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October 2006

Dr. The Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam
Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs
Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms
Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands
Republic of Mauritius

In accordance with the provision of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute Act of 1999, I am hereby submitting the Annual Report of activities and accounts of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute for the Financial Year which ended on 30 June 2003.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. I. Fagoonee
Chairman
Vision and mission statement

The Mauritian Oceanography Institute (MOI) was established under the Mauritian Oceanography Institute Act (Act No. 24 of 1999)

The objects of the Mauritian Oceanography Institute as spelt out in the Act are:

- To foster interest in research and development in relation to oceanography,
- To advise Government on the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes in respect of oceanography and related aspects,
- To coordinate, collaborate and co-operate with other institutions, agencies and persons on national, regional and global issues within its field of interest, and to assist any organisation, body or person in creating sustainable research and development programmes in areas of interest and activity related to oceanography,
- To demonstrate and communicate to the scientific community and the public at large the results and the importance of oceanography in the conservation, maintenance, management, utilisation and development of resources based on marine and coastal ecosystems
- To manage and optimise the use of funds and other resources for the purpose of this Act.

Our Vision

The intelligent management of our ocean resources, underpinned by effective marine science and technology, to assist the industrial and strategic exploitation of our maritime zones and contribute to economic development.

Our Mission

To obtain recognition for maximum maritime rights for the Republic of Mauritius under the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea and to provide an integrated scientific approach for the investigation, exploration, exploitation and sustainable management of our ocean territory.
The Board

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute is managed by a Board, consisting of a Chairperson appointed by the Prime Minister and senior representatives of different ministries and institutions. Sections 8 to 10 of the MOI Act of 1999 lay down the overall responsibility of the Board. The composition of the Board for the year 2003-2004 was as follows:

Chairman of the MOI Board
Mr. H. Ganoo, G.O.S.K

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Prime Minister’s Office or his representative
Mr. S. C. Seebaluck

A representative of the Ministry to which the responsibility for the subject of foreign affairs is assigned
Mr. J. Nayeck, First Secretary

A representative of the Ministry to which the responsibility for the subject of economic development is assigned
Mr. A. K. Kokil (up to March 2004)
Mr. R. S. Veeramundar, Senior Economist (from November 2002)

The Financial Secretary or his representative
Mr. V. Bassant, Adviser to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

A representative of the Ministry to which the responsibility for the subject of environment is assigned
Mr. S. Seebaluck, Permanent Secretary

A representative of the Ministry to which the responsibility for the subject of fisheries is assigned
Mr. M. Munbodh, Chief Fisheries Officer

A representative of the Ministry to which the responsibility for the subject of lands is assigned
Mr. R. Khoobarry, Ag. Chief Surveyor
A representative of the Ministry to which the responsibility for the subject of Rodrigues is assigned

Mr. D. Rawoojee, Assistant Secretary

The Executive Director of the Mauritius Research Council or his representative

Dr. A. Suddhoo, Executive Director

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Mauritius or his representative

Prof. I. Fagoonee, Pro–Vice Chancellor

The Director of the Mauritius Meteorological Services or his representative

Mr. S.N. Sok Appadu, Director

The Director General of the Mauritius Ports Authority or his representative

Captain P. Ponambalum, Port Master

The General Manager of the Outer Islands Development Corporation or his representative

Mr. P. Jhugroo, General Manager

Members having wide experience in oceanography or international law to be appointed by the Minister

Dr. A. Chan Chim Yuk, Associate Professor, University of Mauritius

Mr. S. Ragoonaden, Ex-Deputy Director, Mauritius Meteorological Services

Mrs. A. D. Narain-Ramloll, Principal State Counsel, Attorney General’s Office (up to October 2003)

Mrs. G. Topsy-Sonoo, Senior State Counsel (from October 2003)

Mr. J. S. Ho Man Cheong, Adviser, Prime Minister’s Office
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. R. Mukhopadhyay</td>
<td>Director (up to February 2004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. M. Bhikajee</td>
<td>Adviser (from October 2003 to March 2004)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Director (from April 2004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. S. Soondron</td>
<td>Assistant Director (up to June 2004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. J. H. Leven</td>
<td>Project Manager (up to November 2003)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. A. D. Poonyth</td>
<td>Project Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. R. Gopal Nursimhulu</td>
<td>Project Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. M. R. Badal</td>
<td>Project Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. S. Persand</td>
<td>Project Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. D. E. P. Marie</td>
<td>Project Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. K. R. Mootien Pillay</td>
<td>Project Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. B. D. Hansrod</td>
<td>Project Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. S. Curpen</td>
<td>Research Assistant (up to February 2004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. U. Nundiall</td>
<td>Research Assistant (up to February 2004)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Technical Staff**

