

# An introduction to National Research Groups

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## 1.0 Introduction

The National Research Groups, which are coordinated by the Mauritius Research Council (MRC), are designed to operate through a wide consultative process, including the Mauritian Diaspora, and have been established on the basis of key areas identified as requiring critical attention and strategic decision making, in order to ensure the sustainability of the socio-economic development of Mauritius in the short, medium and long terms.

In this context, preliminary meetings have been held at the MRC and the initial Terms of Reference proposed for each group are presented in the sections below.

## 2.0 National Energy Research Group

- To take cognizance of the existing initiatives/measures on sustainable buildings with emphasis on positive renewable energy buildings in Mauritius
- To identify research gaps, overlapping/ critical research issues on sustainable and positive buildings in Mauritius
- To prioritize research themes in sustainable and positive buildings
- To coordinate and facilitate research activities on sustainable and positive buildings in Mauritius

This Research Group is composed of representatives of Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities (MoEPU), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MoESD), Central Electricity Board (CEB), Mauritius Architects Association (MAA), Ministry of Health and Quality of Life (MoH&L), National Housing Development Company (NHDC), Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands (MoLG&OI), Ministry of Public

Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (MPI), Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB), University of Mauritius (UoM), University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Mauritius Ports Authority (MPA), Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) and Mauritius Research Council (MRC).

### **3.0 Human Resource Research Group**

- To act as a think-tank on issues affecting human resources development to meet the country's skills and competence needs
- To brainstorm on the main issues affecting local human resource development, management, and retention for optimal use in the context of current opportunities and challenges
- To identify priority research projects of topical relevance to human resources which are of current and future national significance
- To develop Terms of Reference for prioritized research projects
- To oversee the implementation of research projects
- To inform policies which aim to improve human resource development, management and retention through research findings

This Research Group is composed of representatives of Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology (MoTERST), University of Mauritius (UoM), University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM), Tertiary Education Commission (TEC), Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), Mauritius Employers' Federation (MEF) and Mauritius Research Council (MRC).

#### **4.0 Impact of food quality on human health Research Group**

- To evaluate effects of contaminants in commonly consumed Food in both imported and locally produced
- To propose an improved mechanism for food control
- To promote improved nutrition amongst the Mauritian population

This Research Group is composed of representatives of Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (MoAIFS), Food and Agricultural Research Council (FARC), Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU), Ministry of Health and Quality of Life (MoHQL), Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB), University of Mauritius (UoM), Food Technology Laboratory (MoAIFS), Food and Allied Industries Limited (FAIL), Association professionnelle des producteurs-exportateurs de produits horticoles de Maurice (APEXHOM), Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Mauritius Research Council (MRC).

#### **5.0 Water Resources Research Group**

- Identifying critical research issues on water resources for Mauritius
- To prioritize research themes in water resources management
- To coordinate and facilitate research activities related to providing sustainable short-medium and long term solutions to the water shortage issue

This Research Group is composed of representatives of Central Water Authority (CWA), Water Resources Unit (WRU), Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS), Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities (MoEPU), University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM), University of Mauritius (UoM), Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC), Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU), National Environmental Laboratory (NEL), Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB), Road Development Authority (RDA), and Mauritius Research Council (MRC).

#### **6.0 Road Traffic Management Research Group**

- To take cognisance of past and current Road Traffic Management initiatives and their documented impacts, following a comprehensive desk review on Road Traffic Management in Mauritius
- To find local innovative approaches and solutions
- To engage with, collaborate and share knowledge with appropriate institutions
- To develop a detailed framework defining the focus, scope, human and logistical needs of a study on: "Impact of Road Traffic Management in Mauritius"
- To provide additional input for transport policies and related initiatives.
- To sensitize stakeholders on the potential socio-economic and environmental costs of traffic

This Research Group is composed of representatives of Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (MPI), Ministry of Industry and

Cooperatives (MIC), Ministry of Health and Quality of Life (MoHQL), Mauritius Employers' Federation (MEF), Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED-CSO), Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), World Health Organisation (WHO), State Trading Corporation (STC), Road Development Authority (RDA), National Transport Authority (NTA), Motor Vehicles Dealers Association (MVDA), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MoESD), Mauritius Institute of Health (MIH), Police Road Traffic Branch and the Mauritius Research Council (MRC).

### **7.0 Concluding comments**

The research groups are at varying degree of progress, but each is expected to produce a report with a list of priority research areas/projects by December 2011.

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