



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research



National Research Week 2025

Uniting Research, Industry and Innovation

14-18 APRIL 2025



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

Foreword



Dr The Hon Kaviraj Sharma Sukon, PFHEA
Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

*Together, we are stronger.
Together, we can do more.*

For far too long, research in our public higher education institutions has been conducted within silos—each institution pursuing its own agenda, organising its own Research Week, and engaging within its own academic circle. While these efforts have undeniably contributed to the advancement of knowledge, they have often lacked the critical element of cross-institutional collaboration that is essential to driving large-scale impact.

This year marks a historic shift. For the first time, all public higher education institutions in Mauritius are joining forces to organise a unified Research Week, guided by a common calendar of activities and a shared vision. In doing so, we are opening our institutional doors wide—not only to our own researchers and academics, but to the entire research community across the country.



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

This is more than a calendar alignment. It is a bold step towards cultivating a culture of collaboration, mutual respect, and intellectual synergy. By coming together, we provide our academics and researchers the invaluable opportunity to engage with their counterparts in other institutions, to share ideas, forge new partnerships, and build the networks that underpin meaningful research.

Equally important, this initiative creates a dynamic platform for our doctoral and postdoctoral students—our next generation of thinkers and problem-solvers—to meet and connect with peers who share similar academic interests. This exposure will not only broaden their intellectual horizons but will also strengthen the quality and relevance of their research.

At the heart of this national convergence lies a strategic intent: to harness the collective expertise of our research community in tackling some of the most pressing challenges facing our country. Whether it is through advancing sustainable waste management solutions, unlocking the potential of our Blue Economy, enhancing food security, or improving public health systems, we believe that collaboration across institutions can produce research that is not only rigorous, but transformational.

The Government is fully committed to fostering an environment where research is valued not just for its academic merit, but for its capacity to inform policy, improve lives, and secure a sustainable future for our nation. This inaugural collaborative Research Week reflects that commitment—and a clarion call to all researchers in Mauritius: *Together, we are stronger. Together, we can do more.*

Let this be the beginning of a new era in our research landscape—one defined by unity, purpose, and a shared ambition to serve the public good through knowledge and innovation.



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

Background

Organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research and co-ordinated by the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC), the National Research Week 2025 with the umbrella Theme **“Uniting Research, Industry and Innovation”** is dedicating one day for each HEI to display, on a theme-based approach, major research and innovation projects undertaken at their respective institution and dissemination of research findings and outcomes.

The National Research Week aims at fostering a dynamic platform for collaboration and knowledge-sharing not only within the UoM but other HEIs as well, policy makers, industry leaders and relevant stakeholders from the civil society. This shall provide a common ground for Academia, Industry and the Civil Society to work in synergy to bring transformative solutions for a better, sustainable future. This event will also serve as a catalyst for encouraging transdisciplinary research for a resilient future, promoting research excellence, strengthening institutional collaborations, and aligning HEIs with global standards and expectations.

By showcasing the latest research innovations and facilitating networking opportunities, the National Research Week shall undoubtedly increase the visibility of Mauritius as a destination for high-quality higher education and research



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Sessions

DATE	SUB-THHEME	SESSION VENUE
Day 1 Monday 14 April 2025	Innovating Sustainability - Synergies for a Resilient Future	Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium University of Mauritius <i>(Posters, Displays, Exhibits & Presentation by the Higher Education Commission)</i>
		Lecture Theatre 1 (LT1), Academic Complex Building, University of Mauritius <i>(Parallel Session I)</i>
		Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), Academic Complex Building, University of Mauritius <i>(Parallel Session II)</i>
		Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium, University of Mauritius <i>(Parallel Session III)</i>
Day 2 Tuesday 15 April 2025	Global Economic Interactions and Health Innovations	University of Technology (UTM)
Day 3 Wednesday 16 April 2025	Cultural and Ethical Foundations for a Sustainable Society	Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI)
	EduTech Evolution: Shaping Education with Technology	Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) in collaboration with Open University of Mauritius and Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd
Day 4 Thursday 17 April 2025	Tech Horizons – Pioneering Future Technologies	Université des Mascareignes (UdM) <i>in collaboration with Polytechnics Mauritius</i>
Day 5 Friday 18 April 2025	Research and Innovation in Action – Bridging Academia and Industry	Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium University of Mauritius Organised by MRIC, Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology Ltd (MIBL), Centre for Biomaterials and Biomedical Research (CBBR), Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd (PML)



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Opening Programme

- 09.30 - 09.35** Welcome Address by
Professor Mohammad Issack Santally
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academia), University of Mauritius
- 09.35 - 09.40** Address by
Professor Sanjeev Kumar Sobhee
Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius
- 09.40 - 09.45** Address by
Prof Theesan Bahorun, PhD, G.O.S.K
Executive Director, Mauritius Research and Innovation Council
- 09.45 - 10.15** Keynote Address by
Dr Surya Raghu
Visiting Professor, Wits University (South Africa) and President,
Advanced Fluidics (USA)
- 10.15 - 10.30** Address and Opening of the National Research Week 2025 by
The Honourable Dr Kaviraj Sharma Sukon,
Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research
- 10.30 - 10.35** **Vote of Thanks by**
Associate Professor Vidushi Shradha Neergheen
Director, Doctoral School & Chairperson, Organising Sub-Committee
for Day 1 of the National Research Week 2025

Refreshments



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Keynote session



Dr Surya Raghu,

Visiting Professor, Wits University (South Africa)
and President, Advanced Fluidics (USA)

Dr. Surya Raghu is a leading expert in entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and research commercialisation, with extensive experience in policy development and impact measurement. He has led workshops in over 30 developing countries and collaborates with organisations like UNESCO, USPTO, and WIPO to shape global innovation policies.

As an inventor with 20+ inventions and 15 patents, Dr. Raghu has commercialised four products and authored 65+ publications in fluid mechanics. He is the President of Advanced Fluidics LLC, leading R&D projects funded by NASA, Boeing, and the U.S. Air Force, focusing on fluid dynamics and aerospace technologies.

Dr. Raghu is a Visiting Professor at Wits University (South Africa) and Kyunshu Institute of Technology, Japan where he mentors students and builds academic partnerships. He also serves on the Board of Vaughn College and is the Founding Partner of ETCube International, helping startups in emerging markets.

Passionate about mentoring entrepreneurs, particularly in developing countries, Dr. Raghu supports innovators with resources and networks to drive economic growth. He empowers local entrepreneurs to address societal challenges through technology.

A strong advocate for diversity in innovation, Dr. Raghu promotes policies that ensure equitable access to opportunities. His work has a lasting global impact, combining technical expertise with a commitment to sustainable development.



