Message from the Vice Chancellor

The publication of this booklet to mark the first anniversary of the Knowledge Transfer Office is an acknowledgement of the projects that this office has undertaken over the past 12 months and of the key role it has in aligning the research needs of the industry with that of the University of Mauritius. The importance attributed to research uptake has multiplied over the past decades and the KTO will strive to assist researchers in protecting, disseminating and commercialising their research output. The setting up of this office, coupled with the publication of a Research Policy Document amongst others, is in line with the UoM Strategic Plan 2015-2020 with the aim of becoming a research-led university and innovation-driver for industries, and becoming a research dissemination platform for others.

Professor (Mrs) R MOHEE, C.S.K
Vice-Chancellor

Introduction

One of the key actions under the Strategic Directions to promote Excellence in Research and Innovation has been the establishment of a Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) to assist researchers in knowledge transfer, research uptake and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues. The KTO will hence encourage innovation in linking researchers (producers of ideas) to the potential users of their research output, namely policy makers, industry leaders, and society at large.

“To become a platform for knowledge transfer between University of Mauritius and stakeholders for a sustainable society.”
Vision

The vision of the Knowledge Transfer Office is to be a dynamic centre that will increase the visibility and relevance of the knowledge created by University staff and students, thereby contributing to making the University of Mauritius a Centre of Excellence for research and development. The KTO aims to be a strong link between the University, Government, Industry, and the broader community.

Mission

The Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) will act as a one-stop shop for the protection, exchange and commercialisation of knowledge created at the University of Mauritius, which includes technology, know-how, skill and expertise, for both commercial and non-commercial application. It will facilitate the showcasing of University expertise, experience and capacities to foster and strengthen University-Industry-Community collaborations.
Launching of Knowledge Transfer Office

Set up in October 2015, The Knowledge Transfer Office was officially launched on the 28th of April 2016 at the R. Burrenhobay Lecture Theatre by the Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research.

Highlights of the event:

- Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research notably talked about the importance of KTO to strive to create an interest in the research undertaken by the University and in being the link between the University and stakeholders.

- Dr John Kirkland, Deputy Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, who delivered a Keynote address, described the importance of universities to ensure that the research carried out is applied to society.

- Professor Romeela Mohee, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius, said that the vision of the Knowledge Transfer Office is to act as a dynamic centre that would increase the visibility and relevance of the knowledge created by University staff and students, thereby contributing to making the University of Mauritius a Centre of Excellence for research and development.
UoM Higher Education Policy Symposium

The Knowledge Transfer Office organised, with the Faculty of Agriculture, the Development Research Uptake in Sub-Saharan Africa (DRUSSA) Higher Education Policy Symposium on the 27th of November 2015. Member of DRUSSA, the programme groups 22 African Universities and is led by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU).

**Highlights of the event:**

- Bringing together senior academics, policy makers and other stakeholders to promote a Science-Policy dialogue
- Facilitating the exchange of information between main stakeholders and stimulating both the supply of and demand for development-focused research and the wider adoption of research uptake practices within the higher education sector
- Fostering interaction between members of the academic community and stakeholders to adopt a holistic and inclusive approach to the implications of policy measures amidst global changes. This empowered researchers to better understand the potential developmental outcomes of their own research and, where appropriate, establish research agendas that can also support national policy agendas.
Science Show 2016

The link between science and literature provided an exceptional opportunity for the students from both the Faculties of Science and Social Studies and Humanities to have an interactive session on science and literature. This event, with the contribution of the KTO, was held from the 15th to the 19th of February 2016 in the Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium.

Highlights of the event:

- The main objective of the Knowledge Transfer Office was to increase the visibility of such an innovative activity.
- The presentation translated its highly technical contents onto a single window with a simple language. It showed an approach of synthesis between the scientific and literary worlds.
- The presentation also showed to the audience the intersection set between two completely different skills.
Publication of KTO Booklet and Website

During the launching ceremony of the KTO on the 28th of April 2016, the Mphil/PhD Graduates of the Cohort 2015/2016 Booklet was also launched. Moreover, the first phase of the KTO Website was made public as a means of giving more visibility to the work of researchers.

