

International Customs Day 2023

Automated system for the collection of Duties and Taxes at the MDFP



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) celebrated the International Customs Day (ICD) 2023 on Thursday 26 January 2023, under the theme: *“Nurturing the next generation: promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in Customs”*, put forward by the World Customs Organisation (WCO). The event took place at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC) at Le Chaland, Plaine Magnien.

Dr. the Honourable Renganaden Padayachy, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development was the Chief Guest to the function. He congratulated MRA Customs Officers for their dedication, hard work and professionalism. He underlined that more than 175 young talents have joined the Customs Department in three batches during the last five years. The last batch of 72 officers which joined in 2022 is still undergoing training.

“These young customs officers have specific competences, talents, abilities and knowledge, in particular using advanced technology and digital tools and processes which can be put to good use in the customs environment”, he emphasized.



[Link to Dr. Padayachy's intervention](#)

The Minister of Finance launched an automated system for the collection of Duties and Taxes by the Mauritius Duty Free Paradise (MDFP) on behalf of MRA Customs. “It simplifies the actual process of goods bought in excess of normal duty free allowance by passengers at MDFP and facilitates duty free shopping by incoming and outgoing passengers including tourists,” he said.



[Link to a video on MDFP](#)

In his address, Mr. Sudhamo Lal, the Director-General of the MRA commended MDFP personnel who worked hard on the automated system for the collection of Duties and Taxes.

The Container Control Program (CCP) is another innovative project on which training is being held at the MRA under the aegis of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

The CCP is a joint cooperation programme developed by UNODC and WCO to set up a Port Control Unit to identify trans-national crimes and inspect high risk shipments in the port with minimum disruption to legitimate trade.

The objective of the Container Control Programme (CCP) is to build capacity and provide logistic facilities to countries seeking to improve their risk management and increase control of high risk consignments in the supply chain without disrupting legitimate trade in seaports for land border crossings.



[Link to a video on Container Control Program](#)

Mr. Lal thanked UNODC and WCO for conducting the Container Control Programme in Mauritius. He added that MRA hosts the WCO Mauritius Multilingual Regional Training Centre which acts as the centre of excellence for customs compliance and enforcement matters for the ESA region. From this perspective, MRA consistently provides capacity building support in customs administrations of the region.



It is to be noted that in 2022, MRA hosted more than 20 training programmes, workshops, and webinars for the benefit of around 750 customs officers of ESA Member countries. *“This shows our full commitment to assisting customs administration of the ESA region”*, said Mr. Lal.

Mr. Lal also pointed out that MRA has made unprecedented seizures of different types of drugs and psychotropic substances of more than Rs 5 Billion during the past 5 years thanks to MRA’s human capital.



[Link to Mr. Sudhamo Lal's intervention](#)

For his part, Mr. Vivekanand Ramburun, Director of the Customs Department, explained that *“MRA provides all the necessary support to newly-recruited officers in terms of classroom and on-the-job training, personal coaching and mentoring as well as building their knowledge through MRA and WCO e-learning platforms”*.

“Customs profession, he said, is a noble one. We perform our duty with the superior interest of the nation in mind”.



[Link to Mr. Ramburun's intervention](#)



WCO Certificate of Merit

During the ceremony, 17 awardees received the WCO Certificate of Merit this year. The awardees comprise MRA Customs officers as well as people from other agencies in the public and the private sectors. Among them, Mr. Giandev Moteea, Chief Executive Officer of the Mauritius Post Limited, who has served twenty years in the organization. His collaboration with MRA has been highly effective.



[Link to the award ceremony](#)