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Day 1 Theme: Innovating Sustainability: Synergies for a Resilient Future

PROGRAMME

Parallel Session I
Monday 14 April 2025

Lecture Theatre 1 (LT1)
Academic Complex Building,
University of Mauritius



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

Day 1 of the National Research Week 2025 – Monday 14 April 2025

“Innovating Sustainability: Synergies for a Resilient Future”

Parallel Session I

Sub-Themes: Blue Economy and Circular Economy

Zoom Sessions on Circular Economy/Green Economy/Cultural Industry/Economy

Lecture Theatre 1 (LT1), New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius

11.35 - 11.45 Registration and Seating of Audience
Lecture Theatre 1 (LT 1), New Academic Complex

11.45 - 11.50 Welcome Address by Session Chair

TED-Talk Style Presentations on Blue Economy

11.50 - 12.00 AI and drone technologies for coastal monitoring
A. Nazurally (UoM)

12.00 - 12.10 Investigation of mangrove-associated halophilic bacteria with antibacterial and antibiofilm activities
S. Parboteeah (UoM), S. Jawaheer, M. G. Bhowon, S Jhaumeer Laulloo and S. D. Dyal

12.10 - 12.20 A study on the morphological characteristics and antimicrobial properties of nudibranch in the selected areas of Mauritius
D. Boyjoo (UoM), N. Nazurally and S. Facknath

12.20 - 12.30 Diversity of cigua-toxic related dinoflagellates in Mauritius: Integrating morpho-taxonomy and molecular characterization
P. Mussai (UoM), J. Larsen and R. Jeewon

12.30 - 12.40 Spatial and seasonal variation of meso- and micro-plastics observed in Mascarene islands.
C. Bhonul (UoM), C. Parmasse, M. J. S. Perrine, T. Bouvier and S. Mattan Moorgawa

12.40 - 12.50 Advancing circular economy in the fisheries sector by developing bio-based corrosion resistant coatings on mild steel from fish scale
L. Sanassee (UoM) and T. Venkatachellam



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Parallel Session I

Sub-Themes: Blue Economy and Circular Economy

Zoom Sessions on Circular Economy/Green Economy/Cultural Industry/Economy

Lecture Theatre 1 (LT1), New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius

12.50 - 13.00 Carbon sequestration potential of *Rhizophora mucronata* Mangroves in Mauritius: Integrating remote sensing, biomass and photosynthetic performance

M. D. D. Doodee (UoM), S. D. D. V. Rughooputh and S. Jawaheer

13.00 - 13.10 **Interactive Session**
(Questions & Answers)

13.10 - 13.55 **Networking Lunch**
Venue: Lobby - Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium

TED-Talk Style Presentations on Blue Economy

13.55 - 14.05 Low-cost, portable sensing system for microplastic detection and classification

S. Prasad (MIT), J. M. S. Perrine and S. Mattan-Moorgawa

14.05 - 14.15 Smart societies, safe waters: Advancing water security and equity through Society 5.0 and the Blue Economy

D. Faugoo (UTM)

14.15 - 14.25 Potential use of geophysical techniques in identifying preferential pathways for groundwater flow in a fractured subsurface

M. D. Nowbuth (UoM) and H. D. Balluck

14.25 - 14.35 Lunar influence on luciferase activity in bioluminescent dinoflagellates and spatiotemporal variability of nocturnal micro phytoplankton in Mauritius' coastal waters in the wake of climate change

B. Sookun (UoM) and N. Nazurally

14.35 - 14.45 Mauritius in the wake of oil spills with advancements in enzymatic bioremediation

T. Kalloo (UoM) and N. Nazurally



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Sub-Themes: Blue Economy and Circular Economy

Zoom Sessions on Circular Economy/Green Economy/Cultural Industry/Economy

Lecture Theatre 1 (LT1), New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius

14.45 - 14.55 **Interactive Session**
(Questions & Answers)

TED-Talk Style Presentations on Circular Economy

14.55 - 15.05 Empowering business innovation: Consumer insights into mobile payment adoption in Mauritius
L. Gunnoo (UTM) and E. Bindah

15.05 - 15.15 Innovation from the business perspective: A systematic review
M. Ramen (UoM)

15.15 - 15.35 **Tea Break**
Venue: Lobby - Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium

15.35 - 15.45 An educational dual-axis solar tracker for varying PV module sizes and varying solar tracking and MPPT algorithms
H. Shamachurn (UoM) and A. Monebahal

15.45 - 15.55 Investigating three dual-axis solar tracking Algorithms with CdTe, CIS and Mono-Si PV modules in a tropical climate
H. Shamachurn (UoM) and C. Choytoo

15.55 - 16.05 **Interactive Session**
(Questions & Answers)



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“Innovating Sustainability: Synergies for a Resilient Future”

Parallel Session I

Sub-Themes: Blue Economy and Circular Economy

Zoom Sessions on Circular Economy/Green Economy/Cultural Industry/Economy

Lecture Theatre 1 (LT1), New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius

Zoom Sessions on Circular Economy/Green Economy/Cultural Industry/Economy (international Participants)

16.05 - 16.15 The determinants of sustainable urban planning in developing countries: Tanzania context.

D. N. Shatta (National Institute of Transport , Tanzania)

16.15 - 16.25 Assessing the commercial feasibility of a citrus pectin coating enriched with bioactive compounds extracted from the Rodrigues lime to extend the shelf life of minimally processed fruits and vegetables in Mauritius.

L. Cloete (UoM), D. Ramful-Baboolall, B. Ramasawmy and M. N. Emmambux

16.25 - 16.35 The socio-economic impact of libraries: Leveraging arts and culture for community development.

B. Mahata, A. Mahata and **P. Chatterjee (Narajoie Raj College, India)**

16.35 - 16.45 **Discussions and Closing Remarks**

UoM: University of Mauritius; UTM: University of Technology
MIT: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

Day 1 Theme: Innovating Sustainability: Synergies for a Resilient Future

PROGRAMME

Parallel Session II
Monday 14 April 2025

Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2)
Academic Complex Building,
University of Mauritius



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Day 1 of the National Research Week 2025 – Monday 14 April 2025

“Innovating Sustainability: Synergies for a Resilient Future”

Parallel Session II

Sub-Themes: Green Economy and Silver Economy

Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius

11.35 - 11.45 Registration and Seating of Audience
Lecture Theatre 2 (LT 2), New Academic Complex

11.45 - 11.50 Welcome Address by Session Chair

TED-Talk Style Presentations on Green Economy

11.50 - 12.00 Assessment of ocean acidification in selected coastal lagoons in Mauritius
Y. A. Imrit (UoM), K. Boodhoo and R. Ramessur

12.00 - 12.10 Weathering the storm: How climate change is shaping the subsistence of female farmers in Mauritius
T. Makoondlall-Chadee and **D. Ramphul (UTM)**

12.10 - 12.20 Climate Smart Agriculture as an agritourism asset in the hotel industry in Mauritius
A. Abdool (UoM) and S. Facknath

