



MAURITIUS RESEARCH COUNCIL

HALF-DAY SEMINAR

Science Education

*Launching of the Training Manual for
Secondary School Laboratory Attendants*

PROGRAMME

Venue: Mauritius Research Council

Date: Thursday 26 April 2007

Time: 09:30 hours

Mauritius Research Council

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Launching of the Training Manual for Secondary School Laboratory Attendants

The Mauritius Research Council (MRC), in its capacity as adviser to Government on matters pertaining to science and technology (S&T), has undertaken a number of studies with a view to assessing the status of S&T in Mauritius.

In its report of the Steering Committee on Science Education on the Teaching and Learning of Science in Schools, the MRC highlighted a number of priority initiatives for action. Included among these initiatives, was the organisation of an Awareness Workshop for Laboratory Attendants. As a follow-up to this workshop, the MRC, with the support of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and the collaboration of the Mauritius Institute of Education, has prepared a Training Manual for Secondary School Laboratory Attendants

This is the first time that a training manual has been developed for laboratory attendants working in the Republic of Mauritius. Developed by a Task Force composed of experienced teachers from State and Private secondary schools, this manual aims at strengthening the competencies in a critical area of the national human resources involved in S&T education. Importantly, this manual has a potentially wider audience, since it can also be used as a resource material in other countries that follow similar secondary school science curricula.

The manual covers the theoretical background and addresses, in a concise manner, the various basic skills and techniques required by laboratory attendants, both experienced and new, to help them provide effective support in biology, chemistry and physics practical classes.

Key information has been provided on:

- laboratory organisation and management
- hazards and precautions
- safety and First Aid procedures
- basic laboratory techniques and skills
- basic maintenance of laboratory equipment
- basic information technology (IT) skills

PROGRAMME

09:15 – 09:30	Registration of participants
09:30 – 09:35	Welcome Address <i>Dr A Suddhoo, Executive Director, Mauritius Research Council</i>
09:35 – 09:40	Address <i>Prof S Jugessur, Chairman Mauritius Research Council</i>
09:40 – 10:15	Training Manual Presentation <i>Task Force Members</i>
10:15 - 10:30	<i>Launching of the Training Manual for Secondary School Laboratory Attendants by the</i> <i>Hon Dharambeer Gokhool, Minister of Education and Human Resources</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Refreshments