



PRESS RELEASE

IORA DAY 2024

Mauritius, March 2nd, 2024 – The Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) celebrated its 27th year of establishment with the IORA Open Fair, held at the Tribeca Mall in Mauritius on 2nd March 2024. This grand celebration, commemorating IORA Day, brought together 10 IORA Member States and 5 IORA Dialogue Partners in a vibrant showcase of cultural heritage.

His Excellency Prithvirajsing Roopun, the President of the Republic of Mauritius, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, officiating the inauguration of both the IORA Open Fair and the new website of IORA. During his speech, the President of the Republic of Mauritius highlighted: *“IORA’s role remains one to promote regional corporation, peace, stability and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean Region and beyond. I am glad to be part of this laudable initiative where we are going to showcase the rich cultural diversity of IORA’s Members but also this platform is going to serve for greater understanding, friendship and corporation among several nations.”*

His Excellency Salman Al Farisi, the Secretary-General of IORA also addressed the audience. In his remarks he stated that: *“Today is a day of celebrating the richness of our cultures, a tapestry woven with the threads of traditions, languages, and histories that make each of our nations unique. To honour this diversity, we are organising a cultural and culinary fair, showcasing the vibrant Indian Ocean region. In this cultural partnership, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Member States and dialogue partners for their participation and contribution to make this event happen. Our partnerships today extend beyond diplomatic dialogues into the realms of art, cuisine, and shared experiences, creating a fabric of unity.”*

The IORA Open Fair served as a platform for cultural exchange, offering the public an immersive experience in the rich diversity of 10 IORA Member States and 5 IORA Dialogue Partners. Highlights of the event included a culinary journey through diverse cuisines, captivating cultural performances featuring traditional music and dance, and an Arts & Handicrafts Exhibition displaying creations from IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners.