
THE
REUSABLE
ANNUAL
REPORT
2017

mexa
MAURITIUS EXPORT ASSOCIATION



THE
REUSABLE
ANNUAL
REPORT
2017



MISSION

TO BE THE REFERENCED ORGANISATION FOR EXPORTS



VISION

TO PROMOTE INTERESTS OF THE EXPORT COMMUNITY AND TO ASSIST THEM TO BECOME WORLD CLASS PLAYERS THROUGH VALUE-ADDED SERVICES



VALUES

MEXA:
CARING FOR ITS MEMBERS

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mauritius celebrated the 50th anniversary of its independence this year. Our island has certainly come a long way from where it started. Some predicted that we will end up as a failed state but here we are 50 years down the line, still battling along, but recognized as the best economy to do business with in Africa. The successful transformation of our economy through industrialization and diversification is recognized by the international community.

In July 1970, the EPZ Act came into force. It enabled the emergence of a manufacturing sector that transformed our economy. Since then, the export sector has remained a pillar of the Mauritian economy. It has faced several challenges during the past 48 years and each time it found the necessary resources, resilience and the motivation to adapt itself.

L&G we are at a crossroad again. Our export sector has contracted ominously in recent years, exports volumes have shrunk and revenues have dropped - by (3%) in 2017 following an (8%) drop in 2016. Our export sector contributed to just 4.9% of GDP while our manufacturing sector, as a whole, accounted for 13.3% of GDP in 2017. A close look at our export statistics show that T&A sector shrunk by (7%) - i.e Apparel (11%), Textile fabrics & Yarns grew +9%, Pearls & Precious stones by (24%), Jewellery (57%) whilst seafood and seafood preparations grew by 12%, watches and Clocks grew by 9%, Medical devices was up by 3%.

Brexit and the uncertainties it generated created havoc across our industry. Our exports to UK dropped by 7%. Exports to France recorded zero growth. There are a few good stories - Exports to other EU countries i.e Germany, Holland, Spain were up on previous year: Germany +59%, Spain + 15%, Netherlands +11%. Exports to a once growing market - South Africa - stalled at +1% as a result of local economic downturn fuelled by political instability.

The USA, which once represented a growing market for our T&A exports, has shrunk by (22%) - fuelled by competing bilateral trade agreements between US and other trade partners as well as a resurging national protective commercial agenda by the new administration. Once again, the specter of closures and delocalization of

operations to more favourable manufacturing sites are being debated by some, while others still believe in our ability to reinvent ourselves and use our strengths to leverage out of this syndrome. Yet again, the sector looks for inspiration to overcome the external factors.

Today, our export sector is competing not only against traditional countries but against emerging economies of South East Asia. We do not have the means to engage in a direct confrontation or rather compete for market share. In many cases we find ourselves competing in an un-level playing field - where a clever array of subsidies and subtle exchange rate interventions by some countries distort the rule of the game.

The distance to their markets, more frequent freight schedules, cheaper freight costs, economies of scale are clear advantages that our competitors enjoy. The labour costs in some countries we compete against are almost a third of ours.

IMPORTANCE OF THE EXPORT MANUFACTURING SECTOR

What conclusion can we thus draw from the statistics and the changing international markets. These export statistics are alarming. In their recent reports, both the IMF and the World Bank, have mentioned - that the capabilities of the Mauritian productive sector are fast eroding. Industrial FDI for the last 10 years has averaged a meagre of 0.85% of FDI, while our real estate sector grew by 26%. These statistics have fuelled the argument that we should drop our gauntlets and give up on our export-manufacturing sector.

However, the questions we need to put to ourselves are - CAN the Mauritian economy exist without an export-manufacturing sector? Can we rely on services and a few new sectors alone to create enough and quality jobs for our youths. Can we stop the brain drain and attract young talented professionals back to our island? Can we attract the Mauritian diaspora back to their homeland? Can we generate enough foreign income to cover for our imports and help regulate the trade deficit? Can we create a stable, resilient economy without a manufacturing export sector?

In a very recent presentation made by the World Bank at a workshop organised by the Economic Development Board a few days ago, it underlined that "the success of the Mauritian economy will rely on two important factors:

- Increase of FDI into productive sectors
- Stronger export performance of both goods and services."

Well-known economists have stressed that a manufacturing sector shields an economy from cyclical economic upheavals and diminishes the risk of recession. It is undeniable that a small economy like Mauritius, with an enduring trade deficit of Rs 9 billion, requires a strong Manufacturing sector geared towards exports. An export manufacturing sector should constitute the very foundation of its economic development. We are convinced that it is more than urgent that the country comes up with a sustainable industrial development strategy and that EDB takes the challenge to attract more industrial FDI which has not been the case for the last 10 years.

L&G, the Mauritian Export sector knows its limitations and constraints. It has regularly analysed its challenges and developed strategies to overcome them. It has continuously strived to highlight them in a clear transparent manner that have resonated positively and found sympathetic consideration. Thus some of the recent measures that have been implemented by Government have definitely given a boost to the export sector - namely:

- The Speed to Market scheme which granted 40% air freight rebate on exports to EU is helping companies to change their export strategy and overcome the distance handicap.
- Corporate Tax rebate scheme; i.e a reduction of corporate tax from 15% to 3% for export companies will help operators modernise and transform their equipment and production systems to achieve higher efficiency and productivity.
- The Exchange Rate Support Scheme announced in September last year to mitigate the revenue shortfall as a result of a strong Mauritian Rupee has helped companies tackle their cash flow issues.

These measures are unprecedented. We seize the opportunity to thank the Government for having endorsed and implemented such bold measures.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

• CONTINUED •

In essence these measures are inherently transitional and designed to give a boost while creating sufficient momentum for a more fundamental transformation. They have to be maintained while we transition to a different model.

And transformation is happening to our market place. World trade and commerce are going through a major shift. The technological revolution generated by digitisation is resulting in disruptive forces spreading across all aspects of business and commerce - impacting the distribution of goods and services and buying patterns of consumers. The rise of e-commerce is changing the rules of the game. E-trade has severely affected traditional brick and mortar retailers, who unfortunately are still our main customers. There is an upsurge of e-tailers and e-commerce businesses today. Online purchases and e-commerce is growing at 23% year on year.

Could this new paradigm and the inexorable course of events it has generated be turned to our advantage? We believe they can and we should be part of it.

To exploit the opportunities, we need to have an **Integrated Value Chain** that combines secondary and tertiary capabilities to transform semi finished raw materials into finished goods delivered to the final customers. We should complement a B to B with a strong a B to C model quickly. Such an **Integrated Value Chain** rests on a few important drivers – **Speed & flexibility, Air and Sea Connectivity, Cost competitive manufacturing base, Efficiency & High productivity, High quality Customer Service.**

Our export sector will indeed have to undergo a profound transformation to able to be part of this new paradigm. Vision for a new Export Sector:
L&G, with this in mind, allow me to share MEXA's vision of our future Export Sector: We believe that the new export sector should be built around the following fundamentals:

1. An Integrated value chain that combines its various components to enable a country competitive advantage to be put forward. Furthermore we need to extend our value chain by extending our reach to the final customer. Warehousing and control on our supply chain are key components. For example, MEXA is facilitating a study to determine if a warehouse in Tanzania will enhance our ability to penetrate the African sub-Saharan markets. This study will culminate into a business

opportunity for our export community and will enhance our integrated value chain capability. We also need to federate the small medium enterprises together with our larger operators and enhance their capabilities in the process. MEXA will set up a mentorship program for the smaller operators where the larger more structured companies can assist and guide the smaller ones.

2. A business environment that promotes innovation, creativity and high quality. A high tech savvy, highly competent, knowledge based workforce capable of rivalling against the world's best. A closer collaboration between academia and industry has proven to be pivotal in advanced economies. MEXA through the Dual Training Program in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour has started to do just that. The first set of 38 students in engineering and logistics have been trained and have been employed by the companies that participated in the project.

3. Investment in Manufacturing Sector - A constant flow of Investment into the manufacturing sector enabling it to grow its contribution from 13 to 25% of our GDP by 2030. We need to be able to create and sustain favourable conditions to attract foreign FDI into the productive sectors of our economy.

4. Air & Sea connectivity
The importance of air and sea connectivity cannot be overstated. Our insularity and geographical location has been a source of disadvantage with respect to our traditional export markets. The Air-freight rebate scheme is of tremendous importance to our sector and must be maintained. Similarly our sea connectivity has to be improved as we plan to penetrate the regional market more aggressively. The freight rebate scheme has helped and continues to help. The productivity and efficiency along with hours of operations of our port infrastructure are critical for our export sector. Our container terminal should be able to compete with others in the region. The recent adverse weather conditions saw the container terminal closed for operations for 19 days since the beginning of this year compared to 18 days in 2016. This is an unexpected blow to our sector. We understand that the feasibility to implement the break water project along with the island container terminal has kicked off. Hopefully we will be able to see the project through its implementation otherwise we will remain vulnerable.

5. A better synergy between our offshore sector and onshore manufacturing base allowing sourcing of goods and products from local companies. There are 11,000 companies in our offshore sector. Yet those involved in sourcing goods are not doing so from the local manufacturers.

6. Monetary Policy - A sound & pragmatic monetary policy that understands the dangers of Dutch disease and the artificial strong local currency it results in. The right tools have to be used to mitigate the impact of currency effects on our export capability.

7. Integration into the world economy - We need to be part of the E-commerce revolution. MEXA is working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to carry out a feasibility study of the pertinence of an E-Commerce platform. This project is being funded by SADEC and is expected to justify the need of such a trading platform.

Such a transformation will require time, effort and sacrifice. While progressing towards this vision, the industry will need a series of transitional measures to support this difficult period where high uncertainties will permeate the sector. MEXA plans to constitute a group of eminent and devoted Mauritians to brainstorm on how to transform our export-manufacturing sector to integrate the world economy. MEXA has been the voice of the export sector for the last 33 years and it will continue to do so.

On behalf of its members, Board and Management, we would like to reiterate our full collaboration with the authorities and work hand in hand to enhance our country's potential.

*Mr. Beas Cheekhooree
MEXA Chairman 2017*

MEXA COUNCIL



Mr Beas Cheekhooree
MEXA Chairman,
General Manager,
MCFI



Mr Guillaume Dalais
Chairman MEXA HR
Committee, Executive
Director of Tropic Knits
and CDL Knits
(CIEL Group)



Mr Patrice Robert
MEXA Vice Chairman &
Chairman MEXA Seafood
Council, Chief Operating
Officer, IBL Seafood



Mr Kendall Tang
Director, RT Knits



Mr Philip Ryle
Managing Director,
Princes Tuna
(Mauritius) Ltd



Mr Ahmed Parkar
MEXA Honorary Council
Member, CEO Star
Knitwear Group Ltd



Mr Albert Wong
Managing Director,
A&W Wong Ltd



Mr Yogesh Singh
Immediate Past
MEXA Chairman,
Director, Explast Ltd



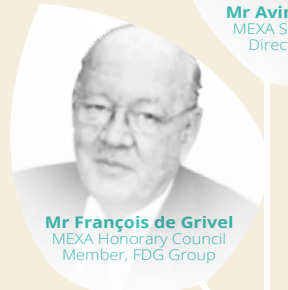
**Mr Jaquelin
Duchenne**
MEXA Treasurer,
Managing Director,
Dynachem Ltd



**Mr Maurice
Vigier de Latour**
MEXA Honorary Council
Member, CEO, MVL
Marketing Ltd



Mr Arul Kumaran
Empak Africa Ltd



Mr Avinash Goburdhun
MEXA Secretary, Executive
Director, Wensum Ltd



Mr Ian Tin Fook
MEXA Assistant Secretary
& Chairman MEXA Regional
Export Committee, Director
T&T International
Foods Ltd



Mr Meryl Nash
MEXA Assistant Treasurer,
Associate Director,
Esquel (Mauritius) Ltd



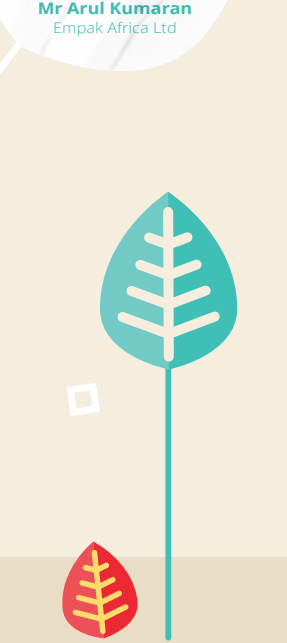
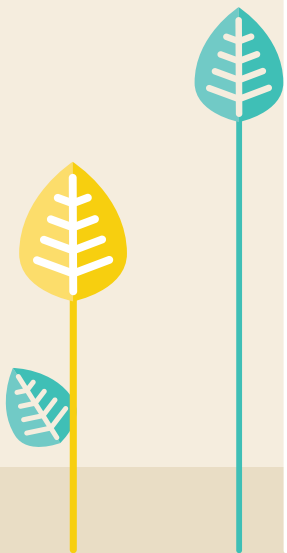
**Mr Dominique
de Froberville**
Chief Executive Officer,
Mauritius Freeport
Development

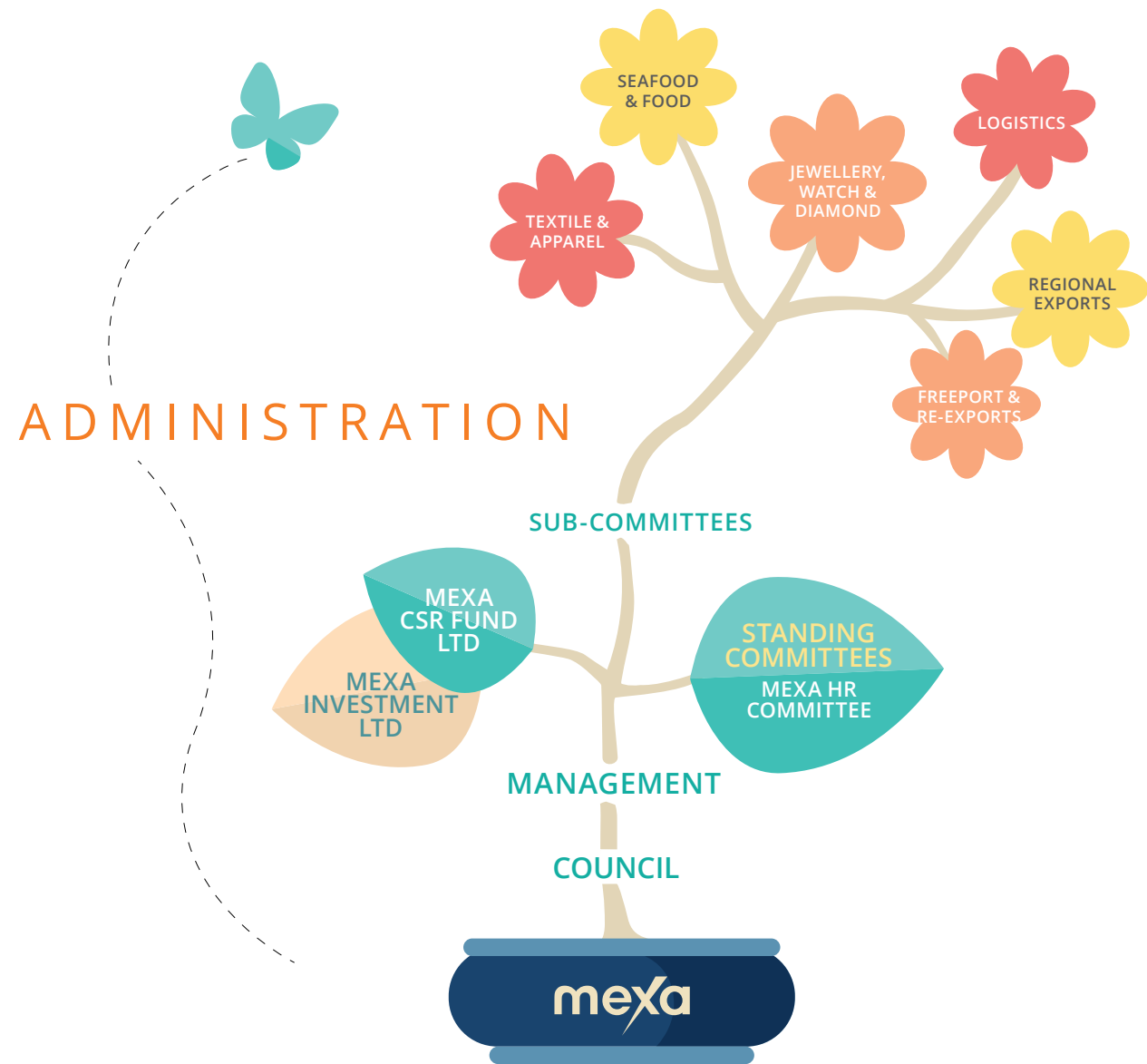


Mr François de Grivel
MEXA Honorary Council
Member, FDG Group



Mr Arif Currimjee
MEXA Honorary
Council Member,
Director Le Tricot Ltee





ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL MEETINGS

During the year, 5 Council Meetings and 1 special Council Meeting were held:

MEETING NO.	DATE	TIME
61	28th March 2017	12pm
62	14th June 2017	12.30pm
63	2nd August 2017	12pm
S	27th September 2017	12.30pm
64	18th October 2017	12pm
65	11th December 2017	12pm

SECTORAL COMMITTEE

The Sectoral Committees also met regularly to deal with sector specific issues within the export community.

	NO. OF MEETINGS
Textile & Apparel Committee	4
Seafood Council	4
Regional Export	4

STANDING COMMITTEES

HR COMMITTEE	NO. OF MEETINGS
Main Committee	4
Technical Committee	4

“IF YOU WANT SOMETHING NEW, YOU HAVE TO STOP DOING SOMETHING OLD”

Peter F. Drucker



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CUT AWAY THIS DOOR SIGN AND HANG IT ON YOUR DOOR HANDLE WHEN SOME QUIET THINKING IS REQUIRED.

