



**Financial Services Commission
Mauritius**

Communiqué

Workshop on “The Mauritian Woman as a pillar to our economic development: The Journey”

The Financial Services Commission (‘FSC’) conducted a workshop for its staff on the theme “The Mauritian Woman as a pillar to our economic development: The Journey” on 7th March 2013 at the FSC House.

With 1 billion women entering the workforce by 2023, it is critical for organizations to focus their development efforts on this growing demographic. This means better understanding of the achievements of women, especially, Mauritian women and their contributions to our socio-economic world. The talk which focused on the positives and the journey of women in different fields - agriculture, the manufacturing industry, social and financial services aimed at further broadening the perspective of women and men and to inspire them to work for the development of the country collectively.

To that effect a panel of women who are involved in different economic/social sectors of the economy were invited to talk about their respective fields and experience for the occasion.

The Chief Executive of the FSC, Ms. Clairette Ah-Hen who was part of the panel shared her perspective and journey in the financial services sector. She shared her experience as a participant to a CSR initiative - “Take a girl child to work”- in South Africa, during which, she had the opportunity to be shadowed at work for a day by a 10 year old. She stated *“that she learnt as much from the girl, if not more and that this incident provided her with a lot of insight and knowledge into humanity”* and added that *“it is important to understand our society and its impact on our economic world to make the best decision”*.

Ms Ah-Hen was joined by other speakers, namely:

Ms. Shivrani Ori, from the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit, who spoke on the contribution of women in the evolution and development of the agricultural sector. She highlighted the importance of empowering women *“so that they are involved in more innovative agricultural activities as they play a key role in the changing food habits”*.

Danielle Wong, who spent 33 years in the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) talked about her experience as woman who succeeded to get to the top in this highly male-dominated sector in the manufacturing sector. She clearly believes *“that being a woman has helped her enormously to promote and improve the image of that industry”* and added that *“women add value to their business because of their creativity and innovative approach.”*

Marylene Francois, founder of Open Mind Centre and also an experienced journalist of 26 years spoke on the importance of humanity in life and in any career, as well as the contribution of women in community work at different phases of socio-economic development. She further spoke on the evolution of women’s rights which started since the 1980’s in Mauritius.

The workshop was also an interactive session which included discussions and sharing of views with the audience.

Financial Services Commission
07 March 2013