

48<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Education



## WORKSHOP 4

Analysis of ICT as a critical factor in democratizing learning opportunities, engaging and motivating teachers

Dharambeer Gokhool



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*Analysis of ICT as a critical factor in  
democratizing learning opportunities , engaging  
and motivating teachers*





## **A Presentation**

**by**

**Hon GOKHOO Dharambeer**

**Minister of Industry, Science and Research  
Government of the Republic of Mauritius**





# Backdrop

- First decade of a new Millennium
- Impact of economic liberalisation and globalisation...an interconnected world/a global village
  - End of an economic cycle
- Emergence of knowledge –based societies
  - Explosion and pervasiveness of New Technologies in all aspects of life





# Backdrop

- CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR IMPACT IN TO-DAY'S WORLD?
- NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INTEGRAL PART OF NEW DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM
- THE MAURITIAN EXPERIENCE IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR



# Mauritius 2008 Basic Facts

- Small island state in the Indian Ocean
- Former British colony, gained independence in 1968
- Multi-ethnic, multi-cultural Population of 1.2 million
- Narrow resource base with natural resources
- From a sugar based, mono-crop economy to a diversified ,multi-pillar economic structure: Tourism, Textile, Financial Services, ICT, Sea Food Hub etc
- Per Capita Income at US \$ 7000



## GOVERNMENT VISION FOR THE NATION SINCE 2005

- ★ **to create a society where there are opportunities for all, a more inclusive society, a society where there is equality of treatment before the law and by all agencies whether public or private.**
- ★ ***to bring about changes in the way our nation lives, works, educates its youth.....***

## GOVERNMENT VISION FOR THE NATION SINCE 2005

- ★ ***a future that is prosperous for all, where economic success will be equally characterized by equity, ethics and social justice.***



# GOVERNMENT VISION FOR THE EDUCATION SECTOR

- ★ ***Committed to carrying out fundamental reforms in Education providing World-Class Quality Education to enable young Mauritians to be employable in new sectors of the economy, to have more fulfilling jobs and also to be competitive at the international level.***



# GOVERNMENT VISION FOR EDUCATION SECTOR

- ★ **Strong Political commitment of successive Governments to Education and HRD**
- ★ **Adequate Public Sector Funding**
- ★ **1960s/1970s...Primary,Secondary Schools,Polytechnics and Universities set up**
- ★ **1980s .....Consolidation**



# GOVERNMENT VISION FOR THE EDUCATION SECTOR

1990s and beyond...

## FOCUS

- ★ ***Beyond Access***
- ★ ***Quality***
- ★ ***Relevance***
- ★ ***Equity (INCLUSION)***
- ★ ***Achievement***



*“Access to Schooling” as  
central to the theme of  
inclusive education*

★ **Rationale**

- ★ Education a fundamental right
- ★ No Child to be deprived of education because of socio economic status
- ★ People our most valuable resource



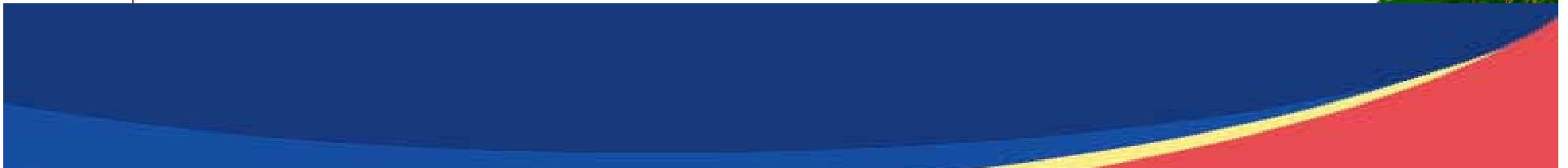
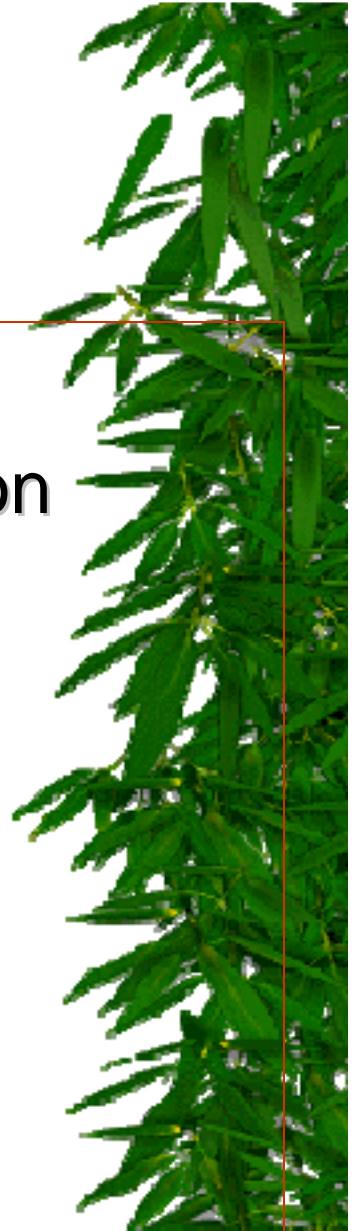
## *“SPECIFIC MEASURES”*

