

Past Celebration of WOD

YEAR 2009

The National Ocean Science Forum 2009, Paul Octave Wiéhé Auditorium, Réduit

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute organised its Fifth National Ocean Forum (NOSF) on 8th June 2009 at the Paul Octave Wiéhé Auditorium, Réduit. The organisation of the Forum coincided with the World Oceans Day.

The main objectives of the NOSF were:

- to commemorate World Ocean Day;
- to communicate new marine research and ocean development activities to the scientific community and interested public;
- to offer a platform for interdisciplinary discussion amongst scientists, academics and policy makers on scientific needs and economic potential of oceanographic research;
- to promote understanding and public appreciation of the ocean.

The keynote address was given by Dr. Nick d'Adamo, the Head of the IOC Perth Office in Australia. He talked about the role of IOC in the coordination of oceanographic activities among the member states and about the Australian Bluelink programme.

The opening ceremony also included the presentation of awards for the best papers and poster. The paper entitled 'Habitat use of *Stenella longirostris* and *Tursiops aduncus* within the Dolphin Watching zone on the W. Coast of Mauritius by A. Cadinouche and I. Webster from the Mauritius Marine Conservation Society won the best paper award. The paper entitled 'A study on encrusting organisms inhabiting rocky shores within the port limit of Port-Louis' by J. Charles and C. Appadoo from the Department of Biosciences of the University of Mauritius and A. Poonyth, ex-staff of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute and the paper entitled 'Chemical profiling of the cytotoxic extracts of one sponge specimen using One Dimensional Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy' by D. Marie from the Mauritius Oceanography Institute won the second best paper award on an *ex-aequo* basis. The poster entitled 'Nemo abandons home following recent bleaching' by K. R. Moothien Pillay, V. Bhoyroo and S. Bacha Gian from the Mauritius Oceanography Institute won the best poster award.

About 300 participants from various ministries, private organisations, parastatal bodies and secondary schools were present and 13 papers representing the results of original research were presented by representatives of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, the Ministry of Environment, the University of Mauritius, the Mauritius Oceanography Institute, the Mauritius Marine Conservation Society, UNDP-Port Louis, Mauritius; the University of Warwick, UK; Södertön University College, Sweden; Fisheries Resource Surveys, South Africa; Academia Sinica, the Institute of Oceanography, Republic of China; CORDIO, East Africa and the Institute of Marine Science, Zanzibar.

YEAR 2010

Beach and Lagoon Clean Up at Flic en Flac Public Beach

Involving young people in environmental protection projects is one way of getting them better sensitised about the ocean. To celebrate World Ocean Day, the Mauritius oceanography Institute organised a beach and lagoon clean-up on 8th June 2010 at the Flic en Flac public beach. The objectives of this campaign were to sensitise young people about the importance of our lagoons and to create awareness for protection as well as preservation of our oceans for future generations. Students from Le Bocage International School, BPS College, MOI staff members and Atlantis Diving Centre actively participated in the activity.

YEAR 2011

Talks and Exhibitions at Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre (RGSC), Bell Village

The theme for the year 2011's celebration was centred about the youth and how it can contribute as the next wave for change. To mark this event, the MOI organised a series of talks, a film projection and a poster exhibition at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre on Wednesday 8th June 2011 so as to reach out to youngsters to become caretakers of our oceans. The objectives were to create an understanding of the importance of our oceans, to promote public awareness on the need to preserve the marine environment and to encourage individuals to think about what the oceans mean to each of us and what oceans have to offer.

The world ocean is undergoing pressure from a multitude of factors. Phenomenon like global warming, sea level rise, loss of biodiversity may not strike the attention of our young generation. Therefore, the forum aimed at simplifying those complicated matters to the younger generation and sensitise them to these urgent issues. In this context, a presentation of our marine environment in particular on its fisheries resources and the effects of climate change on the coastal areas was made.

A prize giving ceremony was also held for the comic strip competition on the "Effects of Climate Change on our Ocean" organised among students of BPS College. Students from SSS Lady Sushil Ramgoolam, SSS Renganaden Seeneevassen, SSS A. R. Mohamed, SSS Bell Village and BPS College as well MOI staff members, Mr. M. Beebeejaun of the Mauritius Meteorological Services and Mr. S. Soondron of the Ministry of Rodrigues actively participated in the event.

YEAR 2012

Activities in Colleges

To mark the celebrations of the "Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Day" and the "World Oceans Day" 2012, the MOI organised a series of exhibitions, talks, presentations and film projections from 22nd May 2012 to 8th June 2012 in several colleges of the country, whereby, Form IV and Lower VI science students were invited to attend the event.

The theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity for 22nd May 2012 was “Marine and Coastal Biodiversity” and the theme for World Oceans Day for 8th June 2012 was “Youth, the Next Wave for Change”.

The main objectives were to:

- create an understanding as well as to promote public awareness of the ocean and the current challenges faced by the community in connection with marine biodiversity;
- encourage individuals to think about what the oceans mean to each of us, and what oceans have to offer;
- reach out to youngsters to become caretakers of our oceans and to conserve them for our future;
- apprise the community of the importance of the oceans in relation to food security, health, the survival of all life, climate change, the environment as well as sustainable development, and
- communicate new marine research and ocean development activities to the targeted public.

YEAR 2013

“Nou Lamer, Nou La Vie, Nou Lavenir”

In 2013, celebrations at MOI drew special attention to the importance of getting young people, various communities and the general public to protect the ocean, under the theme, “Nou Lamer, Nou La Vie, Nou Lavenir”.

A series of activities in collaboration with several sea users were organised across the country from the 6th to 20th June 2013. The Honourable Devanand Virahsawmy, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development kindly agreed to grace us with his presence for the official launching of the set of activities on Saturday 8th June 2013 at the Trou aux Biches Resorts and Spa as we believed that part of the mandates of the MOESD are closely related to the stewardship of the ocean. Activities included a beach and lagoon clean up, planting of batatrans and sand sculpture at the public beach of Trou aux Biches as well as scientifically guided glass bottom boat trips and sensitisation campaigns at the public beaches of Belle Mare, Blue Bay and Flic en Flac.

The collaborating partners were the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Fisheries, the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands, the University of Mauritius, the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, Mauritius Institute of Education, AHRIM, Beach Authority, Tourism Authority, Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority, Atlantis Diving Centre, Reef Conservation, Commission on Maurice Ile Durable, National Coast Guard, Mauritius Meteorological Services, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, NDU, Land Transport and Shipping, Village Hall of Flic en Flac, St. John Ambulance and the Red Cross.

YEAR 2014

Sensitisation Campaigns

To mark the celebrations of World Oceans Day 2014 under the theme “Together we have the power to protect the ocean!”, the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI), various coastal communities and the general public and interacted and conveyed the message how to protect the ocean and illustrate the importance of oceanography for a small island developing state, like Mauritius.

The MOI organised a beach clean-up and planting of mangroves at Rivière des Galets on Friday 6th June 2014 by inviting the youth including students from the BPS College as well as from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius.

A sensitisation campaign was also held at the public beach of St. Felix on Sunday 8th June 2014, whereby displays were set up to show case the importance of oceanography and the activities linked to it.

Collaborating partners included the Beach Authority, the University of Mauritius, National Coast Guard, Mauritius Police Force, District Council of Savanne, the Central Electricity Board, the BPS College, Hotel Shanti Maurice, the NGO “Association pour le Développement Durable (ADD)” and St. John Ambulance.

YEAR 2016

Open Day at MOI

Under the theme of “Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet”, special emphasis for the year 2016 was laid on plastic pollution which is a serious threat to the oceanic environment due to its slow rate of degradation, and subsequently to marine life. The laudable initiative taken by the Government of Mauritius to ban plastic bags will undoubtedly have a positive effect on the marine environment in this regard.

