



Press Release

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat in collaboration with the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) organised "MCCI Afternoon Coffee", a business gathering with the privates sector on 27 January 2016. This event was attended by around 50 prominent businessmen from different line of business entities. This event was also attended by The Hon. Etienne Sinatambou, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, H.E K.V. Bhagirath, the Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, representatives from IORA local mission, among other; Australia, South Africa, Madagascar, Indonesian Consulate, and media.

Minister Sinatambou opened the meeting and briefed the participants about the IORA and the huge business opportunities available in the region that is still yet untapped. He encouraged businesses to be more aggressive to grab the opportunities across the region, and more active to participate in numerous IORA business events including Economic and Business Conference (EBC-II) in Dubai on 12 – 13 April 2016. Mr. Raju Jadoo, Secretary General of Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry as the host seconded the Minister, and also wishes MCCI business members to put on the screen the potentials and strengthen networking in the region.

The Secretary General, Ambassador Bhagirath also highlighted several business-related events that IORA and Member States are going to organize. He made reference to the success of the First Economic and Business Conference (EBC I) that was hosted in Mauritius and invited the private sectors to attend the EBC II which is going to focus on SMEs development.

Mr Firdaus Dahlan, Director of the IORA, made a presentation entitled "How the private sectors can benefit from the IORA?", which highlighted IORA business mechanisms, and flagship projects that can benefit the private sectors. He also explained the draft proposal made on IORA Business Travel Card as raised earlier by the representative of CCI-Troika IORA (Indonesia, Australia, and South Africa) at the 15th Council of Minister Meeting (COM) in Padang-Indonesia October 2015.

The meeting was also informed about the IORA Business Summit, scheduled to be held in March 2017 prior to "The first Leader Summit" in Indonesia.

The discussion ended by question and answers session whereby the floor was opened to various queries from participants, and followed by a networking session.

29 January 2016