Mr. C. Samyan seconded for duty from the Ministry of Fisheries for technical assistance.
Trainees under the Skills Development Programme

Batch of 2002 – 2003
Mr. J. P. Dupre
Mr. U. F. Deenmahomed
Mr. A. Goolaub

Batch of 2003 – 2004
Ms. N. Benoit
Mr. S. Ahsun
Ms. M. Gopaul

Trainee under the Youth International Internship Program
Ms. T. Bowen (up to September 2003)

Administrative Staff
Mrs. N. Tegally          Confidential Secretary
Mrs. S. Ramjanally - Jaunboccus  Clerical Officer / Word Processing Operator
Ms. S. Maunrajoo          Clerical Officer / Higher Clerical Officer
Ms. R. Boyponauth         Clerical Officer / Higher Clerical Officer
Ms. S. Chowdhory          Receptionist
Mrs. C. Persand           Public Relations Officer

Accounts and Finance Staff
Mr. I. Kalloo              Senior Finance Officer
Mrs. R. Sobha              Accounts Clerk
Mrs. L. Ragavaloo          Assistant Finance Officer (up to April 2004)

Supporting Staff
Mr. D. Munsah              Driver / Office Attendant
Mr. V. Coopen              Driver / Office Attendant
Mrs. M. Rajiah             Cleaner (part - time)
Projects

Extraction, isolation and characterisation of bioactive secondary metabolites from marine organisms in the Indian Ocean

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute and the University of Mauritius in collaboration with the University of Perpignan (France), and University of La Réunion continued the research work on the biological activities of soft corals and sponges. Dr. D. E. P. Marie, Project Officer was the principal investigator for MOI in this collaboration which consisted in isolating and characterising biologically active compounds.

Geo-spatial Information System for mapping marine habitats of the South Eastern coast of Mauritius

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute represented by Mr M. R. Badal, Project Officer and the “Commission de L'Ocean Indien” continued with the research project “Geo-spatial Information System for mapping marine habitats of the South Eastern coast of Mauritius” funded by the European Union. In its initial phase, the project consisted of dividing Mauritius into smaller units and subsequently a field study work was organised to ground-truth the region. Mr M. R. Badal also coordinated the second phase of the “Geo-spatial Information System” project where a database on the marine habitats of the South Eastern coast was devised. The main outcome was an atlas-type document on:

- Reef habitats charts of south eastern coast (scale 1:20,000)
- Relative ecological richness charts of the south eastern coast (scale 1: 20,000)

A CD-rom was produced as a compendium of the Atlas.

Continental Shelf Project

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute has been entrusted with the task of preparing the technical document to be submitted for the extended continental shelf for Mauritius in line with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This submission is likely to further extend the maritime jurisdiction of the Republic of Mauritius, and must be submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) before 2009. Following an invitation to tender, the contract to undertake scientific surveys, with the view of substantiating the submission, was awarded to Svitzer Co. Ltd (UK) and was undertaken in 2002. The scientific data thus collected has been processed and is being interpreted for the formulation of the submission document.
Lagoon and Reef Watch Movement

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute represented by Dr. A. D. Poonyth, Project Officer continued with the Lagoon and Reef Watch Movement. The project worked towards the sensitisation of the Mauritian public on the marine and coastal environment. This movement was sponsored by the National Environment Fund of the Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit and was carried out in partnership with governmental and private bodies as well as NGOs.

Coral Reef Research Project

This project, undertaken by Mrs. K. R. Moothien Pillay, Project Officer had as main aim to make an analysis of the status, bio – diversity and ecology of the reefs of Mauritius and to compare them with those of Kenya. While undertaking surveys for that study in April 2004, a bleaching event was affecting the reefs around the island. Data were collected to examine the pattern and intensity of this bleaching episode and the findings have been published. This project was a joint initiative with the Coral Reef Conservation Project (CRCP) of Kenya led by Dr. Tim McClanahan.

