Report on

World Environment Day 2016
Technological Innovations for Sustainable Development & Environmental Protection

Information and Education Division

8 June 2016
WED is celebrated every year on 05 June following a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972.

The World Environment Day is the United Nation’s principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. Over the years WED has grown to be a broad, global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated by stakeholders in over 100 countries. It seeks to empower people to:

•   Become active agents of sustainable development;
•   Promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environment issues;
•   Give a human face to environment issues;
•   Advocate multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the environment.

Every year a theme is chosen to mark this event and the theme is aimed to inspire people around the world to take action to prevent the growing strain on planet Earth’s natural systems from reaching breaking point.

This year the theme chosen by the United Nations Environment Programme is “Go Wild for Life”. This is based on the fight against the illegal trade in wildlife. This unlawful practice erodes our precious biodiversity and threatens the survival of awesome species such as elephants, rhinos and tigers as well as plants such as wild orchids and timbers like Rosewood.

This Ministry has been celebrating the World Environment Day since many years in order to raise awareness for environment protection. This year, to mark the World Environment Day 2016, a series of activities has been organized.
The main activity comprised a regional fair at the Gymkhana, Vacoas from the 2\textsuperscript{nd} to 5\textsuperscript{th} June 2016. This regional fair had given the general public the opportunity to take cognizance of technological innovations and best environmental practices through:

i. Display of environmentally friendly products such as solar water heaters, solar panels, composting units, rainwater harvesters, handicrafts products and recycled products,

ii. Sales of eco-bulbs, eco-bags, bio products, composts, medicinal and decorative plants, amongst others.

iii. Information panel on projects that have been undertaken to safeguard and enhance our environment namely coastal protection and rehabilitation works, biodiversity conservation projects, sustainable consumption and production.

iv. Innovations were also displayed from other countries and international organizations such as India, China, Japan, Australia, Egypt, France, South Africa, Indian Ocean Commission and the Europe Union to showcase valuable contribution to the promotion of Sustainable Development.

The opening ceremony comprised a defile of cars (Mini, Minor & Coquecinelle) starting at the market of Vacoas and ending at Gymkhana. Same has been accompanied by Marjorette of QEC and Police Band, SMF Bag Pipers, NGOs and general public.

The award of prizes for Embellir Maurice competition and the launching of a booklet on Sustainable Development have also been carried out during the Event.

There will be a prize giving to participants of exhibition for the best stand. A best wish competition has also been carried out and the winner will be awarded a return air ticket to Rodrigues.
OTHER ACTIVITIES

(a) This Ministry in collaboration with the City Council of Port Louis, has unveiled an ‘Environment Monument’ on 5 June 2016 at the Jardin de la Compagnie.

The Environment Monument pays tribute to the Institutions, public and private organization, NGO’s as well as citizens of the Republic of Mauritius for their invaluable contributions for promoting environment and sustainable development for the betterment of our country and for our future generations.

It also inspires others to do all that is possible to protect our environment. It symbolizes the commitment of people for a legacy so that Mauritius and the world become a better place to live in.

(b) Sensitisation programme in the media through:
   (1) Billboards
   (2) Radio Spots
   (3) Press Communiqués
   (4) Sensitisation in schools, social welfare centres and women centres

(c) Workshop on Gender and the Environment
(d) Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
(e) Compost unit at RochesNoires (scheduled on 12 June 2016)
(f) Tree of Hope (Being worked out)
Rally by Mauritius Police Force band, QEC majorette and Mini Car Club
• The programme is at Annex 1.

• The official opening ceremony of WED 2016 on 2 June 2016 comprised:-

  (i) Opening of the exhibition with the participation of 60 public and private sector organizations and NGO along with some friendly counties’. The list of exhibitors is at Annex 2.

  (ii) Award of prizes for Embellir Maurice Competition.

  (iii) Launching of a booklet on Sustainable Development.

A. OPENING CEREMONY

The official opening ceremony of WED 2016 was marked by the esteemed presence of:

❖ Hon Xavier- Luc DUVAL, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications, Chief Guest;

❖ Lady Sarojni JUGNAUTH;

❖ The Hon. Alain WONG YEN CHEONG, MSK, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms and Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management; Speech of Hon. Minister is at Annex 3.

❖ Mr Simon SPRINGETT, UN Resident Representative and UNDP Resident Coordinator.
Address by Senior Chief Executive, Mr. GrishGunrazGunesh

Poem by children of the Indian Ocean Centre for Education and Human Values
Addresses by Mr. Simon Springett, UN Resident Representative & UNDP Resident Coordinator

Guests
Address by The Hon. Alain Wong, MSK, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms and Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management
Address by The Hon. Charles Gaetan Xavier Luc Duval, GCSK, FCA, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications

B. Prize Giving for Embellir Maurice Competition
Award of Prizes in presence of Lady Sarojini Jugnauth and The Hon. Xavier Luc Duval
C. Launching of Booklet on Sustainable Development
Gifts being given to chief guests
D. Show by Majorettes of QEC, SMF Bag Pipers, Police and Prison Bands.
E. Visit of stands by Guests
F. Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals
G. Quiz Competition with children on Friday 03 June 2016

H. Talk from Slow Food TipaTipa on biodiversity on Friday 03 June 2016
I. Talk from Save Earth Co. Ltd on Saturday 04 June 2016
J.Dog Show by the Mauritius Police Force on Sunday 5 June 2016
K. Demonstration by Mauritius Fire & Rescue Service on Sunday 05 June 2016
L. Kite Flying Activities and Children’s game on Sunday 5 June 2016
M. Unveiling of Environment Monument at Jardin de la Compagnie
Address by Mr. G.G. Gunesh, Senior Chief Executive, MOESDBM
Address by His Worship, Mr. M.O. Khooleegan, Lord Mayor of the City Council of Port Louis

Address by The Hon. M.R.A. Wong, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms and Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management
Chief Guests prior to unveiling of monument

Cutting of ribbon by the chief guests
Chief guests and the environment monument