will be sensitized on CDM issues and procedures, and participants will be familiarized with the legal and contractual issues involved in CDM contract negotiations. UNDP will also provide an overview of the present status and outcomes of the on-going UNDP Regional CDM Capacity Building Project concurrently being implemented in seven Sub-Saharan African countries including Mauritius.

A second Sectoral workshop will be organized on 24 September 2008 on theme of the 'Voluntary Carbon Market'. The voluntary carbon market is now growing because more and more companies, government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and other institutions, often not subject to binding greenhouse gas reduction obligations, now wish to make a quantifiable contribution to reduce GHG emissions, and at the same time honour their corporate social responsibility commitments.

The Sectoral Workshop is aimed at providing participants with an insight of the voluntary carbon market: its growth, risks/uncertainties involved, project types, and market players.

There will be yet another Sectoral Workshop on 25 September 2008. This one will be geared towards sensitizing the players in the financial sector on CDM issues by providing them with an overview of project financing impacts of carbon revenue, risk management and carbon financing, and mainstreaming carbon in day-to-day operations.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The ultimate aim of all these national and sectoral workshops under the CD4CDM project is to improve the institutional capacity of Mauritius to host CDM projects, empower local experts in key sectors to identify, design, and implement CDM projects, and to enhance the ability of relevant institutions to appraise, fund and promote CDM projects and carbon offset investments in Mauritius and thereby promote Mauritius as a CDM investment destination.

To conclude, as this is the last workshop, allow me to take this opportunity once again to thank UNEP Risoe, UNDP, the South South North and Econ Analysis for their continued and constant support. We sincerely hope that Mauritius, with all sectors working together proactively as one team, will come out a winner. Whatever comes out of the ongoing Kyoto negotiations, and prospects do not seem to be very encouraging at the moment, but one thing is clear: it is the carbon market that will make it happen. So, we need more than ever to put our acts together and make the most of what the carbon market can offer. We shall thus enjoy the double benefit of free carbon money while at

the same time access latest state of the art technologies that will contribute largely to make Mauritius an "île durable".

Thank you.