



MOL Charitable Trust
NEWSLETTER

December 2023

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1st section: Introduction and Overview



Message from Kazuhiko SUGANO, Chairperson of the MOL Charitable Trust

I am honored to address you on behalf of the MOL Charitable Trust as we embark on another phase of our journey to promote positive impact initiatives in Mauritius. Since our establishment in June 2021, we have been dedicated to promoting “marine environment”, “biodiversity” and “human resources development” as priority areas.

Our commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of the Mauritian people remains unwavering. In the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, the launch of our third call for proposals which started on 04th September 2023 reinforces our commitment to support innovative projects that create a positive impact on the local community and environment. Over the past two years, we have supported more than 40 projects which were managed by NGOs in Mauritius across various sectors, such as “marine environment”, “biodiversity” and “human resources development” including championing children’s welfare and education.

Our unwavering commitment to collaboration is exemplified through initiatives addressing critical environmental challenges. A notable example is the “Mangrove Workshop for Strategies for Restoration and Conservation” and “Introduction of the Mangrove Platform for Mauritius in November, 2023, jointly organized by Reef Conservation and International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems(ISME) under the MOL Mauritius International Fund (MMIF) Grant and MOL Charitable Trust.

This workshop aimed to share strategies for restoration and conservation of Mangrove in Mauritius and establish the first Mangrove sharing information platform for every stakeholders in Mauritius, which was a significant step for the bright future of Mangrove conservation in Mauritius.

Considering MCT’s activities in 2023, important milestone was the “1st-year Project Outcome Reporting Session 2023,” held on July 12th. This event was held by MOL Mauritius International Fund(MMIF) and MOL Charitable Trust(MCT) and was a very good opportunity to show our dedication to nurturing partnerships,

empowering local NGOs, and achieving tangible progress in environmental conservation, social work, education, and the preservation of endangered species.

Our objectives for 2023 were clear: to ensure the continuity of projects funded in the southeastern region and support new initiatives. The emphasis was on good governance, effective communication, and the implementation of efficient policies that align with common goals. And we remained committed to empowering people, especially vulnerable communities, and promoting sustainable growth and development.

We are looking forward to welcome an exciting year ahead with new projects for the third call for proposals of MOL Charitable Trust. We will continue to support above projects to make Mauritius be a better place for all.

Thank you again for your continued support for us and your dedication to making a positive difference in Mauritius.

Kazuhiko SUGANO
Chairperson of the MOL Charitable Trust



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Introduction and Overview

MOL Group's Engagement in Mauritius:

Mitsui O.S.K Lines Ltd (MOL), a renowned Japanese multi-modal transport company, introduced the MOL Charitable Trust in 2020 to aid Vulnerable communities and support local environmental conservation in Mauritius. MOL pledged 800 million yen in September 2020 and established MOL (Mauritius) Ltd in October 2020, coordinating efforts efficiently. The MOL Charitable Trust was formally instituted on June 21, 2021, financially supported by a portion of MOL's contributions, around 300 million yen. The MOL Mauritius International Fund (MMIF), initiated in Japan with 500 million yen, aligns with these objectives, focusing on broader initiatives.

Local Oversight:

Operated by a committee of enforcers, including three Mauritian representatives, The MOL Charitable Trust in Mauritius focus on small scale projects with a close monitoring to assist in the NGO in the successful implementation of its project throughout the year. The Trust's mission comprises ten priority objectives, aligned with UN SDGs, spanning mangrove and coral reef conservation, protection of wildlife, preservation of cultural heritage, economic development, environmental awareness, community empowerment, renewable energy, humanitarian aid, and infrastructure development.

MMIF's Involvement in Mauritius:

Launched in 2021, MMIF collaborates with the MOL Charitable Trust to administer a total fund of 500 million yen over five to six years for social and environmental projects in Mauritius and globally. While primarily international, MMIF also supports local NGOs, partnering with Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, Reef Conservation, APPEL, The Good Shop, FALCON Association, Gender Links Mauritius, and Ecomode Society. The foundation aligns with MOL's commitment to sustainable growth, supporting economic sectors and environmental projects in Mauritius.

For more information click on below links:

Updates on our MOL activities; [Activities](#) | [MOL for Mauritius](#) | [Mitsui O.S.K. Lines](#)

Information about MCT or MMIF establishment and fundings; [Funding](#) | [MOL for Mauritius](#) | [Mitsui O.S.K. Lines](#)

Information about MOL Group initiative and Sustainability Plan; [About](#) | [MOL for Mauritius](#) | [Mitsui O.S.K. Lines](#)



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Interview with Prof. Mariko KAWAGUCHI, Chairperson of MOL Mauritius International Fund



During your visit to Mauritius in October 2023, you had the opportunity to witness firsthand the social and environmental support provided by MOL. Can you describe your feelings and experiences during this visit, and any specific highlights that left a strong impression on you?

The activities of NGOs supported by MMIF were highly motivated and strategically planned, leaving a strong impression. The leaders' deep affection for the country and community was evident, with a notable emphasis on addressing women's issues as a key to eradicating poverty and fostering community development.

As an organisation committed to making a positive impact, what areas or aspects do you believe need more attention or focus in Mauritius? Are there specific challenges or opportunities that you think require additional support or initiatives?

To reduce plastic waste at beaches and promote marine conservation interest, I suggest long-term solutions like providing swimming training, particularly to children, and distributing goggles. Additionally, addressing alcohol and drug problems may benefit from introducing healthy entertainment, such as sports like baseball, soccer, and basketball.

In closing, could you share any final thoughts or messages regarding MMIF's ongoing commitment to Mauritius and its collaboration with MOL Charitable Trust? What are your hopes and aspirations for the partnership in the coming years?

Mutual understanding and trust are key, and MOL has demonstrated success in these aspects. Supporting NGOs for up to five years is commendable, and long-term success will require flexibility and a shared vision between MOL and NGOs. I am hopeful that this collaboration will continue to evolve, contributing significantly to the betterment of Mauritius.