"THE GREATEST
THREAT TO OUR
PLANET IS THE
BELIEF THAT
SOMEONE ELSE
WILL SAVE IT"

Robert Swan

THE MEXA TEAM



MEXA AT NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

MEXA AT NATIONAL LEVEL

The involvement of any export sector relies on a healthy dialogue between the sector and its government. And MEXA has always ensured that such a communication channel with the Government and all other stakeholders is maintained. MEXA has also been widely solicited by the Government to participate in high-level meetings and missions regarding important strategic issues pertaining to the export sector. This has definitely allowed the export sector to achieve significant milestones during the year.

REPRESENTATION IN BOARDS & COMMITTEES

MEXA is represented on the boards and committees of the following key organisations:

Private sector

- Business Mauritius
- Mauritius Africa Fund
- Mauritius Cargo Community System (MACCS)
- Port User's Council

MEXA AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

MEXA Members are today world-class players. Promoting their interests and that of the export community therefore remains one of our key priorities. In 2017, MEXA has strived to increase its visibility both on regional and international fronts, for the benefit of the exporters. In 2017, MEXA has been active on several important platforms abroad to lobby for its members all the while abiding by its mandate.

MEXA HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING KEY MISSIONS OVERSEAS:

DATE	MISSION	ATTENDED
18 May - 22 May 2017	SADC Meeting, Gaborone, Botswana	Mrs Jessica Appadu
9 - 13 September 2017	Seafood Lobbying Mission, Brussels	Mrs Lilowtee Rajmun-Jooseery
1 - 3 October 2017	IEPA Meeting, Madagascar	Mrs Lilowtee Rajmun-Jooseery
25 & 26 October 2017	World Export Development Forum, Budapest, Hungary	Mrs Lilowtee Rajmun-Jooseery

GOVERNMENT

- Energy Efficiency Committee (Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities)
- Enterprise Mauritius
- Fashion and Design Institute
- Manufacturing Sector Workers Welfare Fund
- National Ocean Council (Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands)
- University of Mauritius
- Université des Mascareignes
- Water Advisory Council (Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities)
- Polytechnics Mauritius

Mexa is currently a member of:

- African Cotton Textile Industry Federation (ACTIF) – MEXA holds the Vice-Chairmanship of ACTIF
- Mauritius US Business Association (MUSBA)
- COMESA Business Council
- The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI)

SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS MEXA EXPORT CREDIT COVER SCHEME

WHAT IS MEXA EXPORT CREDIT COVER?

Since two years now, MEXA has signed an agreement with Coface, one of the world leader in credit insurance, to support the exporters in venturing new markets with peace of mind.

The MEXA Export Credit Insurance Policy insures an exporter against the risk of not being paid under an export contract or not being able to recover the costs of performing that contract because of certain events which prevent its performance or lead to its termination.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

In case of bad debt, Coface pays you an indemnity to soften the impact of the loss incurred. Once the payment arrears is ascertained, the experts step in to collect the receivable from your buyer. There are proven collection techniques in order to maximise the chances for successful collection.

VALUE-ADDED SERVICES FROM MEXA EXPORT CREDIT COVER SCHEME

As one of its mandates, MEXA has taken the commitment to deliver value-added services to its members mainly in terms of providing qualitative credit information and close monitoring of customers' portfolio.

Indeed, with its team of experts in the field of export credit insurance, continuous review and analysis of international markets and buyers, MEXA provides feedback on the customer portfolio in a spirit of complementarity and partnership with its adherents.

Overall, MEXA Export credit cover scheme provides:

- Comfort** for banks thereby encouraging financing. It serves as a collateral for trade financing from banks.
- Business **strategic information** for better client's selection and negotiation.
- Mexa Export Credit Cover is an effective **Debtors' Risk Management tool**; it provides in-depth analysis of the financial strength of companies and anticipate payment arrears.
- Protect your bottom line and support business growth.
- Access to an online database of more than 50 million worldwide monitored companies.

We hereby highly encourage the export community to avail of the Export Credit Cover services to protect their exports against risks of non-payment.





EXPORT ORIENTED INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

DUAL TRAINING PROGRAMME - ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF MISMATCH AND HIGH YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

MEXA, as the private sector representative of the export community, embraced the Dual Training Programme model in 2014. We took the challenge to develop our own industry-based curriculum for the export sector which was launched for the first time on a dual training concept, that is, work and study at the same time.

The process started with MEXA conducting a Training Need Analysis among its membership, whereby areas of shortage of competences were identified, such as, logistics, engineering and refrigeration. MEXA successfully developed two DTP projects, namely, the

- *“Technician Diploma in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering”* with Université des Mascareignes in 2015 and
- *“Diploma in International Business and Logistics”* with Charles Telfair Institute in 2016.

Be it from the perspective of the companies, students and academic institutions, the 2 DTP projects have achieved the objective of being an effective solution to address the issue of mismatch and reduce the high youth unemployment in Mauritius.

The fundamentals underlying the accomplishment of this concept relies on the commitment of the export companies. MEXA members supported this project right from day one. The commitment being in the form of the readiness to open up their companies to the youth and above all to sponsor their studies up to the level of 60% of their total training costs.

Another ingredient of the achievement of the DTP is the tripartite collaboration between the industry, academia and the youth. MEXA brought industry experts and academic institutions together to develop the industry-based curriculum and to conduct the project accordingly.

We are currently in the final year of both groups, Engineering and Logistics and the project is working out fruitfully. As at date, we have 38 candidates in both batches combined. After completion of the course, successful students will receive their diploma and possible employment at their respective sponsoring company.

At MEXA level, we are confident that these students will be the best technicians that the industry will have with the best skills, expertise and know-how.

DTP ENGINEERING – TECHNICIAN DIPLOMA IN MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

We have 12 companies sponsoring 24 students who are enrolled under the “Technician Diploma in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering” course as follows:

SPONSORING COMPANIES	NO. OF STUDENTS
Princes Tuna (Mauritius) Ltd	9
Tropic Knits Ltd	1
Plastinax Austral Ltee	1
RT Knits Ltd	1
Wensum Ltd	2
Aquarelle (Grand Bois)	2
Consolidated Fabrics Ltd	1
Phoenix Beverages Group	2
Maurilait Production Ltee	1
Palmar Ltee	1
CDL knits Ltd	1
Esquel Ltd	2

The level of attendance and passing mark of above 75% clearly show that the students are being more and more committed towards the course. DTP Logistics – Diploma in International Business and Logistics

We have 7 companies sponsoring 14 students who are enrolled under the “Diploma in International Business and Logistics” course as follows:

SPONSORING COMPANIES	NO. OF STUDENTS
Velogic Ltd	5
Freight & Transit Ltd	2
Mauritius Freeport Development Co. Ltd	2
Celero Ltd	2
Logidis Ltd	1
Wensum Ltd	1
MCFI Ltd	1



The strong commitment and dedication of the students has attained an average pass mark of 85% and an attendance level of above 90% both at university and workplace.

MEXA DUAL TRAINING PROGRAMME NETWORKING FORUM

MEXA organised the Dual Training Programme (DTP) Networking Forum with students, mentors from industry and lecturers of the academic institutions on 7th September 2017. Stakeholders from the Government and private sector were also invited.

The event was honoured by the Hon. Minister Leela Devi Dookhun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education & Scientific Research and the Hon. Minister Soodesh Callichurn, Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training.

The objectives of this networking forum were:

- To present to all our stakeholders involved in one way or the other in the Dual Training Programme project, a progress report of the two MEXA's DTP projects which will end by mid-year 2018.
- To share with all stakeholders the positive experience and feedback of the students, sponsoring companies & academic institutions of the DTP concept.
- To promote this project since it is a model that can certainly be replicated in others sectors of the economy.

MEXA EVENTS 2017

MEXA organizes well defined and tailor-made trainings and short courses for its members all throughout the year, on topics directly related to the development of the export sector. Some of the topics are provided by our members themselves based on their specific needs and requirements, while the other topics derive from either changes or updates in laws and regulations for the sector. And to organize these trainings, MEXA solicits the expertise of key resource persons from private and public institutions.

However, some training courses also requires the expertise of foreign consultants from accredited associations.

In 2017, MEXA invited 6 international consultants for its trainings.

The Events Calendar during the year is divided into 2 categories:

- Key Events and
- Seminars/Workshops

KEY EVENTS

MEXA Employees Welfare Activities: 13th August – 12th November 2017

The “MEXA Employees Welfare Activities” remains by far the major event of the year. Over the years, we have realized that it is indeed the ideal platform to gather the top management of a company along with its employees around an activity which allows them to reinforce their team spirit. In 2017, 23 companies registered themselves to participate in the below activities:

MEXA EMPLOYEE WELFARE ACTIVITIES 2017

NO.	ACTIVITY	DATES	VENUE
1	Petanque	13th August	Boulodrome of Plaisance, Rose-Hill
2	Badminton	10th September	Ebene BadmintonCourt
3	Indoor Games	10th September	Ebene BadmintonCourt
4	Volleyball	17th September	Pandit Sahadeo Gymnasium, Vacoas
5	Football: <i>Open Tournament</i>	16th September - 22nd October	Soonaranne Gymnasium, Ebene
	<i>Veteran Festival</i>	3rd September	Soonaranne Gymnasium, Ebene
6	Cricket	15 Oct - 12th November	SSR International Cricket Ground



“ALL PROGRESS
TAKES PLACE
OUTSIDE THE
COMFORT ZONE”

Michael John Bobak



“CONSERVATION IS A STATE OF HARMONY BETWEEN MEN AND LAND”

Aldo Leopold

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MEXA EVENTS • CONTINUED •

All these activities had gathered a lot of momentum among the employees and had even become the “talk of the town” in all the participating companies during that time of the year. Even more so when the name of the companies who won the trophies had caught everyone by utmost surprise. We are most pleased to share the “tableau d’honneur” with you.

ACTIVITY	CATEGORY	NO. OF PARTICIPATING COMPANIES	WINNER	1ST RUNNER UP	2ND RUNNER UP
BADMINTON					
Up To 40 Years	Male Single	9	Maurilait	Princes Tuna	Tropic Knits
	Male Double	8	Princes Tuna	Princes Tuna	Aquarelle
	Female Single	3	Princes Tuna	Princes Tuna	Esquel
	Female Double	2	Esquel	Princes Tuna	
	Mixed	3	Princes Tuna	Princes Tuna	Esquel
Veteran	Male Double	3	Princes Tuna	Aquarelle	Laurelton
FOOTBALL					
	Open Tournament	15	Mauritius Freeport Development	Froid Des Mascareignes	Phoenix Bev
	Veteran Festival	7	Princes Tuna	Bioculture	Logidis
VOLLEYBALL					
	Male	7	Phoenix Bev	Froid Des Mascareignes	Esquel
	Mixed	5	Esquel	Tropic Knits	B.G.H. Ltée
CRICKET					
	Male	10	Star Knitwear	Princes Tuna	Tropic Knits
INDOOR GAMES					
	Domino	9	Logidis	Aquarelle	Esquel
	Cards	8	Princes Tuna	Logidis	Stettler
PETANQUE					
	Men	14	Mauritius Freeport Development	Aquarelle	Esquel
	Women	3	Esquel	Phoenix Bev	Princes Tuna

MEXA EVENTS • CONTINUED •

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

JANUARY

1 31st January 2017 Comprehensive Workshop on "The Road Traffic (Amendment) Acts 2015 and 2016"
MEXA organized a workshop with regards to the changes brought to the Road Traffic Act in November and December 2016. These new laws and changes are of particular importance to companies managing a large fleet of vehicles for transportation of goods, materials as well as their personnel. Indeed road safety, transport security and safety of the employees is of prime importance to all companies and individuals.

MARCH

2 3rd March 2017 Workshop on how to proceed with Industrial Injuries – a Social Security perspective
Workplace accidents can happen in office, on production site, in factories, in company premises or company vehicles. Companies should do their best to protect their employees at work and aim to have zero injuries at work. However, certain injuries are unfortunately out of our control.

In view of the above, MEXA organized a half-day workshop to address this issue as employers' need to know what are the necessary procedures and documents that the Ministry of Social security needs in case of an injury at work. This will allow companies to guide their employees pertaining to application for industrial injury benefits.

3 28th March 2017 Half-Day Working Session on the "Revised & New Training Grant Schemes and the recent changes in the guidelines under Training"
The Government came up with new training schemes and revised the existing ones to enable employers to take optimum advantage of these schemes to upgrade their employees' skills and boost their export performance. In this context, MEXA in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment & Training and HRDC organised a half-day working session for its members.

APRIL

4 27th April 2017 Workshop on "Update on Utilities Management Strategies for the Export Manufacturing Sector and the country at large"
MEXA organised a working session for the export manufacturing sector to have an update on different strategies adopted by the Central Water Authority, Waste Water Management, Central Electricity Board and the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities.

MAY

5 16th – 18th May 2017 In-Depth Practical Training on "Efficient Energy Management of Air Compressors in the Manufacturing Companies: Energy-saving possibilities"
Many companies in the manufacturing industry consider Compressed Air the "fourth utility" because it is very important to production. It's like water and electricity which are essential to operations. Fortunately there are a number of ways whereby manufacturing industries can experience cost savings of 35% from using an efficient air compressor. In addition, it will also help control pollution. In this context, MEXA solicited the expertise of a foreign consultant and trainer for a 3-days in-depth practical workshop on the above theme.

JUNE

6 2nd June 2017 Workshop on Effective Management of Employee Grievances and Complaints
Very often, employee grievances issues are left unattended by head of departments and they only inform the HR departments when it has escalated to more serious matters such as employee resignation, strike and complaints to the Ministry of labour.

It is therefore essential that HR representative and those who are at supervisory or management level understand and have the proper techniques to manage employee grievances and complaints.

In view of the above, MEXA organized a full-day workshop on the above theme for its members.



MEXA EVENTS • CONTINUED •

7 **6th & 7th June 2017** Workshop on "The Importance of Effective Wastewater Treatment & Disposal-benefits to the Manufacturing sector"

Treatment and disposal of wastewater constitute a major part of the total cost of sewerage system. Presently, the cost and complexity of treating wastewater is significantly increasing and the manufacturing sector faces mounting regulatory hurdles, financial constraints, and public pressure to protect the environment.

In light of the above, MEXA solicited the services of an International Consultant for a 2-days comprehensive workshop to address this issue.

JULY

8 **4th July 2017** Interactive Workshop on "Integrating Social Compliance within the Supply Chain of the Manufacturing Companies"

At present, the manufacturing companies in Mauritius principally adhere to 3 main social compliance standards namely; WRAP, BSCI and SMETA. However, these standards are being implemented in isolation while there are many commonalities and disparities as well among them. In light of the above, MEXA solicited the services of an Expert in the field of Social Compliance for an interactive Workshop on the above theme.

AUGUST

9 **3rd August 2017** Half-Day Working Session on the new CSR Guidelines

In the budget speech 2016/2017, a new CSR Framework was announced with a view to ensure greater transparency and better outcomes in the implementation of CSR Programmes. To have a better understanding of the new CSR guidelines and its implications, MEXA organized a half-day Workshop on the above theme in collaboration with the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the National CSR Foundation which was followed by a Panel discussion.

10 **10th August 2017** Workshop on "In-depth Understanding of the laws governing Chemicals."

Since the beginning of the year, several delays were noted in order to obtain the clearance of the Dangerous Chemical Control Board and the Pharmacy Board. We were given to understand that there is a Government decision regarding the import of certain types of chemical products, particularly due to the serious issue of drug penetration into the country. In light of the above, MEXA organized a half-day informative session to tackle this issue.

11 **15th – 18th August 2017** In-depth Training on Customs Rulings for the Manufacturing sector: based on real case studies from the industry

A major source of dispute between Customs officials and traders is related to the treatment attributed to the goods for determination of the value, classification of goods, and determination of rules of origin. Wrong valuation and classification decisions may constitute a non-tariff barrier to trade.

In light of the above, MEXA solicited the experts from the Customs Department to conduct an In-depth Training on the above theme for its members.

12 **23rd August 2017** Comprehensive Workshop on "Budgetary Measures 2017-2018 for the Export Manufacturing Companies"

In the last Budget Speech 2017-2018, the Government has announced several encouraging measures for the Manufacturing/Export Companies. In this context, MEXA organized a comprehensive Workshop on the above theme for its members. The main aim of this Working Session was to sensitize the operators of all the budgetary measures which have been put in place and how the export manufacturing sector can take maximum benefits from these measures to enhance export performance.

SEPTEMBER

13 **26th & 27th September 2017** Comprehensive Training on the Legal Aspects and Good Driving Principles for Lorry Drivers

The legal requirements and good principles for driving light goods and heavy goods vehicles are fundamental for the lorry drivers to ensure their own security. In light of the above, MEXA organized an in-depth training on the legal aspects involved in driving a lorry with light and heavy goods/materials. The session also emphasized on the good principles of lorry driving.

14 **28th & 29th September 2017** Workshop on Exploring and Analyzing Labour Court Cases

Following the success of the workshop on 'Comprehensive Labour Management Court cases', held in 2015, members have requested for a more in depth session on Labour Court cases to learn from bad practices, wrong procedures or mistakes made in these past court cases. As per the statistics of the past 5 years these court cases have cost companies an approximate Rs 120 Million. Therefore, to elaborate

on such cases, MEXA brought its members together for a 2-days workshop whereby detailed case studies were further studied and discussed.

OCTOBER

15 **5th October 2017** Comprehensive Workshop on "The New Business Facilitation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2017"

In the National Budget 2017, the new Business Facilitation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2017 was promulgated and came into force on the 20th May 2017. The Bill provides amendments to the legislative framework that are necessary to remove constraints in relation to permits, licences, authorisations and clearances to further facilitate the doing of business, and for related matters.

To apprise its members of the new Business Facilitation Act 2017, MEXA conveyed its members for a comprehensive workshop to review the new legislation.

16 **25th & 26th October 2017** ISO 9001:2015 – Internal Auditor Professional Training

Given the increasing demand and requirements of clients/suppliers, complying with ISO 9001 has become a main prerequisite for both manufacturing and service companies to remain competitive on the global market. It is of utmost importance that companies carry out regular internal audits to drive improvement in an ISO 9001 quality management system. MEXA partnered with BSI to train ISO 9001:2015 Internal Auditors in view to enable them to prepare for and initiate an internal audit and give them the vital skills to compile and distribute audit reports.

