

National Consultation on MID at the University of Mauritius

Inputs that were collected from the students of the University of Mauritius during the National Consultation session on MID held on Monday 22 February 2010 at the Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium:

- There should be proper sensitisation campaigns.
- Issues related to waste management should be addressed
- Small simple things in daily life should be included (the way of life)
- Export = Import. We should export as much as we import.
 - Self sustainability in terms of buying goods
 - Encourage people to buy local products
- Sensitization of people. Law could be used to sensitize people about what's sustainable and what's not
- Educate people about the environment.
- We could learn from Rodrigues (where they are already using wind energy)
- Government should show results of campaigns, successful or not.
- Implant the ethic of living
- Even if law for the preservation of the environment is there, it is often not understood and enforced
- We should know our personal responsibilities and assume them
- Waste management in households
 - “tri selectif”
 - cultivate the habit of composting
- Take advantage of opportunities available locally (Mauritius is a tropical island)
- Is our marine ecosystem ready to host 2M tourists by 2015? Is this in accordance with the MID vision.
- Education, training and employment of local people (Mauritians) in MID. Include Mauritian professionals in MID.
- Transport sector is crucial for MID, we should improve public transports.
 - Without such, we will remain dependent to fossil fuels
- Eliminate energy waste.
 - Make people realise when they are wasting energy through sensitization.
 - Make them pay for it. Wasting energy = wasting money.
 - Fix thresholds above which penalties become heavier.
- Multi-dimensional approach. Just switching to more efficient light bulbs and using solar water heaters is not enough. We must be efficient as we can and be coherent in our acts (use efficient bulbs and then leave it switched all night long)
- Sustainable buildings in the local context (for mauritius)
 - District cooling instead of individual air-conds
 - Zero emission
- How are the lower-income-group being included in MID?
- Sustainable Mauritians will make a sustainable Mauritius – help them produce their own energy, food, etc.

- Sustainable development is about the balance between economy and ecology. People will tend to focus more on making more profits (economy). The government should be there to maintain the balance (implement laws and standards to ensure a good balance is maintained between ecology and economy)
- Traffic jam to and from Port Louis (decentralize Port Louis)
 - Why this problem has not been solved/tackled yet even if we have been aware of it for many years?
- Have the targets set in the past been reached? If yes, they should be made public to motivate people.
- Incoherencies between what we are doing and MID
 - Examples:
 - The 7 air conditioners working at full blast during the Public Consultation session at UOM while the room was already chilly.
 - The projector that was left “on” during whole session on Friday 19 Feb at Air Mauritius building even if it was not being used – it was actually warming up the already hot room while shining light directly into Dr Odendaal’s eyes and presumably disturbing him.
- Encourage consumption of eco-friendly products
 - Make them available and encourage their local production.
- Monitoring of MID projects and communicate the results to the public (feedback)
- Research and development specific to Mauritius
- Actually give value to local engineering (*débrouillardise, tracer*) by making use of it.
- Sustainable consumption. Set standards to avoid wasteful/excessive consumption.
 - Eg. Obsolete equipment (outdated computers) should not be sold, while on the other hand, uncontrolled excessive marketing of new products (LCDs and plasma screens) can also be bad (disposal of old ones, are new ones energy efficient?)
- Improper disposal of plastic bags.
- Equitable tariff for CEB bills. (residential vs. industrial rate)
- Value added waste. Actually give value to waste that can be re-used/recycled by buying it.
- Road infrastructure – development in a planned way
 - Use of public transport should be taken into the plan.
- Cars in Mauritius have a lifetime of about 15-20yrs. Will we wait that long to phase out old cars and make our road network more eco-friendly?
 - We could modify and adapt current cars
 - Learn from Agalega where they use coconut oil.
 - A Mauritian is already using cooking oil to run his car; the knowledge should be made available and usable.
- What happened to the project of using ethanol in cars?
- Tests and trials for new local technologies (use of ethanol, cooking oil, etc to run cars) should be performed on government cars