

SM organizes presentations on key sectors of the economy

In order to get a better insight on developments in different sectors of the economy, SM is organizing presentations by various institutions to enable its staff to better understand the industries and respond more effectively to users' needs.

The first of this series of presentations was dedicated to tourism. Bhavik Desai, co-author of the report entitled *The Mauritian Tourism Industry* published by Axy's Group Ltd, gave an overview of the industry on Thursday 12 February 2015 to officers of SM, MOFED, Ministry of Tourism as well as to members of the Statistics Board committee on 'Improvement of tourism statistics'.

The presenter conveyed that the Mauritian tourism industry is stagnating and is being overtaken by other regional destinations mainly due to local policies and strategies that have now become obsolete. He pledged that the solution is for a technocratic high level steering committee comprising stakeholders from both the public and private sector to be set up to work towards the advancement of tourism.

At the level of SM, it is felt that the analytical work undertaken by Axy's provides useful inputs to better package its statistics for policy makers.

The Statistics Office of Senegal initiates SM's collaboration on statistical development

A high-level delegation from Senegal was on mission to Mauritius in February 2015 and had a meeting with SM Director, Aimee Cheung on the 12th. The mission comprised, among others, heads of the Planning and Economic Policy, the Taxes and Customs Departments, the Investment Agency and the Director General of the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD). The main objective of their mission was to learn about major reforms undertaken in Mauritius to improve the business climate.

Aimee Cheung briefed them about the SM-driven initiatives in the process, particularly the adherence of Mauritius to SDDS with a view of attracting FDI. She also had a bilateral meeting with Aboubacar Sedikh Beye, her Senegalese counterpart, to discuss areas of cooperation. She shared our experience on labour and national accounts statistics, and provided copies of our household survey questionnaires. Senegal, in turn, offered to share their expertise with Mauritius on GIS and use of tablet PCs for censuses and surveys.

AfDB notes good progress in the development of the SBR at SM

SM is receiving Technical Assistance from AfDB to develop a Statistical Business Register (SBR) since 2013. In this context, Besa Muwele, AfDB Senior Regional Statistician and Michael Colledge, SBR Expert, fielded a mission at the office from 23 to 27 February 2015 to review progress and to discuss how the Mauritian SBR system can be adapted for use as a generic model on the African Continent.

At the end of the mission, the consultants were very satisfied with the progress and were highly confident that the SBR system is fit for presentation at the next World Statistical Congress (WSC) to be held in Brazil in July 2015. Sariff Mungralee, Senior Statistician and Vikash Madhow, IT consultant at SM will be showcasing the SBR, qualified as *state of the art technology* by Michael Colledge, at the WSC.

How to make Presentations?

Officers of Statistics Mauritius are often called upon to present statistical information to different audiences, both locally and abroad, at meetings, workshops, seminars or simply to train field staff for censuses and surveys.



In this context, in January this year, Mr. Deepuk Bahadour, Deputy Director at SM, made a presentation on 'How to make a good presentation' to an audience comprising mostly statisticians. The aim was to enhance the skills of SM's staff in presenting information clearly and effectively. He shared his knowledge and experience on how best to communicate to audiences taking into account the following: objectives of the presentation, type/interests of the audience, structure of the presentation, duration of presentation, venue, and presentation aids available. He also showed how to plan and prepare the contents of presentations including the slides preparation and how to effectively communicate it to the audience.