NOVEMBER

17 **6th & 7th November 2017** Extensive E-Commerce Training on "How is your Business prepared to sell to today's digitally connected customer"

How the Internet has transformed the manufacturing and order fulfilment process is not a secret. Indeed, the realm of e-commerce for manufacturing companies is rapidly growing, and modern manufacturers are starting to see a shift from business-to-business (B2B) sales to business-to-consumer (B2C) sales.

MEXA therefore organised an extensive training on the above theme to prepare the Mauritian Manufacturing companies which will also have to gear towards E-Commerce.

18 **7th November 2017** Practical Workshop on How to treat Hazardous Wastes in Companies

The treatment of hazardous wastes is still a major concern for many of our manufacturing companies. Recently, the Ministry of Environment officially inaugurated its Interim Hazardous Waste Storage Facility (IHWSF) at La Chaumière with an objective to collect and export the hazardous wastes present in manufacturing companies and public institutions. It is thus important that at company level, a proper segregation and treatment of hazardous wastes are done. More information was provided to MEXA members during a workshop on the practicalities of treating and disposing hazardous wastes at company level.

19 **14th & 15th November 2017** Workshop on Modern Slavery – Understanding the compliance and due diligence requirements of international trading partners

With the introduction of new legislation on supply chain transparency in the UK through the Modern Slavery Act and the Duty of Vigilance law in France, British and French businesses are under more scrutiny through mandatory disclosures in respect of risks of modern slavery and human rights accountability. Compliance under the UK Modern Slavery Act through human rights due diligence and risk assessment has become an essential aspect of trading partnerships.

MEXA organized 2 days workshop on the above theme for its members for a better understanding of this topic.

20 **28th November 2017** Informative Session on latest fiscal incentives, Negative Income Tax, Exchange Rate Support Scheme and Investment Tax Credit

Lately, the Government has come up with some major schemes and incentives for the export manufacturing companies, to name a few; Negative Income Tax, Exchange Rate Support Scheme and Corporate Tax Incentive. An Informative Session was held to sensitize and enlighten the operators of the above and how they can take maximum benefits of these schemes and incentives.

MEXA SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CSR FUND

The MEXA CSR Fund has always strived to build a better world for the less fortunate, especially children. Indeed, since the past seven years, the MEXA CSR Fund has received its contributions from its members who give a share of their profit so that it can be re-distributed to organizations who fight for the rights of underprivileged children. And by so doing, the MEXA CSR Fund has been successful in reaching out to many unfortunate children, by providing them with an enhanced learning cadre.

In 2017, the MEXA CSR Fund has re-directed its funds towards the same commendable projects as the previous years which were:



1. Lions Club of Port Louis

The MEXA CSR Fund Ltd has renewed its sponsorship to the Lions Club of Port Louis for the Corneal Graft project. 25 Eye Transplants were carried out in 2017 at the Souillac Eye Hospital.



2. Centre pour l'Education et le Progrès des Enfants Handicapés (CEPEH)

The contribution made to CEPEH the previous years have been really beneficial and has indeed helped the children to make solid progress. CEPEH had therefore requested the MEXA CSR Fund to sustain the contribution which is in fact used to sponsor the salary of 3 specialised teachers.



3. Fondation Cours Jeanne D'Arc

Mishka, Mandinee and Raphael are the 3 beneficiaries of the MEXA CSR Fund who study at Fondation Cours Jeanne D'Arc. This institution caters for children who require special attention. And the MEXA CSR Fund has supported their projects since 2013 and has recently sponsored another project which consists of a "hot meal" for 21 underprivileged children.



4. Recognition to Contributing Members

- Tropical Cubes
- Princes Tuna (Mauritius) Ltd
- RT Knits Ltd
- Real Garments
- Cernol Chemicals



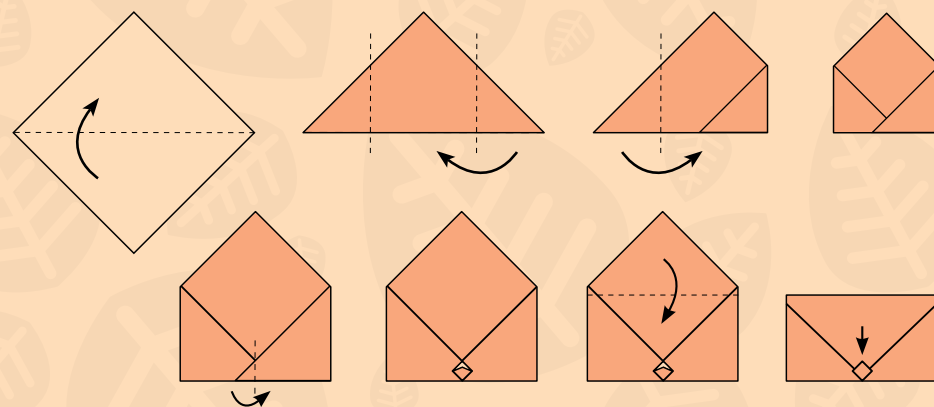
"ONLY THROUGH FOCUS
CAN YOU DO WORLD-CLASS
THINGS, NO MATTER HOW
CAPABLE YOU ARE"

Bill Gates

“WE ARE LIVING ON THIS PLANET AS IF WE HAD ANOTHER ONE TO GO TO”

Terry Swearingen

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EXPORT STRATEGIES ECONOMICS & FINANCE

A. ECONOMIC REVIEW 2017

According to the IMF report in January 2018, global output is estimated to have grown by 3.7 percent in 2017, which is 1% faster than projected and 0.5% higher than in 2016. The pickup in growth has been broad based, with upside surprises in Europe and Asia. Among advanced economies, growth in the third quarter of 2017 was higher than projected, notably in Germany, Japan, Korea, and the United States. Key emerging market and developing economies, including Brazil, China, and South Africa, also posted third-quarter growth stronger than in corresponding period in 2016.

On the domestic front, the Mauritian economy is estimated to have grown by 3.9% in 2017, higher than the 3.8% growth in 2016. After further decline in 2017, the unemployment rate is expected to drop further to 6.9% this year, mainly driven by expanding economic activities across sectors. On another note, headline inflation has pursued a generally sustained uptrend since the beginning of 2017 before attaining 3.9% as at December 2017.

B. EXPORT PERFORMANCE

Our export sector has contracted worryingly in recent years, exports volumes have shrunk and revenues have dropped by 3% in 2017 following an 8% drop in 2016. Our export sector contributed to just 4.9% of GDP while our manufacturing sector, as a whole, accounted for 13.3% of GDP in 2017.

The Export sector is made up of 3 main sub-sectors, namely; Textile & Apparel, Seafood and seafood preparations and Jewellery, Watch & Diamonds which represents 53%, 25% and 10% of our total exports respectively.

The latest export statistics show that textile and apparel shrunk by 7% out of which Apparel dropped by 8.34% and Textile fabrics & Yarns grew 10.73%. Altogether our exports of Pearls & Precious stones and Jewellery dropped by 24% mainly due to weakened demand from our main markets.

On a more positive note, Seafood and seafood preparations grew by 6.8%, with a marginal increase in volume but mainly caused by the increase in price of fish in the last quarter 2017. Surprisingly, following 5 years on decline, our exports of Watches and Clocks grew by 15% in 2017 as compared to 2016 and exports of Medical devices maintained an upward trend and went up by 3% during that period. From market perspective, Brexit and the uncertainties it generated created havoc across our industry. Our exports to UK persistently dropped by 6% while exports to France went down by 3%. However, exports to other EU countries, including Germany, Holland, Spain were up on previous year: Germany +70%, Spain + 13%, Netherlands +2.5%. Exports to a once growing market, South Africa stalled at 0.5% as a result of local economic downturn fuelled by political instability. Similarly, the USA, which represented a growing market for our Textile and Apparel exports, has shrunk by 20% fuelled by competing bilateral trade agreements between US and other trade partners as well as a resurging national protective commercial agenda by the new administration.

C. EXCHANGE RATE EVOLUTION & EXCHANGE RATE SUPPORT SCHEME

Operators across specific areas were confronted by upward pressures on the rupee during prolonged periods, mainly due to the prevalence of high liquidity conditions in foreign currency markets in Mauritius.

In its Article IV Consultation Report on Mauritius, which was released in December last, the IMF stated, that “The overvaluation of the real exchange rate has increased”. Indicatively, the effective exchange rate of the rupee appreciated by more than 2% on a year-on-year basis in January 2018.

Indeed, as illustrated in the table below, the appreciation of the Mauritian Rupee has been quite acute when measured against the US dollar, reaching a high of 3.2% during the year ending December 2017.

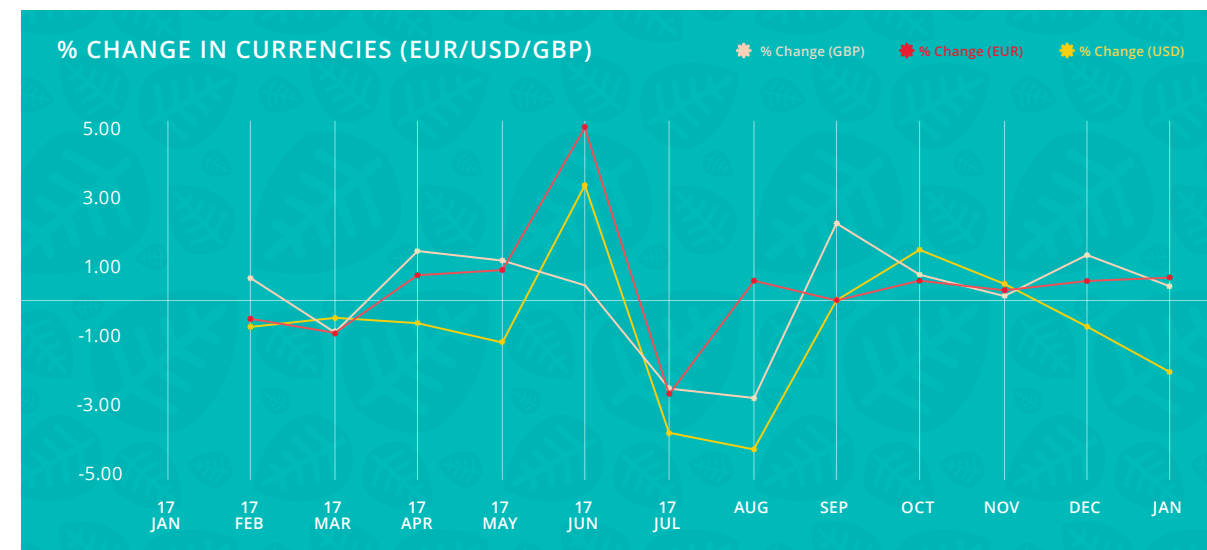
ECONOMICS & FINANCE • CONTINUED •

Moreover, being highly impacted by the international developments, mainly BREXIT impact on UK, the pound sterling depreciated by more than 8% against the Mauritian Rupee in 2017 from an average of 48.6 in 2016 to a low of 44.1 in 2017.

Similarly, on a yearly average, the EURO appreciated by around 2.2% against our local currency mainly due to the uncertainties in the EU market. Yet, on a more positive note, it is interesting to note that the EURO which was down to the Mauritian Rupee at Rs 37.58 per EURO in January 2018, jumped to Rs 38.46 per EURO in December 2017.

CURRENCY	JAN-DEC 2016	JAN-DEC 2017	APPRECIATION/DEPRECIATION JAN-DEC 2017 VS JAN-DEC 2016
EUR	39.29	38.46	-2.11
USD	35.61	34.25	-3.82
GBP	48.29	44.01	-8.86

Source: (Bank of Mauritius): Indicative Buying Rates



D. BUDGETARY MEASURES

MEXA, has spared no efforts to assist the export community. It made strong representations to the Government through its budget memorandum to come up with accompanying measures to support the export industries. We are pleased to acknowledge that the Government has been very responsive to MEXA's representations and has granted strong measures to the sector namely:

- First of all, the Speed to Market Scheme that allows for a 40% reduction in air freight cost to Europe, has been extended to other key export sectors other than Textile & Apparel such as, leather products, Jewellery & Watches, Medical Devices, Chilled Fish, and Vegetables and Fruits.

- Second, the Corporate Tax Scheme whereby profits from exports of goods will be taxed at the lower rate of 3 per cent, instead of 15 per cent. The main aim of this measure is to encourage emerging export-oriented enterprises to further develop their export capacity. That is, the more a company export, the less corporate tax it will pay.
- Third, the Exchange Rate Support Scheme has been put in place to provide temporary support to exporters who were facing the impact of the sharp depreciation of the US dollar which fell to a low of Rs 32 per dollar in August 2017.

These measures have indeed brought a sigh of relief to the export companies and has also helped to improve the competitiveness edge of the export sector in the particularly difficult international business context last year.

EXPORT STRATEGIES TRADE POLICIES

Year 2017 has been marked by major developments in terms of negotiations with major trading partners in the world, namely India and China.

(i) Second Meeting on the Resumption of Talks on the India – Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Partnership (CECPA)

The 2nd Meeting of the India-Mauritius CECPA was held in New Delhi, India on the 27th and 28th of September 2017 in view of the finalization of the Joint Study Group (JSG) Report. The CECPA negotiations will also start in four main areas, namely (i) trade in goods, (ii) trade in services, (iii) investment and (iv) economic cooperation.

At the level of MEXA, we have highlighted the main products of export potential to India including among others, textile & apparel, medical devices, canned tuna, agro-based products such as instant noodles, eye wear products and pet bottles. With respect to investment and economic cooperation, Mauritius aims to benefit from transfer of technology and know-how from India as well as attract FDI from India. More so in the field of Textile & Apparel as India is the second largest vertically integrated textiles production base in the world after China, and having well-advanced production techniques and technologies.

(ii) Possible Free Trade agreement between Mauritius and China

The Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China has now obtained the negotiating mandate from the State Council to negotiate a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Mauritius. The aim of such an agreement is to create the necessary conditions to increase bilateral trade and investment and to strengthen and expand the scope of economic cooperation between Mauritius and China. A joint study report has been drafted for consideration by both sides.

(iii) ESA & UK Negotiations

a. BREXIT

With the effect of BREXIT, Mauritius remains extremely vulnerable to UK trade policy options. The main threat is with respect to market access for our goods mainly textiles and clothing which makes more than 58% of our total exports to UK, followed by seafood products and sugar. Under the Economic Partnership Agreement, we enjoy duty-free and quota free market access to all EU countries and have preferences compared to exporters

that face WTO-MFN tariffs. There is also the reassurance that our exports enter the market relatively hassle free. Depending on the new trade arrangements post-Brexit, our trade preferences could be at risk as our exports might be subject to tariffs or quota which would erode our competitiveness.

b. Eastern and Southern African (ESA) interim Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA) with UK

Trade officials from the UK and ESA states met in Johannesburg on 7th November 2017 for the first technical discussion on the EU-ESA iEPA transition. The meeting was preceded by an ESA meeting on the 6th November 2017 in view of formulating a common stand. In a nutshell, the following were resolved during the ESA-UK iEPA meeting:

- The overarching principle established at the introductory meeting to replicate the effects of the existing EU iEPA in a new bilateral agreement through a technical process was reiterated by the Parties.
- The Parties recognised and agreed on the ambition of the existing iEPA agreement to widen and improve it into a full EPA, including in areas such as services and investment, once the UK leaves the EU.
- Technical amendments to be brought to the iEPA at the earliest in light of its completion and finalisation for signature and ratification purposes. This aspect is considered as important to prevent any disruption to trade for both the UK and the ESA after the former leaves the EU.
- The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled in January 2018 in Mauritius.

(iv) Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA):

Since 2008, Mauritius has been actively participating in the TFTA negotiations. The Tripartite FTA aims at laying the basis for the synchronization and harmonization of trade policies among member states belonging to COMESA, SADC and EAC.

Out of 26 member states, 21 have signed the Agreement, including Mauritius. However, the Agreement requires 14 ratifications to enter into force. So far, only Egypt and Uganda have both signed and ratified the Agreement. As at date three Annexes to the TFTA Agreement, namely Annex IV on Rules of Origin, Annex II on Trade Remedies and Annex X on Dispute Settlement, and the market access offer have not been finalised. Mauritius is keen to ratify the TFTA Agreement once these important aspects of the TFTA are finalised.

EXPORT STRATEGIES

MEXA STRATEGY

While the Export sector has shown resilience in the past, the business environment and conditions have become qualitatively different. The export sector is highly vulnerable to international market dynamics which is being fuelled by unprecedented changes – economic, political and technological.

Firstly, as depicted above, the sector has reached a point of exhaustion, as exports to our traditional markets have been decreasing at an increasing rate. There has also been a major drop in the exports of all our main products, except for seafood. Globally, we have witnessed persisting contraction in global consumerism, especially in our main export markets, EU and USA. The impact of BREXIT is also uncertain – as the UK leaves the EU over the next 2 years, Mauritius’ ability to negotiate to maintain duty-free access into its largest market is uncertain. Finally, technological change is impacting distribution patterns and the rise of e-commerce has severely affected traditional bricks-and-mortars retailers who are still the main customers for our textile industry. E-tailers have different sourcing requirements in terms of speed, flexibility and design from their suppliers and meeting these needs will be a significant challenge for Mauritian firms.

We feel that these challenges demand a fundamental change in our approach to the Export Sector. We need to go beyond our traditional sectoral methodology and develop policies which can redynamise the export potential of all existing Manufacturing firms and also attract players with the ability to export new products to new markets.



In line with its vision to redynamise the export potential of Mauritius, MEXA developed a 4-pronged strategy to achieve same

MEXA also identified 6 pillars to its remedial plan to create a value chain which englobes our manufacturing capabilities, our exports sector and our logistics into a strong integrated supply chain.

1. Enhance the capabilities of existing exporters
2. Encourage and convert more local companies to produce for exports
3. Attract new players in existing sectors and creation of new sectors
4. Diversify our manufacturing base – produce a more diverse range of goods
5. Adapt our logistics strategy to the changing dynamics of the modern market place
6. Increase the visibility of Mauritius on the markets around the world - Enhancing the image and credibility of Mauritius as a reliable and compliant sourcing destination.

