



News

Mauritius seeks international expertise to uphold its upcoming innovation strategy plan



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GIS - 04 June, 2015: Two international experts from Nishith Desai Associates (NDA), a research-based Indian law firm with offices in Mumbai, Silicon Valley, Bangalore, Singapore, Mumbai BKC, Delhi and Munich that aims at providing strategic, legal and tax services across various sectors, were in Mauritius from 1 to 3 June to contribute to the elaboration of the National Innovation Strategy Plan due to be released soon.

The mission of the two experts, Mr Vaibhav Parikh and Mr Milind Mundankar, focused on three main pillars to uphold innovation: a robust infrastructure; awareness and capacity building; and the creation of an ecosystem with the right policies and incentives.

At a joint press briefing held yesterday in Port Louis, the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation, Mr Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, recalled that for the first time in Mauritius a Ministry is dedicated to Innovation, and that Government is fully committed to drive forward the innovation agenda. To that end, he stressed, Government is seeking to tap the expertise of those having wide experiences in implementing innovation across the globe. The objective of the mission of the two experts, said Mr Jugnauth, is to help Mauritius in the launching of its National Innovation Programme through the development of a Framework.

The Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation also explained that during their mission Mr Vaibhav Parikh and Mr Milind Mundankar had several meetings with representatives of various institutions, both from the public and private sectors, including with officers of his Ministry, and the Mauritius Research Council, and made recommendations accordingly. "We will study the recommendations and hope to have the collaboration of the experts to help Mauritius through its journey towards innovation," added Mr Jugnauth.

For their part, the experts stated that in meetings and discussions they had with representatives of several departments, universities and private sector to take stock of what they are doing as regards innovation, it was heartening to know, they said, that these entities have already taken steps in the right direction. While highlighting the importance of having a right framework as well as a step-by-step action plan on projects that can be implemented on short, medium and long terms basis, the experts were of the view that collaboration between Government and the private sector is key in making innovation viable. They also spoke of the holding in Mauritius, in the near future, of an International Conference on a culture of innovation aiming at creating opportunities and awareness on innovation and branding the country.

It is to be noted that Nishith Desai Associates was declared as the Most Innovative Indian Law Firm (2014) and the Second Most Innovative Asia - Pacific Law Firm (2014) at the Innovative Lawyers Asia-Pacific Awards by the Financial Times - RSG Consulting.

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