12.20 - 12.30 Copper-Based nanostimulants: Eco-friendly alternatives to pesticides for disease-prone plants
D. Bekah (UoM), Y. Boyjoo, I. Chummun Phul, N. Goonoo, B. Pecheur, Y. Wang, J. White and A. Bhaw-Luximon

12.30 - 12.40 Evaluating agricultural practices in Mauritius: Local sustainability challenges and global implications for ecosystem and human health
I. Aubeeluck-Ragoonauth (UoM), G. D. Somaroo, L. Rhyman and P. Ramasami

12.40 - 12.50 Effects of invasive alien plants on avian frugivory in the best-preserved wet forests of an oceanic island
G. Seeburrun (UoM), C. Baider and F. B. V. Florens



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“Innovating Sustainability: Synergies for a Resilient Future”

Parallel Session II

Sub-Themes: Green Economy and Silver Economy

Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius

12.50 - 13.00 Effect of seaweed compost on growth and yield of food crops
A. Baluck (UoM)

13.00 - 13.10 **Interactive Session**
(Questions & Answers)

13.10 - 13.55 **Networking Lunch**
Venue: Lobby - Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium

TED-Talk Style Presentations on Green Economy

13.55 - 14.05 Conservation of epiphytes and lianas: Pioneer trees serve as important hosts in Mauritius, a small oceanic island
F. Baguette (UoM), C. Baider and F. B. V. Florens

14.05 - 14.15 Characterisation of pigeon pea accessions in Mauritius
R. Abdoula (UoM), N. Boodia and M. Mala Ranghoo-Sanmukhiya

14.15 - 14.25 Assessing food waste dynamics: A comparative study of supermarkets, market vendors, and growers in Mauritius
R. Brizmohun-Gopaul (UoM), A. Ruggoo, D. Goburdhun and D. Baboolall-Ramful

14.25 - 14.35 Status of food safety management, culture and climate in selected micro and small food manufacturing enterprises in Mauritius and Rodrigues
A. B. Z. Joomun (UoM), C. A. Wallace and D. Ramful-Baboolall

14.35 - 14.45 A study of diel and seasonal patterns of loss of commercial lychee fruits to vertebrate frugivores: Implications for mitigating a human-wildlife conflict
G. Bhanda (UoM), R. Z. Oleksy, R. D. Reinegger, C. Baider and F. B. V. Florens



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“Innovating Sustainability: Synergies for a Resilient Future”

Parallel Session II

Sub-Themes: Green Economy and Silver Economy

Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius

- 14.45 - 14.55** Green innovation in wound care: Valorization of agricultural waste for cutaneous leishmaniasis treatment
M. A. L. Huët (UoM) and A. Bhaw-Luximon
- 14.55 - 15.05** Study of the coagulating capacity of different parts of *Calotropis gigantea* in the manufacture of paneer cheese
B. S. Tagba (UoM), D. Puchooa and H. Sina
- 15.05 - 15.15** **Interactive Session**
(Questions & Answers)
- 15.15 - 15.35** **Tea Break**
Venue: Lobby - Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium

TED-Talk Style Presentations on Green Economy

- 15.35 - 15.45** How cafeteria manage food waste? Case study in a local University setting
D. Goburdhun and **I. S. Rampersad (UoM)**
- 15.45 - 15.55** Development and characterization of advanced and sustainable composite discs reinforced with coconut fibres for enhanced abrasive resistance in surface polishing application
Y. Gooroodoyal (UoM) and R. Ramful
- 15.55 - 16.05** **Interactive Session**
(Questions & Answers)



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“Innovating Sustainability: Synergies for a Resilient Future”

Parallel Session II

Sub-Themes: Green Economy and Silver Economy

Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius

TED-Talk Style Presentations on Silver Economy

- 16.05 - 16.15** Assessing the impact of an ageing population on economic growth - The case of Mauritius
K. Mootooperian (UoM) and B. Seetanah
- 16.15 - 16.25** Transdisciplinary research approaches for economic growth & resilient future through strategic health tax planning
A-M Perucic (WHO) and M. Chan Sun
- 16.25 - 16.35** Isolation and identification of pathogens from non-healing diabetic foot wounds and their sensitivity against fungal endophytes from local plants.
B. Rakhal (UoM) and R. Jeewon
- 16.35 - 16.45** Identification of marine diatoms in the photic zone of Bel Ombre lagoon, Mauritius for forensic use
A. Auckloo (UoM), S. D. Dyal, S. Jawaheer, S. K. Gungadin and V. Jowaheer
- 16.45 - 16.55** Universal coverage, user's fee and health outcomes in Nigeria: Case study of HIV/AIDS
J. O. Olabisi (UoM)
- 16.55 - 17.05** Innovative approaches for adult dyslexic Learners: Building resilience through sustainable education
P. Makaya (UTM), D. Mauree-Narainen and L. N. Puroonder
- 17.05 - 17.15** Discussions and Closing Remarks

UoM: University of Mauritius; UTM: University of Technology

WHO: World Health Organisation



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

Day 1 Theme: Innovating Sustainability: Synergies for a Resilient Future

PROGRAMME

Parallel Session III
Monday 14 April 2025

Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium (POWA)
University of Mauritius



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

Day 1 of the National Research Week 2025 – Monday 14 April 2025

“Innovating Sustainability: Synergies for a Resilient Future”

Parallel Session III

Sub-Themes: Circular Economy and Cultural Industry/Economy

Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium (POWA) - University of Mauritius

11.35– 11.45 Registration and Seating of Audience
Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium

11.45- 11.50 Welcome Address by Session Chair

TED-Talk Style Presentations on Circular Economy

11.50 - 12.00 Sensitivity analysis of different data sizes for the most accurate future forecast of solar power in Mauritius using a deep learning LSTM technique
M. A. Wahidna (UoM), N. Sookia and Y. K. Ramgolam

12.00 - 12.10 Driving sustainable energy transitions in sub-saharan Africa: A DOI analysis of Kenya and Mauritius
B. Moyo (UoM) and V. Oree

12.10 - 12.20 Optimising renewable energy integration and grid stability in Southern Africa: A case for interconnected power pools and circular energy systems
M. Banda (UoM) and I. Essackjee

12.20 - 12.30 ECOBrix: Sustainable brick manufacturing using cement, recycled plastic, and glass in Mauritius
D. Sathan (UoM)

12.30 - 12.40 From waste to resilience: Developing eco-friendly flood barrier using repurposed tires
D. Sathan (UoM)

12.40 - 12.50 From leaf to package: Sustainable production of egg cartons using dry leaf fiber-based paper
D. Sathan (UoM)



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UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

Day 1 of the National Research Week 2025 – Monday 14 April 2025

“Innovating Sustainability: Synergies for a Resilient Future”

Parallel Session III

Sub-Themes: Circular Economy and Cultural Industry/Economy

Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium (POWA) - University of Mauritius