“EXCELLENCE IS NOT A SKILL, IT’S AN ATTITUDE”

Ralph Marston

“THE CREATION
OF A THOUSAND
FORESTS IS IN
ONE ACORN”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

RATIONALE OF MEXA HR COMMITTEE

MEXA HR Committee came into existence in June 2013 and year after year it has been at the forefront to identify and tackle Labour/HR related issues pertaining to the Export Sector.

The HR Committee has acted as the voice of the Export community to communicate with the relevant authorities on critical issues and has also served as an information-sharing platform which essential information on Labour/HR related issues are raised and communicated to MEXA members.

MANDATE OF MEXA HR COMMITTEE

The mandate of the HR Committee is to look into all pertinent issues relating to the Export sector namely;

- HR and Labour
- Employability of the workforce
- Promoting welfare of employees
- Networking and sharing of experience

CONSTITUTION OF MEXA HR COMMITTEE

The MEXA HR Committee has been reconstituted with the following members according to the respective sector of activity:

SECTOR	COMPANY	HR MANAGER
Chairman	Ciel Textile	Guillaume Dalais
Textile	Floreal Knitwear Ltd	Prakash Ramdaursingh
	Esquel Mauritius Ltd	Noor Sumun
	World Knits Ltd	Naina Bisnauthsing
	Star Knitwear Group Ltd	Rada Kownden
	RT Knits Ltd	Rohit Sultanti
	Real Garments Ltd	Zaynah Powtoo
	Tropic Knits Ltd	Veena Ghurburrun
Seafood	Princes Tuna (Mauritius) Ltd	Priya Chingen
	IBL- Seafood	Shafinaz Baganee Peeroo
Agro	Bioculture Ltd	Sandhya Teeluckdharee
	T & T International Ltd	Cedric Ip Ching Lun
Jewellery	BGH Ltd	Nathalie Merven
Other Manufacturing	Plastinax Austral Ltd	Romesh Beharee

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • CONTINUED •

MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The HR Committee met 4 times during the year 2016 and a subcommittee has been set up to work on specific issues such as:

- Minimum Wage
- Protocol for heavy rainfall

MAIN TOPICS TAKEN UP BY MEXA HR COMMITTEE

1. NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE

The introduction of a National Minimum Wage has been on the agenda of the Government for a long time. It was even cited in the 'GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME 2015 – 2019'. In May 2016, the Cabinet of Mauritius voted to set up The National Wage Consultative Council through the introduction of the 'NATIONAL WAGE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL BILL'. The National Wage Consultative Council has been set up by the Government to come up with recommendations regarding the National Minimum Wage. The Council consists of representatives from the Government, Private Sector and Trade Union.

This was the first step which initiated a series of actions towards the introduction of the National Minimum Wage in January 2018.

All in all, MEXA was involved in more than 40 meetings, with NWCC, relevant Ministries and MEXA members, to discuss the implementation of the National Minimum Wage.

The table on the right illustrates the main meetings held during the period May 2017 – January 2018.

KEY DATES	MEETINGS HELD
20 FEB 2017	First meeting of the National Wage Consultative Council (NWCC)
17 MAY 2017	First meeting between the Chairman of the NWCC and MEXA to discuss the impact of the National Minimum on the Export Sector
9 JUN 2017	First meeting between the Ministry of Industry and MEXA
28 JUN 2017	MEXA presented a projection of the financial impact of a National Minimum Wage on the Wage bill of the Export Sector
5 SEP 2017	Consultative meeting with MEXA members
SEP 2017	MEXA started its lobbying campaign with key decision-makers on the Government side
16 NOV 2017	The report of the NWCC was finalised and voted in in total by the representatives of the Private Sector and Government. The report was submitted to the Government.
28 NOV 2017	Meeting between Financial Secretary and MEXA
DEC 2017	The Government of Mauritius finalised the legislation for the National Minimum Wage
JAN 2018	The National Minimum Wage came into force
19 JAN 2018	MEXA organised a workshop on the Application of the National Minimum Wage

Main issue

The Export Sector was the most affected by the National Minimum Wage because of its peculiar pay structure which consisted of a basic wage of Rs 5,315 which is one of the lowest of all economic sector of the country and also has various variable pay components linked to productivity and efficiency.

Therefore, the challenges to MEXA in the discussion were to convince the authorities to:

- Maintain the export remuneration order (RO)
- Maintain the basic wage of the export sector at around Rs 5,315 + Additional Remuneration
- Calculate Overtime, Productivity and Efficiency bonuses, Attendance bonuses, etc on the basic wage
- Ensure that the Minimum Wage formula be inclusive of following Pay components:
 - Housing allowance
 - Food allowance
 - Fixed pay components

It is worthwhile mentioning that during those meetings MEXA strongly defended the interests of the export sector throughout the entire discussions on the National Minimum Wage.

Achievements

After 9 months of intense and tough negotiations, the following exemption were granted for the Export Sector:

- Export Remuneration Order has been maintained
- Basic wage of (Rs 5,675) maintained for the export sector for calculation of Overtime, Piece rate and Attendance Bonus
- Export sector allowed to add the following in the calculation of the NMW of Rs 8,140:-
 - Food Allowance
 - Housing Allowance
 - Fixed Pay Components (within 45 hours)
 - Food and Housing allowance capped to Rs 2,500

2. EPZ CERTIFICATE

In June 2017, MEXA was informed by its members of an issue pertaining to the definition of an Export Company, which was preventing Export companies from applying the salary rate of the Export Remuneration order.

Since the Export Processing Zones Act had already been repealed and no Export Enterprise certificate could be issued since 2006, companies which has been incorporated or became Export oriented after 2006 were unable to get their contract of employment for expatriate workers vetted at the Ministry of Labour on the prescribe salary rate of the Export Remuneration Order.

MEXA made several representations with the relevant authorities to find a solution to this issue.

In September 2017, the Ministry of Labour agreed to reinstate the previous policy, that is, allow exporting companies without EPZ certificate to use the Export Remuneration Order against the condition that companies provide proof that they export.

3. HEAVY RAINFALL PROTOCOL

Mauritius, being a tropical island, is prone to unpredictable occurrence of heavy rainfall/localized heavy rainfall.

Such climatic conditions leads to hazards such as flash floods in locality, water accumulations in flood prone areas, overflow of rivulets, streams and major rivers, landslides, etc., which may cause major obstructions, severe traffic disruptions and in turn difficulties for employees to have access to their sites of work or to return to their home.

This creates a chaotic situation regarding the release of employees.

The public sector has a Heavy Rainfall Protocol applicable for government officers only but currently there are no protocols for the private sector.

This issue has been taken up at the MEXA HR Committee and the committee came up with a proposed protocol.



SECTORAL OVERVIEW

TEXTILE & APPAREL

SECTORAL OVERVIEW

A. INTRODUCTION

For the past 4 decades, the Textile & Apparel industry has led the structural transformation of the Mauritian economy to such an extent that this sector has acted as the engine of economic growth, attracting FDI from various countries, creating new employment opportunities, and strengthening the manufacturing base of the economy.

With a share of 55% of our total exports and an annual export turnover of around Rs 25 billion, the T&A sector still remains the backbone of our export industry in Mauritius. It is one of the largest employers of the Manufacturing sector providing direct jobs for more than 39,000 people across 130 well established export-oriented enterprises.

B. TRANSFORMATION OF THE TEXTILE & APPAREL SECTOR IN MAURITIUS

The Mauritian textile industry has gone a long way from a basic garment producer to a vertically integrated supplier of design-led garments and producer of yarn and fabrics. Since past few years, we have observed further restructurisation of the Textile & apparel sector. In fact, the players in our T&A industry have geared themselves to face the challenges of an opened market place by progressively providing flexible solutions, such as speed-to-market, adapted to the exact needs of buyers.

In this same line, MEXA developed a Strategic Plan for the Textile & Apparel sector to sustain its vision of becoming a "Fast-Fashion, Regionally Integrated Textile & Apparel Hub" headquartered in Mauritius. The Strategic Plan is focused on key aspects including technology upgrading, process re-engineering, focused promotional and marketing strategy, development of clusters and linkages, skills and human resource development, product and market diversification and regional integration.

To sum up, the Textile & Apparel sector is being restructured around the following key attributes:

- Fast Reactivity to customers demand
- Price Competitiveness
- Social & Ethical Compliance
- Minimum order quantity
- High-Quality assurance

FAST REACTIVITY

The ability to supply quality products at competitive prices at short lead-time is the new reality of the global Textile & Apparel Industry.

The Speed-to-Market scheme put in place by the Government in April 2017, providing 40% rebate on exports of T&A to EU, has enabled the export companies to react faster to customers demand. Data shows that there has been a 10% increase in exports of Textile & apparel by air, representing the shift from exports by sea to exports to air.

While it takes time to implement such strategies with customers, the Speed-to-Market concept has definitely gained momentum and it will be the main differentiators of our Mauritian T&A industry.

DIVERSIFICATION OF EXPORT MARKETS

Traditionally, the main export markets for textiles and apparel have been Europe, mainly UK and France, followed by US, but during the past few years, exports to South Africa and non-conventional EU countries such as Germany and Italy, have been picking up as well. As part of their diversification strategy, the manufacturers are targeting niche markets in USA and EU and they are also proposing better product offerings tailor-made to the customers' demand.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The region represents a huge opportunity for the Mauritian T&A sector, mainly for labor-intensive production. Some of our leading export companies have accumulated enough expertise to invest in additional production units in neighboring countries, transferring knowledge to countries enjoying relatively low labour costs, while providing the right degree of flexibility for our clients. Indeed, the regional transfer of Mauritian textile expertise has turned Mauritius into the textile and apparel hub in the region, making our success story a business model that is currently being benchmarked across Africa.

C. PERFORMANCE OF THE TEXTILE & APPAREL SECTOR IN 2017

(RS MILLION)	2016	2017	% CHANGE
Total Textiles & Apparel Exports	24,460	22,206	-9%
Out of which: Textiles, Yarns & Fabrics	2,908	3,024	4%
Apparel	21,552	19,181	-11%

Source: CSO

As depicted in the table above, altogether, our total exports of Textiles and Apparel dropped by 9% in 2017 as compared to corresponding period in 2016. Our exports of textile yarns and fabrics picked up by 4% during same period rightly reflecting the gradual shift from labour intensive to more capital intensive activities in the T&A sector.

On the other hand, given the gloomy business environment in our traditional EU markets and USA, our exports of garments declined by further 11% in 2017.

PRODUCT WISE PERFORMANCE

The Mauritian manufacturers are supplying a wide range of textile products that includes T-shirts, lingerie, shirts, sportswear, trousers and denim, children's wear, pullovers, uniforms and beachwear, to name a few. Yet, (i) Shirt, (ii) T-shirt, (iii) Trousers and (iv) Pullovers are the 4 main items of apparel exported from Mauritius.

EXPORTS OF MAIN CLOTHING ITEMS IN VALUE TERMS (2011-2016)

VALUE (RS MILLION)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% CHANGE (2015 VS 2016)
T-shirts	9,993	7,500	6,453	6,841	6,602	5,388	5,169	-4.06
Pullovers	1,645	2,300	2,079	1,825	1,703	1,659	1,365	-17.72
Shirts	5,903	6,300	6,931	6,923	7,124	6,756	6,023	-10.85
Trousers	4,177	4,700	4,600	5,477	5,901	5,532	4,925	-10.97
Total	21,718	20,800	20,063	21,066	21,330	19,336	17,482	-9.59

Altogether, exports of the four main apparel items in value terms dropped by 9.6% from Rs 19,336 million in 2016 to Rs 17,482 million in 2017.

Our exports of t-shirts registered further drop of 4.06% following a significant slump of 18% in 2016. This is mainly explained by the delocalization of production activities from Mauritius and the negative impact of uncertainty prevailing in our main export markets.

Exports of shirts also went down by 10.85% during the year 2017. This is principally due to the slowdown in the production level of one the largest exporter of shirt in Mauritius, which makes more than 50% of our total exports of shirts. Similarly, exports of pullovers and trousers fell by 17.72% and 10.97% respectively.

EXPORTS OF MAIN CLOTHING ITEMS IN QUANTITY TERMS (2011-2016)

QUANTITY (MILLION UNITS)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% CHANGE (2016 V/S 2017)
T-shirts	82	60	49	51	49	39	36	-5.74
Pullovers	6	7	6	5	5	6	5	-19.00
Shirts	22	23	25	23	22	21	19	-7.94
Trousers	14	15	13	16	15	14	13	-13.66
Total	124	105	93	95	91	79	72	-8.70

As depicted in the table above, exports of our 4 main items of apparel went down both in terms of value and in terms of volume in 2017 as compared to 2016. Indeed, exports of t-shirts, pullovers, shirts and trousers went down by 5.74%, 7.94%, 13.66% and 19% respectively.

SEAFOOD

SECTORAL OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AFFECTING THE MAURITIAN SEAFOOD SECTOR

1. Number of Seafood Council Meetings:

Three Seafood Council meetings were held in April, August and November 2017 to look into several issues impacting on the Mauritian Seafood Sector.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

2. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission: Resolution 16/01

The Resolution 16/01 was adopted at the 20th IOTC Commission meeting in year 2016, following a recommendation by its Scientific Committee in December 2015. This was due to the stock of yellowfin tuna species being rated as overfished in the Indian Ocean.

Each fishing gear was allotted a certain percentage of reduction in its catches of yellowfin, in our case, 15% for purse seiners. Subsequently, the implementation of this new measure, with no structured planning by the flag states, led to a "race to fish" scenario right from the start of the year 2017.

With most fleets wanting to get a good share of the volume (quota) before it was gone, by November 2017, both the EU and the Seychelles vessels exhausted all of their allocated yellowfin quotas. As a result, Mauritian canneries were faced with a huge shortage of raw materials for production.

The financial impacts of the above have been very drastic for our canneries, in the sense that the latter were forced to buy fish at exorbitant prices in order to keep production running. Secondly, the industry's greatest fear, that is, the technical closures of two canneries, became a reality. All in all, the "Olympic style" fishing impacted heavily on the employment in the sector, financial situation of the companies and the total exports of seafood of Mauritius.

3. 21st IOTC Commission Meeting: 22nd -26th May 2017 in Indonesia

Three representatives of the MEXA Seafood Council participated on an observer basis to this meeting.

Bearing in mind the negative impact of the application of the Resolution 16/01 on our seafood sector, MEXA Seafood Council proposed the following amendments to Resolution 16/01, in exchange for the removal of the 15% reduction of Yellowfin tuna catches for purse seiners:

- 1) A gradual reduction in supply vessels per flag state, over a period of 3 years, including 2017.
- 2) The obligation to declare which supply vessel services which purse seiners, before the 1st of January of the coming year of operation.
- 3) A reduction in the number of FADs to 300 active instrumented buoys.
- 4) A 10% reduction in the purse seine fishing time in 2018; this stopping time being taken either in one-go or cumulated over 4 times.

A merged resolution by Mauritius, Maldives, South Africa and Seychelles, was adopted at the Commission meeting. This constituted of the following:

Main Points	Details
FADs	A reduction in the number of FADs from 425 to 350 active instrumented buoys, with 700 acquired annually per purse seiner. Effective as from: 1 January 2018
Yellowfin Tuna	The 15% catch reduction has been maintained. There is an exception for SIDS and LDCs having purse seine fleets, that is, they can choose between year 2014 and 2015 as year of reference.
Supply Vessels	For year 2018 and 2019: 1 Supply vessel for 2 Purse Seinners (all of the same flag state) For year 2020- 2022: 2 Supply vessels for 5 Purse Seinners (all of the same flag state) CPCs have until 31 December 2017 to register new/additional supply vessels under IOTC. It is mandatory for CPCs to declare on the IOTC website before the 1st of January of the operating year, which supply vessel services which purse seiner. Exception: An exception has been made in the case of Korea, which has only 2 purse seiners and is allowed to keep its supply vessel even after 2020.

4. Joint Technical Coordination Committee

With the growing importance of the fishery sector of the Indian Ocean, MEXA and its Seafood members firmly believed that there was a high and urgent need to have a "Joint Technical Coordination Committee", regrouping all the partner countries, specifically the EU and the Indian Ocean countries (Mauritius, Seychelles and Madagascar).

Mandate of the Committee:

To work on issues related to the sustainable development and management of the Indian Ocean fishery sector. In addition, the objectives of the Coordination Committee were defined as follows:

- To have a dialogue and communication channel between the EU and the IEPA Countries on fisheries related matters.
- Collectively strategize in order to ensure sustainable development of the Indian Ocean Fishery Sector.
- Exchange of catch data to ensure regular supply of fish for both the EU and the Indian Ocean canneries.
- Jointly prepare for dialogue forums such as IOTC in view of having a unified EU and IEPA positions.
- Harmonizing a common Fisheries Partnership Agreement between EU and the IEPA countries.
- Discuss any area of collaboration in the context of IUU Fishing and Maritime Surveillance.

MEXA also solicited the support of the Indian Ocean Commission to facilitate the first meeting of the Joint Technical Coordination Committee between the Indian Ocean Countries and EU. Our request was positively acknowledged by the Indian Ocean Commission.

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

5. Normal Derogation:

March 2017

Both Seskel Enterprises and Princes Tuna (Mauritius) Ltd, made an application to the European Union for a normal derogation of 120 tons of salted fish and 8000 tons of preserved tuna respectively.

July 2017: Revised Application

The European Union acceded to the request of Seskel Enterprises. On the other hand, it also rejected the request of Princes Tuna (Mauritius), on the basis that the company has already benefitted from an automatic tuna derogation in January 2017. Since then, MEXA diligently worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to convince the European Union to grant Princes Tunas (Mauritius) a revised normal derogation of 4000 tons, for the period September to December 2017 only.

September 2017: Mission to Brussels

A team, composed of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and representatives of the MEXA Seafood Council, attended a consultative session with the EU authorities, namely, DG Mare and TAXUD in Brussels. The objective was to discuss the need and the reasons for the special request for the one-off derogation of 4000mt of preserved tuna.

6. Mauritius-EU Sustainable Fishing Agreement

It is important to highlight that Mauritius, being a non-EU country, concluded a Sustainable Fishery Partnership Agreement and Protocol with the European Commission in February 2012. This agreement allows EU vessels to fish in the Mauritian waters, in a legally monitored environment. In exchange, the EU provides Mauritius with sectoral support in different fishing activities and a financial contribution.

With the Protocol expiring, Mauritius and EU coordinated two negotiation meetings in January and April 2017. The key focus of these meetings was the quantum of reference tonnage. The following table summarizes the achievements of these meetings:

Issues	Conclusions
Reference Tonnage	Both parties agreed on 4000 T
Supply Vessel License Fee	Introduction of a license fee for the supply vessels accompanying the purse seiners
Sustainability Clause	The agreement includes a clause on sustainability, which is in line with IOTC Resolutions
Overall FPA	The agreement now includes all types of fish
EU's Contribution per Tonne (€)	The catch per tonne has been maintained at 55 €. Any additional tonnage beyond the reference tonnage of 4000 T, will be subject to a fee of 125 € / tonne.

7. Mauritius-Seychelles Reciprocal Fishing Agreement

The reciprocal fishing agreement between Mauritius-Seychelles had been in place since 1995. The agreement allowed fishing vessels of both nations, that is, Seychelles and Mauritius, to fish in each other's territorial waters. The reciprocal fishing agreement had since been renewed as and when required.

In July 2016, when the agreement was coming to an end, the Seychelles approached Mauritius for a renewal. After several rounds of negotiations, Mauritius and Seychelles finally signed the new agreement in February 2017 in Seychelles. The license fee per fishing vessel had been voted at \$110,000 on a fixed rate basis, for Mauritian purse seiners fishing in Seychelles waters.

SEAFOOD • CONTINUED •

However, the only concern that still prevails is that the newly signed agreement is not yet in force due to non-ratification by the Seychelles Government. Presently, the applied license fee is still as per the previous fishing agreement.

8. Interim Economic Partnership Agreement Meeting

During the 5th EU-Mauritius Political Dialogue Forum in May 2017, Mauritius emphasized on its willingness to move towards a full-fledged EPA.

With this objective in mind, Mauritius attended the 6th meeting of the ESA-EU IEPA Customs Cooperation Committee, which was held in October 2017 in Madagascar.

Issues pertaining to the Automatic Tuna Derogation, Cumulation with Pacific Countries and Sourcing of Fish from Curacao were raised.

FACILITATION OF PROCEDURES

9. IUU Regulation: Catch Certificate

The IUU Regulation, which entered into force in January 2010, is a transparent and non-discriminatory instrument applying to all fishing vessels, under any flag, which seeks to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in all maritime waters.

In order to guarantee that no seafood products derived from IUU fishing appear on the EU market, the Regulation seeks to ensure the full traceability of these products by means of a catch certification scheme. This scheme is an indispensable part of the IUU Regulation which also improves and facilitates the control and compliance with conservation and management rules, in cooperation with third countries, such as Mauritius. The catch certification scheme also applies to catches from EU vessels which are exported, if the country of final destination requires a catch certificate.

Mauritius, since its adherence to the IUU Regulation, has always been compliant and both the legal authorities and the seafood operators have always endeavored to provide the catch certificate in due time to the intended country of destination.

Nevertheless, following the audit visit of DG MARE in November 2016, some issues of non-compliance were noted. This is due to the fact that the catch certificates were submitted after shipment of containers.

Since Mauritian seafood exports were being compromised, MEXA took the lead and made several representations at the level of the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping and EU Commission to facilitate the seafood exportations. Moreover, our seafood companies provided the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping with a written commitment (undertaking letter) that they would submit the catch certificate and all other necessary documents prior to their shipments reaching the intended country of destination. Today, MEXA is glad to report that its seafood operators have not encountered any complications in exports.

OTHER EMERGING SEAFOOD ISSUES

10. Port Development – Dedicated Area for Seafood Activities

With much emphasis being laid upon the development of the maritime sector within the Port area, and following a request made by some of its Seafood members, MEXA initiated a collaborative dialogue with the Mauritius Ports Authority in September 2017. The main objective was to discuss how the Seafood companies could make maximum use of the different Quays available, and how these quays could be upgraded to allow for smooth operations. MEXA and the MPA are still working in close collaboration on this project.

11. Brussels Annual Seafood Expo Global

In November 2017, members of the MEXA Seafood Council raised concern over the non-approval of their participation to the Brussels Seafood Expo Global 2018. This show is the world's largest seafood trade exposition and it features more than 1,850 exhibiting companies from 79 countries. Considering the high importance and contribution of the seafood sector to the Mauritian economy, MEXA made a special appeal to the Government to sponsor the participation of the Mauritian Seafood Operators in the Seafood Expo Global. Our request was positively received by the Government.

“A DREAM BECOMES
A GOAL WHEN ACTION
IS TAKEN TOWARD ITS
ACHIEVEMENT”

Bo Bennett

LOGISTICS

SECTORAL OVERVIEW

LOGISTICS STATISTICS REPORT

Despite the impact of an unpredictable global outlook and a conservative increase in the economic growth rate in Mauritius from last year, the port performed relatively well. Trade in the Port in the FY 2016/2017 reached the highest ever to around 7.7 million tonnes.

The port witnessed a growth of 1.7% in the total number of vessel calls from 2,944 in the FY 2015/2016 to 2,993 in the FY 2016/2017. This improvement is mainly accredited to the increase in the number of calls effected by fishing boats and vessels calling at outer harbour.

	2016	2017	% INCREASE
CAPTIVE CONTAINER (TEUS)	265,927	260,664	-1.98
TRANSSHIPMENT	122,587	118,707	-3.17
TOTAL CONTAINER TRAFFIC	388,514	379,371	-2.35
TOTAL IMPORTS	6,007,056	6,423,037	6.92
TOTAL EXPORTS	1,266,321	1,289,962	1.87
TOTAL CARGO TRAFFIC (TONNES)	7,273,377	7,712,999	6.04

Source: MPA

From the above table, we can observe that the Total Container Traffic has registered a decline of 2.35% representing a fall of 9,143 TEUS in 2017 as compared to 2016. Captive and Transshipment container traffic fell by 1.98% and 3.17% respectively.

On the other hand, Total Cargo Traffic reached a record-breaking volume of 7,712,999 tonnes representing a boost of 6.04% in 2017 compared to 7,273,377 in 2016.

YEAR	CONTAINER TRAFFIC					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
CAPTIVE CONTAINER TRAFFIC (TEUS)	259,163	248,948	251,798	255,884	265,927	260,664
TRANSSHIPMENT CONTAINER TRAFFIC (TEUS)	158,304	136,378	151,203	105,225	122,587	118,707

Source: MPA

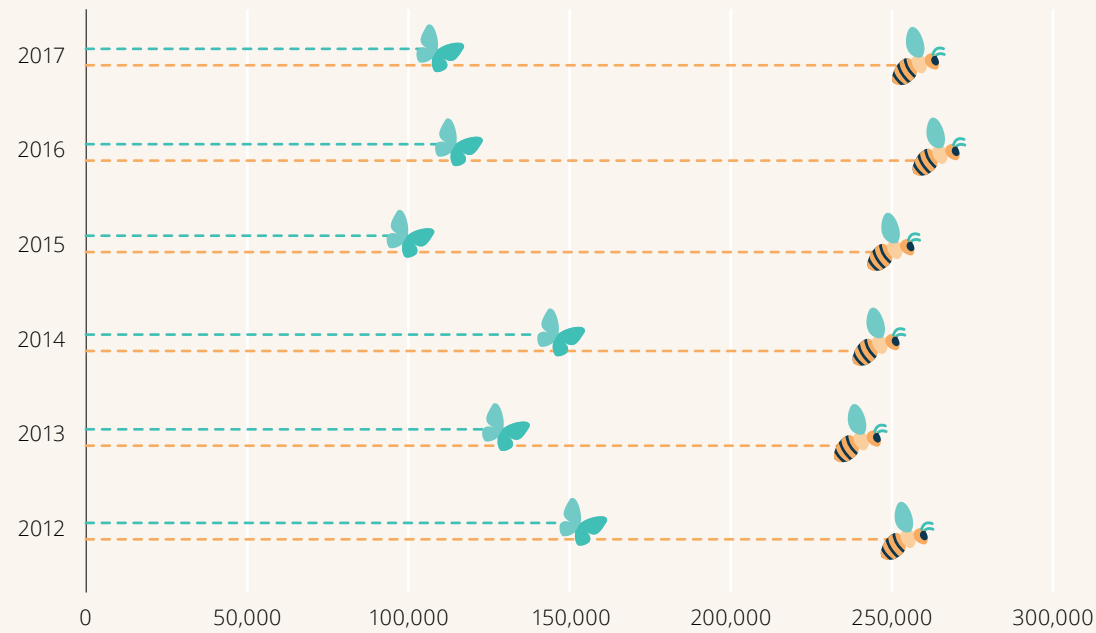
"THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
SUSTAINS THE LIFE OF ALL
BEINGS UNIVERSALLY"

Dalai Lama

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TOTAL CONTAINER TRAFFIC



Transshipment Container Traffic (TEUS)
 Captive Container Traffic (TEUS)

The captive container traffic reflects the exports and imports of containerized goods. As illustrated in the chart above, the captive container traffic in Mauritius witnessed a slight decrease of 3.9% in 2013 as compared to 2012. However, the captive container traffic catch-up in 2014 to 2016 with a growth of more than 6%. After the continuous increase over the 3 years, once again the latter registered a minor drop of 1.98% representing 5,263 TEUS in 2017.

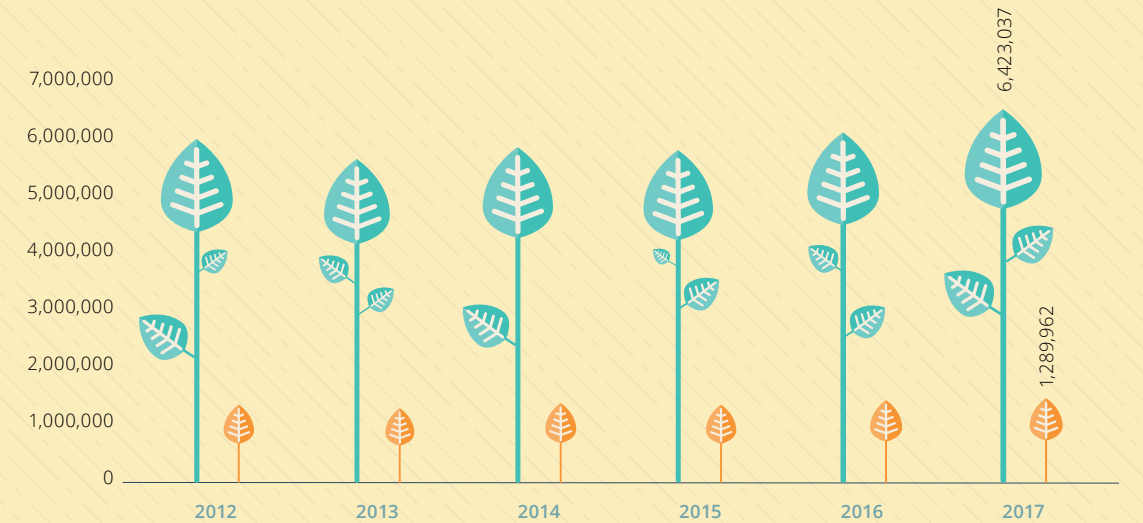
In the chart above, a fluctuating trend for transshipment of container traffic can be analyzed. If the transshipment of vessels observed a significant fall of 13.8% in 2013, it rather increases by 10.8% in 2014. This trend kept on shifting from increase to decrease over the past 7 years. Last year (2017), the transshipment container traffic fell by 3,880 representing a drop of 3.17%.

CARGO TRAFFIC

YEAR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
TOTAL IMPORTS	5,932,906	5,680,220	5,746,120	5,711,827	6,007,056	6,423,037
TOTAL EXPORTS	1,142,280	1,080,480	1,150,029	1,128,846	1,266,321	1,289,962
TOTAL CARGO TRAFFIC	7,075,186	6,760,700	6,896,149	6,840,673	7,273,377	7,712,999

Source: MPA

TOTAL CARGO TRAFFIC



Total Imports
 Total Exports

The total Cargo Traffic experienced a minor decline of 0.8% in 2015 as compared to 2014. This change can be explained by a reduction in both total imports and total exports by 0.6% and 1.8% respectively in 2015. However, in 2016 the cargo traffic witnessed a significant increase of 12.18% in total exports and 5.17% in total imports.

The same trend continues in 2017, whereby the total cargo traffic significantly upsurge by 439,622 tonnes. The total imports which registered a substantial increase of 7% and the change of 1.9% in total exports describe the increase in total cargo traffic in 2017.

WATCH DIAL & JEWELLERY

SECTORAL OVERVIEW

A. INTRODUCTION

The jewellery sector has marked the Mauritian economic landscape through craftsmanship, entrepreneurial talents and hard work.

Today, Mauritius has made its name on the international marketplace and our Jewellery, Watch & Diamond (J&W&D) sector is the third largest subsector after textile and fish processing in the Export-Oriented Enterprise sector representing 10% of our total exports and generating about Rs 4 billion to the economy annually. The J&W&D sector is a labor intensive sector employing around 3,000 people spread in approximately 30 companies involved in the production of high-end products.

The Mauritian J&W&D industry can be broadly classified into three main sectors:

- (1) jewellery made of precious metal and imitation jewellery;
- (2) pearls and precious stones mainly in the form of cut and polished diamonds and
- (3) watches; assembly of watch movements, watch-dials and sapphire glasses.

B. THE MAURITIAN JEWELLERY, WATCH & DIAMOND SECTOR: EXPERTISE, EXPORT MARKET AND EXPORT PERFORMANCE

(i) Mauritian Handicraft Skills and Technical Expertise

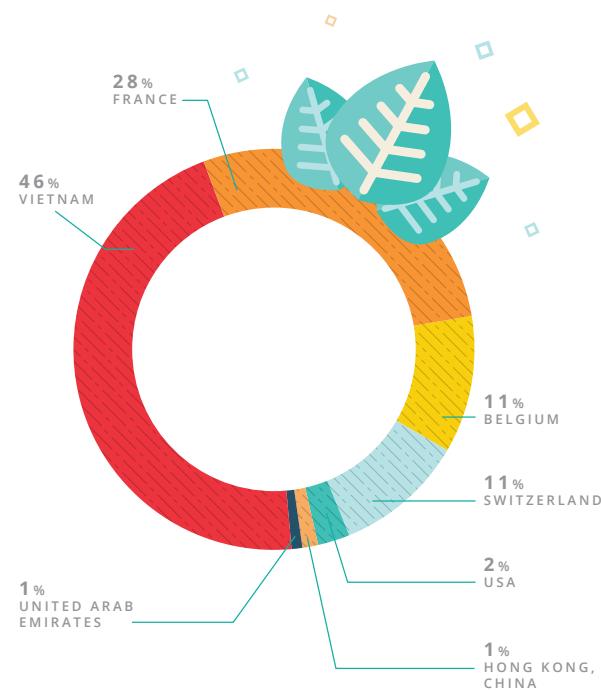
The Jewellery, Watch and Diamond Sector can pride itself of its craftsmanship and high-quality products. Indeed, the labour force in this sector are very much talented and create fine hand-made products of international quality. These include assembly of watch movements involving detailed and precise manipulation of the product as well as the creation of hand-made chains and bracelet with sensitive materials like pearls precious and stones.

With time, the J&WD sector has evolved from traditional handicraft to a modernized, fashion-oriented sector with sophisticated and automated equipments and machinery. And it embraces the younger generation with high technical competencies in areas like design and micro-mechanics into this industry.

(ii) Export Market

Despite harsh competition from huge jewellery and diamond producing countries such as Italy, Japan and India, the J&W&D companies in Mauritius have managed to develop and sustain their presence in the most prominent world markets.

Vietnam remains the main export destination for our pearls precious and semi-precious stones, making 46% of total J&W&D exports. On the other hand, France takes the lion share of our total exports of jewellery products with an export value of around Rs 1 billion annually, followed by Belgium, Switzerland, Hong Kong China and the United States of America. Surprisingly, it is interesting to note that, though marginally, Mauritius jewellery products are exported, to India.



MAIN EXPORT MARKETS

(iii) Performance of the J&W&D Sector in 2017

Exports from the J&W&D Sector have shown much progress since the last 5 years. This sector has registered growth of more than 45% from Rs 3,950 million in 2010 to Rs 5,730 million in 2015.

However, since the past 2 years, we have witnessed a downward trend in the J&WD exports, mainly owing to slowdown in demand in major markets, including France and the US. As per latest data, the country's pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, Jewellery and watches exports, altogether, contracted by 28.5% during the period January to September 2017 as compared to same period in 2016.

pearls and precious stones are based on the value and weight of diamonds. As, we use lower weight diamonds, export value decreases and vice-versa.

Similarly, exports of Jewellery went down by 57% during that period mainly due to restructuring of the country's largest manufacturing unit of jewellery.

On a more positive note, exports of watches picked up significantly by 9% as demand for branded watches have gone up world-wide.

	JAN-SEPT 2016	JAN-SEPT 2017	% CHANGE
Total J&W&D Exports	3597	2573	-28.5
Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones	2,027	1,542	-24
Watches & clocks	528	578	9
Jewellery, goldsmiths & silversmiths wares	1,042	453	-57

Source: CSO

Comparing the first nine months of 2017 to that of 2016, the exports of pearls precious and semi-precious stones dipped by 24%. This is explained by the fact that exports value of

REGIONAL EXPORTS

SECTORAL OVERVIEW

A. MEXA REGIONAL EXPORT COMMITTEE

Members of the Regional Export Committee met 4 times during the year to brainstorm on issues and challenges that they were currently facing while exporting to the region, as well as to discuss on the implementation of one major project which is the Africa Warehousing Project.

MEETINGS HELD DURING THE YEAR

DATE	SUBJECT
2nd May 2017	Strategic Meeting on Regional Exports
5th May 2017	Strategic Meeting on Regional Exports
14th July 2017	Africa Warehousing Meeting
13th November 2017	Africa Warehousing Meeting

The main topics that were raised during the meetings are as follows:

Market Intelligence

Exporters need to have a proper background information on the country they want to export to beforehand.