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2nd section: Collaboration between MOL Charitable Trust (MOL CT) and MOL Mauritius International Fund (MMIF)



MOL Charitable Trust Networking Meeting on Women Empowerment

10th October

MOL Charitable Trust Fosters Women's Empowerment Through a Collaborative Networking Meeting

Here is a highlight of the recent Networking Meeting on Women Empowerment, a compelling event organised by MOL Charitable Trust on the 10th of October at Preskil Island Resort Hotel in Pointe d'Esny, Blue Bay.

Event Overview

The Networking Meeting brought together diverse participants, from local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) funded by MCT and MMIF in this year and actively engaged in women's empowerment. MOL CT was honored to have organisations such as Gender Links (MMIF), APPEL (MMIF), Revey Twa Fam (MCT), Action Familiale (MCT), Ecosud (MCT), Social Circus of Cite La Chaux (MCT), Batisseurs de Paix (MCT), and Ti Rayons Soleil (MCT) contributing to this collaborative initiative.

Themes and Presentations

The event focused on creating a collaborative space among NGOs to share best practices and develop synergies for promoting women's empowerment. Two insightful presentations enriched our discussions:

Gender Links Mauritius: Presenter: Mr. Daven Saitee, Project Manager

Presentation: Gender Links Mauritius shared its impactful women's empowerment program, emphasizing gender equality and the empowerment of women in Mauritius and the broader region.

Revey Twa Fam: Presenter: Mrs. Jasmine Toulouse, Project Supervisor

Presentation: Revey Twa Fam showcased its Women Empowerment & Family Support Programme, addressing issues such as financial and food insecurity, unemployment, and low self-esteem among vulnerable women.

Collaborative Discussions:

Following these insightful presentations, participants engaged in lively discussions on collaborative initiatives for women's empowerment. The meeting provided a valuable platform for sharing best practices, exchanging ideas, and exploring potential collaborations.

Kazuhiko Sugano, Chairperson of the Committee of MOL Charitable Trust, expressed, "This event was a precious opportunity for NGOs to share practices and develop synergies. We are confident that these collaborations will contribute significantly to the actions for women's empowerment in Mauritius."

Prof. Mariko Kawaguchi, Chairperson of the Steering Committee of MMIF, affirmed, "Women's empowerment is a major goal for MMIF, and this meeting has strengthened our determination to work together for a better future for women in Mauritius."

Future Collaborations:

The Networking Meeting on Women Empowerment marked an eventful day of constructive discussions and shared insights. The MOL Charitable Trust and MMIF continue their collaborative efforts to promote women's empowerment in Mauritius, with anticipation for more impactful collaborations in this vital area.



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MOL Charitable Trust Networking Meeting on Women Empowerment

10th October



Revey Twa Fam's Empowerment Program: Transforming Lives

Revey Twa Fam presented an impactful initiative funded by the MOL Charitable Trust. The Women Empowerment & Family Support Programme targets unemployed women, offering comprehensive training and employment opportunities.

Key Highlights:

Objectives: Eradicate absolute poverty, provide practical training, and enhance employment prospects.

Program Structure: Four groups of 15 women from various regions.

Training Components: Life skills, language proficiency, budgeting, and practical skills.

Employment Service: Linking successful participants to potential employers and providing ongoing mentorship.

Collaborations: Partnering with NGOs like Caritas, Eco Sud, and others for a network of support.

Progress:

As of 2023, the program has achieved 53 job placements, marking a significant impact on the economic empowerment of these women.

Testimonial: Bianca Henrison

"Embarking on the Revey Twa Fam training has been a transformative journey for me. As someone who has always been reserved and tended to agree with everything, this program has been a revelation, awakening a sense of worth within me as a woman and an individual. Completing the training has opened doors for me, and now I am gainfully employed. This allows me to contribute financially to my household and has also played a pivotal role in securing a response to our application for a social home with my husband.

I am genuinely thrilled to be part of a project that holds such significance for our family. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those involved in making this training accessible, including covering transportation costs. Financial constraints would have posed a significant barrier for me otherwise. Today, I take pride in my achievements and move forward in life equipped with valuable tools for greater success. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this training; it has profoundly impacted my life."



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MOL Charitable Trust Networking Meeting on Women Empowerment

10th October



Gender Links: Paving the Way for Equality

In the same Networking Meeting, Gender Links shared insights into their project for Equality and Justice.

Key Points:

Objectives: Empower women, create job opportunities, and advocate for gender equality.

Findings: Addressing Gender-Based Violence, holistic family-focused approaches, and tackling issues like substance abuse.

Progress: 140+ beneficiaries reached, adapting the project to evolving needs.

Way Forward:

Expanding reach, organizing an Entrepreneurs' Fair, and encouraging participants to professionalize their businesses.



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MOL Charitable Trust Networking Meeting on Women Empowerment

10th October – Interview with some participants

How has your project specifically contributed to the empowerment of women in Mauritius, and what significant outcomes or achievements have you observed as a result of your initiatives?

Social Circus of Cité La Chaux: Ornella CHELLEN, Project Coordinator Consultant

The NGO has ingrained women from the community into its project since its inception, fostering their involvement in activities related to children and addressing their concerns and needs. These women serve as vital community leaders within the NGO. Over time, trust has flourished among team members, coordinators, and NGO management. The enduring presence and successful team collaboration in facing challenges have cultivated an environment of cooperation and solidarity. Women involved in the project have experienced growth in self-confidence, communication skills, and effective time and conflict management.

Ti Rayons Soleil: Bérengère SERIES, President

Women living in vulnerable conditions often find themselves ensnared in a vicious cycle of poverty, contending with exclusion, substance abuse, and violence concurrently. Projects like ours aim to dismantle this cycle, cultivating a sense of belonging. Becoming part of a thriving community and a supportive group provides friendship, unveils new perspectives, and instills hope in the neediest, demonstrating they aren't alone. The concept of empowerment surfaces, encouraging the initiation of small businesses, finding solutions within the community, and injecting a renewed sense of purpose into their lives.

Action Familiale: Priscilla BIGNOUX, Project Coordinator

Women who live in vulnerable conditions are often trapped in a vicious circle of poverty where exclusion, substance abuse, and violence are prevalent. This project aims to break this cycle by bringing a sense of belonging to a community that thrives and provides support. It opens perspectives and gives hope to those most in need, showing them, they are not alone. In this context, empowerment involves opening small businesses, finding community solutions, and fostering new meaning in their lives.

