



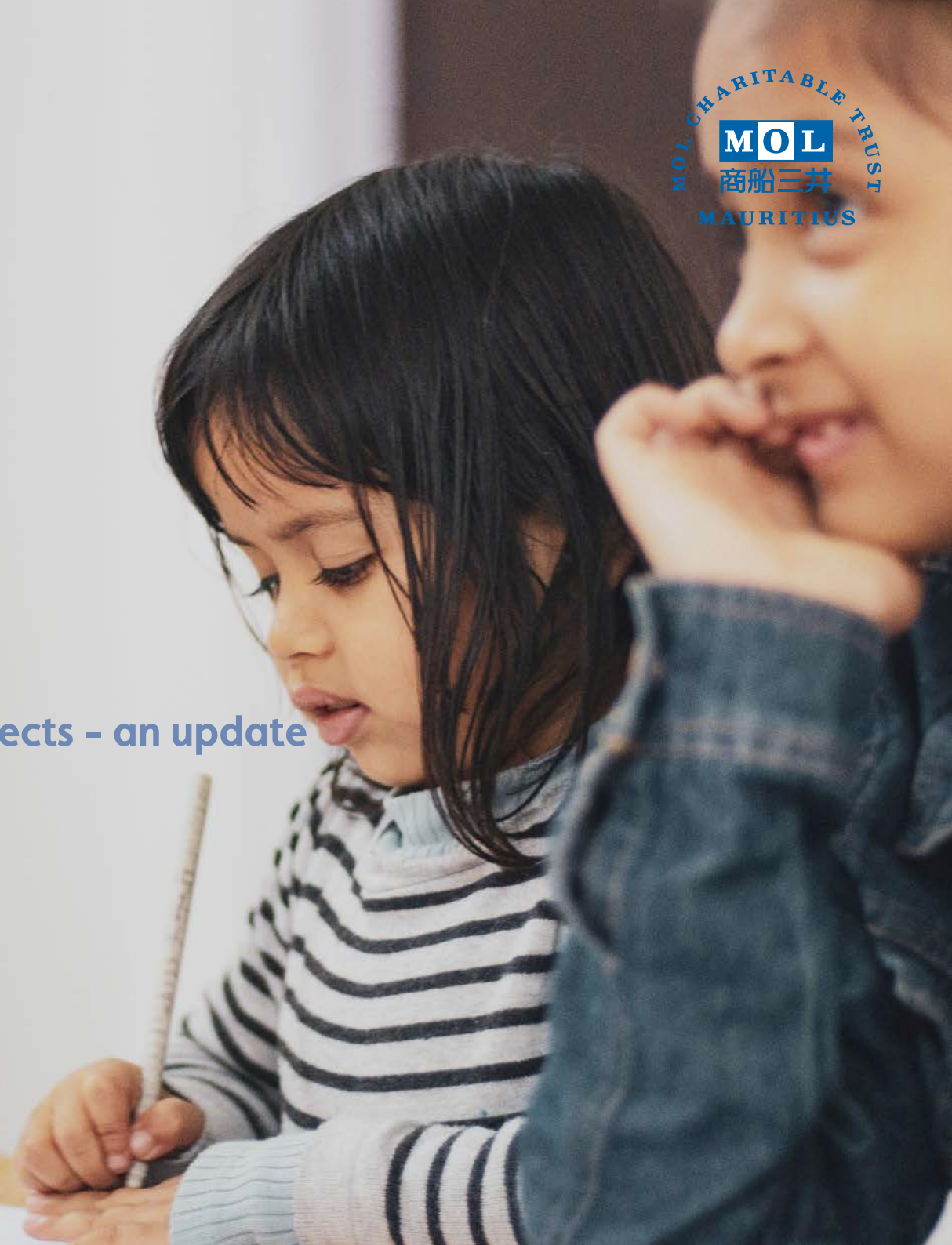
Charitable Trust

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2022

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Message of the Chairman

MESSAGE OF THE CHAIRMAN



Goro Yamashita

Dear readers,

You have in your hands the third and last edition of our quarterly newsletter for the year 2022. During this first call for proposals in 2021, we have seen a tremendous interest from NGOs to collaborate with the MOL Charitable Trust (MOL CT) in order to help the most vulnerable people and to preserve the environment in the South East region as never before. With the assistance of our local and international partners, these NGOs have done a wonderful job. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who have been and continue to be involved, in one way or another, in fulfilling our vision in Mauritius.

