



Charitable Trust

Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Goro Yamashita



Dear partners,

You have in your hands the very first newsletter of the MOL Charitable Trust. We are planning to publish a new edition every four months to share the latest information and initiatives undertaken by the Trust in its mission in Mauritius.

For this first edition, we have focused mainly on providing an overview of the Trust, its objectives and the actions taken since its establishment in June 2021.

Before doing so, a little flashback is essential. It was in 2020 that MOL decided to be involved in Mauritius in an effort to support local communities and contribute to the preservation of its unique environment. The Trust was established in order to facilitate this task and to better organise our actions. We are here for the long-term, and we will ensure that all the actions taken and projects carried out and/or funded by the Trust are successfully completed in order to achieve our objectives.

I am confident that our presence on this beautiful island will make a significant contribution to the upliftment of the lives of many disadvantaged people, as well as to the preservation of species and ecosystems that are unique in the world. Since our arrival on the island, and even more so since the establishment of the Trust, we have had the opportunity to work hand in hand with many very dedicated Mauritians from the charitable and environmental world, and to discover the reality on the

field alongside them. It is a privilege and an honour for us to work with all these people whose commitment is a true source of inspiration for all.

As I write this, we have completed the selection process following our first call for proposal. You will find more details in the rest of this newsletter, but we are very pleased with this first exercise, which has been a real success with more than 100 applications.

This selection process has been long and challenging, partly because of the large number of projects received, but also because of the high quality of most of the projects. This is why we decided to fund more projects than we had originally planned.

In my eyes, this reflects our determination to achieve our goals and our commitment to Mauritius. I wish you all an excellent read and look forward to seeing you soon for more good news to share.

Goro Yamashita,
Chairman

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PRESENTATION OF THE TRUST



The MOL Charitable Trust is an initiative of Mitsui O.S.K Lines Ltd (MOL), a Japanese multi-modal transport company and market leader in many areas of maritime transport, having established itself in Mauritius in 2020.

Seeking to help the Mauritian population and participate in the safeguarding of the local environment, MOL has dispatched numerous teams of experts to the island to assist in the efforts to support vulnerable populations and restore the ecosystems. In September 2020, the company decided to dedicate 800 million yen to further support Mauritius.

In October 2020, the company incorporated a subsidiary company, MOL (Mauritius) Ltd, to better coordinate its efforts in Mauritius. Having realised that a Trust would better serve this purpose, the MOL Charitable Trust, was subsequently established on 21 June 2021. MOL (Mauritius) Ltd continues to operate, however, with a mission to inspect potential investment and business opportunities in Mauritius.

The Trust is funded by a portion of the funds released by MOL, and has a total funding of approximately 300 million yen. In parallel, MOL has established another foundation in Japan, the MOL Mauritius International Fund, which has a fund of 500 million yen.

The objectives of both foundations are to support vulnerable communities and to assist projects aimed at restoring, conserving and safeguarding nature.

The MOL Charitable Trust will focus on localized, community-based projects, while the Japanese foundation will take on larger projects. The MOL Charitable Trust is managed locally by a committee of enforcers with 7 members, 3 of whom are Mauritian. It has an annual funding of 50 million yen for the next 6 years.

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OBJECTIVES of the Trust

The mission of the MOL Charitable Trust in Mauritius consists of 10 priority goals

Each of these goals corresponds to one of the *Sustainable Development Goals* for the future of humanity established by the United Nations.

Objectives of the Trust

1 Conservation and development of mangrove forests

Mangroves play a vital role in the conservation of natural coastal areas. They help to combat erosion and serve as a nursery for many species that inhabit the lagoons. Our aim is to conserve existing mangrove forests and to plant new ones.



UN Sustainable Development Goal number 14 of the United Nations:
Aquatic life.

2 Conservation and development of coral reefs

Mauritius' reef belt is one of the largest in the world, measuring about 300 km in length. However, there are many threats to this incredible structure, such as global warming, pollution, and invasive species. We support projects that help restore this unique environment.



UN Sustainable Development Goal number 14 of the United Nations:
Aquatic life.

3 Conservation of wild, migratory and rare birds

Mauritius is home to several unique and endangered species such as the Mauritius kestrel, the Mauritius cardinal, the green bat and the spotted bat. We support several preservation programmes that work to save these species.



