

UNESCO / University of Mauritius
Enhancing Democratic Systems: The Media in Mauritius
A Dialogue Session

Venue: University of Mauritius - 16 & 17th September 2010

Day 1: Thursday 16th September (ELT2 – Engineering Tower)

Opening Ceremony

13.30 – 14.00 Registration

14.00 – 14.05 Welcome Remarks – Dean FSSH

14.05 – 14.15 UNESCO Representative

14.15 – 14.20 Ag Vice Chancellor, UOM

14.20 – 15.00 Keynote address: Mr Amadou Mahtar Ba – CEO African Media Initiative

15.00 – 15.15 Floor Discussion

15.15 – 15.30 Tea Break

Session 1: Freedom, Media and Democracy

Chair: Ibrahim Koodoruth, UOM

15.30 – 15.45 Constitutional and Legal Frameworks: Opportunities and Constraints for the Media
Industry – Maneesh Gobin

15.45 – 16.15 Freedom and Transparency: A Journalistic Appreciation – Subash Gobine and Gilbert
Ahnee

16.15 – 16.30 Enlarging the Mauritian Democratic Space: Creating an Informed Citizenry - Catherine
Boudet

16.30 – 17.00 Floor Discussion

Day 2: Friday 17th September (LT1 - NAC)

Session 2: Media Systems and Policies

(i) Chair: Amadou Mahtar Ba – African Media Initiative

9.30 – 9.45 Integrity of Public Institutions: The Case of the MBC – Dan Callikhan

9.45 – 10.00 Private Radio: Serving Public or Commercial Interest – Striking the Right Balance –
Abdoollah Earally

10.00 – 10.15 21st Century Broadcasting: The Need to Revisit and Reinvent Established Systems –
Roukaya Kasenally

10h15 – 10.30 Floor Discussion

(ii) Chair: Roukaya Kasenally - UOM

10.30 – 10.45 The Role of Regulation – Gilbert Ithier - IBA

10.45 – 11.00 Experiments in Self Regulation: The NEPA Code of Conduct – Lindsay Rivière

11.00 – 11.15 State or Self Regulation: The Search for Common Ground – Christina Chan-Meetoo

11h15 – 11h30 Floor Discussion

11h30 - 11h45 Tea Break

Session 3: Media, Politics and Democracy

Chair: Sheila Bunwaree - UOM

11.45 - 12.15 Mainstream Political Parties and the Media: Cehl Meeah (FSM), Steven Obeegadoo
(MMM), Nita Deerpalsing (LP)

12.15 – 12.35 Extra-parliamentary Dynamics and the Media: Ashok Subron and Nilen Vencadasamy

12.35 – 12.50 The Media and the notion of ‘Free and Fair’ Elections – Mayila Paroomal

12.50 – 13.10 Floor Discussion

13.10 – 13.40 Lunch

Session 4: Citizens and the Media

Chair: Caroline Ng Tseung Wong - UOM

13.40 – 13.55 New Spaces, New Challenges: The Relevance of Regulation – Trilock Dwarka

13.55 – 14.15 The Advent of Digital Content: Experiences in Online Journalism – Rabin Bhujun and
Avinash Meetoo

14.15 - 14.30 The Emerging Digital Environment: Opportunities and Constraints - Azhagan Chenganna

14.30 – 15.00: Floor Discussion

15.00 – 15.15: Tea Break

Session 5: Challenges to the Journalism Trade: Training and Professionalism

Chair: Christina Chan Meetoo

15.15 – 16.15 Round Table: Kiran Ramsahye, Jean-Claude de L'Estrac, Henri Marimootoo, Axcel
Cheney and Jean-Luc Emile

16.15 – 16.45 Floor Discussion

16.45 – 17.00 Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks