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GENERAL INFORMATION

Lunch

All MRT participants are invited to the MRT Lunch at 12:30 on Wednesday, September 27th at Senso Restaurant.

Internet Access

Wi-Fi Provided by Mauritius Telecom: Open (No password)

eLearning Africa Programme

Please refer to eLearning Africa catalogue for full description of programme.

eLearning Africa Exhibition Tour

Please join us for a tour of the Exhibition Area at 15:00 after MRT.

CHATHAM HOUSE RULE

The Ministerial Round Table will be held under the Chatham House Rule:

Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

This means that although the meeting will be held ‘on the record’ and outcomes and recommendations will be published in a Communique, no statements or contributions may be attributed to any participant by name.

Additionally, no press will be allowed into the meeting.



MRT 2017: THEME

‘Meeting the Sustainable Development goals for Education – How eLearning and Digitalisation can support Inclusivity, Boost Training and Encourage Skills Development’

Skills development, training and inclusivity should be priorities for African governments. They are key elements in the UN’s sustainable development goals for education – and they are likely to play a key role in securing continuing economic growth in the future. Digitalisation offers Africa an unprecedented opportunity to develop a skilled, modern workforce and a highly educated population.

But what needs to be done? How can Africa’s workforce develop the new skills necessary for continuing economic growth? How can African countries secure the benefits of digitalisation? How should it be encouraged and implemented? What are the obstacles and which countries have succeeded in overcoming them? What should the role of governments be in promoting digitalisation? What are the opportunities for the private sector and how can governments work most effectively with companies and investors to build the digital future? How can institutions and individuals adapt themselves to prepare for change?

As they set about making a reality of the sustainable development goals, African governments will want to use digitalisation to improve education and training in every sector. It offers opportunities, for example, to create a wider and more inclusive educational environment – one which offers proper support for marginalised groups, such as migrants or the disabled, expands opportunities for women and girls, strengthens and extends training for younger people and facilitates the development of lifelong learning. It offers the means too to support Africa’s burgeoning private sector, to encourage business start-ups and to enable young entrepreneurs to develop the new skills they will need in the markets of the future.

But what specific measures are needed? How can African countries develop programmes to nurture a new generation of tech entrepreneurs? How can appropriate infrastructures be put in place? How can they be financed? How can governments encourage investment in the skills of the future? How can African labour markets be made ready to make the most of the skilled workforce of the future? How can digitalisation enhance vocational training? How can it boost important sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, tourism and finance? How can it contribute to better healthcare?

As a forum for discussion at the highest level about many of the most pressing issues facing African governments, educators and investors, the 10th eLearning Africa Round Table will try to produce credible answers to these and other vital questions.

The overall objective of this year’s MRT is to analyse the opportunities digitalisation is bringing and to encourage the development of workable plans and partnerships, which will contribute to the achievement of the UN’s sustainable development goals for education.



MRT PROGRAMME

Wednesday 27th September

09:30 – 10:45 **Opening Session – Creating Tomorrow’s Jobs in Africa** **Hibiscus Ballroom**

Education is the key to reducing unemployment and increasing competition in Africa. But how can ICTs boost training and increase skills development to create the jobs of the future? Can education and training alone make a difference if African labour markets and societies are not ready to use the new skills? How can African countries develop world-class entrepreneurial and tech-based education? And how can this revolution in education translate into the creation of new businesses and jobs?

Chairperson: Ambassador Kheswar Jankee,

Ambassador to the Embassy of the Republic of Mauritius to Germany, Germany

- **Hon. Mr Yogida Sawmynaden,**
Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation, Republic of Mauritius
 - **Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun,**
Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Republic of Mauritius
 - **Günter Nooke,**
Personal Representative of the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, for Africa, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
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10:45 – 11:15 **Coffee Break** **Hibiscus Ballroom**

11:15 – 12:30 **Session 2 – Linking Education to Employment** **Hibiscus Ballroom**

How closely should African education be linked to employment? In a rapidly changing world, in which technology will continually change and re-shape markets, how closely can it be linked? What is the future of vocational training in Africa? What should be the role of the continent’s higher education sector? How can institutions prepare themselves to supply the skilled graduates that tomorrow’s employers will need? What do employers expect? Are the markets of the future likely to need workers and managers with the rigid discipline of training or the open-minded flexibility of education? What are the strengths and weaknesses of African workers? How can education maximise the former and minimise the latter? How can technology-assisted learning help to prepare Africa’s workforce for the future?

Chairperson: Dr Harold Elletson,

Editor, eLearning Africa Report, Senior Fellow, Institute for Statecraft, UK

- **Salah-Edine Kandri,**
Global Head of Education, IFC World Bank Group, United Arab Emirates
 - **Ramesh Durbarry,**
Director General, Civil Service College, Republic of Mauritius
 - **Marc Desmarais,**
Head of Medine Education, Medine Ltd, Republic of Mauritius
 - **Hon. Minister Frank Tumwebaze,**
Minister of Information & Communications Technology, Uganda
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12:30 – 13:30 **VIP Lunch** **Senso Restaurant**



13:30 – 15:00	Session 3 – Entrepreneurship in Africa	Hibiscus Ballroom
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We do not have to look to the future to imagine an entrepreneurial Africa. Innovative and successful startups are popping up throughout the continent. But what is the educational background to these success stories and how could it be replicated or expanded? What educational initiatives and programmes are most likely to lead to the creation of the successful African entrepreneurs and job creators of tomorrow? How can improvements in education be matched by better access to funding for start-ups? What role can technology play?

Chairperson: Dr Aida Opoku-Mensa,

Special Advisor on Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa - UNECA, Ethiopia

- **Bitange Ndemo,**
Senior Lecturer of Entrepreneurship and Research Methods, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- **Ariam Mogos,**
Learning Lead, Office of Innovation, UNICEF, USA
- **Dr Vanessa Gowreensunkar,**
Lecturer and Researcher, Mauritius Institute of Education, President, African Network for Policy, Research, and Advocacy for Sustainability, Secretary of African Union ECOSOCC, Woman and Gender Cluster, Republic of Mauritius

15:00 – 16:00	MRT Exhibition Tour	Exhibition Area
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17:30 – 19:30	eLearning Africa Opening Plenary – Learning in Context	Hibiscus Ballroom
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In Africa, context is all-important. It is a vital factor in decisions affecting investment, job-creation and development. Nowhere is this truer than in the education and training sector. As new communication technologies extend the reach of opportunity, educators, policy makers, partners and investors need to take account of the local context and conditions.

What are the main contextual and cultural considerations affecting the development of new opportunities through technology supported learning? How should content be localised to maximise opportunity? How should technology be applied or adapted to meet local conditions and needs? What role should African governments play? How can eLearning and digitalisation maximise inclusivity, access to knowledge and skills development by taking account of the local context? Above all, in an Africa that is changing rapidly, how can we maintain and safeguard our connection to tradition and context?

Chairperson: Prof. Vinayagum Chinapah,

Stockholm University, Sweden

- **Prof. Huang Ronghuai,**
Director of UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED) and Dean of Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University, China
- **Dr Amany Asfour,**
Secretary General, African Society for Scientific Research and Technology (ASSRT), Egypt
- **Hon. Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun,**
Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Republic of Mauritius
- **Hon. Yogida Sawmynaden,**
Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation, Republic of Mauritius

20:00 – 22:00	Ministerial Round Table Dinner	Segala Restaurant
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On Thursday 28th and Friday 29th September, MRT participants are invited to attend any eLearning Africa sessions they choose. Please see the conference catalogue or online programme for specific session details:
www.elearning-africa.com/programme_programme.php



SPEAKERS

Marc Desmarais

Holder of a Master’s degree in Human Resources from the University College Dublin, Marc Desmarais has built extensive knowledge in the human resource field over the past 30 years. He started his career at General Construction and moved on to De Chazal du Mee, where he stayed for 5 years as Manager and Consultant. Marc pursued his career in the banking sector at HSBC Mauritius and Hong Kong from 1996 to 2005 where he was involved in different implementations and human resources activities. With a solid international expertise which implied consultancy services to offices in 22 countries, Marc Desmarais moved back to Mauritius, within the MCB Group as the Head of Human Resources. After three years spent devising HR strategic projects, Marc left MCB for the Medine Group as the Group Head of Human Resources and Head of Medine Education Cluster.