The first year of our programme to support local NGOs has gone very positively. Several projects have been completed more than satisfactorily, while others are still in progress for various reasons such as obtaining permits. However, on the whole, everything went according to plan. Most importantly, we have created an ecosystem of collaboration between our partners that promotes initiatives that are in line with our social and environmental goals.

Last September we launched our second call for proposals, which will be funded from next year. Applications are now closed and we have started the selection phase. Once again, I am delighted to see that local NGOs have risen to the challenge and are as motivated and committed to the MOL CT project in Mauritius as last year. No less than 104 of them responded to our call.

As you know, in the name of transparency, the selection process is in several stages, so it should not be completed before December. In the meantime, a big thank you to all the NGOs that participated. We have again received many very interesting and promising projects, and I am sure that this will make the choice even more difficult!

On another positive note, MOL CT will hold its annual meeting with its enforcers committee in December. This will be an opportunity to review the great work we have done with our partners in assisting local NGOs, and the various activities since the Trust was established. We will also present the new projects received following the second call and make the final selection.

In the meantime, I wish you an excellent time reading, and look forward to seeing you in 2023 for our next Newsletter.

Goro Yamashita,
Chairman of MOL Charitable Trust.

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Interview with **Marc Dalais**

Local Enforcer of MOL CT

Interview with Marc Dalais – Local Enforcer du MOL CT

1. How do you think this first year of work alongside local NGOs has gone?

Overall, the year went very well. I am happy to see that the vast majority of the 26 NGOs selected last year have achieved or are on their way to achieving their objectives. Unfortunately, a few of them had some administrative problems, but we remain optimistic that these small problems will be solved in the coming weeks. In any case, MOL CT is doing its best to help these NGOs to reach their initial objectives.

I have also seen that these NGOs are made up of passionate and exciting people, and it has been a real pleasure to work with them. From my point of view, MOL CT also has a passionate and committed team, both in the Enforcers of the Trust and in the support structures such as the I61 Foundation.

2. What were the most memorable moments during the year?

There were several highlights. First of all, I think of the workshops that brought together NGOs with the same objectives, on the themes of food autonomy and the safeguarding of mangroves. These meetings were moments of knowledge and experience sharing that were very much appreciated by the NGOs concerned, who came out of them better equipped to pursue their objectives.

There were also several days of plastic and other waste collection in the Mahébourg region, which brought together several NGOs involved in environmental protection. It was a source of pride to see the NGOs working hand in hand with the local communities for this noble cause. As an aside, I think it is urgent that the stakeholders, the authorities and the public work together and redouble their efforts to combat the scourge of pollution in Mauritius.

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Among other highlights, we also had the support of several eminent Japanese specialists. I am thinking in particular of Professor Miyagi, a leading specialist in mangroves, who has been of great assistance to the NGOs involved in the fight to preserve them. This valuable input was appreciated by all, and clearly demonstrates the level of commitment of our Japanese friends.



3. Are there any areas of improvement that you will work on for the second year?

There are always improvements to be made. We will be discussing these with the Enforcers team in the coming weeks. In particular, I think that we are never close enough to the selected NGOs. We will try to find ways to get even closer to them on the ground, according to their needs.

4. What is your wish for the projects that will be supported by MOL CT in 2022/2023?

First of all, I am very happy that we have again received more than 100 applications following our call for proposals. The evaluation exercise will start soon, and we want to continue to support projects in the South East region as a priority. Let's wait and see the results of the evaluations but for this second year, in my opinion, there will probably be a mix of new NGOs and NGOs that we already support, either on the same projects or new projects.

