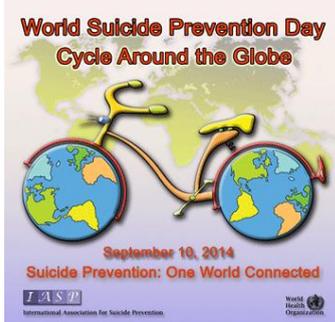


## World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)



Every 40 seconds a person commits suicide across the world, and every year almost 800,000+ people die from suicidal acts.

In 2003, the emergency alarm was triggered by the International Association for

Suicide Prevention about this escalating societal scourge which infiltrates both sexes and all age groups. Observed on 10 September every calendar year, the WSPD has as initiative to raise awareness that suicide is a major preventable cause of premature death.

In Mauritius as well, suicide is a cause for concern. In 2013, 412 attempted cases of suicide were reported to the police out of which 100 resulted in deaths. Suicide accounted for 1.6% of all deaths among men against 0.4% among women.

## National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) sensitises public officers via its roadshow



The NPCC, ever since its inception in 1999, has been labouring on promoting a productivity culture in Mauritius. It organised a roadshow on Wednesday 3

September 2014 in Port Louis with the aim at sensitising public officers on the importance of productivity at the workplace.

In the same vein, two NPCC officers gave a presentation to SM staff on productivity issues on 3 September 2014. They stressed that human resources are instrumental in productivity improvement, and that people have to change to improve productivity. They talked about the approach adopted by the NPCC to let people become productive namely about productivity tools such as KAIZEN, Total Quality Management, Financial Management, and soft skills training on communication skills, customer care, team building.

## Mauritius aims at SDDS Plus (SDDS+)

SDDS+ is the third tier of the IMF's data standards initiatives. It builds on the SDDS to guide member countries on the provision of economic and financial data to the public in support of domestic and international financial stability. The SDDS+ was approved by the IMF's Executive Board in February 2012.

Mauritius which graduated to SDDS in February 2012, is aiming at achieving SDDS+ by 2019. A technical committee chaired by the Director of Statistics and comprising representatives of MOFED, BOM, SM and FSC oversees observance of the SDDS requirements and provides guidance towards SDDS+ adherence. In particular, the committee is monitoring initiatives such as the conduct of joint surveys by SM, FSC and BOM, and the adoption of latest international standards on CPI, National Accounts, Government Financial Statistics, Balance of Payments and Monetary Financial Statistics.

## International Literacy Day 2014 (ILD2014)



September 8 is decreed as the International Literacy Day by the United Nations (UN). This year's theme is "Literacy and Sustainable Development".

A main global celebration was held in Dhaka, where the Government of Bangladesh in collaboration with the UNESCO organised the International Conference on "Girls' and women's literacy and education: Foundations for sustainable development and the awarding of UNESCO Literacy Prizes" in support for the UN Secretary General's Global Education First Initiative (GEFI).

In Mauritius, to mark the ILD2014, a ceremony was held at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, Bell Village by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, where the importance of basic literacy and numeracy skills in enabling individuals to function effectively in adult life was highlighted. On that occasion, the National Women's Council awarded certificates to some 160 women who took part in a dictation competition in English and French.