

### Are Mauritians happy?



According to the first ever United Nations World Happiness Report released in April, Mauritius is the 64<sup>th</sup> happiest nation among some 155 countries worldwide. The top four happiest countries are Denmark, Finland, Norway and Netherlands; on the other extreme, the bottom four countries (all in Sub-Saharan Africa) are Togo, Benin, Central African Republic and Sierra Leone.

The rankings are based on a "life evaluation score" which takes into account a variety of factors including people's health, family and job security as well as social factors like political freedom and corruption. It is found that though happier countries tend to be richer countries, quality of life is more important than income in making people happy.

It is worth noting that a sub-committee has been set up under the Statistics Board to look into more relevant indicators of quality of life, economic performance and social progress in the country with a view to better inform government policy.

### Statistics Board approves the conduct of the Census of Agriculture and the Census of Economic Activities

Further to amendments brought in the Statistics Act in July last year, the Statistics Board is now mandated, in lieu of the Minister, to approve the conduct of surveys. At its sixth meeting on 13 April, the Board approved the conduct of Census of Agriculture (CoA) 2013 and Census of Economic Activity (CEA) 2013.

CoA is being taken for the second time, the first one dating as far back as in 1940. It will be conducted from January to April 2013 and will collect data from agricultural holdings involved in crop growing and livestock breeding.

CEA 2013 is the sixth CEA to be carried out by the office. It will be conducted from January 2013 to December 2014 and will collect data on the operating characteristics and structure of all economic activities in the country in order to obtain benchmark data for updating National Accounts estimates.

### Stats M to assist DRC in Tourism Statistics

The Director of the National Office of Tourism of the DRC and the Director of Stats M signed an agreement on 30 March to the effect that the National Office of Tourism and the National Statistics Office of DRC will shortly send a group of officers to Stats M for skills development and upgrading at a practical level.

### Stats M conducts Census@School

Stats M is currently conducting the CensusAtSchool project in secondary schools. This project aims at improving the statistical literacy of students and combines fun with learning.

Building upon the success obtained last year when the project was deployed in primary schools, Stats M is now rolling down the project in 10 secondary schools. The Stats M team led by Melanie Luchmun shows secondary school students how to collect, process and interpret data as part of their classroom learning in Maths or IT. The students have to develop a CensusAtSchool questionnaire on areas on interest to them and administer the questionnaire to fellow students. They will also prepare a report on their findings. A trophy will be awarded to the school submitting the best report.



*Students measure arm span as part of CensusAtSchool activity at Saint Mary's college*

### Farewell to members of the 2011 Census team

At the end of April, the Census Team bid a fond farewell to 30 of its members who have worked diligently on various aspects of the census ranging from recruitment of fieldstaff to tracking of questionnaires as well as data editing and coding. Out of the 30, 20 have been redeployed to other units, mostly at the Household Budget Survey unit and 10 have been posted in different Ministries. Stats M wishes them all the best.