APPEL : Juanita ELLAYAH, Director

The ARCH Training Centre, funded by MMIF, embodies our long-term vision for women's empowerment. Despite the construction phase, we've successfully completed pastry and hairdressing courses for 14 women from January to June 2023. Additionally, 15 women finished their courses in the first semester of 2023-24, with another group of 15 expected for the second semester starting January 2024. The new building, currently under construction, serves as inspiration, and we anticipate expanding both participation numbers and training programs.

Eco-sud: Rachèle Bhoyroo, Communication and Advocacy Coordinator

The testimonials we've gathered from women engaged in the Laboutik Solider project highlight its profound impact on their lives. Over their 6-month involvement, they experienced significant relief. This period provided them with peace of mind, enabling them to settle debts, pay for school transportation, purchase fruits—previously unaffordable—and even buy clothes for themselves. For some, knowing they had food at home meant better sleep. The project played a vital role in restoring their dignity, offering a breathing space, and allowing them to initiate other endeavours.

Moreover, several women have launched their own businesses through ROC (Resilient Organic Community) training and networking opportunities. The ROC community fosters genuine support, empowering these women to showcase their products and services, ultimately attracting clients. This sense of empowerment has been instrumental in their journey toward financial independence and self-sustainability.

ROC acts as a crucial lifebuoy support system, providing a stable base that allows these women to bounce back, recover, and ultimately thrive.



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MOL Charitable Trust Networking Meeting on Women Empowerment

10th October – Interview with some participants

During the event, Gender Links and Revev Twa shared their experiences and successes. Can you provide insights into the unique challenges your project has faced and how you've overcome them to support women's empowerment in Mauritius?

Social Circus of Cité La Chaux: Ornella CHELLEN, Project Coordinator Consultant

Sustaining women's engagement daily posed a considerable challenge due to the inherent difficulties in their everyday lives. Their daily challenges often involve immediate and vital concerns and challenging adaptation to a rigid structure. Our Coordinator has invested significantly in listening to and accompanying the team. The management consistently involves them in decision-making and supports individual initiatives or goals. In 2023, the organisation prioritized coaching and team development with a professional from TIPA NGO (with 15 years of active social engagement in Mauritius) and introduced psychological support since October 2023.

Ti Rayons Soleil: Bérengère SERIES, President

As an NGO, we grapple with numerous challenges daily, and overcoming them is inherent in our work. Challenges include a lack of finances during emergency interventions, the need for practical support like transportation, and the continuous search for the right individuals to manage projects and create a genuine impact in people's lives. Human resources are also crucial. Trust is a cornerstone in all our endeavours, whether with sponsors or beneficiaries, as it is essential for successful collaboration.

Action Familiale: Priscilla BIGNOUX, Project Coordinator

As an NGO, we face daily challenges, including a lack of finances for emergency situations, insufficient practical support, and the constant need for skilled individuals. Women's engagement daily poses a significant challenge due to their demanding lives. Our approach involves investing in listening, providing psychological support, engaging them in decision-making, and investing in coaching and team development for sustainable impact.

APPEL : Juanita ELLAYAH, Director

Our initial challenge involved obtaining construction approval, which took nearly a year. Through persistent follow-ups and a revised application, we secured the necessary permit. Addressing the high cost of materials and labour, we contracted labour services and committed to purchasing raw materials. This approach ensured the project's continuation. We anticipate transitioning operations early next year and seek certification from the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA). Overcoming challenges, we distributed 14 certificates during our June 2023 graduation event, with family members testifying to participants' progress.

Eco-sud: Rachèle Bhoyroo, Communication and Advocacy Coordinator

One of the key hurdles we faced was securing consistent funding to procure essential food items for the families involved. To overcome this, we've actively engaged in fundraising campaigns, sought partnerships with local businesses, and applied for grants from various organizations. These efforts have allowed us to maintain a steady supply of affordable provisions for the families, ensuring their sustained support within the Laboutik Solider initiative. Despite our successes, it's important to highlight that we've secured funding to sustain Laboutik Solider only for the year 2023. Looking ahead, the challenge remains in securing funds for 2024 and beyond. The ongoing funding gap poses a significant obstacle. The project's financial stability is crucial not only for meeting the immediate needs of families but also for fostering long-term empowerment and resilience.



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MOL Charitable Trust Networking Meeting on Women Empowerment

10th October – Interview with some participants

Could you share specific lessons learned or best practices from your project that could inspire other organisations working towards women’s empowerment and social development?

Social Circus of Cité La Chaux: Ornella CHELLEN, Project Coordinator Consultant

Expertise in training, coaching, and support is essential to accompany the development of women from vulnerable backgrounds. Adopting a respectful and patient attitude, active listening, consistency, and providing sustainable support are key elements for establishing a trustworthy and growing collaboration.

Ti Rayons Soleil: Bérengère SERIES, President

“Small is beautiful”: Commencing with a small group fosters genuine relationships within the project, allowing for scalable duplication. Pilot projects are essential to becoming more adept facilitators in the region. A bottom-up approach ensures alignment with real expectations and brings about effective change. Respecting communities is paramount, and working with those genuinely seeking change is preferred. Recognizing that everyone evolves at a different pace underscores the importance of continuous monitoring, evaluation, and learning from all steps of a project. At Rayons Soleil, we hold great respect for communities, preferring to collaborate with those sincerely seeking transformative experiences in their lives. Acknowledging the varying speeds of personal development emphasizes the necessity of consistent monitoring, evaluation, and learning throughout every phase of a project.

Action Familiale: Priscilla BIGNOUX, Project Coordinator

Lessons learned from our project include the importance of expertise in training, coaching, and support for women from vulnerable backgrounds. Key elements include respectful and patient attitudes, consistency, and providing sustainable support for trustful collaboration. Starting with a small group, using pilot projects, adopting a bottom-up approach, and respecting communities are best practices for achieving real change.