Activities of the Institute

Staff Training

Mrs. K. R. Moothien Pillay, Project Officer, attended a training course on coral reef monitoring techniques in Kenya from 11th January to 23rd February 2004. During this internship, she learnt the techniques developed for monitoring the status and ecology of the Kenyan reefs. The field research component of a duration of seven weeks consisted of collection of data on benthic cover, sea urchin and fish abundance in fully protected and non-protected areas.

Mrs. K. R. Moothien Pillay, Project Officer, was at Kitasato University in Japan to carry out research work on Evolutionary and population genetics of Scleractinian corals leading to a PhD from May to October 2003 and as from April 2004.
International Conferences and Meetings Attended

International Coral Reef Initiative, Turks and Caicos Islands, 17th-19th November 2003

Mrs. K. R. Moothien Pillay, Project Officer, participated in the International Coral Reef Initiatives at Turks and Caicos Islands, Hawaii from 17th to 19th November 2003.

Research Opportunities in the Western Indian Ocean and Scientific Discussion Meeting in London, 19th – 21st January 2004

Mr. S. Persand, Project Officer, attended a scientific discussion meeting entitled: Atmosphere-Ocean-Ecology dynamics in the Western Indian Ocean organised by the Royal Society in London, UK on the 19th and 20th January 2004. This was followed by a workshop on Research Opportunities in the Western Indian Ocean on the 21st of January 2004 organised by the Royal Geographical Society in London, UK.

Second Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System (IOGOOS) at Colombo-Sri Lanka, 26th–29th April 2004

Dr. M. Bhikajee, Director, attended the second Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System (IOGOOS) meeting at Colombo, Sri Lanka from 26th to 29th April 2004. Existing and new projects were discussed and the delegates agreed on a detailed action plan on the implementation of several initiatives.

International Coral Reef Symposium, Okinawa, Japan, 28th June – 2nd July 2004

Mrs. K. R. Moothien Pillay, Project Officer, participated in the above Symposium. The main aim of the International Coral Reef Symposium was to provide an international forum for the exchange of information and transfer of technologies among researchers and other stakeholders in coral reefs.
Scientific Cruises

Mission to St. Brandon

Ms. R. Gopal Nursimhulu, Project Officer and Mr. C. Samyan, Diver, went on mission to St Brandon from 17th to 19th June 2004. During the mission, the tide gauge was checked, data were downloaded, the instrument was reprogrammed and deployed.

Southern Hemisphere Hydrographic Navigation cruise of R/V MIRAI

Mr. S. Persand, Project Officer, was onboard R.V. Mirai between 9th and 27th December 2003 from Cape Town, South Africa to Mauritius. Mr. A. Yen Luk of the Mauritius Meteorological Services participated in the cruise from Mauritius to Australia between 27th December 2003 and 24th January 2004.
Events

National Ocean Science Forum - 18th and 19th July 2003
The National Ocean Science Forum was organised for the first time on the 18th and 19th of July 2003 by the Mauritius Oceanography Institute at the Octave Wiehe Auditorium, Réduit. The organising committee included ministries, research institutions and social organisations involved in ocean research.

The purpose of the two-day forum was to:
1. Communicate new marine research and ocean development activities to the public
2. Offer a platform for multidisciplinary discussion among scientists, technicians and policy planners
3. Inculcate increased understanding and public appreciation of the ocean
4. Make ocean research visible, accountable and usable.

The Forum was inaugurated by the President of the Republic, the Honorable Karl Offman at the Octave Wiehé Auditorium Réduit. About 30 research papers and a few posters related to marine science were presented during the forum. More than one hundred participants attended. A National Excellence Award for Ocean Science comprising of a Certificate of Appreciation, a gold medal and a prize of Rs 25,000 were offered for the best scientific paper.
Report of the Director of Audit

To the chairperson of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute.

I have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) as of 30 June 2004, and the related statements of income, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Institute. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute as of 30 June 2004, and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended and comply with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act 1972.

Emphasis of Matter.

Without qualifying my opinion, I draw attention to the following:

Submission of Accounts

The Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act requires MOI to prepare and submit to the auditor an annual statement of its income and expenditure and a balance sheet not later than three months after the end of every financial year. The financial statements were received on 15 December 2004 at my Office, that is more than 2 months after the statutory date limit. Amended Accounts were received on 22 June 2005.

(R. Jugumath)
Director of Audit

National Audit Office
Level 14
Air Mauritius Centre
PORT LOUIS
25 July 2005