Freight Cost

The African continent may still be unknown to Mauritians. But China, Vietnam and Indonesia have already conquered these markets and it is becoming more and more difficult for Mauritian products to make their way to Africa.

Local Market consolidation

A company needs to have a strong market share locally before thinking of exporting to Africa. Exporters have to make sure that their business will still survive if their African venture fail.

Import Duties

The removal of import duties have proven to be detrimental to many emerging export companies. Members believe that the authorities should take necessary actions, one being re-instating some duties. This could also protect companies who manufacture for local consumption.

B. RECURRENT ISSUES DURING THE YEAR

During the year, the two main subjects which were continuously brought on the table were:

EXPORTS TO MADAGASCAR

2017 has been marked by a serious impediment which impacted negatively on our exports to Madagascar. Indeed, Madagascar is one of the main export destinations for Mauritian manufacturers. And since August 2016, a ban on the export of a list of agro-based products to Madagascar from Mauritius had been imposed following the incursion of the Foot and Mouth Disease.

After a year of negotiations between MEXA and the parties concerned, in August 2017, a high level delegation comprising of the Malagasy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock came to Mauritius to further investigate on this issue and at the same time visit the companies which were seriously affected by this ban. MEXA facilitated the visits and also organized one-to-one meetings between the delegation and representatives of each company. And in September 2017, the ban was finally removed.

AFRICA WAREHOUSING PROJECT:

The purpose of the MEXA Africa Warehousing Project is mainly to enhance the export capacity of Mauritian exporters onto the Eastern African regional market, targeting the COMESA/ SADC and EAC countries. And one of the main objectives of the warehouse would be to enable Mauritian manufacturers to have a physical presence in Africa and also their products readily available. This will therefore allow them to respond quicker and more efficiently to the needs of the buyers.

And now, for this project to materialize, MEXA will have to look for a consultant who will carry out a comprehensive business feasibility and operationalization study. MEXA therefore invited 4 companies (BDO Consulting, StraConsult, Kantar TNS and SIMERA) to send their proposals in view of conducting a feasibility study in Africa for the Africa Warehousing Project.

Out of the 4 companies, StraConsult and BDO Consulting have decided to team up together to work on the project and SIMERA withdrew itself. MEXA therefore obtained the proposal of Kantar TNS and team StraConsult and BDO Consulting.

An internal committee at the level of MEXA will now study the proposals and will decide on the way forward.



“IF THERE IS NO STRUGGLE, THERE IS NO PROGRESS”

Frederick Douglass

“NATURE PROVIDES
A FREE LUNCH, BUT
ONLY IF WE CONTROL
OUR APPETITES”

William Ruckelshaus

VISIBILITY OF MEXA PR & COMMUNICATION

At MEXA, we value the close and strong working relationship that we have built up with our members and stakeholders, including Government officials over the years. And to be able to maintain this relationship, we have always strived to keep a regular and efficient communication channel with them.

MEXA's main communication channels are:

- E-Newsletter – “MEXA News on the Move” & “Seafood News”
- Publications – “The Exporter”
- MEXA's Website

MEXA “NEWS ON THE MOVE” & “SEAFOOD PRESS REVIEWS”

MEXA always informs its members through its “News on the Move”, an e-newsletter, of all the latest news with regards to the export sector. The information is shared with them in a very precise and concise manner, at least three times a week. Our members are always looking for latest Cabinet decisions, trade information and customs updates. The “MEXA News on the Move”, today can be classified as a trusted source of information.

On the other side, the “Seafood Press Reviews” is sent to the MEXA Seafood members every day. Most of the time, they contain latest information regarding the sustainability of the seafood sector, what is happening in the region, trade information on the fish industry and any other information which could be of the interest to the seafood members.

THE EXPORTER – AN EYE ON THE STRATEGIC ISSUES OF THE EXPORT SECTOR

“The Exporter”, the only magazine of the Export sector, addresses one pertinent issue at a time which is directly related to the export sector, all the while providing the readers with a deep insight on important aspects. MEXA also gathers the views of professionals both locally and internationally which is then relayed to its stakeholders in the form of interviews or feature articles.

MEDIA COVERAGE

In 2017, MEXA has been on the forefront, reacting on various subjects directly impacting on the export sector. As usual, MEXA was widely solicited by the press during the year. One of the most dominant issues throughout the year was the implementation of the National Minimum Wage and also on other equally important issues such as the competitiveness of the export sector, the exchange rate, the sustainability of the seafood sector, among many others.

MEXA'S WEBSITE

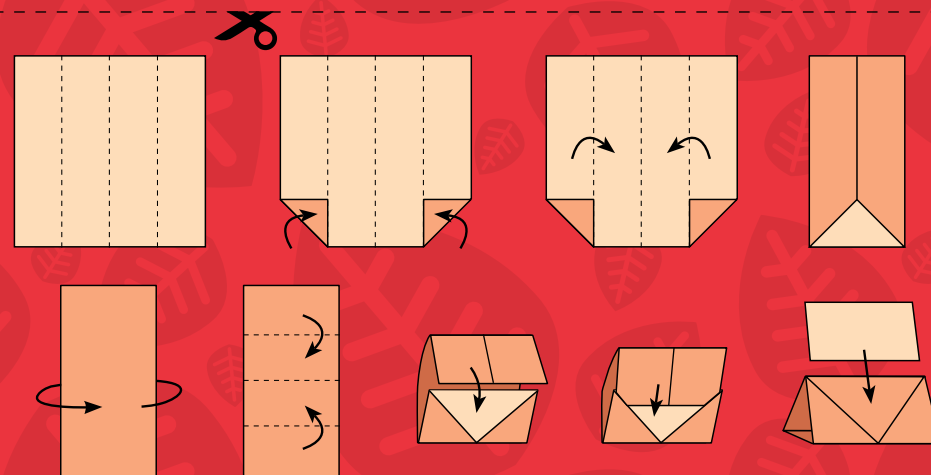
MEXA's website has been completely revamped with the objective of providing its members with a modern, innovative and interactive platform whereby they will be able to share and receive latest information on the sector.

The Website will infact consist of two segments; the public area and the member corner. The public area will be ideally known as the window of the export sector to the world showcasing the Mauritian products which are manufactured here and exported around the globe. On the other hand, the “Members Corner” will allow each member to have access to update their own company profile and have access to more in-depth and confidential information related to the export sector and their day to day running of their export business.

MEXA is also addressing the issue of mis-match between the industry and the academia by providing a platform whereby members will be able to post vacancies currently available in their company as well as have access to a pool of potential candidates who have submitted their applications.

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CUT AWAY THE SQUARE SHEET OF PAPER ABOVE TO MAKE A HANDY ORIGAMI CARD HOLDER USING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE RIGHT



APPENDIX

ECONOMIC STATS

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW - MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS, EOE SECTOR, 2009 - 2017

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 1	2017 2	% Change
1. No of enterprises as at December	411	370	352	330	309	300	284	282	280	-0.71
- New	36	7	15	1	2	8	1	2	-	-100.00
- Closures	37	48	33	23	23	17	17	4	2	-50.00
2. Employment as at December	58,564	55,826	55,646	54,583	53,663	54,813	53,601	52,602	52,172	-0.82
- Net change	-3,712	-2,738	-180	-1,063	-920	+1,150	-1,212	-999	-430	-56.96
- Growth rate (%)	-6.0	-4.7	-0.3	-1.9	-1.7	+2.1	+2.2	-1.9	-0.8	
3. Exports (f.o.b, Rs million)	35,972	41,622	43,100	45,606	46,778	49,069	48,487	44,422	43,145	-2.87
4. Imports (c.i.f, Rs million):	17,332	23,007	27,025	26,665	29,340	28,596	27,312	25,638	27,179	6.01
- Raw materials	16,539	22,081	25,994	25,435	27,850	27,001	25,835	24,254	25,976	7.10
- Machinery & spare parts	793	926	1,031	1,230	1,490	1,595	1,477	1,384	1,203	-13.08
5. Net exports (Rs million)	18,640	18,615	16,075	18,941	17,438	20,473	21,175	18,784	15,966	-15.00
6. Net exports to Exports (%)	51.8	44.7	37.3	41.5	37.3	41.7	43.7	42.3	37.0	-12.49
7. Value added at basic prices (Rs million)	17,225	17,359	18,088	19,157	20,328	20,704	20,968	20,163	19,942	-1.10
- Share in Manufacturing (%)	39.6	39.8	39.5	40.0	39.3	38.9	39.0	37.5	36.8	-1.87
- Share in Gross value added (%)	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.2	4.9	-5.77
8. Annual Real Growth rate of Value added (%)	-0.4	+6.4	+6.1	+1.4	-3.0	+2.5	-3.1	-5.1	-0.3	-94.12
9. Investment (Rs million)	1,131	913	1,140	1,066	1,930	2,700	1,140	1,254	1,291	2.95
- of which Machinery	740	795	986	988	1,101	1,686	636	750	745	-0.67

¹ Revised

² Provisional

APPENDIX ECONOMIC STATS

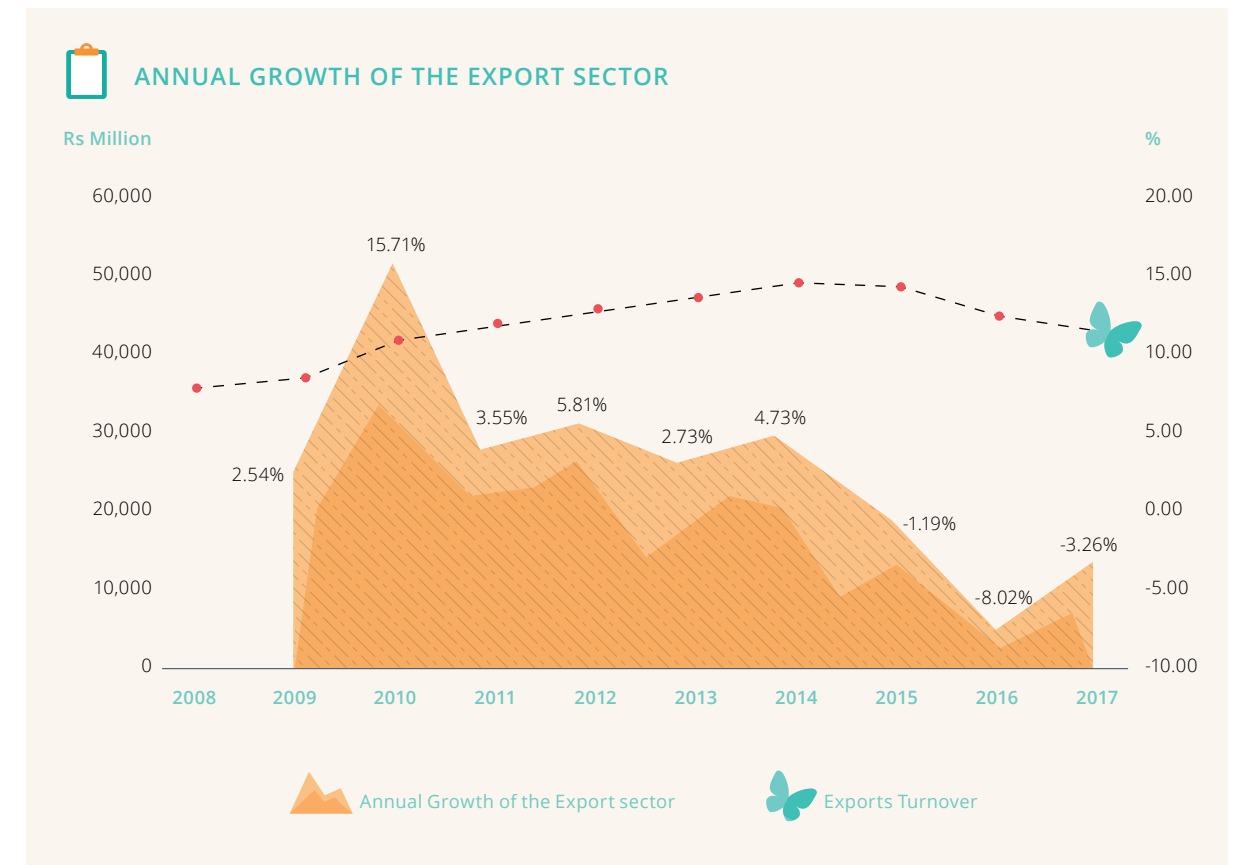
2. EOE FIRMS & EMPLOYMENT (2008 - 2017)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of Firms										
Total	412	413	372	361	339	331	312	288	280	280
- Textile and Clothing	202	189	183	174	159	147	143	134	130	131
- Non-Textile	210	224	189	187	-159	-147	-143	-134	-130	149
Employment										
Total	62,276	58,566	55,828	55,740	54,431	54,016	54,800	53,601	52,311	52,172
- Male	25,894	24,501	23,191	23,168	23,576	24,225	25,575	25,443	25,642	26,234
- Female	36,382	34,065	32,637	32,572	30,855	29,791	29,523	28,158	26,669	25,938
Out of which Expatriates	18,050	18,443	17,700	18,560	19,006	21,521	22,876	22,576	22,818	23,199
Employment by Sector:										
- Textile and Clothing	49,487	45,805	42,200	41,698	40,218	40,224	41,253	40,120	39,324	38,859
- Non-Textile	12,789	12,761	13,628	14,042	14,213	13,792	13,547	13,481	12,987	13,313

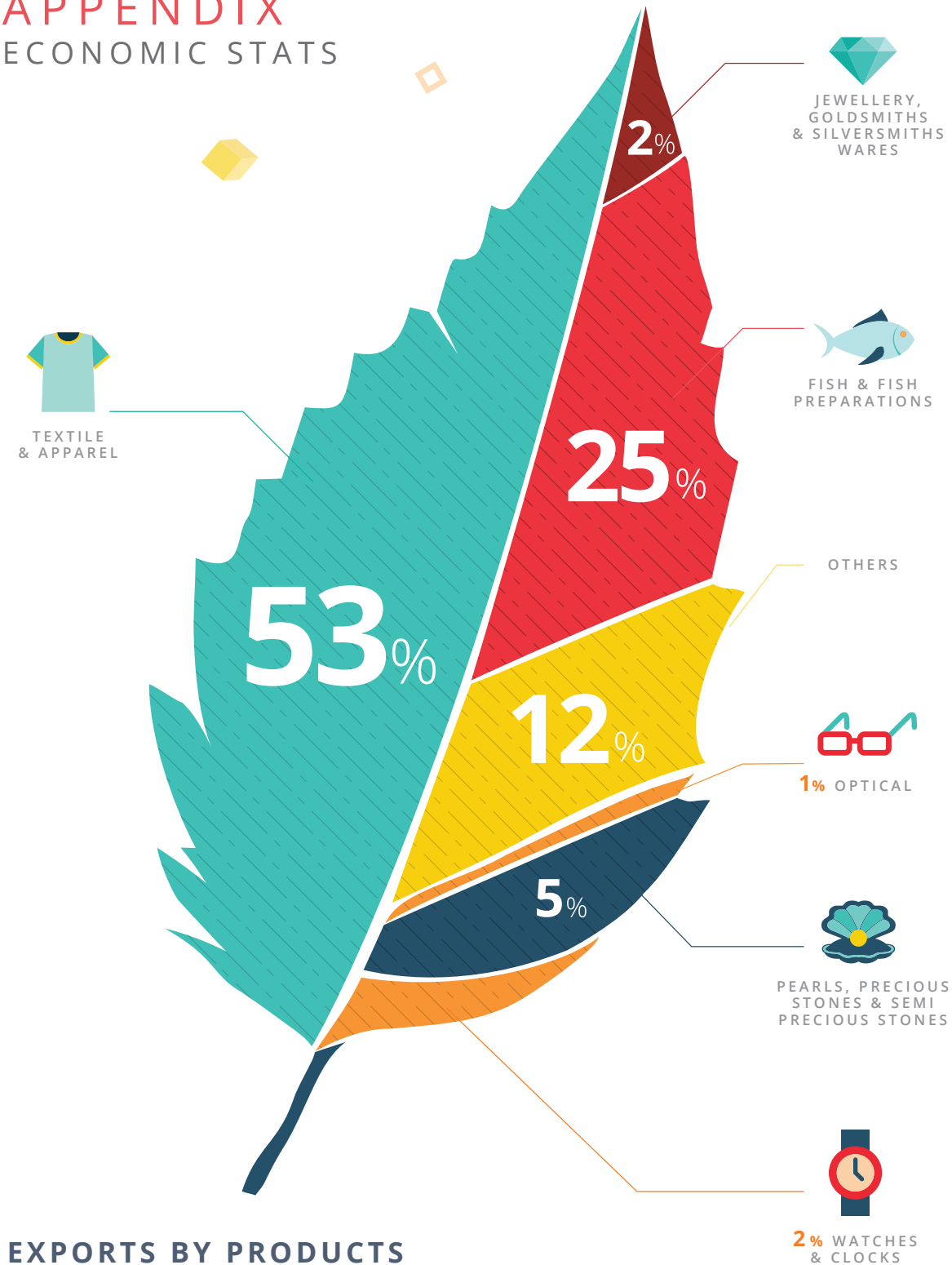
Source: CSO

3. ANNUAL GROWTH OF THE EXPORT SECTOR

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Exports Turnover (Rs Million)	35,080	35,972	41,622	43,100	45,606	46,851	49,069	48,487	44,597	43,145
Annual Growth of the Export sector (%)		2.54	15.71	3.55	5.81	2.73	4.73	-1.19	-8.02	-3.26



APPENDIX ECONOMIC STATS



EXPORTS BY PRODUCTS

4. PRODUCT STRUCTURE OF THE EXPORT SECTOR

(Rs Million)	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change
Textile & Clothing Products							
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-ups articles	2,967	2,748	2,912	3,060	2,908	3,220	10.73
Articles of apparel and clothing	23,924	22,474	23,565	23,917	21,552	19,754	-8.34
Textile & Apparel	26,891	25,222	26,477	26,977	24,460	22,974	-6.08
Non-Textile Products							
Fish and Fish Preparations	10,806	11,618	11,089	9,536	10,211	10,918	6.92
Medicaments	339	333	404	373	341	165	-51.61
Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones	1,998	2,606	3,554	4,108	2,541	2,257	-11.18
Jewellery, goldsmiths & silversmiths wares	1,883	1,665	1,440	1,476	1,203	598	-50.29
Watches and clocks	864	785	736	674	673	775	15.16
Optical	296	223	254	256	226	260	15.04
Others	2,500	4,244	5,115	5,287	4,942	5,198	5.18
Total Exports	45,606	46,778	49,069	48,687	44,597	43,145	-3.26