APPEL : Juanita ELLAYAH, Director

Our best practice involves providing work opportunities to participants post-training, allowing them to practice and develop mastery. Additionally, we empower participants to manage personal and professional issues separately through psychological support and training. Offering a designated space and time for issue discussions prevents disruptions during working hours. This strategic approach has enabled us to empower women to maintain professionalism at work, with government support addressing issues like absenteeism through stipends for transport and meals

Eco-sud: Rachèle Bhooyroo, Communication and Advocacy Coordinator

The success of Laboutik Solider is deeply intertwined with the broader ROC community projects, emphasizing the importance of a holistic approach.

Our experience underscores the significance of community mobilization and participation. The active involvement of local communities is challenging but crucial. Women from Laboutik Solider are now proud members of the ROC community. They regularly visit the centre, engage in various projects, and have become ambassadors for our initiatives.

A critical lesson we’ve embraced is the principle of ‘Nothing for us, without us.’ This philosophy is integral to genuine community involvement. Through various training and empowerment sessions, the women in our project have understood the importance of their active participation. Today, they actively contribute, ensuring that their voices are heard and play a pivotal role in shaping the projects. Additionally, a collaborative approach on this project with other NGOs (Caritas Mahebourg, Mahebourg Espoir, Revey Twa Fam, and Petit Serein) has been an advantage and helped us reach more people and communities.



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Mangrove Workshop: “SOS Mangrove: Strategies for Restoration and Conservation” and “Introduction of the Mangrove Platform for Mauritius”

8th & 9th November 2023 – Interview

Preserving Mauritius’ Mangroves: A Landmark Workshop by Reef Conservation, International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME), and MOL Charitable Trust.

In a resolute commitment to environmental preservation, Reef Conservation, and the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME), generously supported by the MOL Mauritius International Fund (MMIF) from Japan and in close collaboration with MOL Charitable Trust, orchestrated a groundbreaking workshop themed “SOS Mangrove: Strategies for Restoration and Conservation.” This event, unfolding on November 8th and 9th, 2023, stands as a pivotal stride toward the **introduction of a Mangrove Platform for sharing of information in Mauritius**, exclusively dedicated to mangrove conservation.

Since 2020, Reef Conservation has emerged as a steadfast NGO in Mauritius, championing research, education, and awareness surrounding mangrove ecosystems. The organisation played a pivotal role, bringing together scientists, experts, and stakeholders unified by their unwavering commitment to mangrove conservation and restoration.

The first day of the workshop, hosted at Preskil Island Resort, featured presentations from Reef Conservation, ISME, the University of Mauritius, Association pour le Développement Durable (ADD), and the Japan Society for Mangroves. These insightful presentations delved into the unique challenges and opportunities pertaining to the conservation of Mauritian mangroves.

Japanese experts, including Dr. Shigeyuki BABA, Executive Director of ISME, Dr. Yasuhiro NAKANISHI, President of the Japan Society for Mangroves, and Dr. Toyohiko MIYAGI, Chief Researcher of ISME, shared their findings, enriching the understanding of priority research areas and scientific approaches for mangrove conservation. Interactive sessions and roundtable discussions nurtured collaborative endeavours among participants and stakeholders.

The subsequent day unfolded with immersive fieldwork at the mangrove forest along Ferney River Mouth, offering participants a firsthand experience to witness the intricacies of these ecosystems and grasp their paramount importance for the environment.

Kazuhiko SUGANO, Chairperson of the MOL Charitable Trust, underscored the workshop’s pivotal role, stating, “Establishing the first Mangroves Sharing Information Platform in Mauritius signifies a significant leap forward for the conservation of mangroves in Mauritius, indispensable elements of our environmental commitment.” Aligned with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, the MOL Charitable Trust acknowledges the critical role of mangroves as coastal guardians, erosion barriers, and vital spawning grounds for coastal lagoon biodiversity.

This collaborative endeavour stands as a beacon, illuminating the ongoing dedication to the conservation and rejuvenation of Mauritius’ invaluable mangrove ecosystems. Reef Conservation, ISME, MOL Mauritius International Fund, and MOL Charitable Trust stand united in fostering environmental stewardship for a sustainable future.



Mangrove Workshop: “SOS Mangrove: Strategies for Restoration and Conservation” and “Introduction of the Mangrove Platform for Mauritius”

8th & 9th November 2023 – Interview

This workshop marks the first of its kind in Mauritius. Could you share the key objectives and takeaways you hope to achieve from the ‘SOS Mangrove: Strategies for Restoration and Conservation’ workshop and how it contributes to the broader environmental conservation efforts in the region?

Francois BAGUETTE, Research Project Manager Reef Conservation

The primary objectives of this workshop were to bring together stakeholders involved in mangrove conservation and restoration in Mauritius, fostering collaboration across various sectors, including the private sector, NGOs, and government institutions. The success of the event was evident in the diverse participation and fruitful discussions on key topics related to mangrove restoration research and collaboration. It served as a pivotal moment to initiate the development of a potential platform for stakeholders in mangrove conservation and restoration, laying a strong foundation for future collaborations.

Toyohiko MIYAGI, Senior Researcher ISME

The “SOS Mangrove: Strategies for Restoration and Conservation” workshop is a groundbreaking initiative in Mauritius, acknowledging the unique challenges faced by the country’s delicate mangrove ecosystems, akin to the canary in the coal mine for global climate change and rapid sea-level rise. Our primary goal is to formulate strategic approaches for the preservation and conservation of Mauritian mangroves, with a focus on waste management as a crucial starting point for our collaborative efforts. By fostering a peaceful and hopeful atmosphere, we aim to initiate a collective dialogue that can lay the groundwork for effective mangrove conservation in Mauritius.

