

Half – day workshop on Observatoire de L’Environnement

Research & Development component

The Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change in collaboration with the University of Mauritius, organised a half-day workshop on the setting up of a Research and Development component of the Observatoire de l’Environnement at the University of Mauritius, Réduit on Tuesday 08 September 2020.

The main roles of an environmental observatory are, *inter alia*, to:

- monitor environmental indicators which assesses the state of the environment;
- generate periodic reports such as state of the environment report;
- collect environmental data and provide accessibility to these data;
- disseminate environmental information to the public; and
- provide evidence based scientific information to policy makers for rational decision making.

The observatory to be set up will comprise several components, one of which is the Science to Policy platform. This platform would promote research for proper policy development and to respond to emerging environmental challenges.

The workshop was opened by Honourable Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun, GCSK, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, in the presence of Honourable K. Ramano, Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change and Professor D. Jhurry, CSK, GOSK, Vice Chancellor of the University of Mauritius.

In his speech, the Honourable K. Ramano highlighted the importance of having the collaboration of all partners including government, private institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations, youth and women community for the successful functioning of the observatory. He stressed that the model of the Observatoire de l’Environnement would rest on the following four fundamental principles: inclusiveness, participation, transparency and accessibility to information.

Some 100 participants from the public and private sectors, the academia, research institutions as well as Non-Governmental Organisations brainstormed on the modalities and way forward to set up the Research and Development component that would support and enhance applied research and innovation on environmental issues.

Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change

18 September 2020