Marc Desmarais is a certified trainer and holds many certificates in training and development.

Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun

Founder member of the Society of Biology, Mrs. Dookun Luchoomun has been in the field of Education for more than 27 years.

Determined to bring a change in the Mauritian society Mrs. Dookun Luchoomun joined the MSM party where actually she is the Vice President and President of the women’s wing.

Elected as the 1st Member for Constituency No.15 in September 2000 legislative elections, Mrs Dookun Luchoomun served as Parliamentary Private Secretary from October 2000 to December 2004 and as Minister of Arts & Culture from Dec 2004 to July 2005.

She acted as a member of the select Committee on Electoral Reform from 2000 to 2005. Moreover Mrs Dookun Luchoomun was a member of the SADC Parliamentary Women Caucus from 2000 to 2005.

In July 2005 legislative elections, she was elected as 2nd Member for Constituency No. 15. During her tenure as member of Legislative Assembly she served as a member for the select Committee on Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) from July 2005 to 2007. In May 2010 legislative elections, Mrs Dookun Luchoomun was elected as 2nd Member of Constituency No. 8 and served as Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions from May 2010 to July 2011.

In December 2014 legislative elections, she was elected as the 1st Member of Constituency No. 8 and sworn in as actual Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research.

Member of Select Committee on Electoral Reforms.

Member of Select Committee on ICAC.

Ramesh Durbarry

Ramesh was appointed as Director General of the Civil Service College, Mauritius in August 2015. Before joining the Civil Service College, Mauritius, he was Deputy Director and Professor in Tourism at the Amity Institute of Higher Education. He has wide experience of higher education in UK and in Mauritius. Ramesh completed his BSc (Hons) in Economics and obtained the first scholarship awarded by the British Council to follow a Master’s degree in Economic Development and Policy Analysis at the University of Nottingham. He then completed his PhD in Economics at the same university. He started his career as Lecturer in Economics at the University of Mauritius but his career venture started in UK when he joined the Nottingham University Business School as a Research Fellow. He was later appointed as Lecturer in Research Methods and then as Associate Professor in Tourism Marketing and Management.

Ramesh came back to Mauritius to lead the School of Public Sector Policy and Management at the University of Technology, Mauritius in 2003 and later on developed the School of Sustainable Development and Tourism in 2008. In 2012, he joined the newly incorporated UOM Enterprise under the UOM Trust as CEO. He was later on approached by the University of Bedfordshire in UK to become the Head of Department of Marketing, Tourism & Hospitality.



His research focuses on tourism and travel, tourism taxation, price sensitivity of tourism and the impact of the tourism sector on the various economies, with a keen interest on climate change and sustainable tourism. He is very research active and has published articles in leading international journals and has contributed chapters in international books.

He has worked on various projects for organisations such as WTO, UNWTO, EU, UNCTAD, VisitScotland, EMDA among others.

Dr Harold Elletson

Dr Harold Elletson is an international communications and public affairs consultant. He is also the Director of The New Security Foundation, which conducts research into the implications of the new security environment for civil society. The New Security Foundation provides an international forum for dialogue between the public and private sectors and offers analytical insight and information about new security conditions. The Foundation hosts the Security and Defence Learning track at OEB, as well as organising other conferences and seminars. A particular area of expertise is tourism security and the connection between culture and security.

He is a founding director of the Africa Forum on Business, Investment and Security, a member of the steering committee of OEB, a member of the Organising Committee of eLearning Africa and a consultant to ICWE GmbH. He is also the editor of The eLearning Africa Report, which is published every year and contains a survey of ICT in education in Africa, a comprehensive country report outlining progress in ICT4E in every African country and a funding guide.

Dr Elletson was previously Director of the NATO Forum on Business and Security, which he created with support from the NATO Science Programme.

A former Member of the United Kingdom Parliament (from 1992-1997), he served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in the early stages of the peace process and was also a member of the Select Committee on Environmental affairs. He served as a member of the Lancashire Education Authority (the Education Committee of Lancashire County Council) before being elected to Parliament where he represented the interests of schools and colleges in his constituency in discussions with Ministers and on the floor of the House of Commons. He is a Fellow of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme and of the Industry and Parliament Trust.