Ranjeeta Devi AUCHOYBUR, Ag. Scientific Officer NPCS Wetland Section

Firstly, I express my gratitude to the organizers for initiating this remarkable event. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time such a comprehensive workshop focusing on Mangroves has been organized. Serving as the Acting Scientific Officer of the Wetland Section at the National Parks Conservation Service (NPCS), my involvement in the Restoration and Conservation of mangroves, particularly at the Pointe D’Ésny Ramsar site, has been significant. This site, predominantly a mangrove forest, falls under the jurisdiction of NPCS, which is entrusted with its protection. NPCS maintains the site and regularly organises cleanup campaigns at Pointe D’Ésny Ramsar site, receiving support from various organizations, including Eco-Sud, ABSA Bank, and UBP, all united in the shared goal of environmental protection. This workshop has proven highly beneficial as an active partner in mangrove restoration and conservation. The introduction by Mr. Francois Baguette and the insightful presentation by Keshav, outlining the methodology used to assess the damage caused by the Wakashio shipwreck, were particularly enlightening. Notably, during the IEMP post-Wakashio, NPCS collaborated with Reef Conservation for the monitoring of Pointe D’Ésny Ramsar site.



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Mangrove Workshop: “SOS Mangrove: Strategies for Restoration and Conservation” and “Introduction of the Mangrove Platform for Mauritius”

8th & 9th November 2023 – Interview

Could you highlight any innovative strategies or approaches your organization has employed in mangrove restoration and conservation, and what results or impacts have these efforts achieved in Mauritius and beyond?

Francois BAGUETTE, Research Project Manager Reef Conservation

At Reef Conservation, our innovative approach this year in terms of mangrove restoration involved the construction of the first dedicated mangrove nursery. The 300-square-meter structure in Melville-Barrachois aims to promote restoration for our projects and invite other stakeholders to utilize it for their restoration initiatives. This structure, while used by Reef Conservation, is envisioned to be a shared resource, supporting organizations with limited facilities for mangrove restoration and facilitating the expansion of mangrove restoration projects.

Toyohiko MIYAGI, Senior Researcher ISME

Our organisation recognises the diverse nature of mangrove ecosystems and the multitude of stakeholders involved. Striking a delicate balance between conservation and utilisation is crucial to our approach. This balance serves as a guiding principle for our innovative strategies, ensuring that our efforts have positive impacts on both mangrove ecosystems and the communities they support. We believe that this dual-focused strategy is critical to achieving sustainable and meaningful results in mangrove restoration and conservation.

Ranjeeta Devi AUCHOYBUR, Ag. Scientific Officer NPCS Wetland Section

NPCS initiated a pilot project years ago to plant mangroves (*Rhizophora mucronata*) at our first Ramsar Site of International Importance, the Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary (RTREBS). Currently, a self-sustainable mangrove forest covers a substantial portion of the mudflat. This project has directly benefited the fishing community at Roche Bois, as they harvest bait from RTREBS for their livelihood. However, the impact of the mangrove forest on migratory birds at RTREBS requires further study.



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Mangrove Workshop: “SOS Mangrove: Strategies for Restoration and Conservation” and “Introduction of the Mangrove Platform for Mauritius”

8th & 9th November 2023 – Interview

Collaboration among organizations is crucial in addressing environmental challenges. How has the partnership between Reef Conservation, ISME, and NPCS enhanced the effectiveness of your initiatives, and can you share an example of a successful collaborative effort that had a significant impact on mangrove conservation in Mauritius?

Francois BAGUETTE, Research Project Manager Reef Conservation

The partnership between Reef Conservation and ISME has played a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness of our projects. Leveraging the expertise of Japan and international experts in mangrove conservation has been invaluable, especially considering Reef Conservation’s relatively recent engagement with mangroves since 2020. Collaborating with these experts has significantly contributed to developing scientifically robust and effective research, education, and restoration projects. The experience has been enriching, and we look forward to sustaining this collaboration for many more years to come.

Toyohiko MIYAGI, Senior Researcher ISME

The partnership between Reef Conservation and ISME has significantly enhanced the effectiveness of our initiatives. While our organisations may differ in terms of scale and scope, our common goal and commitment to sound management practices and thoughtful conservation form the basis of our collaboration. The local and community-based approach of Reef Conservation complements the global perspective of ISME. Together, we have established a collaboration system that has naturally evolved, leveraging our collective strengths to address current challenges and lay the groundwork for future efforts in mangrove conservation.

Ranjeeta Devi AUCHOYBUR, Ag. Scientific Officer NPCS Wetland Section

Looking ahead, there are numerous opportunities for future collaboration. As of June 2023, NPCS, under the Environment Protection Act, has become the enforcing agency for wetland protection. In cases involving the backfilling of wetlands, the question of restoration frequently arises. Therefore, in future wetland restoration projects, planting mangroves could be considered to improve a degraded or backfilled wetland.



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Activity



MMIF call for Project Applications FY 2024 is opened until the 22nd December.

More details can be found on the below advertisement or by clicking on the following link : <https://www.mol-mauritius-fund.jp/en/>



**MITSUI O.S.K. LINES (MOL) ESTABLISHES AUTHORIZED PUBLIC TRUST IN JAPAN
'MOL MAURITIUS INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RECOVERY AND SUSTAINABILITY'**

Aims to Promote Recovery and Sustainability of Environment and Local Communities

Call for Project Applications FY 2024

The MOL Mauritius International Fund (MMIF) is hereby inviting applications from eligible Mauritian entities to apply for project funding.

Applications for this Call for Project Applications FY 2024 are being accepted in English from October 30th, 2023 to December 22nd, 2023.

- Grant amount: 3 million yen or more per year per project
- Grant Period: Maximum of 5 years

Applications must include:

- Completed Application form – see on the MMIF website.
- Articles of incorporation, bylaws, and other operating rules of the Applicant
- Activity Report and Financial Statements of the Applicant for either the last 3 years, or the period since establishment
- Letters of recommendation
- (For organizations registered in Mauritius) Certificate of Registration of Association and the National CSR Certification Number provided by the NSIF (National Social Inclusion Foundation)

Please refer to the Guidelines document, available on the MMIF website, for further information on eligibility and application requirements as follows:
<https://www.mol-mauritius-fund.jp/en/#application> or scan the QR code →



Outline of authorized public trust “MOL Mauritius International Fund for Natural Environment Recovery and Sustainability” in Japan

Name of the trust	MOL Mauritius International Fund for Natural Environment Recovery and Sustainability
Support (targeting Mauritius)	A. Activities related to recovery and protection of the environment and ecosystems in Mauritius. Examples: Restoration, preservation, and research measures related to mangrove forests, coral reefs, and wild birds, including rare species. B. Activities related to development of communities such as fisheries, tourism, culture, and education in Mauritius.
Country of establishment	Japan
Trustor	Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.
Amount of contribution	Assuming about 500 million yen (part of total 800 million yen in the plan announced in September 2020)
Trustee	Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank Limited
Trust manager	Tokyo Excel Law Firm/Toshiki Shimoymada
Members of steering committee	Chairman: Mariko Kawaguchi, Graduate School of Social Design Studies, Rikkyo University. Members: Eichiro Adachi, The Japan Research Institute, Limited Toyohiko Miyagi, Geo Customize Mapping Unit Hiroya Yamano, National Institute for Environmental Studies Taku Mizuta, Yamashina Institute for Ornithology Naoki Tojo, Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University

A Steering Committee with experienced members is responsible for the assessment of funding applications received before December 22nd, 2023.