- ★ Government Subsidised Pre-Primary Schools
- ★ Free Primary, Secondary Education
- ★ Privately funded institutions are allowed to operate on a fee-paying basis at all levels.
- ★ No Tuition Fees for FT Undergraduate Students at University of Mauritius
- ★ Textbooks to all Primary School Children



## *"SPECIFIC MEASURES"*

- ★ To further democratize access, education made compulsory up to the age of 16
- +
- ★ Provision of free bus transport to all students
- ★ Subsidised Examination Fees for Secondary Schools



## *“SPECIFIC MEASURES”*

- ★ A Lower Secondary School with a school population of only 23 opened since January 2008 on the island of Agalega ( an island 1123 Km to the North of the mainland)
- ★ ***School Materials like School Bags, Shoes,, Uniforms to all children of vulnerable families***

## *SPECIFIC MEASURES*

- National “Eradication of Absolute Poverty ” Programme(2008/2009 Budget)
- Identification of 229 pockets of absolute poverty across the island.
- Sub-committee is identifying children aged 3+ and 4+ from these pockets of poverty and providing them with the necessary support for admission to pre-primary schools

# THE ICT Sector : Vision

## ★ A REGIONAL ICT HUB

★ *Commitment to take necessary steps to propagate ICT culture and facilitate the emergence of an Information Society and to reduce the digital divide.*



# Forecasts for the ICT Exports Sector

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Revenue(Billion MRU) (US \$ 1= MRU 30)	4.86	7.08	10.41	14.99	22.81
Manpower	6200	9034	13280	19724	29099

# ICT Basic Facts

Population	1.26 m
Number of fixed phone lines	361,300
Fixed phone density/100 inhabitants	28.6
Number of mobile phone subscribers	928,600
Mobile phone density/100 inhabitants	73.3
Internet Subscriber	166,000
Internet subs. density/100 inhabitants	13.1



# GOVERNMENT VISION for EMBEDDING ICT IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

★ **INTEGRAL PART OF OUR  
NATIONAL STRATEGY OF  
TRANSFORMING MAURITIUS INTO  
A CYBER ISLAND**



# GOOD PRACTICES IN ICT

- ★ An ICT Steering Committee has been set up at the Ministry to step up the implementation of the part of the National ICT Strategy Plan relating to ICT in education



# Some basic facts

	Primary	Secondary
<b>No of Schools</b> <i>(Excluding fee paying schools)</i>	274	162
<b>No of PC's</b>	4600	4500
<b>No of ICT Teachers</b>	291	310

# Computer penetration ratios at schools in selected African countries in 2006

*Based on figures obtained from the Ministry of Education in Egypt, 2006*

Country	No. of schools	Schools with PCs	% of schools with Pcs
Egypt	26,000	26,000	100 %
Ghana	32,000	800	2.5 %
Mozambique	7,000	80	1.1 %
Namibia	1,519	350	22.5 %
South Africa	25,582	6,651	22.6 %

# GOOD PRACTICES IN ICT:Pre-Primary Schools

- ❑ Pilot Project in Media Integration for Pre-Schools
- ❑ Children are expose to ICT through activities,games right at an early stage.



## GOOD PRACTICES IN ICT: Primary Schools

- ❑ All primary schools have received CD's to teach History & Geography and Mathematics at standard V level.
- ❑ The teachers have been trained in the use of these CD's.
- ★ 254 IT teachers trained at the Mauritius Institute of Education for the teaching IT as a subject in primary sector.



## GOOD PRACTICES IN ICT:Secondary level

- ❑ ICT has been introduced since late eighties.
- ❑ All Government Secondary Schools have at least one IT lab
- ❑ Grant – aided private secondary schools are paid a grant in respect of each PC in their lab provided that set norms are respected.



## GOOD PRACTICES IN ICT:Secondary level

- ★ All students of the lower secondary school level follow computer literacy classes as part of their curriculum
- ★ Computer Studies and computing are taught to those who opt for them at the upper secondary level



## GOOD PRACTICES IN ICT:Secondary level

- ★ Work is in progress to enable Internet access in the Rector's office, the staffroom and the library of each State Secondary School



## GOOD PRACTICES IN ICT:Secondary level

- ★ All Heads of State Secondary Schools will be trained in the use of ICT for effective communication before February 2009.
- ★ Six NEPAD e-schools have been set up on a pilot basis.
- ★ Schools connected to iNET (UK) project
- ★ Use of ICT in data logging in Science subjects



## Good practices in ICT

- ★ Government is implementing the “Universal ICT Education Programme” aiming at training 400 000 Mauritian citizens in 4 years.



# Success factors

- ❑ **Political commitment to eliminate the digital divide**
- ❑ **Sustained funding for technology– the affordability factor**
- ❑ **Partnership with the Private Sector: Corporate Social Responsibility**
- ❑ **Professional development of pedagogical materials and teachers in the use of technology for effective teaching and learning**
- ❑ **Access to information technology in classrooms and schools for all students and teachers**

