

**CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR
CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM
WORKSHOP**

**OPENING CEREMONY @ 09 30 HRS
SWAMI VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION CENTRE
PAILLES**

***SPEECH OF HON. A.K.BACHOO
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & NDU***

Mr Steve Thorne, Resource Person from SouthSouthNorth,
Mr S. Seebaluck, Permanent Secretary,
Mrs Ng, Director Department of Environment,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be among your midst this morning for the opening of the First National Workshop under the “Capacity Development for Clean Development Mechanism” project commonly referred to as the CD4CDM project.

I would like on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius to express my appreciation to the Government of Netherlands for its financial support towards the realization of this project.

In affirming our commitment to economic and social development, we need to respond firmly to the findings of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This implies that if we delay emission reductions, we would be faced with increased risks of severe climate change impacts. More particularly, in the case of low-lying island states like Mauritius we have to face the serious challenges posed by sea level rise.

Our strategic response thus need to be two fold, one characterised by “Adaptation’ where we need to develop ways to protect our people and infrastructure by reducing their vulnerability to climate change impacts and the second one through “Mitigation” where we can lower our greenhouse gases emissions in the atmosphere so as to slow down the process of global climate change

My Ministry has already initiated works to protect our coast from the effects of sea level rise through coastal protection works at the most affected sites, mangrove propagation programmes and continuous monitoring and protection of coral reefs. We have also initiated a project for the development of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Framework (ICZM) for the Republic of Mauritius. The ultimate objective of this project will be to promote sustainable use and development of our coastal zone through the elaboration of an ICZM strategy and an appropriate policy and regulatory framework for the coastal zone.

Concurrently, my Ministry is working in collaboration with the UNDP to seek financing under the Special Climate Change Fund to implement the project “Adapting Coastal Zone Management to Address the Impacts of Climate Change”. The objective of this project is to enhance local capacities to incorporate risks associated with climate change and variability into coastal management strategies, policies and plans.

As I mentioned earlier, our second response to climate change can be through mitigation - that is, lowering our greenhouse gas emissions. This is in spite of the fact that as a small island developing state our greenhouse gas emissions are negligible. In fact, all small island developing states of the world contribute only about 1% of the global GHG emissions. But we firmly believe that every action counts as we are running out of time.

The Kyoto Protocol established the first global mechanisms for the trading of carbon credits, so that reductions in emissions could occur where they are more economically efficient. Poor nations are exempt from the Protocol’s binding limits but are able to participate in the global project of emissions reductions by hosting projects under the Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism.

The CDM is in fact a project-based approach to reducing emissions, with new credits continuously being created as new projects are approved. It was intended from the beginning that the CDM would create sustainable development benefits for developing nations.

Many developing nations saw the opportunity to bring substantial investments and new technology into their nations. Indeed, the Kyoto Protocol mandates a dual goal of the CDM for both emissions reductions and sustainable development.

CDM projects are being conducted in more than 40 countries where about 825 CDM project activities have been registered with a total of about 85 billion of certified emission reduction (CERs) issued, each equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas responsible for global warming.

However, the CDM has provided uneven benefits for different developing nations. For example, China is the world's second largest emitter after the US and forecasts are that China will capture the majority of projects, supplying up to 61 percent of emissions credits purchased since 2002 projects in the CDM market due to the relatively low cost of emissions abatement in China. On the other hand, Africa and still less SIDS have gained little from technology transfer to kick start development activities. The main reasons being lack of capacity and the complexity of the mechanism. While we are calling for the simplification of the CDM process at the Meeting of the Parties Level, capacity needs to be developed in these countries to enable access to the mechanism.

Ladies and gentlemen

To date, my Ministry, as Designated National Authority and focal point for the Kyoto protocol, has approved and issued host country letter of approval for two projects for consideration by the CDM Executive Board: the Compagnie Thermique de Savannah Ltée (CTSav) bagasse-based energy project and the Waste-to-Energy project from Gamma Civic.

Side by side my Ministry has already initiated actions with the UNDP for charting out a CDM National Strategy. This would be a major breakthrough in the overall CDM

process, as the national strategy would enable us to identify key CDM investment thrusts that would promote our country as an important CDM investment destination. The strategy will also give us clear direction on the type of manpower that will be required together with its correlated education and training areas. We have now to re-focus ourselves on how CDM can be used to attract Foreign Direct Investment. This scenario would no doubt create a new business outlook where companies would be encouraged to provide appropriate and cleaner technologies. In our economic struggle of boosting up Foreign Direct Investment we have to seize the potential opportunities that would be offered to us through the CDM process to reshape our country's industrial bases with a view to attaining economic, social and environmental sustainability.

As rightly pointed out by Mr de Boer, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary; "Market mechanisms, such as the CDM and emissions trading, are essential to stimulate the green investment required to tackle climate change and move to a low-carbon economy".

May I express confidence that the CD4CDM Workshop will look into all the necessary aspects so as to make Mauritius an attractive CDM investment destination through the creation of CDM-friendly regulatory and business environments. I also informed that a website for CDM is presently under construction and will be shortly launched. This website will no doubt provide useful information to investors and would act as a key enabler in promoting CDM investment.

Finally I would seize this opportunity to extend my special thanks to the workshop facilitators, Messrs Steve Thorne and Glenn Hodes.

With these words, ladies and gentlemen, I have the pleasure to declare this workshop open and wish all participants fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.