

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM
FIRST NATIONAL WORKSHOP

WELCOME ADDRESS BY PERMANENT SECRETARY, MR S. SEEBALUCK

23 January 2008

Honourable Anil Kumar Bachoo, Minister of Environment & NDU

Mr Steve Thorne from South South North

Ms. Dominique Ng, Director of Environment

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning.

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment and NDU and on my own behalf, I am pleased to welcome you all to this First National Workshop under the Capacity Development for Clean Development Mechanism Project, CD4CDM.

The Kyoto Protocol broke new grounds by defining three innovative “flexible mechanisms” to lower the overall costs of achieving its emissions targets. These mechanisms enable Parties to benefit from cost-effective opportunities to reduce emissions, including through investment in climate friendly projects other countries. The **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** is one of these three flexible mechanisms along with **Joint Implementation** and **Emissions Trading**.

The CDM is an arrangement under the Kyoto Protocol allowing industrialised countries with greenhouse gas reduction commitments to invest in emission reducing projects in developing countries. The resulting reduction can be shared between the two parties concerned.

The CDM offers an opportunity to mobilize additional resources for the implementation of projects in developing countries that help mitigate climate change while promoting sustainable development.

The Ministry of Environment & NDU is the Designated National Authority (DNA) for the CDM. The CDM Office has been attributed the task of assessing potential CDM projects to determine whether they will assist the country in achieving its sustainable development goals and of issuing formal host country approval where this is the case. However, as in most countries, access to the CDM is found to be complex, lengthy and not user friendly. This is why we have sought the assistance of UNEP and UNDP to provide the necessary training to all stakeholders in order to enable the country to benefit from the CDM.

It is in this context that we are holding this workshop which is one in a series of three national workshops that we are organizing in collaboration with UNEP. We hope that at the end of the two days we shall become conversant with CDM requirements and that gradually we become a key CDM investment destination.

To conclude I would like to thank the Government of Netherlands for providing the required financial support for the realization of this project. Our appreciation also goes to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), more specifically the UNEP RISOE Centre (URC) in Denmark and South South North, the Regional Team in South Africa, which are providing the necessary technical assistance to implement the CD4CDM project in Mauritius. As facilitator for this workshop we have with us Mr Steve Thorne, from South South North. We also have Mr Glenn Hodes from the UNEP RISOE Centre in Denmark who will join us later during the course of the workshop. On behalf of the Ministry of Environment and NDU, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you, Mr. Thorne, and would like to thank you and UNEP for your useful collaboration.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now like to invite Mr Steve Thorne to say a few words.