



IN COLLABORATION WITH



“Signature of Grant Agreement Ceremony”

Closing remarks by Mr Dhanesswurnath Thakoor

Chief Executive, Financial Services Commission

Day 1: 18 May 2023

The Westin Turtle Bay Resort & Spa, Balaclava, Mauritius

Mr Harvesh Kumar SEEGOLAM, Governor of the Bank of Mauritius and Chairperson of the RCE Governing Board;

Mr Mardayah KONA YERUKUNONDU, Chairperson of the Financial Services Commission, First Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius, co-chair of the RCE Governing Board

Board members of the FSC;

Dr Navin Beekarry, Director General, Independent Commission against Corruption

Members of the RCE Governing Board;

Dr Carmine DI NOIA, Director for Finance and Enterprise Affairs of the OECD;

Mrs Sadhna Sewraj-Gopal, Second Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius

Captains of the Industry;

Members of the Press;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

All protocols observed;

I wish you all a good afternoon.

It gives me great pleasure to address a few words to you to close this event. Through the signature of this Grant Agreement, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have today rendered public, the mutual interests of the Financial Services Commission, the Bank of Mauritius and the OECD, to pursue the agenda of the Regional Centre of Excellence, which is to deliver capacity building programs at the local and regional levels. The presence of the Director for Finance and Enterprise Affairs of the OECD, the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius and the Chairperson of the Financial Services Commission to this event here, underscores the importance of this ceremony. The Grant Agreement is not just a statement of intention, but epitomises the work already being carried out by the Regional Centre of Excellence which operates under the aegis of the Financial Services Commission.

The success of any undertaking, Ladies and Gentleman, is measured in terms of its key performance indicators. The RCE, after being set up in March 2019, launched its first proper capacity building program in November 2020, despite the challenges posed then by the COVID 19 pandemic. Since then, the statistics are eloquent. Ten capacity building programs have been launched as at date, the current one is number 11. This means on average one event every quarter and through these events 2,850 participants have been reached coming from 113 different countries. This means, Ladies and Gentleman, that in every event there were 285 participants on average. I can't find other words, to underscore the success of the work undertaken by the Regional Centre of Excellence so far.

The RCE has not contented itself in the delivery of the capacity building programs only. Looking back at the event of 2020 and the event that we are hosting today, you will note a constant quest for excellence in the way the events are organised, in the way the programs are disseminated and in the way the participants are made to interact with the team. From a manual registration process in 2020, today I did note that, there were state of the art QR

code based automatic registration. And the website as well as the interactive programs that have been set up, give the attendees a portal not only to participate, but to be part of the event whether through the speeches, the videos and the knowledge base that are constantly displayed. I am given to understand that they are still working further to make these events much more interactive, much more involved. This is the reason why, since the first day, the number of participants to each of the events is increasing and we have a large number of participants looking forward to the next programs and the feedbacks that have been dropped also very encouraging. I would like to seize this opportunity to commend the staff of the RCE for their work so far.

Allow me, distinguished members of the RCE Governing Board, to conclude that the intentions behind the signature of the MoU between the Government of Mauritius and the OECD have now already been translated into an excellent program and I do believe that we have good reasons to expect better, more topical and more interactive programs for the future.

With these words, I would like again to thank Dr. Carmine Di Noia, for taking time from his busy schedule to visit us for this purpose, the Governor and the Chairman for their presence at this ceremony.

Thank you very much.

Mr Dhanesswurnath Thakoor

18 May 2023