As a communications and public affairs specialist, he has advised many leading companies on aspects of their business in challenging markets, including BP in Azerbaijan and Alstom in Siberia. He has written widely on political and historical subjects and his first book, *The General Against the Kremlin*, was published by Little Brown. His journalism has been published in a variety of newspapers and magazines. Dr Elletson holds a PhD in Social Sciences from the University of Bradford.

Dr Vanessa Gowreesunkar

Dr Gaitree (Vanessa) Gowreesunkar has undertaken her PhD in the field of Tourism Management and Marketing. This was a merit scholarship based on her academic achievement. Vanessa is a lecturer and a researcher by profession and she is currently serving the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the Mauritius Institute of Education. She has a number of publications in internationally peer refereed journals and is actively engaged in community-based projects. She is the executive secretary of the African Union ECOSOCC (Woman and Gender Cluster) and occupies the post of president at the African Network for Policy, Research, and Advocacy for Sustainability (www.anpras.org) Vanessa's research interest is not limited to tourism management, destination marketing, tourism entrepreneurship and island tourism.

Ambassador Kheswar Jankee

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ambassador Kheswar Jankee, Ambassador of the Republic of Mauritius in Berlin.

The Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kheswar Jankee is the Ambassador of the Republic of Mauritius in Berlin. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Mauritius where he is an Associate Professor in Banking and Finance since 1992. He is also a Fulbright Scholar from the University of Maryland and a Permanent Representative Economic



and Financial Consultant of the World Association of Small and Medium Enterprises. Besides his contributions in scientific publications and his interventions in many conferences and seminars, he was also involved in various consultancy projects related to Economy and Finance issues in Mauritius.

Salah-Eddine Kandri

Salah-Eddine Kandri is currently the Global Head of Education leading IFC's Education Practice since April 2014. In this role, Salah-Eddine oversees IFC investment program in the education sector globally and across all levels of education. Prior to that, Salah-Eddine was the Regional Manager for Consumer Services for four years covering Europe, Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa region (EMENA).

Since early 2010, Salah-Eddine spearheaded the Education for Employment (E4E) Initiative for Arab youth and was co-lead for the development of IFC and IsDB's report 'Education for Employment: Realizing Arab Youth Potential' which was launched in April 2011.

Prior to IFC, Salah-Eddine spent six years at the Islamic Development Bank Group in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in charge of the Infrastructure and ICT private sector division. Salah-Eddine is a Fulbright Scholar and holds an MBA and a MSc. in Finance from the University of Maryland College Park. He also has an undergrad degree in Chemical Engineering from ENIM, Rabat, Morocco.

Günter Nooke

Günter Nooke is the Personal Representative of the German Chancellor for Africa and the Commissioner for Africa of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), a position he took after serving for four years as the Federal Government's Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid at the Foreign Office. During his term as a member of the German Bundestag between 1998 and 2005 he was the spokesperson of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group on culture and the media; spokesperson and chair of the working group on the Culture in Germany Study Commission; spokesperson of the CDU Bundestag members from Eastern Germany and deputy chair of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group. Mr Nooke holds degrees in physics and occupational medicine. He has published on a wide range of topics and is a keen reader and traveller and enjoys kayaking and carpentry.

Ariam Mogos

Ariam Mogos is the learning lead for UNICEF's Office of Innovation, an interdisciplinary team of individuals around the world tasked with identifying, prototyping, and scaling technologies and practices that strengthen UNICEF's work for children. Prior to that she founded the Nairobi Play Project, a global peace-building initiative which harnesses game design, storytelling and computational thinking to create experiential learning opportunities and promote local integration for refugees and migrants. Ariam has also led digital learning for the State Department's TechGirls MENA program, Global Kids and the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Science Literacy, Education and Technology.