Coming back to the projects of the second year, the projects will once again concern the 4 main categories we have chosen, in line with the objectives of MOL CT: environment and biodiversity, social, education and other projects.



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Interview with **Dr. Jimmy Harmon** *Local Enforcer du MOL CT*

Interview with Dr. Jimmy Harmon – Local Enforcer du MOL CT

1. Education and sensitisation are among the main objectives of MOL CT’s mission in Mauritius. Could you explain why?

Education is an indispensable pillar of empowerment and a weapon to help vulnerable people break out of the cycle of poverty. This is why the education of children from difficult backgrounds is one of the priorities of MOL CT’s mission in Mauritius. As a reminder, we were inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to identify our priorities in Mauritius. SDG 4 aims to ensure equal access to quality education for all and to promote lifelong learning opportunities. We strive to follow these goals to the best of our ability by supporting education projects that we believe are sound and innovative.

2. In terms of education, what are the most important advances made this year?

Of the 26 projects selected by the Trust last year, about ten had an educational dimension, whether it was support for schooling or participation in various initiatives. For example, we were able to help set up a nursery school, a music school, a youth football club, awareness campaigns on sustainable development and environmental protection, a food distribution system for disadvantaged schoolchildren, organic farming courses for young people with disabilities, and many others. We also organised a meeting on the theme of education between several of the NGOs we work with, which enabled them to network and support each other in their various projects.

3. What has been the impact of the education and awareness-raising projects on their beneficiaries?

The impact varies from project to project, but I can say that overall it has been very positive. Most of the young participants have been very committed and motivated, and above all consistent in their participation in the different programmes. So each project has had a positive impact, and that is very important. These young people have the will to get out of it, and even to go further by actively participating in the construction of a better Mauritius.

4. What do you retain from this first year of work in education?

First of all, I remember the great work done by all the NGOs involved in education projects, but also the great response that these projects have had from the communities concerned. I also remember that we must continue our efforts in this area and continue to invest in the youth, because it is they who will build the Mauritius of tomorrow.



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Education and sensibilisation projects – an update

Education and sensibilisation projects – an update



Several of the projects chosen by MOL CT in 2021 are related to education and awareness raising of young people. These projects are already at an advanced stage, and some have already been successful. For this edition of our Newsletter, we have taken a closer look at six of these projects by talking to their project coordinators. Here is a brief report on each of them:

La Chaux Mahébourg Football Club

The La Chaux Mahébourg Football Club team received their gear (shirts, shorts, shin guards, balls, goals, hurdles, etc.) funded by the Trust on Saturday 15 October. A ceremony to hand over the equipment took place at the Cité La Chaux social centre, to the delight of our little budding champions. The aim of the project is to offer these children from disadvantaged backgrounds a healthy activity, but also to teach them a life discipline.

"We are five qualified trainers who are in charge of 62 children from Cité La Chaux and the surrounding area. The training started at the beginning of last year and we are delighted with the level of participation of the pupils, who are

very motivated. Many parents are also present to support their children, which is a great thing. Above all, we are happy that sport helps us to keep these children off the streets by making them less idle and less likely to go down the wrong path," explains Percy Keisler, project manager. In addition to sport, La Chaux Football Club provides guidance and life-skills training for the local children.

Biodiversity Preservation's Eco-literacy project

Another educational programme, Biodiversity Preservation's Eco-Literacy project, aims to introduce students at Loreto Colleges of Bambous-Virieux and Mahébourg to the concepts of sustainable development and nature conservation. It has three components: the development of an Eco-Literacy Toolkit by students for students through a card game, an eco-slam workshop, and the production of a video clip on the making-off of the Toolkit.

"We started with a workshop on creativity and innovation by working with the students on a dozen themes that they chose. We had some challenges with the students' timetable, but we are about to finalise the graphics for the card game. Overall, the students were very interested in the project, but also very creative and receptive to environmental issues. In this respect,

our goals have already been achieved thanks to the support of MOL CT," says Hoozla Ramoly Sookia from Biodiversity Preservation.