In that context, the MOI, in collaboration with the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Island, and other stakeholders, organised a series of activities on the new premises of the Institute at Albion. This joint initiative aimed to promote public awareness on the ocean, to highlight the current challenges it is facing, and to reach out to youngsters to become caretakers of our oceans.

During the opening ceremony, the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands, Honourable Premdoot Koonjoo, emphasised on the importance of the ocean in regulating the climate, as a source of food, as a major contributor to most of the oxygen we breathe, as a home to an incredible array of wildlife and as a source of important medicines. He stressed the need to protect the oceans, so as to ensure the health and safety of our communities and of future generations. He also urged the population, in particular the youth, to reflect on actions each of us could take to safeguard vulnerable ocean communities.

The activities organised on that day consisted of film shows, exhibitions and displays showcasing ocean research, marine conservation and safety at sea amongst others. Talks were given on various topics namely: (1) hydrographic services in Mauritius; (2) safety at sea and services, business opportunities in the ocean economy; (3) coastal ecosystems, mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs; (4) marine renewable energy; (5) submarine ground water discharge; (6) observing the ocean from space and geophysical mapping of the seafloor.

This event attracted secondary and tertiary students from different regions of the country and participating stakeholders included: the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management, the Mauritius Research Council, the Department of the Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration, the Mauritius Meteorological Services, the Albion Fisheries Research Centre, the Shipping Division, the National Coast Guard, the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, the University of Mauritius, the University of Technology, the Hydrographic Unit of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, Reef Conservation and the Mauritius Marine Conservation Society.

YEAR 2017

Inauguration of MOI Research Facilities and Multi Stakeholders' Exhibits

To mark the celebrations of World Oceans Day 2017, the MOI in collaboration with the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping organized the Inauguration Ceremony of the new MOI research facilities at Albion on Thursday 8th June 2017.

The unveiling of the inaugural plate was done by the Right Honourable Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence and Minister for Rodrigues in the presence of the Honourable Ivan Leslie Collendavelloo, GCSK, SC, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities as well as Honourable Premdut Koonjoo, Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping. Other ministers, namely Honourable Anil Kumarsingh Gayan, SC, Minister of Tourism; the Honourable Marie Roland Alain Wong Yen Cheong, MSK, Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment; and the Honourable Dharmendar Sesungkur, Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms, also attended the inauguration ceremony.

Concurrently, to celebrate World Oceans Day 2017, the MOI organized a series of multi stakeholders' exhibits and displays, short film projection and presentations in collaboration of different ocean related stakeholders for secondary school students on Friday 9th June 2017 under the theme "Our Oceans, Our Future".

Around 200 to 250 students from various state secondary schools participated in the above event. Collaborating partners included the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development (Environment and Sustainable Development Division), the National Coast Guard, the Mauritius Meteorological Services, the Outer Islands Development Corporation, the Hydrography Unit, the Shipping Division, the Fisheries Protection Service, the University of Technology, the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre as well as NGOs such as the Reef Conservation and Lagon Bleu Project – ECOSUD.

YEAR 2018

The MOI celebrated the World Oceans Day in collaboration with the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping and the University of Mauritius on Friday 8th June 2018 through exhibits and talks at the Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium in Réduit open to secondary school students and the general public.

The exhibits included several displays such as posters, short films and scientific equipment used during field activities from the Physical Oceanography, Chemical Oceanography, Marine Geosciences, Biotechnology and Biological Oceanography Units. The Biological Oceanography also set-up a prototype “grandeur-nature” Coral Culture Nursery Unit during the event.

Several presentations and research talks were delivered on the same day which was targeted mainly for university students. A research talk on “Microplastics, just because you can’t see it, doesn’t mean it’s not there!” in the morning session during the opening ceremony and the following research talks were delivered in the afternoon:

- Crustal structure beneath Mauritius: Oceanic or Continental?
- Investigation of land-sea interactions through groundwater discharge.
- Unveiling the ocean renewable energy potential of Mauritius: How do we supply the country’s energy needs?

