

Mauritius hosts high-level ICT Stakeholders' Forum

Mauritian success story will serve as showcase

The Mauritian success story in turning the country into a CyberIsland will be amongst the highlights of a high level international forum to be held here next week. The ICT Stakeholders' Forum will run from 7th to the 9th of July, 2004 at Le Méridien Hotel, Pointe aux Piments.

The policies, strategies and initiatives taken by Mauritius will be showcased to key players in the ICT sector from across the globe. ICT success stories from different regions will also come under the spotlight during the forum.

The ICT Stakeholders' Forum is being hosted by the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) and co-organized by the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) with the support of the Commonwealth Secretariat in association with NEPAD.

The ICT Stakeholders' Forum will be attended by some ten ministers from participating nations and officials, senior decision makers from donor agencies such as EU and the World Bank, intergovernmental organizations like the International Telecommunications Union, officials from NEPAD and the E-Africa Commission, business leaders, consultants, academics and representatives from regional, local, non-governmental and civil society organizations.

The special focus of the ICT Stakeholders' Forum will be on Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Delegates will be challenged to come up with real and deployable solutions to integrate LDCs into the global economy through the use of ICTs.

Concrete projects, proposals and models that can enable LDCs to harness the potential of ICTs for sustainable economic development in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be unveiled.

The forum will include a mixture of plenary sessions with multi-stakeholder roundtables. A ministerial session on the first day will get delegates to focus on the experiences and challenges that LDCs face.

Also on the first day, a guide on market opportunities in LDCs will be published and a private sector roundtable will be held.

The second day will turn to the discussion of ICT projects and on donor perspectives. Day three will give delegates more opportunities for structured meetings; a working group meeting will be held and a number of capacity building workshops will be run on that day. Delegates will also be taken on a tour of the government's flagship project, the CyberCity of Ebène.

The forum will be opened by Mr Jayen Cuttaree, the Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Regional Cooperation. Mr Pradeep Jeeha, the Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunications will also address the Forum. Amongst the delegates will be Dr Mohan Kaul, the CEO of the Commonwealth Business Council, Mr Hamadoun I. Touré, the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union and Dr Henry Chasia from the E-Africa Commission, NEPAD.