12.50 - 13.00 Development and characterization of a fully biodegradable polylactic acid (PLA) composite reinforced with Pandanus utilis fibres
C. Dabee (UoM) and R. Ramful

13.00 - 13.10 **Interactive Session**
(Questions & Answers)

13.10 - 13.55 **Networking Lunch**
Venue: Lobby - Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium

TED-Talk Style Presentations on Circular Economy

13.55 - 14.05 Investigating the mechanical & thermal performance of eco-friendly thermal insulation boards manufactured from Pandanus utilis fibres reinforced composites
R. Bholah (UoM) and R. Ramful

14.05 - 14.15 Insects Biomanufacturing - Black soldier flies (*Hermetia illucens*) in the new research-based industry landscape
R. P. Gunpath and **J. K. Assogbavi (UoM)**

14.15 - 14.25 Explainable artificial intelligence in 6G networks: A review and future directions
M. Deenmahomed (UoM), V. Bassoo, M. Drieberg and Y. Rosunally

14.25 - 14.35 Proposing a civil liability framework for climate change wrongs in the Republic of Mauritius
K. A. Appadoo, (UoM), J. Augnoo, K. Ansaram, V. Jugoo-Hurhinidee, G. Henriette-Bolli and R. P. Gunpath

14.35 - 14.45 Redesigning higher education through quality assurance for circular economy and social entrepreneurship
F. Khodabocus (UoM)



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“Innovating Sustainability: Synergies for a Resilient Future”

Parallel Session III

Sub-Themes: Circular Economy and Cultural Industry/Economy

Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium (POWA) - University of Mauritius

14.45 - 14.55 TVET as a catalyst for circular economy innovation: Bridging skills, business, and social entrepreneurship
P. K. Ramtohul (HRDC) and H Neeliah

14.55 - 15.05 Assessing the impact of policy frameworks on private investment in renewable energy in resource-abundant and resource-scarce economies in Sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic literature review
T. C. Masunda (UoM) and **B. Jugurnath**

15.05 - 15.15 **Interactive Session**
(Questions & Answers)

15.15 - 15.35 **Tea Break**
Venue: Lobby - Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium

TED-Talk Style Presentations on Cultural Industry/Economy

15.35 - 15.45 The potential of essential oils as natural antimicrobials to enhance the microbiological safety and quality of Ready-To-Eat chicken ham
L. Bookhun (UoM)

15.45 - 15.55 Creative confidence in the age of AI: Engaging first-year students from web and multimedia development for sustainable innovation
S. Gunness (UoM) and T. Daradoumis

15.55 - 16.05 Fostering socio-economic sustainability through Art: A case study of the joint collaboration between Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI) and the University of the Third Age Mauritius (U3AM)
A. Ombika (ADI)

16.05 - 16.15 **Decoding the trade-environment nexus for Mauritius**
S. Seechurn (Maurice Stratégie)

16.15 - 16.25 A thematic analysis of micro perspectives of socio-economic drivers of irregular female labour migration from Zimbabwe to South Africa
K. Mahuni (UoM)

16.25 - 16.35 **Discussions and Closing Remarks**

UoM : University of Mauritius; UoM: Université des Mascareignes

OUM: Open University of Mauritius

ADI: Academy of Design and Innovation

HRDC: Human Resource Development Council



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

Day 2 Theme: Global Economic Interactions and Health Innovations

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MAURITIUS

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 15 April 2025

UTM Conference Room



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MAURITIUS
Day 2 of the National Research Week 2025 – Tuesday 15 April 2025
“Global Economic Interactions and Health Innovations”
Morning Session: Global Economic Interactions: Trade, Finance, and Development
UTM Conference Room

08H30 – 09H00 Registration of Participants

09H00 – 09H10 Opening Address

09H10 – 09H30 Keynote Address – Fintech for Business Growth: The New Age Solutions for Cash Flow and Payments, **Professor (Dr) Satish Kumar – Indian Institute of Management Nagpur, India**

09H30 – 09H50 Keynote Address – Digitalisation and Emerging Technologies
Mr Rajeev Hasnah - First Deputy Governor, Bank of Mauritius

09H50 – 10H00 Shaping a modern and resilient cane industry in Mauritius through investment in innovation and sustainability **Mr. Rajiv Ramlugon - Group Chief Sustainability Officer, Omnicane**

10H00 – 10H50 Theme : Financial Technology and Economic Development

- Bridging the Digital Payment Divide Among Merchants : Adoption Insights from a Small Island Developing State
Ms. L. Gunnoo, University of Technology, Mauritius
- Fintech’s Role in Financial Inclusion : How Digital Banking is Reshaping Access to Capital in Emerging Markets
Mr D. Henriette-Bolli, Open University of Mauritius
- Reskilling and Talent Development of FinTech professionals in Mauritius
Ms. B. Poussin-Deojee, University of Technology, Mauritius
- SMEs Tax Compliance Behaviour in the Digital Era : A Bibliometric Analysis
Ms. S.V. Sihlongonyane, University of Mauritius

10H50 – 11H20 Networking Session, Refreshments & Posters Presentation

11H20 – 11H30 HEC-funded project demonstrating Impact, **Dr A. Durbarry, Research Officer, Higher Education Commission**



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MAURITIUS
Day 2 of the National Research Week 2025 – Tuesday 15 April 2025
“Global Economic Interactions and Health Innovations”
Morning Session: Global Economic Interactions: Trade, Finance, and Development
UTM Conference Room

11H30 – 12H20

Theme : Foreign Direct Investment and Globalisation

- What Matters Most for Economic Growth – FDI or Trade? Evidence From Developing and Island Economies
Ms B.F. Boodoo, University of Mauritius
- The Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Poverty in Africa : An Empirical Analysis
Ms. R. Subramanyan, University of Mauritius
- Globalization as a Societal Issue
Mr T. Mohabeer, Mauritius Institute of Education
- Impact of Exchange Rate and Exchange Rate Volatility on Tourism Demand – A Gravity Model
Ms. R. Imamboccus, University of Mauritius

12H20

END OF MORNING SESSION



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MAURITIUS
Day 2 of the National Research Week 2025 – Tuesday 15 April 2025
“Global Economic Interactions and Health Innovations”
Afternoon Session: Health and Wellness: Bridging Knowledge and Impact
UTM Conference Room

12H30 – 13H00 Registration of Participants

13H00 – 13H10 Opening Address

13H10 – 13H30 Keynote Address – Social Stress Responses and Mental Health,
Associate Professor (Dr) Tomoko Soga, Monash University, Malaysia

13H30 – 13H50 Keynote Address – From Preclinical Development to Clinical Testing: A
Regulatory Oversight, **Dr Lawrence Callahan, Retired Chemist at FDA;**
Chief Scientist - Trials of Life.