Source: CSO

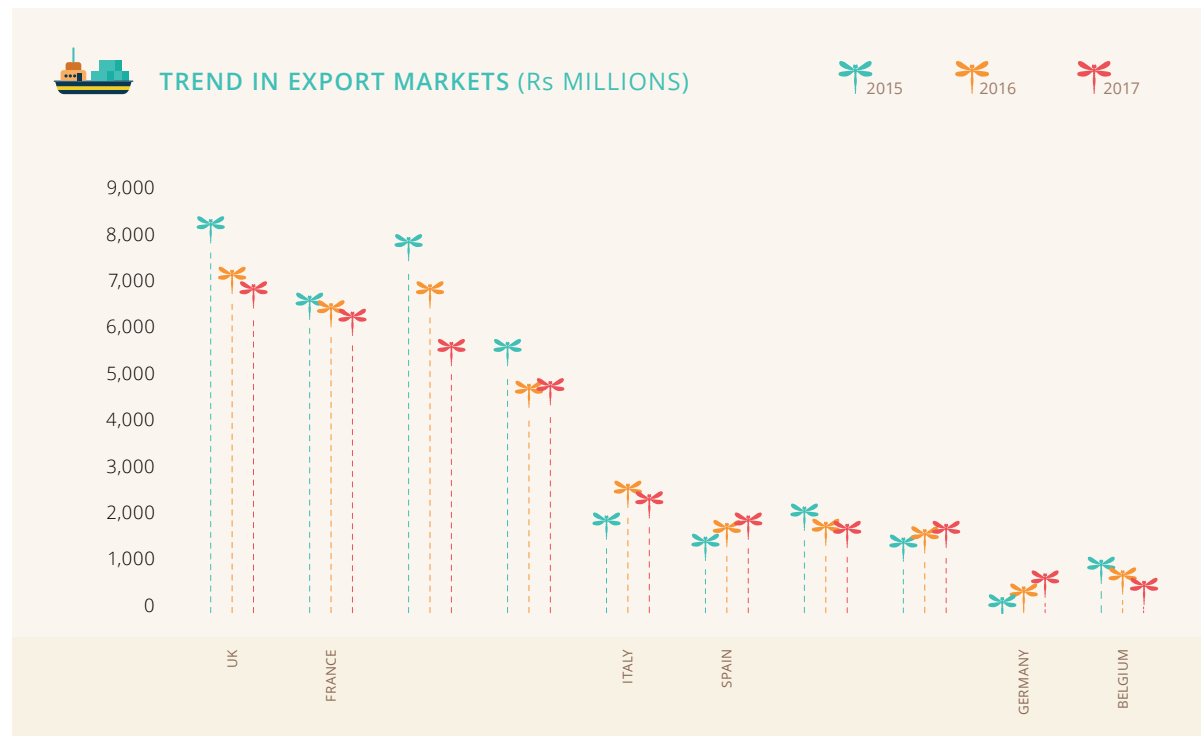
5. EXPORT BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATIONS

EOE Exports to our Main Markets (Rs. Million)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change
TOTAL Exports	45,606	46,851	49,069	48,487	44,597	43,145	(3.26)
UK	10,475	9,784	9,282	8,750	7,534	7,108	(5.65)
FRANCE	7,767	7,357	8,060	6,704	6,562	6,378	(2.80)
USA	6,120	6,746	7,910	8,140	7,060	5,679	(19.56)
SOUTH-AFRICA	6,223	5,577	5,054	5,887	4,919	4,939	0.41
ITALY	1,775	2,739	2,336	2,229	2,727	2,642	(3.12)
SPAIN	3,146	2,259	2,017	1,704	2,035	2,292	12.63
MADAGASCAR	1,763	1,914	2,166	2,416	2,184	2,137	(2.15)
NETHERLANDS	936	1,537	1,715	1,944	2,074	2,126	2.51
GERMANY	792	775	504	394	561	953	69.88
BELGIUM	1,561	1,503	1,672	1,249	916	721	(21.29)

Source: CSO

APPENDIX ECONOMIC STATS



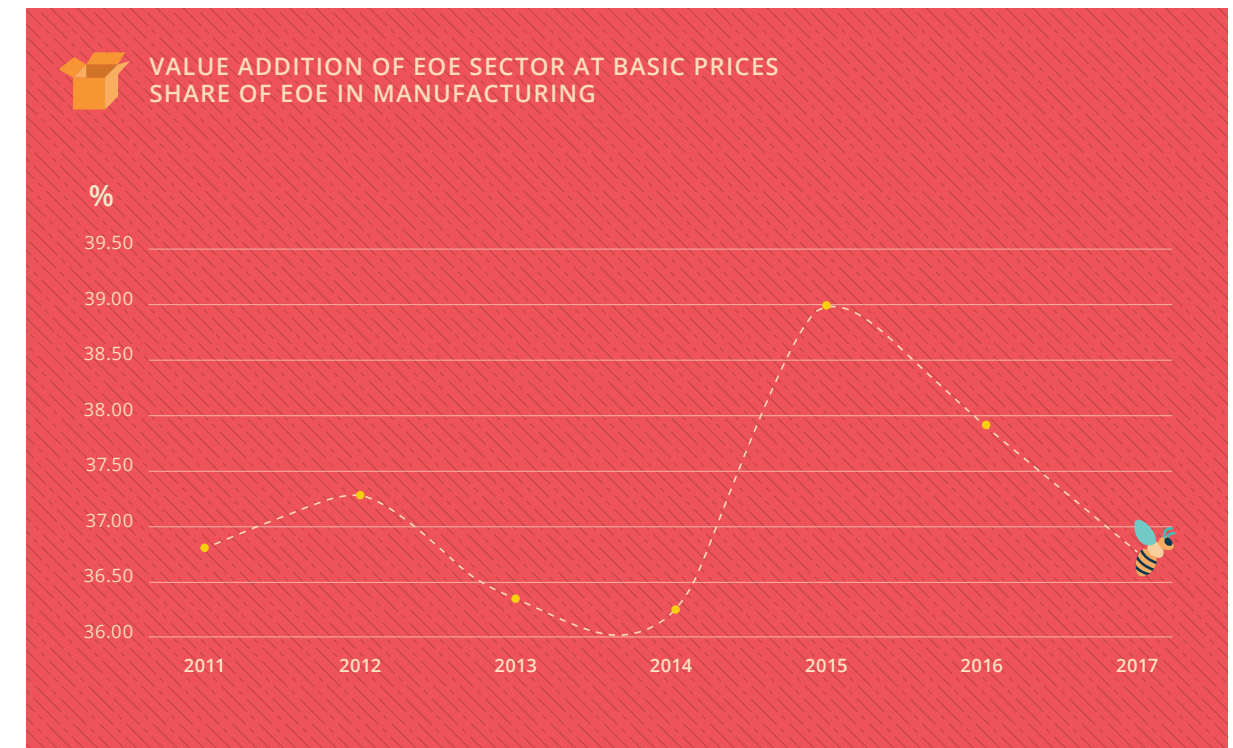
6. CONTRIBUTION OF THE EXPORT SECTOR TO THE ECONOMY

Contribution of the Export Sector to GDP, 2007-2017

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Share in GDP (%)	7.7	6.7	7.2	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.4	4.9

7. VALUE ADDED OF EOE SECTOR AT BASIC PRICES

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Value Added of Manufacturing at basis prices	48,182	50,537	55,021	56,847	53,503	54,541	54,236
Value Added of EOE at basis prices	17,754	18,834	20,011	20,588	20,858	20,653	19,942
Share of EOE in Manufacturing (%)	36.85	37.27	36.37	36.22	38.98	37.87	36.77



MEXA MEMBERSHIP DATABASE



AGRO INDUSTRIES FOOD

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
BEACHCOMBER CATERING LTD SSR International Airport Plaine Magnien	Catering Services	Mr. Olivier Nairac T: 637 3557 F: 637 3656 pcl@bchot.com
BOURBON VANILLA LTD Rogers Industrial Park 1 Vanilla Powder Riche Terre	Vanilla Pods, Vanilla Extract & Vanilla Paste	Mrs. Dominique Vaudin T: 249 2610 F: 249 2589 info@vaynilla.mu www.vaynilla.mu
ESKO & CO LTD Avenue des Oursins Tombeau Bay	Sweets, Bubble Gum, Biscuits & Noodles	Mr. Patrick Lim T: 247 4138 F: 247 1288 patrick@eskogroup.com
INNODIS POULTRY LTD Savanne Road Beau Climat La Flora	Poultry Production	Mr. Reynolds Moothoo T: 206 5868 F: 466 2088 vrm@innodisgroup.com
T&T INTERNATIONAL FOODS LTD 69, La Tour Koenig Industrial Estate Pont aux Sables	Dried Noodles & Pastas	Mr. Ian Tin Fook T: 234 2969 F: 234 0120 ttint@intnet.mu
TROPICAL CUBES LTD Royal Road Morcellement St André	Cane sugar cubes (rough cut)	Mr. Arnaud Raffray T: 261 5840 F: 261 5906 ar.sug@intnet.mu

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AGRO INDUSTRIES BEVERAGES

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
GRAYS INC LTD Beau Plan Pamplemousses	Wine & Spirits	Mr. Alexis Harel T: 209 3000 F: 243 0558 aharel@grays.mu www.grays.mu
HOUSE OF LORDS BEVERAGES LTD MFD Freeport Zone 5 Mer Rouge	Beverages	Dr. Sukhbir Puri T: 206 2164 commercial@houseoflords.mu
MAURILAIT PRODUCTION LTEE Valentina Industrial Zone Phoenix	Dairy Products	Mr. Jean Jaques Boullé T: 697 2203 F: 697 2080 accueil.maurilait@eclosia.com
PHOENIX BEV Pont Fer Phoenix	Breweries	Mr. Patrick Rivalland T: 601 2000 F: 686 6920 privalland@pbg.mu www.phoenixbev.mu

AGRO INDUSTRIES ANIMAL FEEDS



COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
MEADERS FEEDS LTD Riche Terre Road Riche Terre	Animal Feed	Mr. Jocelyn Fanchette T: 249 3860 F: 248 1837 meaders@meadersfeeds.com www.meadersfeeds.com

AGRO INDUSTRIES OTHER AGRO-BASED



COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
BIOCULTURE (MAURITIUS) LTD Senneville Rivière des Anguilles	Live animals, animal hides, meat & leather products	Mr. Owen Griffiths T: 626 2843 F: 626 1442 owen@bioculturegroup.com

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CHEMICAL PRODUCTS



COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
CHEEKIPS LTD Industrial Zone La Tour Koenig	Soaps & Detergents	Mr. Suren Cheekhooree T: 234 2580 F: 464 1994 surenic@intnet.mu
CHEMICAL SYSTEM LTD Black River Road Petite Rivière	Textile Chemicals auxiliaries, Detergents, softeners, lubricants	Mr. Jacquelin Duchenne T: 206 1818 F: 233 8055 dynachem@cernol.com
MCFI GROUP Chaussée Tromelin Fort Georges Port Louis	Chemicals for wet process of leather, textile, sugar industries & for water treatment	Mr. Beas Cheekhooree T: 216 3990 F: 242 5321 chemco@mcfi.intnet.mu www.mcfigroup.intnet.mu

MEXA MEMBERSHIP DATABASE



COSMETICS

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
DACOM LTD Industrial Zone Solitude	Beauty Products, Cosmetics, Toiletries	Mr. Michael Davidsen T: 261 0405 / 261 0402 F: 261 0406 michael@essentz.net
ISLAND BRUSH CO LTD Industrial Zone St Antoine Goodlands	Manufacture of Cosmetic Brushes	Mr. Didier Delauney T: 283 9313 F: 283 8531 ibrush@intnet.mu



EYEWEAR

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
PLASTINAX AUSTRAL LTD Industrial Zone Saint Pierre	Sunglasses, Optical Frames, Metal Frames	Mr. Nicholas Park T: 433 4638 F: 433 4639 plastinax@intnet.mu



SEAFOOD PRODUCTS COLD STORAGE FACILITIES

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
FROID DES MASCAREIGNES LTEE Freeport Zone 8 Quay D Road Port Louis	Frozen fish	Mr. Maurice Rault T: 206 6900 F: 217 5639 mrault@fdm.mu



SEAFOOD PRODUCTS FRESH AND FROZEN FISH

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
AFRITEX FISHING LTD 1st Floor, MFD Business Centre Freeport Zone 5 Mer Rouge	Fresh & Frozen fish	Mr. Gavin Van Der Burgh T: 206 2308 F: 206 2405 natasha@afritexmauritius.com
H. K. & D. NANDEE CO LTD MFD Freeport Zone 5 Mer Rouge Port Louis	Fish products	Mr. Devalingum Nandee T: 206 2126 F: 206 2127 lovyd@yahoo.com
KHA YANG SEAFOOD CO LTD MFD Business Centre Freeport Zone 5 Mer Rouge, Port Louis	Fine Seafood, Albacore, Oilfish, Mahi Mahi, Sawara, Swordfish, etc	Mr. Ooi Wee Seong T: 206 2115 / 206 2122 F: 206 2116 mur.acc@khyang.com
PELAGIC PROCESS LTD Quay C, Harbour Peninsula Area Port Louis	Fish and fresh loins	Mr. Kevin Pedersen T: 217 7444 F: 240 7435 pelagicprocess@intnet.mu
SAPMER Freeport Zone 8 Quay D Port Louis	Ahi Tuna, Skipjack Tuna, Rock Lobster	Mr. Adrien de Chomereau T: 405 9700 F: 217 3452 iosms@iosms.com www.sapmer.com



SEAFOOD PRODUCTS PROCESSED FISH

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
BELLA AMIGO LTD Mont Mascal Petit Raffray	Processed Fish & Other Seafood	Mr. Indiren Parasuraman T: 282 1414 / 1515 F: 282 1616 indiren@bellamigo.com www.bellamigo.com
MER DES MASCAREIGNES LTD Freeport Zone 8 Quay D Port Louis	Fish Products	Mr. Patrick Hill T: 206 6980 F: 206 6944 info@mdm.mu
PRINCES TUNA (MAURITIUS) LTD New Trunk Road Riche Terre	Canned Tuna	Mr. Philip Ryle T: 206 9000 F: 249 2300 pryle@princesmauritius.com www.princesfoods.co.uk

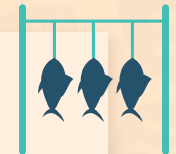
MEXA MEMBERSHIP DATABASE



SEAFOOD PRODUCTS BY-PRODUCTS

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS LTD Motorway M2 Riche Terre	Fishmeal & Fish Oil	Mr. Coogen Parsuramen T: 204 7730 F: 249 1332 info@mbp.mu

SEAFOOD PRODUCTS SALTED FISH



COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
SESKEL ENTERPRISES LTD St. Michel Road Riche Terre	Fish Products	Mr. Edwin Kwok T: 248 6541 F: 248 8933 seskel@intnet.mu



SEAFOOD PRODUCTS SHIP BUILDING & REPAIRS

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
CHANTIER NAVAL DE L'OCEAN INDIEN LTD Freeport Zone 11 Mer Rouge Port Louis	Ship Building & Repairs	Mr. Jean Yves Ruellou T: 216 9517 F: 216 9520 juellou@iblgroupp.com
TAYLOR SMITH BOATYARD LTD Taylor Smith House Old Quay D Road Port Louis	Boat Building & Repairs	Mrs. Heba Capdevila Tel: 206 3333 boatyard@taylorsmith.mu www.tsboatyard.mu

JEWELLERY, GEMS & WATCHES JEWELLERY MAKING



COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
AREMO LTD Saint Antoine Industrial Zone Goodlands	Swivels, Spring rings, Jewellery Findings, clasps hand made chains, Bracelets (silver & brass)	Mr. Rainer Götze T: 283 7943 F: 283 9761 aremoltd@intnet.mu
SOCIETE MAURICIENNE DE SAPHIR LTEE Mapou Leclézio Goodlands	Jewellery Items	Mr. Jean François Mathieu T: 204 9595 F: 283 9343 jeanfrancois.mathieu@smsltd.mu



SEAFOOD PRODUCTS AQUACULTURE

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
FERME MARINE DE MAHEBOURG LTD Royal Road, Pointe aux Feuilles Grand Port	Farmed Fish	Mr. Pierre-Yves Semaesse T: 417 5205 F: 417 5601 py.semaesse@fmm.mu

JEWELLERY, GEMS & WATCHES DIAMOND CUTTING & POLISHING



COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
BELDIAM CO LTD Terracine Souillac	Diamond Polishing	Mr. Jean Pierre Rouillard T: 625 6255 F: 625 5514 beldiam@intnet.mu
LAURELTON DIAMONDS (MAURITIUS) LTD 30, BPML Business Park Gros Billot Rose Belle	Jewellery Items	Mr. Aslim Mr. Selven Rungasamy T: 603 7750 F: 627 9365 hrmauritiust@laureltondiamonds.com

MEXA MEMBERSHIP DATABASE



JEWELLERY, GEMS & WATCHES WATCH MOVEMENTS & ASSEMBLY PARTS

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
BGH LTEE Route Royale Mapou Leclizio Goodlands	Polish of watch bracelet	Mr. Anundun Narayanassamy T: 282 0500 F: 282 0131 info@bgh-ltee.com
EQUINOXE LTEE Industrial Zone Saint Antoine Goodlands	Watch Dials	Mr. Sanjeeve Persand T: 283 8751/2 F: 283 8763 sanjeeve.persand@equinoxe-ltee.com
ISM LTD Industrial Zone Saint Antoine Goodlands	Watch Dials	Mr. Eric Chatin T: 282 1893 F: 283 0407 echatin@ism ltd.com
STETTLER LTEE Industrial Zone Piton	Sapphire Glass For Swiss Watches	Mr. Andreas Tanner T: 264 1348 F: 264 1349 a.tanner@stettlersapphire.ch