UN Sustainable Development Goal number 15 of the United Nations:
Life on Earth.

4 Preservation and restoration of cultural property

Mauritius is a cultural melting pot with a rich history and extraordinary cultural diversity. Numerous cultural sites can be seen all around the island, precious heritages that have not been spared by time. Preserving and conserving these places is part of the duty of remembrance, while at the same time playing a role as a catalyst for tourism.



UN Sustainable Development Goal number 11 of the United Nations:
Sustainable cities and communities.



Objectives of the Trust

5 Economic development of the fisheries and tourism industries.

Fishing and tourism are major industries in Mauritius. Many Mauritian families depend on them, but these sectors have been under pressure in recent years. We support programmes to revive these industries through training, environmental studies, potential opportunities or building infrastructure.



UN Sustainable Development Goal number 8 of the United Nations:
Decent work and growth Economic.

6 Awareness and sensitization of ecology, ecotourism and environmental protection

Ecology is not only essential for the conservation of certain fragile ecosystems, it can also enable the development of new, modern and dynamic economic sectors. By initiating programmes that support this area, we are investing in the future of Mauritius.



UN Sustainable Development Goal number 11 of the United Nations:
Sustainable cities and communities.

7 Empowerment of communities through social welfare and education

Education and support for vulnerable communities are among the Trust's most important objectives. There are many pockets of poverty around the island, many of which depend on the sea for their livelihood. Through education of young people and support for adults, our aim is to provide them with a better future.



UN Sustainable Development Goal number 1 & 4 of the United Nations:
No Poverty ; Quality Education

8 Research and development related to renewable energy

MOL has been working for several years now on the development of renewable fuels for the shipping industry, the world's largest consumer of fuel. By supporting similar projects in Mauritius, we wish to help create a better and more just society towards nature.



UN Sustainable Development Goal number 7 of the United Nations:
Clean and affordable energy



Objectives of the Trust

9 Humanitarian assistance post disaster events.

Natural and man-made disasters hit the most vulnerable communities hard. This is why swift and well-organised aid is essential when disaster strikes. Since our arrival in Mauritius, we have been building an extensive support network to facilitate and streamline this humanitarian work.



UN Sustainable Development Goal number 1 of the United Nations:
No poverty.

10 Related infrastructure development to support any of the above actions.

Any infrastructure that enables the achievement of our goals is an advantage. We already support several infrastructure projects in the region and will continue to devote a significant amount of our resources to achieving our mission in Mauritius.



UN Sustainable Development Goal number 11 of the United Nations:
Sustainable cities and communities.





CALL FOR PROPOSAL

Call for Proposal

In September 2020, the MOL Charitable Trust announced its first ever call for proposal in Mauritius. For this first exercise, it was intended to fund about 20 projects for an amount of about Rs 1 million over one year. More than 100 applications were received, more than 50% of which were from the South East region.

The selection criteria were as follows :



Priority on projects in the South East region for this first year



The objectives of the selected projects had to be consistent with those of the Trust



Viability of the proposed projects



The ability of the NGOs to carry out the projects and manage their finances

During the selection process, the Trust's team was supported by the I61 Foundation, an international organisation whose aim is to :

“ Giving hope to those who are affected by poverty and fighting social injustice by facilitating projects to restore, renew and rebuild affected communities. ”

The Trust's aim was to select the best projects in a transparent manner.

A pre-selection of the most relevant projects was first carried out, followed by site visits to the shortlisted NGOs.

Given the quality of the proposed projects, the Committee of Enforcers decided to extend the number of projects funded from 20 to 26, and the total funding from Rs 20 million to Rs 24.5 million.

A new call for proposal will be issued in October 2022.

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Call for Proposal

Below is the list of projects selected for this year :

1. Action Familiale

Life skills training for young people and women (through the Reve Twa Fam programme) living in the vicinity of Mahébourg, and financial support for six months to disadvantaged families in Ville Noire.

2. Association for Sustainable Development

Support for coastal communities in 6 villages in the South-East region through environmental awareness, skills training for coastal protection, production of ecological objects or produce, cultivation of gardens and vegetable plots and the launch of small businesses.