Dr Bitange Ndemo

Dr Bitange Ndemo is the immediate former Permanent Secretary of Kenya's Ministry of Information and Communication. After his tenure with the Government, Dr. Ndemo went back to his job as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Nairobi's Business School, where he teaches entrepreneurship, and research methods. Most of his research centers on small and medium enterprises in Kenya with an emphasis on social enterprise. Dr. Ndemo holds a PhD in Industrial Economics from the University of Sheffield in the UK and an MBA and bachelor's degree in Finance and Accounting from the University of Minnesota. In the early 1990s, he was a Financial Systems Analyst at Medtronic Inc., a Fortune 500 company in the USA. He is a Honorary Chair of the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) and an Advisor to the Better than Cash Alliance, a global initiative to digitize payments.



Dr Aida Opoku-Mensah

Aida Opoku-Mensah is currently Special Adviser on the Post-2015 Development Agenda at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This role includes coordinating activities on Post-2015 in Africa as well as working with the African Union, African Development Bank and other UN agencies on the Common African Position for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. She was previously the Director of ICTs, Science and Technology Division of UNECA. Whilst working in these areas she promoted Science, Technology and Innovation for Development, including strategic areas such as geospatial technology, library and knowledge management, as well as ICT for Development.

She specifically led and implemented impressive initiatives such as UNECA's African Information Society Initiative (AIS) a continental digital agenda supporting African countries to develop and implement national ICT4D policies and strategies, Technology in Government in Africa Awards (TIGA) to encourage African Governments use of technology for development, and was one of the co-architects of the Innovation Prize for Africa Award (IPA) – an initiative to encourage African innovators and inventors to enhance their roles in the Africa's development process.

She is credited with developing and overseeing the implementation of the Access to Scientific Knowledge in Africa (ASKIA) Initiative, an innovative resource to enable African scientists to access scientific knowledge worldwide. Dr Opoku-Mensah's career spans academia, as well as the public and international sectors, and in philanthropy, working for the Ford Foundation's West Africa office in Lagos, Nigeria. She established the Panos Southern Africa regional office based in Lusaka, Zambia as its first director, and has lectured at London's City University on communication policy.

She has written extensively on ICT for development, Science, Technology and Innovation issues. Aida has a PhD from the University of Leeds (UK), an MA from London's City University and a BA from the University of Ghana. She received the Geospatial World Leadership Award for 'Making a difference in promoting geospatial technology in Africa' in 2012, and the 'Africa Female Diplomat of the Year' Award from BEN TV (UK) 2012 diplomatic awards.

Hon. Mr Yogida Sawmynaden

Honourable Yogida Sawmynaden is the Minister of Technology, Communication, and Innovation of the Republic of Mauritius. Yogida Sawmynaden holds a BA (Hons) Accounting & Law (UK), a Master's in Business Administration (UK) and a Diplome de 3^{ème} cycle en Management Internationale (France).

At 41 years old, he is one of the youngest Ministers of the Government. He has been in politics since 2001 when he was elected as a Councillor for the Municipality of Beau-Bassin/Rose-Hill. Two years later, he became deputy mayor.

In December 2014, he was elected as a Member of Parliament for constituency No 8 (Quartier Militaire/Moka). He thereafter served as the Minister of Youth and Sports. He brought a new impetus to that Ministry and yielded results very quickly, notably in 2015 when Mauritius had its best performance ever at Jeux des Iles (Indian Ocean Island Games) and Jeux d'Afrique.

Since January 2017, Yogida Sawmynaden is Minister of Technology, Communication, and Innovation and, has as responsibility, to position the ICT sector as the main pillar of the Mauritian Economy and to promote Innovation for the transformation of Mauritius into a high-income digital economy.

Hon. Frank Tumwebaze

Hon. Frank Kagyigi Tumwebaze is a Ugandan educator and politician. He is the current Cabinet Minister of ICT and National Guidance in the Government of Uganda a position he occupied on June 6, 2016. He previously served as Minister for the Presidency and Kampala Capital City between 2012 and 2016. He has been a Member of Parliament representing Kibale County and currently Kibale East in Kamwenge district since 2006.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Education (Math and Physics) from Mbarara University of Science and Technology and a Master's in International Relations and Diplomatic Studies, from Makerere University. Prior to joining elective politics, he among others worked with Uganda Revenue Authority as Customs Officer and Office of the President as Special Presidential Assistant on Research and Information. He has been a panelist, speaker and author in the wide media on a number of topical issues.

He hails from Kamwenge district in the Rwenzori region, Western Uganda.