13H50 – 14H20 Theme : Preclinical and Clinical Research

- The bridge between academia and health care research
Ms. Tina Sharma, Chief Operating Officer, C-Lab
- Preclinical and Clinical Research in Mauritius
Ms. Sabrina Sonea, Managing Director, CIDP Mauritius
- Clinical Research in the biopharmaceutical industry
Dr Lutchmee Nobaud, CEO, Clinear Research

14H20 – 14H40 Theme : Public and Occupational Health

- Digitalisation of Safety at Work for Behavioral Change,
Mr. Moonindranath Heeramun, Head of Regional Health, Safety & Security, Cementis
- Impacts of Climate Change on OSH,
Mr. Harold Lee, Consultant in OSH and Chartered member of IOSH (UK)

14H40 – 15H10 Networking Session, Refreshments & Posters Presentation



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MAURITIUS
Day 2 of the National Research Week 2025 – Tuesday 15 April 2025
“Global Economic Interactions and Health Innovations”
Afternoon Session: Health and Wellness: Bridging Knowledge and Impact
UTM Conference Room

15H10 – 15H45

Theme : Public and Occupational Health (Cont'd)

- Unveiling the Initiating Factors of Substance Abuse Among Mauritian Male Adolescents : A Public Health and Mental Wellbeing Perspective
Dr N. Sunt, Medical Practitioner
- A Phenomenological Study of Smoking Cessation among Mauritian Doctors
Dr K.P. Samoo, Ministry of Health and Wellness
- Sustaining the Nursing Education Workforce : A Systematic Review of Occupational Well-Being, its related Stressors, and Retention Strategies for Nurse Educators
Dr H. Bhurtun, University of Technology, Mauritius
- The role of Physical Activity in Stress Regulation and Academic Performance : An Integrative Review of Coping Strategies, Resilience and Cultural Contexts
Mr N. Valaydum, University of Technology, Mauritius



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MAURITIUS
Day 2 of the National Research Week 2025 – Tuesday 15 April 2025
“Global Economic Interactions and Health Innovations”
Afternoon Session: Health and Wellness: Bridging Knowledge and Impact
UTM Conference Room

15H45 – 16H30

Theme : Emerging Topics in Health

- Nutraceuticals derived from local underutilised exotic fruits : Sensory Analysis and Consumer Insights
Ms. B. W. Jaumbocus, Biopharmaceutical Unit, CBBR, University of Mauritius
- A review of Fingerprint Patterns, Multiple Intelligences, and Their Role in Autism Spectrum Disorder
Ms. M. Gujadhur, JSS College of Medical Science and Research
- Health Promotion in Mauritius : Let’s Play !
Ms. F. Grant, University of Mauritius
- Electronic Waste as an Environmental and Public Health Hazard : Investigating Public Awareness
Dr P.V. Ramasamy Coolen, University of Technology, Mauritius

16H30

Closing Remarks



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

Day 3 Theme: Cultural and Ethical Foundations for a Sustainable Society

**MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE
PROGRAMME**

Wednesday 16 April 2025

Subramania Bharati Lecture Theatre,
Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE

Day 3 of the National Research Week 2025 – Wednesday 16 April 2025

Session: Cultural and Ethical Foundations for a Sustainable Society

Subramania Bharati Lecture Theatre MGI, Moka

09 00 - 09 30

Registration/ Tea and Snacks

09 30 - 09 45

Welcome Address

Dr Jeevendiren Chemen, Associate Professor

09 45 - 10 00

Address by the Director (MGI)

Dr (Mrs) Veedotma Koonjal

10 00 - 10 30

Keynote Address

Mr Marabin Maindan Muthaiah, Author, Poet, Social Reformer and Renown Speaker

10 30 - 11 30

Paper Presentation (Parallel Session I)

- An Exploration of the Determinants and Mechanisms of Religious Environmentalism in Mauritius using a multi-level Interdisciplinary Framework
Mr Vencatesen Ponin (PhD Candidate) Université des Mascareignes.
- Beyond GDP: The Ancient Wisdom of Purusartha as Tomorrow's Sustainability Blueprint
Dr (Mrs) Vedika Hurdoyal-Chekori, Associate Professor, Head Department of Philosophy, MGI
- Bridging Ethics and Arts in Narration using Digital Storytelling Tools in Early Childhood Education
Mrs Deepa Sookara-Ramchurn Lecturer & Project Coordinator, MIE.



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE

Day 3 of the National Research Week 2025 – Wednesday 16 April 2025

Session: Cultural and Ethical Foundations for a Sustainable Society

Subramania Bharati Lecture Theatre MGI, Moka

10 30 - 11 30

Paper Presentation (Parallel Session I)

- Communication Strategies to support the Circular Transformation of Businesses in Mauritius
 - **Mrs Nooreen Lallmamode Ittoo, Lecturer, Head Department of Design & Communication, School of Fine Arts, MGI.**
 - **Dr Mahendra Gooroochurn, Senior Lecturer, Head of Mechanical & Production Engineering, Department, Faculty of Engineering, University of Mauritius.**
 - **Mrs Nalini Gopaul, Senior Lecturer, Head Department of Sculpture, School of Fine Arts, MGI.**
 - **Mr Nirmal Hurry, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sculpture, School of Fine Arts, MGI.**
- Investigating the Role of Social Innovation in Promoting Gender Equality among Victims of Gender Based Violence in Mauritius
Dr (Mrs) Zareen Beebeejaun Muslum, Senior Lecturer, Head, School of Mauritian & Area Studies, MGI.
- The Role of Francophone Mauritian Literature in Sustainable Development of Human Phenomenon
Mrs Anisha Badal-Caussy, Lecturer, Head, Department of Mauritian Studies, MGI.



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE

Day 3 of the National Research Week 2025 – Wednesday 16 April 2025

Session: Cultural and Ethical Foundations for a Sustainable Society

Subramania Bharati Lecture Theatre MGI, Moka

10 30 - 11 30

Paper Presentation (Parallel Session II)

- Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam & Ubuntu – Ethical Synergy for Sustainable Peace and Unity in Mauritius
Mr Roshan Boodnah, Lecturer, Head, Department of Philosophy, School of Indological Studies, MGI.
- Building a Sustainable Society through Performing Arts Education and Promotion of Culture: The Role and MGI and RTI
 - **Dr Papayah Goorimoorthee, Senior Lecturer, Department of Percussion, School of Performing Arts, MGI.**
 - **Dr Adi Sankara Peruman, Associate Professor, Head Centre for Technology-Enabled Learning, MGI.**
 - **Mr Karamlall Mantadin, Director, RTI.**
- A Dharmic Approach to AI Ethics: Insights from the Bhagavadgita and Valmiki Ramayana
Ms Rajshree Beneymadoo, Lecturer (Temporary), Department of Philosophy, School of Indological Studies, MGI.