WORLD OCEANS DAY 2018 PROGRAMME

Theme: "A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN FOR THE YOUTH, BY THE YOUTH"

08:30-09:00	Registration of participants
09:00-09:02	Welcome note by Master of Ceremony
09:02-09:07	Opening speech by the Vice-Chancellor of UoM
09:07-09:12	Speech by the Director of Mauritius Oceanography Institute
09:12-09:22	Speech by The Hon. Premdutt Koonjoo, Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
09:22-09:45	Video projection by IOC
09:45-10:00	Talk by guest speaker Dr Mitrasen Bhikajee, C.S.K.
10:00-10:05	Performance by <i>Ene Losean Vivab</i> and UoM students
10:05-10:20	Break
Session chair: Assoc Prof (Dr) S D Dyal	
10:20-10:35	Microplastics, just because you can't see it, doesn't mean it's not there! - Dr Yashvin Neehaul, MOI
10:35-10:50	Talk by Mr Vikash Mumbodhe, AFRC, Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
10:50-11:05	The Lagon Bleu Program - Dr Pramod K Chumun, Eco-sud/Lagon Bleu
11:05-11:20	Reef Conservation - Mr Flavio Joseph, Reef Conservation
11:20-11:30	Sketch by UoM students
11:30-11:45	Talk on MARPOL ANNEX V by Captain Hubert Noel, Principal Nautical Surveyor - Shipping Division - Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
11:45-12:00	Talk by Mr Raj Mohabeer, IOC
12:00-12:15	Ten things we can do to save our reefs - Mrs S Mattan-Moorgawa, UoM
12:15-12:25	Discussion: What can we do to protect/save our oceans? Moderator: Miss D Narrain
12:25-15:00	Exhibitions/activities

Research Talks

Session Chairs: Dr R Moothien Pillay	
13:30-13:45	Crustal structure beneath Mauritius: Oceanic or Continental? - Dr Manvendra Singh, MOI
13:45-14:00	Applications of Satellite Data - Dr Beenesh Anand Motah, MOI
14:00-14:15	Investigation of land-sea interactions through groundwater discharge - Dr Yashvin Neehaul, MOI
14:15-14:30	Unveiling the ocean renewable energy potential of Mauritius: How do we supply the country's energy needs? - Mr Jay Doorga, MOI
14:30-14:45	Medicines from marine organisms: Can marine sponges save your life? - Miss Rima Beesoo, Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research
14:45-15:00	Coral reef studies at UoM - Assoc. Prof. (Dr) Ranjeet Bhagooli, UoM
15:00-15:20	Discussion session



MOI staff also participated in a beach cleaning campaign at the Blue Bay Marine Park on Saturday 9th June 2018.

YEAR 2019

The theme for World Oceans Day 2019 was “Gender and Oceans”, whereby a series of activities were held from the 27th of May to the 8th of June 2019. During the first week, that is, from the 27th to the 31st of May 2019, presentations and talks on marine related activities were held in secondary schools by different ocean partners.

On Sunday the 2nd of June 2019, a sensitisation/awareness campaign was held at the public beach of Trou aux Biches and Blue Bay respectively with members of the public. The sensitisation campaign included glass bottom boat trips with explanation by scientists from the MOI as well as from the Albion Fisheries Research Centre and Fisheries Protection Services on the importance and protection of the marine ecosystem. Activities also included drawing competition, quiz, face painting, sand castle and musical chair for the children.

The MOI also organised an open day for secondary school students on Friday 7th June 2019 from 10 00 to 14 00 hours. Activities on that day included a multi stakeholders’ exhibits including several displays such as posters, short films and scientific equipment used during field activities and a guided tour of the research facilities at the Institute.

Moreover, to mark the celebrations of World Oceans Day 2019 on Saturday 8th June 2019, a launching ceremony of the “Ocean Carbonate Chemistry Observatory” by the Hon. Premdut Koonjoo, Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping was held followed by a guided visit to the newly furnished laboratories and to the stakeholders’ exhibits from 09 30 to 11 30 hours. Further to the protocol ceremony, there was an open day for members of the general public from 11 30 to 16 00 hours.