The Trustee will notify all Applicants of the selection results by the end of February 2024.
Please direct any inquiries and correspondence to the following address: kouekidenshi@smtb.jp





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The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones, some with dirt on them, cupping a mound of dark soil. A small, vibrant green plant with several leaves is growing out of the soil in the center. The text is overlaid on the right side of this image.

3rd section: Testimonials of NGOs of Call for Proposal 2



In this section, we delve into the heart of the MOL Charitable Trust’s impact through the voices of the NGOs and projects selected in the 2nd Call for Proposals. Their testimonials provide real-world insights into the transformative power of collaboration and the tangible differences made in the lives of beneficiaries and communities across Mauritius. Through a series of questions, we explore these partnerships’ experiences, challenges, and outcomes, offering a closer look at the remarkable work achieved.



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NGO Name: Action Familiale
Interviewee: Sean Rungen, Director

The Action Familiale project in Trou d'Eau Douce and Ville Noire, supported by the MOL Charitable Trust, has yielded transformative outcomes for 75 children and 70 adults. Through personalized active listening and life skills training, both groups experienced enhanced self-esteem and reduced isolation. The project's focus on engaging sessions and educational outings empowered children, mitigating risks like early pregnancies and substance abuse.

Beyond individual impacts, the initiative positively influenced family dynamics, fostering harmonious environments and reducing conflicts. The partnership with the MOL Charitable Trust, initiated through the 2nd Call for Proposals, proved transformative for Action Familiale. Despite initial challenges with reporting requirements, they became a catalyst for internal improvements, enhancing project management. The Trust's representatives provided crucial support, enabling effective navigation of challenges and fostering strategic connections with other NGOs. Improved outcome tracking empowered data-driven decision-making, building stakeholder confidence. This collaborative success underscores the positive impact on communities and the mutual benefits derived from the partnership in critical areas of need.



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NGO Name: Batisseurs de Paix
Interviewee: Pascale Desvaux, Director

Our collaboration with MOL Charitable Trust commenced in January 2023 when our enduring project, 'The Solidarity Centre,' was selected for financial assistance. This delightful surprise marked a significant milestone for us. Identifying a small house adjacent to our existing premises for our community services—'Centre d'ecoute,' a second-hand shop, 'boutique solidaire,' and Art & Craft sessions—was a key development. However, a notable challenge emerged as the property owner, a pilot residing abroad, was not easily reachable. Despite his eagerness to help, communication hurdles arose. Addressing legal procedures added complexity, but with the kindness of our lessor, unwavering support from MOL, and our determination, challenges were overcome. While 'The Solidarity Centre' is set to commence its services shortly, the responsible person has already initiated community assistance through active listening. This initial effort has generated a positive impact within the village, offering relief to individuals who feel heard and supported. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to MOL's team for their constant support, transparency, and straightforward approach. We eagerly anticipate further collaboration with MOL Charitable Trust. This refined version maintains the essence of the original testimonial while enhancing readability.



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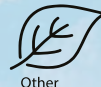
NGO Name: Biodiversity Preservation

Interviewee: Benny MANDHUB, Project Coordinator

In 2023, Biodiversity Preservation, funded by MOL, achieved transformative outcomes through its Eco-literacy Program. Interactive workshops empowered youth to develop an eco-literacy toolkit, integrating environmental knowledge as a social and emotional process. The launch of "Konter Karbonn," an online carbon footprint calculator in October, provided individuals with the means to assess and reduce their carbon footprint, contributing significantly to global climate change mitigation efforts.

The introduction of the "Lanadir Slam Collection," an online slam booklet, encouraged youth to express their perspectives on environmental challenges through dynamic slams, fostering a deeper understanding of nature's significance. Additionally, the forthcoming "Manzarli Eco Recipe Collection" will feature eco-recipes promoting sustainable food choices, launching in December 2023.

Biodiversity Preservation's partnership with MOL enabled the sustained success of its Eco-literacy Program, addressing the impacts of the MV Wakashio oil spill on the Grand Port community. Despite challenges in delivering final workshops, MOL's support facilitated program resilience and expansion, reaching more institutions within the Grand Port district. This collaboration exemplifies the power of partnership in fostering environmental education and resilience among Mauritian youth.



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NGO Name: Ecosud

Interviewee: Sebastien Sauvage, CEO

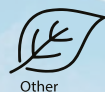
Our collaboration with MOL Charitable Trust has changed our ability to secure sustainable funding. The unwavering support from the trust has been instrumental in alleviating this perennial challenge, serving as a lifeline for our ongoing initiatives.

The benefits of this partnership are profound. Thanks to the financial support from MOL Charitable Trust, we've significantly expanded our impact, influencing the lives of numerous families. Accessible resources and life skills training have become a reality, addressing immediate needs and fostering long-term empowerment.

While sustaining community projects presents inherent challenges, the collaborative spirit with MOL Charitable Trust has transformed these challenges into opportunities for growth and innovation.

The impact of this collaboration extends beyond the direct beneficiaries, creating a ripple effect in the communities we serve. MOL Charitable Trust's backing serves as a financial boost and a catalyst for community empowerment, fostering a sustainable model that surpasses immediate interventions.