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Session: Cultural and Ethical Foundations for a Sustainable Society

Subramania Bharati Lecture Theatre MGI, Moka

10 30 - 11 30

Paper Presentation (Parallel Session II)

- The Way Forward for Bhojpuri Language in Mauritius
Mr Jay Ganesh Dawosing, Lecturer, Department of Bhojpuri, Folklore & Oral Traditions, MGI.
- The Mauritian Creole Constitution 1968 – It's Impact in a Multicultural Society
Prof Rajendra Parsad Gunpath, Professor of International Comparative Law, Faculty of Law and Management, University of Mauritius.
- Building Blue Resilience through Community Engagement
Ms Helvina Neerunjun, Lecturer, Department of Mauritian Studies, MGI.



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MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE

Day 3 of the National Research Week 2025 – Wednesday 16 April 2025

Session: Cultural and Ethical Foundations for a Sustainable Society

Subramania Bharati Lecture Theatre MGI, Moka

11 30 - 12 00

Panel Discussion

Topic: Social Innovation for a Sustainable Society in the Fast – Growing Digital World

Speakers

- Dr Perienen Appavoo, Senior Academic, Head of Research Office, University of Mauritius
- Dr (Ms) Sheilana Devi Ramdoo, Senior Lecturer, School of Performing Arts, MGI
- Dr Rajendrakumar Dabee, Senior Lecturer, Head, School of Indological Studies, MGI
- Dr (Mrs) Deepika Faugoo, Senior Lecturer, School of Management & Finance, University of Technology
- Mr Krishna Luchoomun, Senior Lecturer, School of Fine Arts, MGI

Moderator

- Dr Jeevendiren Chemen, Associate Professor, Head Centre for Research & Coordinator, National Research Week (MGI)



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

Day 3 Theme: EduTech Evolution: Shaping Education with Technology

**MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
PROGRAMME**

Wednesday 16 April 2025

Frank Richard Lecture Theatre, MIE



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
Day 3 of the National Research Week 2025 – Wednesday 16 April 2025
“EduTech Evolution: Shaping Education with Technology”
Frank Richard Lecture Theatre, MIE

OPENING SPEECH

- 13 00 - 13 20**
- Master of Ceremony: Dr Shakeel ATCHIA
 - Speech by Deputy Director (MIE)
 - Speech by Chief Executive Officer of Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd (PML)
 - Speech by Head of Research of Open University of Mauritius (OUM)
 - Speech by Guest of Honour

TEDTALK SESSION 1

CHAIR - T. Mohabeer

RAPPORTEUR - M. Dausoa

- 13 20 - 13 30** The rise of the Artificially Intelligent Learner (AIL) versus the failure of academic integrity
Mrinal Sohoraye (OUM)
- 13 30 - 13 40** The transformative role of IoT in Learning and Teaching
Anshu Prakash Murdan (UOM)
- 13 40 - 13 50** From concrete to digital: The pedagogical shift in Mathematics education
Khemduth Singh Angateeah (MIE)
- 13 50 - 14 00** The impact of AI on education and personal development of students in Higher Education Institutions
Chitisha Gunnoo and Sandhya Gunness (UOM)
- 14 00 - 14 10** Simulation based medical education (SBME) offers a controlled environment for students to learn technical and non-technical skills.
Poonam Bunwaree and Ganessen Chinien (UOM)
- 14 10 - 14 20** Reimagining equity in medical publishing through artificial intelligence and digital mentorship
Bibi Sumera Keenoo (UOM)
- 14 20 - 14 30** The role of virtual laboratories in science education: A paradigm shift
Atchia M. C. Shakeel and Rumjaun B. Anwar (MIE)
- 14 30 - 14 50** Tea



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
Day 3 of the National Research Week 2025 – Wednesday 16 April 2025
“EduTech Evolution: Shaping Education with Technology”
Frank Richard Lecture Theatre, MIE

TEDTALK SESSION 2 CHAIR - K. S Angateeah RAPPORTEUR - W Appadoo Ramsamy

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 14 50 - 15 00 | Technology-driven competency development in vocational education: A model for Mauritius
Disha Hawley Bissonauth (PML) |
| 15 00 - 15 10 | Redefining online teaching: Insights into adoption challenges and opportunities in Mauritius' Higher Education
Leenshya Gunnoo, Kesseven D. Padachi, Thakoor Sharma Geerawo (UTM) |
| 15 10 - 15 20 | Integrating technology in education for learners with dyslexia in Zimbabwe: An exploratory study
P. Makaya, D. Mauree-Narrainen, L N. Poorunder (UTM) |
| 15 20 - 15 30 | EduTech: The neocolonial model of education
Tejwant Mohabeer (MIE) |
| 15 30 - 15 40 | The evolving role of positive psychology in technology-driven teacher training
Vikash Baichoo, Satyen Beedassy, Sharone Ramasawmy (MIE) |



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
Day 3 of the National Research Week 2025 – Wednesday 16 April 2025
“EduTech Evolution: Shaping Education with Technology”
Frank Richard Lecture Theatre, MIE

TEDTALK SESSION 2 CHAIR - K. S Angateeah RAPPORTEUR - W Appadoo Ramsamy

- 15 40 - 15 50** Learning through virtual reality
Sweety Anoucheka Gangabissoon and G.Bahadur
(Student UOM - MPhil / PHD)
- 15 50 - 16 00** Stepping-up or pushing-back? Negotiating technology integration in Mauritian classrooms
Wedsha Appadoo-Ramsamy (MIE)
- 16 00 - 16 10** The national policy towards technology-driven education: Insights from teachers in the Mauritian education system
Ajay Ramful and **Tejwant Mohabeer (MIE)**

PLENARY AND CLOSING REMARKS

- 16 10 - 16 30** The future of EduTech



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

Day 4 Theme: Tech Horizons – Pioneering Future Technologies

UNIVERSITÉ DES MASCAREIGNES

PROGRAMME

Thursday 17 April 2025

Rose-Hill Campus



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

UNIVERSITE DES MASCAREIGNES
Day 4 of the National Research Week 2025 – Thursday 17 April 2025
“Tech Horizons –Pioneering Future Technologies”
Rose-Hill Campus

- 09 30 - 10 00** Keynote Speech - Digital twins technology and applications
Prof Krishna Busawon (Northumbria Univ., U.K.)
- 10 00 - 10 10** A Netnographic Study on Social Media for Sustainable Talent Management and Decent Work Promotion
Dr Swaleha Peeroo (UdM) & Dr P. Gunesh (UoM)
- 10 10 - 10 20** Antenna Arrays in Emerging Technologies: Applications and Efficient Numerical Analysis for Large-Scale Systems
Dr Keshav Sewraj (UdM)
- 10 20 - 10 30** Assessing Grassroots Flood Risk Management Strategies and Spatial Variability of Cyclone Freddy’s Impacts in Chikwawa, Malawi
Mr Japhet Khendlo (UdM), Dr R. Beeharry (UdM), Dr R. Goodary (UdM)
- 10 30 - 10 40** Fostering Student Entrepreneurship at Université des Mascareignes Collaborative Ventures: Success Stories and Lessons Learned Case Studies of Successful Academia-Industry Partnerships
Dr Swaleha Peeroo (UdM), Dr V. Ladkoo (UdM)
- 10 40 - 10 50** Nexus Between Smart Tourism and Economic Development of Mauritius: Prospects and Challenges
Dr Randhir Roopchund (UdM)
- 10 50 - 11 00** Engineering Geological Investigations in Regions Underlain by Deposits of Volcanic Origin
Dr Rajeshwar Goodary (UdM)



