



Intercontinental Trust Ltd

### **Mauritius appoints a new Finance minister**

Pravind Jugnauth took oath as the new minister of Finance and Economic Development on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The Ministry was previously under the aegis of the Prime Minister following the resignation of the former minister.

With the appointment of the new minister, the presentation of the budget 2016-2017 which was initially scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016, will be postponed until further notice.

Mr. Pravind Jugnauth previously held the same ministerial position in a previous mandate, from 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009 – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011.



### **Protocol amending the India-Mauritius DTAA**

A protocol amending the 1983 India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) was signed by both states on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 (the “Protocol”).

The key change brought about by the Protocol is the amendment to Article 13 “Capital Gains” whereby the taxing rights on capital gains (CG) will lie with India as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. Presently, CG on the disposal of shares of an Indian company held by a company resident in Mauritius are only taxable in the residence country i.e. in Mauritius where there is no CG tax.

The Protocol also introduces withholding tax of 7.5% on interest arising in India. This implies that any interest arising in India and payable to Mauritian residents, which is currently taxed at domestic rates in the source country, will now benefit from a capped reduced rate. On the other hand, the withholding tax rate will also apply to interest arising on debt claims or loans contracted with Mauritian resident banks, currently exempted from withholding tax under the existing DTAA.



If you missed our newsletter on the Protocol, you can access it [here](#)

## **International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) 2016 Congress Mauritius**

Earlier this month, Mauritius hosted the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the ICCA Congress from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016, making it the first African country to organize this major academic and professional event. The 4-day congress, devoted to international arbitration, featured several keynote speakers including the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mohamed ElBaradei.

The event also witnessed the participation of more than 800 dignitaries and delegates from 70 countries.

African entities often resort to European arbitrators to resolve their disputes. Having the right legal and policy frameworks in place, Mauritius which is part of the African continent, aims to fill the gap by positioning itself as an international arbitration hub for the African region through its LCIA-MIAC arbitration centre.

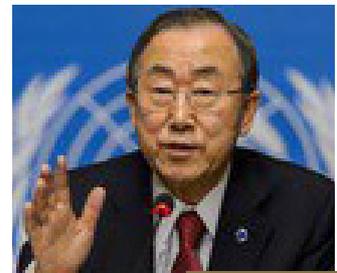


### **The Secretary General of the United Nations in Mauritius**

Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, and a delegation of 13 members were in Mauritius from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016. During his stay in Mauritius, Mr. Ban Ki-moon met with the Mauritian Prime Minister, Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, and the President of the Republic, Mrs. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim. He congratulated Mauritius for being a good partner of the United Nations and also for its engagement in sustainable development.

He also delivered a speech at the Conference of the International Council of Commercial Arbitration 2016. The Secretary General participated in a special event on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and received a Degree of Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Mauritius.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> May, he visited several historical sites such as the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site, and the Morne Cultural Landscape and UNESCO World Heritage Site.



## Signature of three agreements between Mauritius and Cote d'Ivoire

Hon. Xavier-Luc Duval, Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius and Minister of Tourism & External Communications, was the chief guest at the “Confédération Générale des Entreprises de Côte d’Ivoire” Academy 2016 held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March in Abidjan, Cote D’Ivoire.

During his stay, he had various working sessions with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Côte d’Ivoire.



The authorities leveraged on the Deputy Prime Minister’s visit and arranged for the execution of the following bilateral agreements between Cote D’Ivoire and Mauritius:

- An Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA);
- A General Economic Collaboration Agreement; and
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Investment Mauritius (BOI) and the Centre de Promotion des Investissements en Côte d’Ivoire (CEPICI).

## SAA increases flights to Mauritius

In order to meet growing demand, South African Airways (SAA) has added another flight to its South Africa-Mauritius route. The new flight, scheduled on Wednesdays, will be operational as from 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and is already open for bookings.



In the past year, the number of South Africans visiting Mauritius rose by 9.5% whilst South Africa is among the top 3 destinations for Mauritius.

Effective as from 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016, the SAA flight schedules:

Day of operation	Day of operation	Depart Johannesburg	Return Mauritius
Monday, Tuesday, Friday		SA190 09:40	SA191 16:20
Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday		SA190 10:25	SA191 17:05
Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday		SA192 08:40	SA193 15:20

## Mauritius launches direct flights to Maputo and Dar-es-Salaam

Air Mauritius, the national airline of the island, launched direct flights to Maputo (Mozambique) on 04<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and direct flights to Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania) on 06<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

The new air routes, will contribute towards the development of the Air Corridor between Asia and Africa based on the utilisation of the Mauritius and Singapore hubs.



## **Air Asia operational in Mauritius as from 4th October 2016**

Air Asia has announced that it will operate three flights weekly from Kuala Lumpur to Mauritius as from 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and five flights weekly, as from July 2017. This is in line with the Mauritian government's strategy of liberalizing the country's air connectivity to further enhance international trade.



## **Africa attractiveness 2016: Navigating Africa's current uncertainties**

EY has recently released its report on Africa attractiveness 2016. This report provides an update of the main foreign direct investment projects in Africa.

The Africa Attractiveness Index (AAI) provides a flexible analytical tool to help assess market attractiveness, balancing: Likely resilience in the face of current macro-economic pressures; and Progress made in areas of longer term development critical to sustainable, inclusive growth.



Mauritius has been ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the AAI, after South Africa, Morocco, Egypt and Kenya.

## **Mauritius enhances bilateral relations with the Republic of Sao Tomé and Príncipe**

The Prime Minister and Chief of Government of the Republic of Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Honorable Patrice Emery Trovoada, visited Mauritius from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016 accompanied by a delegation of dignitaries, including the Minister of Finance and Public Administration, Honorable Americo Ramos.

The prime objective of this visit was to reinforce economic ties between both nations and create awareness about the various investment opportunities available in Sao Tomé. An Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement was signed by both states on 6 May 2016. The delegation also conducted a peer-to-peer learning exercise with key public institutions in Mauritius.



Sao Tomé and Príncipe consists of two islands and other situated near the equator. The country largely relied on the export of cocoa, coffee, copra and palm products to develop and sustain its economy but is now focusing on the exploitation of natural oil reserves.

## The launch of the operation of the Online Data Capture System

The Financial Services Commission (FSC) launched the Online Data Capture System (ODCS) on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016 with the aim of facilitating the collection of data including statutory filings on its licensees. A phased-wise approach has been adopted by the FSC whereby licensees, except those holding a category 2 Global Business Licence, will initially be required to file surveys forms and financial statements through this platform.



Each licensee has been allocated one administrator user and that user can create as many other user accounts as necessary. The user accounts have to be managed effectively and relevant safety standards should be used regularly. Licensees are fully responsible and accountable of their user accounts.

Click [here](#) to view the communiqué issued by the FSC.

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