**Highlights of the event:**

- The PhD Graduates of the Cohort 2015/2016 Booklet provided an overview of the research undertaken by the young graduates in a clear, concise and simple structure.
- The Booklet included the profiles of those who graduated as well as their contact details to facilitate communication.
- The publication also included a list of current PhD students which allowed stakeholders to get an idea of the research being undertaken by them, their areas of expertise as well their contact details.
- The KTO website highlighted the different activities in which the office could assist researchers in undertaking research uptake, and is updated regularly in line with latest projects and events.
- The website was also equipped with a search engine and a database of the research published in recent years by University of Mauritius researchers.
KTO Newspaper Articles

The Knowledge Transfer Office has managed to secure a monthly page, free of charge, in the most popular daily newspaper in Mauritius, the Defi Quotidien. Publication of Defi Media Group, the media giant has provided KTO with full support for this initiative, with additional space being allocated to KTO in magazines published by the group. 4 articles have already been published over a period of 2 months, with several others in the pipeline.

**Highlights of the Media Publications:**

- The articles are written and published in French so as to maximise popularity among readers and ensure that this creates an interest among the general public as well as experts in the field.
- The formats of the articles generally remain the same so that readers can identify the publication of UoM, through the KTO, and therefore regularly read what is being published by the KTO on research.

Professeur Sanjeev Kumar Sobhee: « Ceux qui ont des revenus élevés ont plus de dettes » - 05 Octobre 2016

Pr Ponnadurai Ramasami: « La computational chemistry relève les défis de la science » - 02 Novembre 2016

Dr Shamimtaz Sadally: « Les micro-algues peuvent être utilisées à des fins commerciales » - 02 Novembre 2016

Dr Ram Kumar Dhrumea: « Mieux estimer la pluie à Maurice, même dans les régions montagneuses » - 05 Octobre 2016
Intellectual Property Workshop for Researchers and Students

Since its inception, the KTO was approached with several queries on Intellectual Property issues from various researchers, ranging from the protection of software to the legal implications of commercialising creative inventions. To address those issues, the Knowledge Transfer Office organised a workshop on the 27th of October 2016.

**Highlights of the event:**

- The IP Workshop was organised in collaboration with representatives of other entities knowledgeable in the field such as the Industrial Property Office, the Mauritius Research Council and the Association of Mauritian Manufacturers.

- More than 80 researchers and students were present for the event, where various issues relating to intellectual property were discussed such as patents, copyright, industrial designs amongst others.

- Changes in the IP landscape, such as accession to the Hague Agreement, Paris treaty and Patent Cooperation Treaty, were explained so that researchers and students understand the implications of such initiatives.

- The participants were also sensitised on the need to not only undertake research but ensure that it is adequately protected before commercialising and communicating.
 Dialogue Meeting on Tourism

An Open Dialogue Meeting on Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality will be organised by KTO on the 7th of December 2016. The theme for this event will be “Paving the Way Forward”. This event, organised jointly with the International Centre for Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality, will be held in the Council & Senate Room, 7th Floor, New Academic Complex.

Aims of the event:

– Several stakeholders such as the Government and parastatal bodies, hotels, NGOs and training centres will be invited to discuss the findings of our researchers and address the upcoming needs of the Tourism sector.

– This will also help strengthen the link between researchers and external stakeholders in that sector and give rise to collaborations and consultations.

– The event will allow operators to discuss emerging issues of the sector and be updated on research currently undertaken by researchers of the University.

– The first anniversary of the Knowledge Transfer Office will also be celebrated on that occasion.
Launching of UoM Doctoral Graduates Booklet [1992-2016]

The first part of the booklet is dedicated to all female PhD holders from the University of Mauritius. Women intellectuals have been playing an increasingly important role in shaping thought and culture since 1992. The university has produced 52 high calibre and innovative PhD holders in their respective fields and who have successfully sustained the University’s reputation in the country and around the world. The Booklet will be launched on the 7th of December 2016 for the first anniversary of KTO.

Aims of the publication:

− Breaking the glass ceiling in higher level education in Mauritius
− Empowering women in education
− To build awareness about women’s academic position and achievement in Mauritian society
− Ensuring that the research undertaken by women PhD holders from the University of Mauritius get the necessary exposure and raises the visibility of their work.