3. Biodiversity Preservation

Development of an ecoliteracy toolkit by students for students to raise awareness of environmental issues and important ecological causes.

4. Bonheur Associé aux Enfants

Daily distribution of lunches to 65 children from disadvantaged families in Cité Beau-Vallon.

5. Caritas île Maurice

Skills development programme for vulnerable communities (literacy, life skills, baking and cooking).

6. Collège de Lorette de Mahébourg

Funding of several projects to support students at the college whose families are experiencing financial difficulties: donations of meals, donations of school materials, funding of private lessons and educational excursions.

7. Development Practitioners in Network

Training, support and empowerment of women in precarious situations from 8 villages in the South East region to help them in improving their household situation.

8. EcoMode Society

Purchase of a specialised vehicle to transport corals to be planted at the site of the Wakashio shipwreck.

9. Eco-Sud

Development of agro-ecological systems for vulnerable communities in the South-East region to promote food autonomy.

10. Falcon Citizen League

Accompanying young people in the South and East regions through agro-ecological training for the cultivation of gardens and vegetable plots. In collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Youth Clubs will be opened in the region.

11. Fondation Ressource et Nature (FORENA)

Training of women in the South-East region for the cultivation and implementation of mangroves and other useful and/or threatened plant species.

12. La Chaux Mahébourg Academy Football Club

Financing of sports equipment and coaches for young footballers from Cité La Chaux.



Call for Proposal

Below is the list of selected projects for this year :

13. Mahébourg Espoir

Agricultural project for young people trained in the Mahébourg Espoir agricultural school.

14. Marine Megafauna Conservation Organisation

Training of 50 commercial divers for aquaculture farms in the southern region or the Dolphin & Whale Watching.

15. Mauriwood Film Industry Artists Association

Production of "Island Nature Reborn", a documentary about the preservation and regeneration of ecosystems following the shipwreck of the Wakashio.

16. Mission Verte

Raising awareness of waste management and recycling in the South East region: educational sessions with local children, production of awareness-raising videos, setting up 4 recycling bins in the region, launching a Green Ambassador on bicycle, in collaboration with Precious Plastic.

17. Mouvement Bien-Être de Cité La Chaux

Acquisition of two boats to enable Cité La Chaux fishermen to fish in the open sea.

18. Ocean Connect

Community restoration of mangroves and shellfish nurseries through the establishment of a mangrove forest.

19. Pointe d'Esny Sanctuary Foundation/Reef Conservation

Engaging the local communities of Pointe d'Esny and Mahébourg in the establishment of a "Zone de Conservation Marine Volontaire" around Ile aux Aigrettes.

20. Pointe Jerome Sailing School and Club

Funding for the installation of containers for the accommodation and equipment of the club, which comprises of 60 children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

21. Precious Plastic Mauritius

Setting up a semi-industrial recycling platform in Pointe Jerome.

22. RESPECT

Interactive training for the production of vegetables in greenhouses through organic farming and restoration of agricultural heritage through the production of old-fashioned vegetables, while helping the beneficiaries to sell their produce on the online platform KIBAZ.

23. Ti Rayons Soleil

Renovation of Les Tisserins de Mahébourg pre-primary school in Cité La Chaux, Mahébourg.

24. Vallée de Ferney Conservation Trust

Reducing the risk of extinction of endemic and endangered plants in the Ferney Valley.

25. Youth with Disabilities Empowerment Platform

Training young people with disabilities to cultivate fruit, vegetables and plants.

26. Zenes San Frontier

Establishment of a music school for young people to help them pursue a career in music in this field.





MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNATURE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNATURE

The MOL Charitable Trust unveiled the projects selected for this year's funding at a formal ceremony held on the 10th of December 2021 at Karay Mario restaurant in Mahebourg. In attendance were His Excellency, Kawaguchi Shuichiro, Ambassador of Japan to Mauritius, members of the Trust's Mauritius-based Enforcers Committee, representatives of the NGOs whose projects will be funded, representatives of the I61 Foundation, and the press.

