

# INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION (IORA)

## Third IORA Blue Economy Core Group on “Environmental Sustainability and Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean Rim region”

10 -11 April 2017

Le Meridien, Pointe aux Piments

Republic of Mauritius

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### ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

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Dear Delegate,

We are looking forward to welcome you to the Third IORA Blue Economy Core Group on “Environmental Sustainability and Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean Rim region”, which will be held on 10 – 11 April 2017 in Mauritius. The Human Science Research Council (HSRC), under the membership of the Republic of South Africa is the lead coordinator of this project, in collaboration with the South African Department of International Relations and the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

Please find below information related to the logistics and administrative arrangements for the event. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the following officials.

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HSRC

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IORA Secretariat

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#### Contact details of the Hotel:

Le Meridien Ile Maurice

Village Hall, Pointe aux Piments Republic of Mauritius

Tel: +230 204 3307

Website: <http://www.limeridien-mauritius.com>

#### 1. Venue and dates of the Meeting

The meeting will be held in Mauritius, from 10-11 April 2017. The conference venue will be communicated to participants upon confirmation.

## **2. Registration**

All delegates from Member States, Dialogue Partners and Institutions (local and international) must complete the online registration form at: <http://www.iora.net/events/3rd-becg-10-11-april-2017.aspx>

**The deadline for registration is 13 March 2017.**

## **3. Hospitality**

Full hospitality will be offered to one participant from each Member States. Full hospitality will cover air tickets, hotel accommodation (3 nights), transport to and from the airport, and selected meals. Participants from Dialogue Partners will have to bear their own cost.

All other costs will be the private responsibility of participants and will need to be settled with the hotel before checking out on departure.

## **4. Transportation**

Airport transfers and transportation from the airport to hotel on arrival and departure will be provided to delegates.

## **5. Attire and language during the workshop**

Business attire is suggested for the meeting. English will be the main working language during the workshop.

## **6. Accommodation**

Delegates will be staying at the Le Meridien Ile Maurice Hotel in Mauritius.

Delegates staying in any other hotels than the Le Meridien will be responsible for their own transport arrangements to attend the workshop and for official engagements.

## **7. Entry Visa Procedures**

Mauritius Immigration regulations require that all delegates be in possession of a valid passport (6 months' validity) and a return ticket. Nationals of Bangladesh, Iran, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Yemen require a visa before travelling to Mauritius.

Further information on Visas can be obtained from Mauritian diplomatic missions or through the following link:

<http://foreign.govmu.org/English/Pages/Embassies%20and%20Consulates/Mauritius-Embassies--Consulates-Abroad.aspx>.

<http://passport.govmu.org/English/Passport%20and%20Visa%20Requirement%20in%20Mauritius/Pages/Visa-Requirements-in-Mauritius.aspx>

Please be reminded that Mauritius has strict customs and quarantine regulations (see contact details below for more information).

<http://www.mra.mu/index.php/12-home/import-export-others/91-import-restrictions>

<http://agriculture.govmu.org/English/Documents/Division%20of%20Veterinary%20%20Services/Importation%20of%20pet%20animals%20-DVS.pdf>

## **8. Medical requirements**

Valid yellow fever vaccination certificates are mandatory for delegates travelling from or through infected countries. Delegates must have medical insurance cover to cater for major ailments or medical requirements.

## **9. Other Information**

### **Language**

English is the official language, French is extensively used and Mauritian Creole ('Kreol Morisien') is widely spoken. Asian languages also form part of the linguistic mosaic.

### **Weather and climate**

In Mauritius, the summer months extend from November to April and winter from June to September. October and May are transition periods. Coastal temperatures range between 25° C – 33° C in summer and between 18° C and 24° C in winter. The warm season usually lasts from December 5<sup>th</sup> to April 9<sup>th</sup> with an average daily high temperature above 29°C. April lies within the end of the summer season and during this month the average temperature is around 25°C, whilst average maximum temperatures can reach 27°C or can decrease to 22°C only one day in ten.

### **Banking and Currency**

There are a number of international and local commercial banks in Mauritius with branches in Port Louis and elsewhere.

The Banking hours are from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs on Fridays. ATMs accepting international debit and credit cards are available throughout the island. Information regarding currency exchange rates is available on the website of the Bank of Mauritius at: <http://www.bom.mu>

Major Credit Cards and Travellers' Cheques are accepted by most hotels, restaurants and shops.

### **Time Difference**

Time is uniform throughout Mauritius and is 4 hours ahead of the GMT.

### **Business Hours**

Public Offices and major businesses are generally open from 08 45 hrs to 16 00 hrs from Monday to Friday.

### **Electricity**

For delegates wishing to use personal laptops, please note that electricity power supply is 220 volts, 50 Hz and electrical sockets are usually of British Standard type 3 pin.

### **Communication**

The international dialing code for Mauritius is + 230. Mobile telephone connection in Mauritius is excellent with good roaming connectivity from most service providers. Blackberry connection is also available. Telephone cards and SIM cards can be purchased from nearby outlets. Prepaid phone cards will be on sale at the Conference Venue.

### **Taxis**

All main hotels provide reliable taxi services.

### **Smoking**

Smoking in Mauritius is strictly prohibited except in designated public areas.