



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10/10/2013

SCCI MEETS MCCI TO DISCUSS FEIOI ECONOMIC FORUM ISSUES

The Seychelles Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) held a working meeting with the Chairman of the *Mauritius Chamber of Commerce & Industry*, Mr. **Ganesh Ramalingum** on Monday 7th October.

The *SCCI Chairman* Mr. **Marco Francis** chaired the meeting, which primarily focused on the upcoming *Forum Economique des Iles de L'Ocean Indien (FEIOI)* to be held in Mauritius from 21st to 23rd October 2013.

Mr. Ramalingum informed the meeting on the topics to be tabled at the forum, which aims to resolve key pertinent issues relevant to economic cooperation between the Indian Ocean Island states. The topics discussed centered around:

- ***Arbitration and Disputes Resolution*** – Resolving disputes in a Court of Law normally takes two to five years. Other methods such as arbitration and mediation are being proposed with proper courses and training being offered to assist people to become mediators. Training courses are being offered in Mauritius from 4th to 11th November 2013. SCCI councilors and members are invited to attend.
- ***Tourism, Security and Food Security*** – These are the main topics for discussion at the forum where a good turnout of over 200 participants are expected from New Zealand, Australia, Zanzibar, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Mayotte, Comores, Reunion, Seychelles.
- ***Improved connectivity*** – This is a prime topic of concern for the Indian Ocean member states which will be debated at length and solutions proposed in order to improve trade, communications commerce and business relations within the region.
- ***IT Workshops*** – Workshops to help train the forum participants will be organized.
- ***Business match making meetings*** – SCCI members are encouraged to attend the forum, as it will also provide them with an opportunity to meet up on a one-on-one basis with other businessmen from the region through the appointments schedule.
- ***Renewable Energy*** – Participants will discuss and exchange ideas on this topic and get expert advice on integrating renewable energy sources into business.

- ***The Blue Economy*** – Presentations by experts will enable participants to familiarize themselves with the prospects and development within this sector.

The MCCI Chairman also informed the meeting that the Indian Ocean Commission recently financed a consultancy study on the issue of connectivity with recommendations. A feasibility study is also being done by the Food & Agricultural Organisation and European Union, which is organising a big scale agricultural project in Madagascar with phyto-sanitary measures being put in place.

The SCCI Chairman proposed that more incentives such as a decrease in tax levy for importation of goods from COMESA countries would further encourage local traders to do more business with the Indian Ocean countries.



-ENDS-