During the ceremony, the Memorandum of Understanding for each project was signed by the representatives of the respective associations. Following the ceremony, a lunch was served to the guests. Below are some photos of the event:



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**ACCOMPANYING THE
ASSOCIATIONS
LOCAL *ENFORCERS*
COMMITTEE**

Accompanying the associations

The MOL Charitable Trust is not only a funding body, as we believe that a continuous accompaniment of the selected organisations during the implementation of their projects is of paramount importance in order to achieve our common goals and make Mauritius a better place to live for all.

Even before the launch of our call for proposal, we visited the field with social workers to understand the field reality and identify the needs of the communities and ecosystems. We also relied on the expert reports sent by the scientific teams deployed in Mauritius by MOL since July 2020.

Throughout the coming year, we will continue this field work, which we consider essential, to ensure that everything goes as smoothly as possible. Indeed, charitable or environmental projects regularly face obstacles and difficulties, and we believe that the Trust's job is to assist its beneficiaries as best as possible.

We will therefore be making regular visits to the field, and will be fully available to project managers should the need arise in the coming year.

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Local Enforcers Committee



Goro Yamashita
(Chairman of the committee)

A graduate of Law Faculty of the Seijo University, Goro Yamashita joined the Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd (MOL) group immediately after graduation in 1993. He has now had a career of almost 30 years with the organization.

Throughout this rich career, Mr Yamashita has had the opportunity to gain valuable experience working in many departments of the group as a sales expert, including crude oil and car transportation.

He has also held key positions of some departments, managing the coordination and investments as an expertise for car transportation. His dedication to the Group has led him to work abroad, particularly in Europe and South America, bringing his knowledge and experience in the organization.

In 2019, he was appointed General Manager for the Business Development Team in the Port Projects and Logistics Division. Following the shipwreck of the Wakashio, in August 2020, he was transferred to Mauritius as a local representative of the MOL Group. Mr Yamashita is currently the Managing Director of MOL (Mauritius) Ltd and Chairman of the MOL Charitable

Trust, a charitable institution aiming to support vulnerable people and protect the environment at a local level.



Marc Dalais
(member)

Marc Dalais is the Executive Chairman of the Celero Group which he co-founded in 2009. Celero is a logistics and shipping agency group operating in Mauritius and Madagascar. A native Mauritian, Marc started his career in Shipping in South Africa after having completed his university studies there.

He subsequently worked in a leading international logistics group in Paris before joining a listed conglomerate in Mauritius, as General Manager of its Logistics, Shipping and Aviation division. Marc has also been active in various trade associations and boards, including the boards of a company pioneering freeport operations in Mauritius and the Mauritius Exporters Association.

He currently serves on the board of CIEL, a listed conglomerate active in 20 countries. Marc is also passionate about social justice and education. He is a founding trustee of the charitable trust which started Lighthouse Primary and Secondary School and The Good Shop, a new social enterprise.



Local Enforcers Committee



Dharmendra Ellayah
(member)

After a long career of more than 32 years in the police force and then in the National Disaster Management Center (NDRRMC), Darden has become an independent consultant in the field of disaster risk management, climate change and environmental protection.

He holds a Master’s degree in Administrative Management from the Mauritius University of Technology and a diploma in Electronics and Telecommunication from the Indian Air Force, Bangalore. He has been directly involved in setting up legal, institutional, administrative and operational frameworks in disaster risk management for the the government

Passionate about charity work, Darden is the Founding President of the Association For People In Tears (APPEL) and is also on the Board of The Good Shop, a social, human and environmental enterprise.



Dr Jimmy Harmon
(member)

Dr. Jimmy Harmon Is currently Deputy Director/ Head of Secondary for Catholic Education. Holds a PhD in language studies from the University of Western Cape, South Africa. His research interest is in language, history, memory and identity construction. He is one of the Board Directors of the Intercontinental Slavery Museum (ISM), Mauritius LTD, established by the Government of Mauritius in 2019.

From 2011 to 2019, Dr Harmon has been involved in the public advocacy of the setting up of a Slavery Museum which is one the 190 recommendations of the Truth and Justice Commission established by the government in 2008 to investigate the legacy of slavery and indentured labour from colonial days to date.

From 2014 to 2016, Dr Harmon was also Director of the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture, falling under the aegis of the then Ministry of Arts and Culture, whose aim is the promotion of the African, Malagasy and Kreol cultures.

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