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LIGHT ENGINEERING PAINT

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
ROYAL CRESTA PAINTS (MTIUS) LTD Freeport Zone 5 (MFD) Mer Rouge Port Louis	Paints Manufacturing, Minor Processing	Mr. Abhay Kumar Salunkhe T: 206 2491 info@crestapaints.com www.crestapaints.com

LIGHT ENGINEERING PET PREFORMS & PACKAGING

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
EMPAK (AFRICA) LTD Warehouse No. 1 Freeport Zone 7 Mer Rouge Port Louis	Supplier of PET Preforms	Mr. Arul Kumaran T: 217 6328 F: 217 6475 akumaran@iffco.com www.iffco.com
METAL PACKAGING COMPANY LTD c/o Princes Tuna New Trunk Road Riche Terre	Metal Cans	Mrs. Premila Devi Ghurburn Mr. Mukesh Rambhorose T: 248 3801 F: 248 3806 mukesh.mpc@intnet.mu



LIGHT ENGINEERING IRRIGATION TOOLS

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
AQUALIA DPI LTD Taylorsmith House Old Quay D Road – PO Box 59 Port Louis	Fittings, Irrigation, Pipes, Pumps	Mr. Jean Francois Rault T: 206 3333 F: 242 0459 / 241 2034 acqualia.dpi@acqualiadpi.mu



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LIGHT ENGINEERING PET PREFORMS & PACKAGING

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
BOXMORE PLASTICS (MTIUS) LTD Freeport Zone 5 Mer Rouge Port Louis	Plastic Packaging	Mr. Sanil Jeebodhun T: 206 2350 F: 206 2358 sanil.jeebodhun@boxmoremu.com

LIGHT ENGINEERING MEDICAL DEVICES

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
FCI SUD LTD Vel Industrial Complex Mapou Leclizio Goodlands	Ophthalmic Products	Mr. Jean-Marie Even T: 282 0048 F: 283 2800 jean-marie.even@zeiss.com
PALMSTEP ELECTRONICS LTD 1st Floor Media Building New Road Quartier Militaire	Electronic Starters, Fluorescent lamps, Electronic ballast, assembly of printed circuit boards, cables with connectors	Mr. Jan Christlieb Mr. Stephan Klein T: 435 6500 F: 435 7488 info@palmstep.com www.palmstep.com



MEXA MEMBERSHIP DATABASE



TEXTILE SPINNING

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
FERNEY SPINNING MILLS LTD P.O Box 8 Forest Side	Woollen Yarn, Shetland Lamb's wool, Angora: dyeing of fiber in loose or cone form	Mr. Mushtaq Sooltangoss T: 601 3000 F: 675 6100 asooltangos@ferneyspinning.com www.cieltex.com
TIANLI SPINNING (MAURITIUS) MILLS CO LTD Wotton, Belle Rive Curepipe	Combed Cotton Yarn, Carded Yarn, Open End Yarn and Cotton Combed Coils	Mr. Wang Zai Jing T: 686 3981 F: 697 2041 stan_zhang@tianlispinning.intnet.mu

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TEXTILE WEAVING & KNITTING

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
CITY TEXTILES LTD Block 17/1, Industrial Zone, Coromandel	Dyeing fabrics	Mr. Faisal Parkar T: 233 2030 F: 233 6400 city_textiles@intnet.mu
CONSOLIDATED FABRICS LTD Royal Road Solitude	Yarn dyed fabrics, Piece dyed fabrics	Mr. Pascal Walter T: 204 1670 F: 261 5845/46 cf@intnet.mu
CDL KNITS LTD Royal Road Forest -Side	Dyeing fabrics	Mr. Guillaume Dalais T: 602 38.00 F: 675 3348 gdalais@cdl-fabrics.com
FM DENIM CO. LTD SLDC Industrial Park La Tour Koenig	Denim fabrics	Mr. Anil Kohli Mr. D. D. Parikh T: 233 3000 / 1189 F: 233 1402 info@fmdenim.com



TEXTILE GARMENT MAKING

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
ASSOCIATED TEXTILES SERVICES LTD Industrial Zone St Pierre	Shirts, Pullovers, T-shirts, Uniforms & Home Textiles	Mr. Christian Regnard T: 433 5050 F: 433 7575 assotex@intnet.mu www.assotex.com
AQUARELLE CLOTHING LTD Boundary Road Quatre Bornes	Shirt, blouses, Trousers, Shorts	Mr. Eric Dorchies T: 402 1100 F: 466 0007 info@aquarelle-clothing.com
BODY CURVES LTD One Way St St Pierre	Swimwear, Beachwear	Mr. Khoonal Toolsee T: 432 0100 F: 433 7298 khoonal.bodycurves@orange.mu www.bodycurves.mu
DENIM DE L'ILE LTEE Royal Road Ile D'Ambre Rivière Du Rempart	Denim Jeans	Mr. Pierre How T: 412 5190 F: 412 5621 ddi@ddi.mu
ESQUEL (MAURITIUS) LTD Mare Gravier Beau Bassin	Shirts	Mr. Hemant Jugnarain T: 401 9850 F: 464 3993 jugnarainh@esquel.com
FAIRY TEXTILES LTD Henri Koeing Street Curepipe	Denim Jeans	Mr. Ajay Bhowaneedin T: 674 5575 F: 674 5172 fairytel2@intnet.mu www.fairytextiles.com
FLAMESAFE MAXISOFT LTD C/O ORIGINAL CONFECTION LTD Royal Road Tombeau Bay	Flame Resistant Cotton Clothing	Mrs. Lili Lee Chung T: 247 2866 F: 247 2555 lili@flamesafe.biz
FLOREAL KNITWEAR LTD P.O. Box 45 Curepipe	Knitwear, Shetland, T-shirt, Polo shirt, Other Knitted garments	Mr. Jean Baptiste de Speville T: 601 1000 F: 686 2337 jbdespeville@floreale.intnet.mu www.cieltex.com
FIREMOUNT TEXTILES LTD Estate Road Goodlands	Jeanswear, Shirts, Skirts, Jackets, & Shorts	Mr. Anil Kohli T: 283 2431 F: 283 9809 administrator@firemount.mu
FUTURE TEXTILES LTD Royal Road St Julien D'Hotman	Denim Pants & Shorts	Mr. Valaydon Mardemootoo T: 416 5313 F: 416 5486 fffinance@intnet.mu
GNP WEAR CO LTD Seesunkur Road Quartier Militaire	Denim Paints	Mr. Beedasee Guiness T: 435 7458 F: 435 7693 gnpwear@gmail.com
IVY LEATHERS LTD IVY House Royal Road Fond du Sac	Leather Garments	Mr. Tariq Mahmood Malik T: 266 9560/61 F: 266 9562 adminivy@ivyleathers.intnet.mu
JACK TELLOR INTERNATIONAL LTD Dugrace Road Pailles	Trousers, Bermudas, Skirts, Shorts	Mr. Abdool Ravate T: 286 9703 F: 286 2965 tellor@intnet.mu

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MEXA MEMBERSHIP DATABASE



TEXTILE GARMENT MAKING

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
JI YUN KNITS LTD Dallas Building Royal Road Goodlands	Pullovers, Cardigans	Mr. Kwong Cheong Chung Fat Yuen T: 2836234 kchung998@gmail.com
KARINA INTERNATIONAL LTEE 464, Tagore Lane Mesnil	Kids wear, Ladies Blouses	Mrs. Shirley Dalais T: 686 7903 F: 686 9299 info@karina-international.com www.karina-international
LAGUNA CLOTHING (MAURITIUS) LTD Boundary Road, Quatre Bornes	Woven shirts	Mr. Maneesh Patel T: 401 9000 F: 454 6833 mpatel@laguna-clothing.mu
LA NOUVELLE LINGERIE MAURICIENNE LTEE 2, Wilson Avenue Belle Rose	Ladies' Underwear	Mr. Joel Desnoix T: 454 6410 F: 454 3125 joel.desnoix@nlingerie.mu
LA PALETTE / TAMAK TEXTILE LTD BATA Building Coromandel	Embroidered Casual wear, T-shirts, Polo, dresses, Sweatshirts, Towels and Apron	Mr. Emmanuel Tsang Mang Kin T: 233 0020 F: 233 4275 tamak@tamak.com www.tamak.com
LE TRICOT LTEE Vel Industrial Complex Mapou Leclizio Goodlands	Pullover	Mr. Arif Currimjee T: 282 1700 F: 283 3545 arif.c@tricot.mu
MAXIWEAR LTD Industrial Zone Piton	Children's wear	Mr. Denis Ng T: 264 9640/41 F: 264 9642 maxiwear@intnet.mu
MFM CONFECTIONS LIMITED Padaruth Lane La Caverne Vacoas	Shirts, Trousers	Mrs. Vimla Menon T: 686 3317 F: 686 5441 caus@intnet.mu
NIVRA ENTERPRISES LTD Royal Rd Boulet Blanc Central Flacq	Shirts, T-Shirt, Pullovers, Trousers, Uniforms/Workwear	Mr. Krishnanund Venkatasami T: 413 2310 F: 413 2310 vit.ravi@yahoo.com
PALMAR LTD Mon Loisir Industrial Zone Rivière Du Rempart	Jeanswear, Trousers and Shorts	Mr. Stephane Lagesse T: 401 7000 F: 401 7031 info@palmar.intnet.mu www.palmargroup.com
SONIAWEAR LTD Valentina Industrial Estate Phoenix	T-Shirts	Mr. L. Serge Seenyen T: 603 7800 F: 603 7802 soniapro@intnet.mu
STAR KNITWEAR LTD Industrial Zone Coromandel	T-shirts, Polo shirts, Dresses, Sweatshirts, Jogging suits, Polo piques, Children's wear, Leggings	Mr. Ahmed Parkar T: 405 3200 F: 233 6861 ahmed.parkar@starknitweargroupltd.com
TARA KNITWEAR LTD Industrial Zone Tara Building Plaine Lauzun	Knitted tops & bottoms, Pullovers, Sweaters, T-shirts, Polo shirts	Mr. Joseph Lee T: 211 1888 F: 208 3855 tara@taragroup.intnet.mu

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TEXTILE GARMENT MAKING

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
TEXPULL LTD Royal Road Mare D'Albert	Pullover	Mr. Joy Bhoo T: 627 2137 F: 627 3495 texpullaccount@intnet.mu
THE V FORMULA LTD Camp Benoit Petite Rivière	Pullover, T-Shirts	Mr. Rama Rajaram T: 233 3411 nitish@designstudio.mu
TROPIC KNITS LTD Royal Road Forest Side	T-Shirts, Polo -Shirts, Sweaters	Mr. Guillaume Dalais T: 602 1000 F: 675 2501 gdalais@cieltex.com www.tropicknits.mu
VECTOR INTERNATIONAL LTD 17, Sir Virgil Naz Street Port Louis	Fashion Knitwear	Mr. Naushad Elias T: 213 8777 F: 208 6058 vector@intnet.mu
WENSUM (MTIUS) LTD La Brasserie Road Forest Side	Men's wear, jackets, Trousers, Suits, Women's suits	Mr. Avinash Goburdhun T: 670 0540 F: 675 6183 avinash.goburdhun@wensum.mu
WINDS ENTERPRISES (MAU) LTD 1ST Floor, Wing B, Hi Tech Center Coastal Road Pointe Aux Sables	Athletic wear	Mr. Kersley Ramdoss T: 234 1818 F: 234 1919 kramdoss@windsgroup.com
WORLD KNITS LTD Block 17, 2nd Floor Industrial Zone Coromandel	T-Shirts, Polo Shirts	Mr. Ian Espitalier Noel T: 403 8552 / 435 6265 F: 435 7154 ien@wknits.com

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EXPORT SUPPORT INDUSTRIES BUTTONS



COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
MARISA BUTTONS (MTIUS) LTD Stage 5 Block E Industrial Zone Plaine Lauzun	Buttons, button Blanks	Mr. Gilles Girouard T: 208 3209 F: 208 4158 ggirouard.marisa@orange.mu

MEXA MEMBERSHIP DATABASE



EXPORT SUPPORT INDUSTRIES LABELS

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
LABELLING INDUSTRIES LTD Pointe Aux Sables Grand River North West	Non textile Labels, Adhesive labels & Print on frame	Mr. Yannis Fayd'herbe T: 207 1400 F: 207 1415 narrow@intnet.mu www.narrowlabels.com
NU PRINT LTD Camp Benoit Petite Rivière	Printed Textile Accessories and General Printing	Mr. Jayant Roy T: 233 1710 F: 233 7910 javin.roy@nuprintltd.com www.nuprintltd.com
WOVEN LABELS (MAURITIUS) LTD Industrial Estate Coromandel	Polyester & Satin woven labels, Decorative tapes for garments, Bags, shoes etc	Mr. Georges Chung T: 233 2500 F: 233 2397 woven@intnet.mu



EXPORT SUPPORT INDUSTRIES BUYING/SELLING AGENCIES

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
KASA INTERNATIONAL TEXTILES 19, Poivre Street Port Louis	Buying / Selling Agency	Mr. Yannis Fayd'herbe T: 202 7777 F: 202 7778 yannis@berque.intnet.mu
EEAN FASHION LTD 10, Major Hein Street Beau Bassin	Textile Agents	Mr. DSS Pinto T: 464 1421 F: 467 6749 pinto@eeanltd.com
MVL MARKETING LTD C/O CMT Spinning Mill La Tour Koenig Pointe aux Sables	Consultancy Service	Mr. Maurice Vigier de la Tour T: 234 2788 F: 234 2842 maurice@mvmarketing.com



EXPORT SUPPORT INDUSTRIES PACKAGING

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
A & W WONG LTD La Tour Koenig St 11109, Pte aux Sables PO Box 684 Bell Village	Supplier of Packaging Materials Paper for Textile Cutting Room & Garments Accessories & supplies	Mr. Albert Wong Yuen T: 271 1640 F: 234 7638 amwy@intnet.mu www.awwong.com
EXPLAST LTD P.O Box 16, Soobarah Lane, Palma Quatre Bornes	Manufacture of printed plastic bags	Mr. Yogesh Singh T: 427 6778 F: 424 1539 explast@intnet.mu



LOGISTICS CLEARING, FREIGHT FORWARDING, TRANSPORT & CUSTOMER SERVICES

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
ARIVA LTEE (ARIVA LOGISTICS) Logistics hub, Macadam Road, Tombeau Bay	Logistics & Support Services	Mr. Riaz Esmael T: 206 3600 F: 206 3636 riaz@orange.mu www.ariva-logistics.com
CELERO LTD 2nd Floor, United Docks Building New Caudan Road Port Louis	Logistics & Support Services	Mr. Marc Dalais T: 202 0000 F: 211 5909 mdalais@celerogroup.com
DSV AIR & SEA LTD 1st Floor, MFD Business Centre Freeport Zone 5 Mer Rouge Port Louis	Freight Forwarding	Mr. Patrick Bouquet T: 206 3920 F: 206 3928 patrick.bouquet@mu.dsv.com www.za.dsv.com
FREIGHT & TRANSIT LTD Royal Road Pointe Aux Sables	Clearing & Forwarding	Mr. Julien Audibert T: 234 2700 F: 234 4060 jaudibert@ftl.mu
HELLMANN WORLDWIDE LOGISTICS LTD 36 Bis, St Louis St Port Louis	Freight Forwarding Agent	Mr. Aboobakar Yousuf T: 208 1597 F: 211 2381 ayousuf@mu.hellmann.net www.hellmann.net
MC EASY FREIGHT CO. LTD 20, Borneo Street Port Louis	Clearing and Forwarding	Mr. Clarel Michaud T: 204 7800 F: 217 7816 info@mceasyfreight.mu

EXPORT SUPPORT INDUSTRIES THREADS

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
COATS (MTIUS) LTD Allée Des Mangues Pailles	Sewing thread, Yarns	Mr. Salim Mugon T: 212 8837 F: 212 8836 coats@intnet.mu



MEXA MEMBERSHIP DATABASE



LOGISTICS

CLEARING, FREIGHT FORWARDING, TRANSPORT & CUSTOMER SERVICES

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
SOMATRANS SDV LTD IBL Industrial Zone Riche Terre	Forwarding & logistics	Mr. Danny Ah Chong T: 202 7140 F: 202 7351 somatrans@iblgroup.com www.somatrans.mu
VELOGIC LTD FOM Centre Mer Rouge Port Louis	Freight Forwarding, Customs Brokerage, Transport & Container Services	Mr. Vishal Nunkoo T: 206 1000 F: 240 0401 vishal.nunkoo@velogic-mu.com

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LOGISTICS

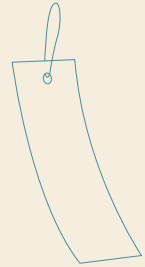
LOGISTICS SERVICE PROVIDER IN THE EXPORT SECTOR

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
MAURITIUS FREEPORT DEVELOPMENT CO LTD Freeport Zone 5 Mer Rouge Port Louis	Logistics Service Provider	Mr. Dominique De Froberville T: 206 2000 F: 206 2005 info@mfd.mu www.mfd.mu



INSPECTION/LABORATORY

COMPANY	PRODUCTS	CONTACTS
SGS LTD Valentina Phoenix	Textile Inspection, Environment Control, Certification Textile Laboratory	Mr. Daniel Julie T: 696 8808 F: 696 7088 mauritus@sgs.com www.sgs.com
QUANTILAB LTD Socota Phoenicia Sayed Hossen Street Phoenix	Analytical Testing, Inspection Services, Sampling Services	Mr. Bertrand Baudot T: 427 5807 F: 427 5182 info@quantilab.mu www.quantilab.mu

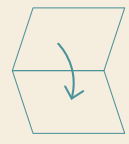
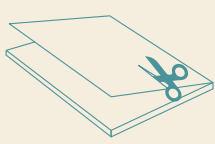


CUT AWAY THE PORTION BELOW TO CREATE A BOOKMARK



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MAURITIUS EXPORT ASSOCIATION

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4TH FLOOR, UNICORN HOUSE,
5 ROYAL STREET, PORT LOUIS.
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FAX: (230) 212 1853