In conclusion, our partnership with MOL Charitable Trust has been transformative, providing crucial support in overcoming funding obstacles and driving positive change in the lives of those we serve. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to making a lasting impact, and we are grateful for the trust's continued support in our journey towards community empowerment and sustainable development.



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NGO Name: Loreto College Mahebourg

Interviewee: Martine Cotte, Rector

Here at Loreto College Mahebourg, we firmly believe that a holistic approach to education is essential for enhancing the overall quality of life for our school's youngsters, especially those from financially deprived families. We express our enduring gratitude to MOL Charitable Trust for the incredible opportunity extended to us through our partnership. This collaboration has empowered us to initiate projects, including the provision of daily meals, school equipment, remedial classes, and educational tours for underprivileged students.

The financial and technical support generously provided by MOL Charitable Trust through the 2nd Call for Proposals has enabled us to uphold our commitment to our educational vision. Despite encountering numerous challenges during the implementation of certain projects, especially related to feasibility issues, MOL has consistently supported us and helped us find viable solutions.

Through this collaborative effort, we have successfully executed our projects, significantly contributing to the well-being of our students and the broader community.



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NGO Name: LORETO COLLEGE BAMBOUS VIRIEUX

Interviewee: Françoise ARLOVE, Manager

Loreto College Bambous Virieux extends deep appreciation to the MOL Charitable Trust for its invaluable support since January 2023, enabling impactful projects benefiting underprivileged students throughout the year.

One significant initiative, supported by MOL, is the engagement of a dedicated social worker. Funded through the trust, the social worker plays a crucial role in connecting parents to the school community, conducting assessments, and addressing students' needs. Home visits have been instrumental, with over twenty-five conducted this year alone. Tailored support for parents facing challenges has positively impacted students, with a notable success story of a student successfully resuming regular attendance.

MOL Charitable Trust has also backed a significant project in remedial education. Three students in grades 8 and 9 received personal coaching three times a week, preparing for PSAC examinations. Additional allowances for teachers were provided, with results expected in December 2023. The trust's funding facilitated the acquisition of a School Administration Communication and data storage application, efficiently communicating information to parents via SMS service.

A dedicated learning corner equipped with educational resources was established, accommodating up to 15 pupils daily during school holidays. Teachers and pupils will access this space during and outside school hours starting the next academic year. MOL Charitable Trust has significantly contributed to creating a supportive learning environment, enhancing academic performance and opportunities for needy students at Loreto College Bambous Virieux. The positive impact is evident, and the college expresses deep gratitude for the continued support and approval of upcoming projects.



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NGO Name: Mahebourg Espoir

Interviewee: Annick Jowrun,
Project Coordinator

Our collaboration with MOL, initiated through the 2nd Call for Proposals, has been pivotal in advancing the development of Mahebourg Espoir Pre-Primary (MEPP), established in 2022. Focused on addressing the needs of children from the poorest families in Cité Tôle and Cité La Chaux, our approach emphasizes the holistic development of children during their early childhood years.

MEPP, from 2022 to 2023, provided optimal conditions for growth, including regular attendance, facilitated transport, dedicated staff, well-equipped classrooms, appropriate materials, a balanced diet, spacious schoolyard, and engaging activities. As a result, the 2022 MEPP batch transitioned to Grade 1 without discernible differences from children attending fee-paying kindergartens, entering this academic stage with equal opportunities.

With MOL's support, we established a Learning Corner in the Cité La Chaux Community Centre, reinforcing learning areas taught in school after hours. Social workers intervene as needed, liaising with parents. This follow-up continues as they enter Grade 2 in 2024.

Beyond imparting numeracy and literacy basics, our partnership enabled the nurturing of talents, development of psychomotor and memory skills, and instilling self-confidence. Educational outings and the annual Open Day further enriched their experiences, showcasing creative achievements and strengthening the parent-teacher bond.

Parents observed positive changes in their children, including enhanced verbal expression and improved behavior at home. Importantly, facilities provided by MOL through MEPP empowered mothers to secure part-time employment, contributing to family budgets and improving home conditions. We express sincere gratitude to MOL Charitable Trust for their genuine concern for the children of MEPP.



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NGO Name: MAHEBOURG RCA
PARENTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Interviewee: Ginette CONSTANT, Headmaster

We are delighted to express our sincere gratitude for the exceptional contribution of MOL Charitable Trust to our school project. The positive impact on the school's infrastructure is immense, especially considering it had not undergone any painting for the past 10 years.

Both the staff and students are highly motivated, inspired to work, and actively contributing to the overall well-being of the Mahebourg community. The Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) members extend their heartfelt appreciation to MOL for providing invaluable support in enhancing the learning environment for our pupils.

The head teacher extends warm thanks for the substantial financial contribution, and it brings us great pleasure to share that the school population is gradually increasing. Your support has made a significant difference, and we look forward to continued collaboration for the betterment of our educational facilities.



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NGO Name: MAURIWOOD FILM INDUSTRY ARTISTS ASSOCIATION (MFIAA)

Interviewee: Dany ADJODHYA, Coordinator

Within a landscape of over 500 active NGOs in Mauritius, the Mauriwood Film Industry Artists Association (FIAA) recognizes the shared struggle for resources. The lack of visual communication tools often hinders NGOs' impact, especially with video production beyond financial reach. The MOL Charitable Trust has been instrumental in addressing this challenge, enabling Mauriwood FIAA to produce multiple videos for various NGOs through the "Island Nature Reborn" YouTube Video Channel and Web Platform.

This initiative allows NGOs to showcase their work, advocate for social causes, raise awareness, and inspire support. Mauriwood FIAA, in collaboration with MOL Charitable Trust, provides exposure for NGOs, contributing to their sustainability by attracting financial support. The impact extends beyond individual NGOs, benefiting both direct beneficiaries and the broader Mauritian community, fostering a culture of support and awareness.

The partnership stands out as a mutually beneficial collaboration rooted in trust, respect, and care. Mauriwood FIAA's conscientious approach and MOL Charitable Trust's understanding of creative processes result in impactful content with international reach. Overcoming obstacles, the teams demonstrate exceptional professionalism and commitment, positively impacting vulnerable communities. The forthcoming releases from Mauriwood FIAA's cameras stand as a testament to the success of this impactful partnership



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NGO Name: Precious Plastic Mauritius

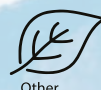
Interviewee: Karim CURRIMJEE,
Executive Director

Since 2019, Precious Plastic has been on a resolute mission to advance circular principles, actively promoting them through plastic collection and transformation services while simultaneously raising awareness about plastic pollution through initiatives such as beach cleanups and educational tours.

In a significant leap forward in 2022, made possible by the support from the second MOL Call proposal, Precious Plastic expanded its plastic waste collection services to reach vulnerable communities in Mahebourg that were often excluded from traditional recycling services. Introducing innovative bicycle-powered karts, the organization successfully served approximately 50 households. The impact was transformative, witnessing a notable shift in community attitudes towards waste disposal. What was once a passive approach turned into a newfound passion for responsible waste management. This initiative stands as a resounding success, showcasing the profound influence of a simple plastic collection service in catalysing positive behavioural changes within the community.

Assuming the executive position at Precious Plastic in August, I have had the privilege of collaborating with the MOL team and esteemed partners such as the I61 Foundation. Their unwavering support has played a crucial role in ensuring a seamless transition in management, particularly concerning reporting requirements.

The collaboration between MOL and Precious Plastic, which began in 2021, is characterized by a relationship built on mutual understanding and cooperation. This enduring partnership highlights our shared commitment to making a tangible difference in the realms of environmental stewardship and community building. Together, we strive to create lasting positive impacts and contribute to a sustainable and responsible approach to plastic waste management.



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NGO Name: Social Circus Cite la Chaux

Interviewee: Ornella Chellen,
Project Coordinator Consultant

From February to September 2023, Social Circus has significantly impacted the community, conducting 390 workshops that benefited 62 children. These workshops encompassed a diverse range of activities, including jugglery, theatre, dance, literacy, sewing, cooking, cinema, and media. The addition of new classes was a response to community demands, showcasing the organization's adaptability.

Two shows presented to parents and participation in the Family Fair on December 3rd at Cité la Chaux have been highlights of the project. Arts and Craft Classes, emphasizing creativity with recycled materials, nurture artistic skills and instill environmental consciousness.

The impact on children is evident through increased confidence, joy, early participation, and active engagement, indicating comprehensive life skills development. The core team and tutors play a crucial role in providing solid supervision and creating a nurturing environment for the children.

Notably, the project has empowered women beneficiaries, with six securing jobs within the NGO and ten contributing to occasional events, receiving stipends for their valuable support. These women are a vital link with children and their families, facilitating Arts and Craft Classes taking on administrative duties, and coordinating activities since August.

Thanks to the funding from MOL Charitable Trust, Social Circus has been able to invest in the professionalisation of its structure and team, working towards the project's long-term sustainability. The NGO is committed to empowering women and fostering both individual and community growth.

Looking ahead, Social Circus is eager to renew its collaboration with MOL, aiming to strengthen its presence in the community and expand its reach. For 2024, the organization has ambitious plans, including acquiring a plot of land and launching vegetable garden workshops, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable community development.



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NGO Name: Ti Rayons Soleil

Interviewee: Bérengère Series, Director

The initiation of the Pre-Primary School in collaboration with MOL Charitable Trust has been a transformative experience for the southern region. This endeavour served as an eye-opener to the profound challenges faced by the population in Petit Bel Air, Cité Ville Noire, and Cité La Chaux—communities grappling with deep poverty and exclusion.

The establishment of the Pre-Primary School, supported by MOL Charitable Trust and Livina Foundation, has made a substantial difference in the lives of 45 children. Beyond delivering quality education, the holistic team addresses essential needs by providing food, social support, and access to psychological, nursing, occupational therapy, and speech therapy services. The impact is tangible, bringing about real changes in the community, one day at a time.

The partnership with MOL Charitable Trust is highly valued by the organization. Working with various entities is common for NGOs, but the distinctive aspect of the collaboration with MOL Charitable Trust lies in their understanding of the importance of long-term commitment to fighting poverty through education. This commitment aligns with the organization's belief that sustained impact requires continuous, dedicated efforts.

The partnership is characterized by shared visions, collaborative projects, and the creation of a platform where each participant can contribute their strengths and perspectives. The professionalism of MOL Charitable Trust and the project committee has been a crucial support for the NGO. The organization expresses gratitude for the opportunity to continue its work in a region that demands long-term commitment and professional collaboration.

The immense impact on families and communities underscores the significance of this collaboration, emphasizing the potential to shape a better future for generations to come.



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NGO Name: YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES EMPOWERMENT PLATFORM (YWDEP)

Interviewee: Ferozia HOSANEEA, President

The Youth with Disabilities Empowerment Platform's (YWDEP) recycling initiative stands as a dynamic venture empowering youths with disabilities. Members create beautiful items from recycled materials, contributing to economic independence. This endeavour fosters environmental responsibility and an entrepreneurial spirit, transforming participants into self-sufficient contributors to the community. It goes beyond craftsmanship, instilling a sense of purpose and planet-saving impact.

Gardening Project

The collaboration with MOL Charitable Trust has nurtured YWDEP's gardening project into a vibrant ecosystem. This initiative signifies a transformative journey toward self-sufficiency. Members actively participate in cultivation, establishing a direct link between what they grow and what sustains them. This journey instills agricultural skills, autonomy, resilience, and environmental connection, symbolizing the transformative power of sustainable initiatives.

Recycling Project

The second collaboration with MOL Charitable Trust in the recycling project has been transformative. Beyond financial support, the Trust's genuine interest and collaborative problem-solving have elevated the partnership. The outcomes have been remarkable, providing vocational skills and instilling environmental sustainability appreciation in members. This collaboration exemplifies shared goals and a commitment to positive change.

The ongoing collaboration with MOL Charitable Trust, spanning two impactful projects, is a testament to shared commitment and positive outcomes. The Trust's genuine interest reflects a shared passion for making a difference. The partnership is characterized by shared values, mutual respect, and a commitment to creating lasting, positive change. It is a story of dynamic collaboration and a shared journey toward transformative impact.



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