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

UNIVERSITE DES MASCAREIGNES
Day 4 of the National Research Week 2025 – Thursday 17 April 2025
“Tech Horizons –Pioneering Future Technologies”
Rose-Hill Campus

- 11 00 - 11 10** Transformational Leadership for Education 4.0 in the Mauritian Higher Educational Context
Dr Randhir Roopchund (UdM)
- 11 10 - 11 20** Towards the Transition to a Sustainable Public Transport System in Mauritius
Dr Leckramsingh Latchoomun (UdM), Mr A Dhunnoo (UdM)
- 11 20 - 11 30** A Social Network Analysis of Nicolas Pike’s Travel Writing on Mauritius
Dr Neelam Fatmah Pirbhai (UdM)
- 11 30 - 11 40** Mathematical Modelling of Sigmoid Functions
Mrs Bhamini Sreekeessoon (UdM), Prof K. Busawon (Northumbria Univ), Dr R. K. Dreepaul (UdM)
- 11 40 - 11 50** A Study of Recycled Concrete Aggregates for Road Base Construction in Mauritius
Mr Kamlesh Greedharry (UdM), Dr R. Goodary (UdM), Mr J. C. Gatina (UdM), Mr Keshav Mogun (UdM)
- 11 50 - 12 00** Digital Transformation in Higher Education: A Hybrid Learning Approach for Practical-Oriented Module—Database Design and Development—A Case Study at Université des Mascareignes
Mrs Shameera Lauthan (UdM)
- 12 00 - 12 10** The Breakthrough of Forensic Phonetics in Mauritian Context to Challenge AI in Voice Analysis
Mrs Deepa Roy Sookara-Ramchurn (MIE)
- 12 10 - 12 20** A Conceptual Study on AI-Powered Mobile Payments: Trust, Security, and Adoption in the Era of Digital Transformation
Mrs Leenshya Gunnoo (UTM), Eric Bindah (UoM)



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

UNIVERSITE DES MASCAREIGNES
Day 4 of the National Research Week 2025 – Thursday 17 April 2025
“Tech Horizons –Pioneering Future Technologies”
Rose-Hill Campus

- 12 20 - 12 30** Application of Deep Learning to Monitor Adherence of Covid-19 Pandemic Guidelines in Mauritius
Mr Muhammad Bin Abubakr Joolfoo (UoM)
- 12 30 - 12 40** Design and Implementation of a Smart Kitchen for Mauritian Seniors: Integrating Voice-Controlled v/s Arduino-Based Automation
Mr Yovesh Bhiwoo (UoM), Mr S. Venkannah (UoM), Mrs S. Ramsamy-Iranah (ADI)
- 12 40 - 12 50** Towards the Search for Neural Network-Based Decoding Models for Polar Codes with Improved Performance
Dr Yogesh Beeharry (UoM)
- 12 50 - 13 00** A Hybrid Approach to Risk Management: Evaluating Captive and Parametric Insurance on the African Landscape
Ms Danisha Marthen (UoM) , Dr N. Mamode Khan (UoM)
- 13 00 - 13 10** Building Smart and Resilient Infrastructure in Mauritian Cities
Dr (Ms) Y. Baguant (UoM)
- 13 10 - 13 20** SMEs Tax Compliance Behaviour in the Digital Era: A Bibliometric Analysis
Ms Silungile Vuyisile Sihlongonyane (UoM), Ms R. Belahouaoui (UoM), Mr D. Ramdhony (UoM)
- 13 20 - 13 30** Translation of Kreol Morisien to English and English to Kreol Morisien
Ms Beebee Zaheenah Jameela Boodeea (UoM), Mr S. Pudaruth (UoM), Mr N. Chooramun (UoM), Mr A. Sukhoo (UoM)
- 13 30 - 13 40** Development of a Climate Resilient Framework for Infrastructure
Dr Nowbuth Manta Devi (UoM)



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

Day 5 Theme: Research and Innovation in Action – Bridging Academia and Industry

MAURITIUS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL
PROGRAMME

Friday 18 April 2025

Octave Wiehe Auditorium,
University of Mauritius



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

MAURITIUS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL
Day 5 of the National Research Week 2025 – Friday 18 April 2025
“Research and Innovation in Action: Bridging Academia and Industry”
Octave Wiehe Auditorium, University of Mauritius

Opening Ceremony

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 08:30 - 09:00 | Registration and Welcome |
| 09:00 - 09:05 | Welcome Address
Prof. Theesan Bahorun, GOSK
Executive Director, Mauritius Research, and Innovation Council (MRIC) |
| 09:05 - 09:20 | Address by Minister
Hon. Dr. Kaviraj Sharma Sukon. PFHEA
Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research (MoTESR) |
| 09:20 - 09:30 | Signature of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology Ltd (MIBL) and University of Mauritius (UoM) |
| 09:30 - 09:45 | Keynote Address
Dr. Manish Diwan
Head – Biofoundry, NCR Biotech Cluster & IVCOL
Mission Director - Make in India for Biotech sector
Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) |
| 09:45 - 10:00 | Tea/Coffee Break |



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

Keynote session



Dr. Manish Diwan,

Head - Biofoundry, NCR Biotech Cluster & Indian Vaccine Corporation Ltd (IVCOL) at BIRAC, Mission Director - Make In India Biotech sector, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India

Dr Manish Diwan is an accomplished leader with 30+ years of experience driving the innovation ecosystem, grant administration, and project management. He has proven track record of nurturing and empowering the biotech innovation ecosystem through large national programs for the Government of India. Being a key driver of sectoral initiatives such as Startup India and Make in India, Dr Diwan has played a pivotal role in developing strategic collaborations with national and international stakeholders. His contributions extend to serving on national committees and advisory boards, as well as shaping policy reforms to foster the innovation ecosystem growth.



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

As the principal architect of BIRAC's national flagship schemes, Dr Diwan has (1) enabled risk funding through grants, equity, and co-investments such as the Fund of Funds, (2) set up incubation centres for capacity building and human resource development (3) promoted deep tech innovations through mentorship, expert guidance, and industry partnerships (4) developed a world class 'iBRIC+ Bioscience Innovation Park' in 200 acres of NCR Biotech Cluster promoting bio-innovation and bio-manufacturing.

Dr Diwan has also driven several key policy initiatives, including India's BioEconomy mapping, the launch of *Global Bio-India* as an international marquee showcasing platform, and the establishment of technology clusters with pilot and manufacturing facilities. His efforts have also focused on field validation for startup solutions, facilitating access to regulatory guidance, scaling the ecosystem, and fostering global integration through strategic partnerships. Additionally, he has contributed to the development of the *Incubation Manager's Practice School*.

With a strong background in pharmaceuticals, molecular pharmacology, and immunology, Dr Diwan has successfully led cross-functional teams in drug discovery, translational research, and early clinical development across India, Japan, the USA, the UK, Canada, and South Korea. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing scientific innovation and fostering international collaboration in the biotechnology sector.



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

MAURITIUS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL
Day 5 of the National Research Week 2025 – Friday 18 April 2025
“Research and Innovation in Action: Bridging Academia and Industry”
Octave Wiehe Auditorium, University of Mauritius

Session 1 – Industry-Based Research

- 10:00 - 10:15** **Research areas for Industry**
Prof. Romeela Mohee, CSK
Commissioner, Higher Education Commission (HEC)
- 10:15 - 10:25** **Academia-Industry Linkages for Innovation**
Prof Surya Raghu
Visiting Professor, Wits University (South Africa)
- 10:25 - 10:45** **HEC's Research Schemes – An overview and its implementation**
Dr. Ashokabose Moorgawa
Ag. Head and Planning, Higher Education Commission (HEC)
- Advancing Research for Impact**
Dr. Anjusha Durberry
Research Officer, Higher Education Commission (HEC)
- 10:45 - 11:00** **Presentations - Highlighting research projects funded by the HEC that exemplify successful industry applications**
- (1) Nanofertilizers/nanostimulants for plants promoting 'One Health' [video]
Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research (CBBR), Ingenia Ltd, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (USA), University of Illinois (USA), Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI), Researcher exchange between USA and CBBR supported by National Science Foundation (USA) - Center for Complex Particle Systems (COMPASS)
- (2) Manufacture of composites from waste polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and coconut fibres
Assoc. Prof. Dr Baboo Yashwansingh Ranveersingh Surnam
University of Mauritius (UoM)
- (3) Risk Management Framework for Improving Solar Photovoltaic System Bankability in Mauritius
Assoc. Prof. Yatindra Kumar Ramgolan
University of Mauritius (UoM)



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

MAURITIUS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL
Day 5 of the National Research Week 2025 – Friday 18 April 2025
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Octave Wiehe Auditorium, University of Mauritius

Session 1 – Industry-Based Research

11:00 – 12:00 **Round Table Discussion: Integrating Industry Needs with Academic Research focused on aligning research agendas with market demands**

Panelists:

- Mr. Hanzzy Mundil, Business Development Manager, Noveprim Group - A Charles River Company
- Dr. Sanchita Mukherjee, Director & COO, Rigel Bioenviron Solutions Pvt Ltd, India
- Dr. Manish Putteeraj, Senior Lecturer, University of Technology, Mauritius
- Dr. Veda Sunassee, Chief Executive Officer, African Leadership College (ALC) Mauritius and African Leadership University (ALU) Rwanda and representative of Association of Private Higher Education Institutions (APHEI)

Moderator: Mr. Raj Makoond

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**

Session 2 - Entrepreneurship Ecosystem/Incubators/Incubatees /Beneficiaries

13:00 – 13:05 **Introductory Speech**
Prof. Theesan Bahorun, GOSK
Executive Director, Mauritius Research, and Innovation Council (MRIC)

13:05 – 13:25 **Presentations by MRIC-funded incubatees/beneficiaries, demonstrating project evolution with industry guidance and giving a 5-minute TED-style talk**

- Creating craft products using *Ravenala Madagascariensis* and Textile by Miss Geeta Ramparsad from Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI)
- Dodo Explorer (Mauritius) by Teenaven KYLASOPATHAN from Centre for Innovation, Professional Development, and Incubation (CIPDI), Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd
- Dodobird.ai by Thierry Lincoln from La Plage Factory
- Aromacare by Elodie Desvaux De Marigny from Blossom Factory by JKC Foundation



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Session 2 - Entrepreneurship Ecosystem/Incubators/Incubatees /Beneficiaries

- 13:25 - 13:30** **Talk: Consolidating the Startup Ecosystem in Mauritius**
Dr. Vickram Bissonauth
Research Coordinator, Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC)
- 13:30 - 14:30** **Interactive Discussion: Creating Value through Research - Building a Collaborative Innovation Ecosystem for Mauritius**
- Panel members:**
- Mr. Roshan Seebaluck, Manager, Centre for Innovation, Professional Development, and Incubation (CIPDI), Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd
 - Mr. Michel Cordani, Co-founder/Director, La Plage Factory
 - Ms. Lillka Cuttaree, Director, Blossom Factory by JKC Foundation
 - Mr. Thierry Lincoln, Dodobird.ai (incubated by La Plage Factory)
 - Dr. Manish Diwan, NCR Biotech Cluster & IVCOL at BIRAC, Mission Director - Make In India Biotech sector, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India
 - Dr Brinda Ramasawmy, Assoc. Prof. UoM, Dept of Agricultural production and systems
 - Mr. Vidia Mooneegan, Chief Executive Officer, Dayforce
- Moderator: Dr Vickram Bissonauth, Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC)**
- 14:30 - 14:40** **Coffee/Tea Break**



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

MAURITIUS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL
Day 5 of the National Research Week 2025 – Friday 18 April 2025
“Research and Innovation in Action: Bridging Academia and Industry”
Octave Wiehe Auditorium, University of Mauritius

Session 3 - Preparing for Industry 5.0

14:30 - 14:40

Introductory Speech

Ms Zaahira Ebrahimjee

Head of National Economic Collaboration, Business Mauritius

14:50 - 15:50

Round Table Discussion: Future-Proofing Academic Research for Industry 5.0 - Exploring the evolution of academia-industry partnerships with insights from sector leaders to with market demands and industry trends

Panelists:

- Dr. Drishtysingh Ramdenee, Secretary General, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. Mehul Bhatt, Chief Strategy Officer, Bioculture Ltd
- Mr. Geerish Bucktowonsing, Director, Industry, SMEs, Freeport & Logistics, Economic Development Board
- Mr. Tan Chee Peng, CEO, Team SYNthesis - online intervention via zoom as from 15 hours
- Mr. Ruben Munien, CIEL Group
- Prof. Mari Jansen van Rensburg, CEO, Middlesex University Mauritius Campus

Moderator: Dr. Manish Diwan, Head - Biofoundry, NCR Biotech Cluster & IVCOLat BIRAC, Mission Director - Make In India Biotech sector, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India

15:50 - 16:00

Rapporteur's Brief

16:00 - 16:05

Way Forward and Vote of Thanks



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research



National Research Week 2025

Uniting Research, Industry and Innovation

14-18 APRIL 2025

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