

### Stats M signs an MOU with Competition Commission of Mauritius

Stats M signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Competition Commission (CCM) on 16 May 2012. The MOU intends to foster co-ordination and collaboration between both institutions in the sharing of expertise in the areas of statistics and to facilitate requests for non-confidential information.



*Ms. L. F. Cheung Kai Suet, Director of Statistics shaking hands with Dr Sean F. Ennis, Executive Director of CCM at the signature ceremony*

### Stats M assists in tracking progress on MDG-EU programme

The European Union (EU) has granted Rs 400 million to improve the conditions of people living in vulnerable regions of the country. The focus of the programme is on the 4 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relating to reduction of extreme hunger and child mortality, improvement of maternal health, and increased access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The indicators which are being monitored are:-

- Proportion of poor people ;
- Under five and infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births);
- Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births); and
- Proportion of population with access to safe drinking water and an improved sanitation.

Stats M is assisting in the provision of relevant data for tracking progress. In this context, Ms Y. Cassimally, Deputy Director and Ms. C. Rughoobur, Statistician form part of the Monitoring Committee for these indicators

### Labour Day

Labour Day, celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> May, is a day of special significance for Mauritian workers who for many years have struggled for their social, political and economic rights. It is the day when we place the workforce on the forefront and celebrate their economic and social achievements.

The Mauritian workforce, in 2011, stood at 536,700 of whom 344,800 men and 191,900 women. The right of workers to form and join organisations is an integral part of a free and open society. As at December 2010, there were 378 trade unions with some 112,000 members. The unionisation rate is 21% of the workforce compared to 29% in United Kingdom, 22% in Japan, 10% in United States and 9% in France.

Men are more likely to be members of trade unions than women, with a rate of 22% compared to 18% for women.

### UNESCO fields a mission at Stats M

Within the context of UNESCO's support to the African Union's Second Decade of Education for Africa, the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) undertook a data quality assessment of education statistics in Mauritius in May 2011. The exercise entails an in-depth review of the ways in which national education statistics are produced through consultation with major stakeholders in the education sector.

In this context, UNESCO fielded a second mission in May 2012 to finalise the report which includes the strengths and weaknesses of the Mauritian Education Statistics System and recommendations for improvement. According to the report, the following main areas need to be strengthened:

- More coordination among national data producers to harmonise data collection
- Produce education indicators based on international norms
- Produce metadata on education statistics
- Explore online data capture

UNESCO will provide support to develop an action plan to address these weaknesses.