The Loreto College of Mahébourg

The Loreto College of Mahébourg, which caters for many local children from poor backgrounds, has launched a support programme for them. The project includes the distribution of a free daily lunch to those whose families lack the means, as well as a school support programme to reduce the learning gaps of these disadvantaged children. A total of 85 children between the ages of 13 and 18 have benefited from this project throughout the school year.

"The project was very well received by the families and children involved, it was a very welcome support given all the difficulties their families have gone through in recent years. Thanks to the help of MOL CT, we were even able to fund school trips for them, events that were previously inaccessible to some of our pupils. We have been able to visit the Odysseo aquarium, and we are planning a trip to Casela at the end of the year. For the second call for projects, we have added other elements to our programme: sport for all, first aid training and free medical consultations," explains Jeff Quirin, project coordinator.

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Youth with Disabilities Empowerment Platform (YWDEP)

The YWDEP project aims to teach young people with disabilities, who are under the care of the association, the basics of organic farming practices for the creation of a vegetable garden. The garden, located in the NGO's headquarters, has provided a good harvest of organic vegetables and fruit for the beneficiaries and their families, but above all it has inspired many young people and their families to reproduce what they have learned in their own gardens.

"We look after young people with disabilities who no longer go to school, and they have all been very motivated to take care of a garden. We had some difficulties at the beginning, as we started during the heavy rainy season, which devastated the garden. However, we participated in a workshop on organic practices with several NGOs supported by MOL CT, and we made contacts with several of them who helped us a lot. For example, we received gardening training from Falcon, and we also worked with Precious Plastic on a joint project. It was great of MOL CT to connect us and allow us to support each other, because usually local associations have little contact with each other," says Ferozia Hosaneea, project manager.

Bonheur Associé aux Enfants

The "Enfants Heureux" project of the NGO Bonheur Associé aux Enfants consists of offering a daily lunch to 65 children in

vulnerable situations, who attend different schools in the South-East region. In addition to food support, the association also offers academic support and provides them with a place to do their homework after school.

"Our team is mobilised from 5am to prepare the children's meals. We try to vary the menus as much as possible, so as not to give them the same thing to eat every day. Our beneficiaries are from kindergarten and primary school, and have been identified according to their family situation. They are all children from vulnerable backgrounds," explains Cindy Constance Zamire, representative of the NGO.

Ti Rayons Soleil

The NGO Ti Rayons Soleil has opened the nursery school "Les Ti Serins" in La Ville Noire, a part of Mahébourg. Children from Cité La Chaux and the surrounding area attend the school free of charge and benefit from an innovative school programme based on the Montessori method. The construction of the school has been completed, and the association has received the necessary authorisations from the Ministry of Education for the children to attend school.

"I think that the MOL CT initiative is very important because of the networking it allows. You can't build a project alone, isolated in your corner. It is therefore essential that we all work together to have a real impact in the region. We are particularly keen to work with Bonheur Associé aux Enfants, Mahebourg Espoir, Precious Plastics and Action Familiale, because I think our

different projects can complement each other and bring something extra to the others," says Bérengère Séries of Ti Rayons Soleil.

When associations work together for the good of all

On Friday 3rd of June 2022, the NGOs included in the MOL CT programme and involved in the field of education met at the headquarters of Bonheur Associé aux Enfants, in Résidence Beau-Vallon. The aim was to allow each NGO to present its project and meet other organisations with similar objectives. Also present were two members of the Mauritius Social and Environmental Contribution Team, who came as observers of the work done by local NGOs, the Mauritian context and realities, as well as the progress of projects funded by the Trust.

No less than ten NGOs were present at the meeting: Bonheur Associé aux Enfants, Mission Verte, Precious Plastic Mauritius, Action Familiale, Zenes San Frontyer, Youth with Disabilities Empowerment Platform, Mahebourg Espoir, Biodiversity Preservation, Ti Rayons Soleil and La Chaux Mahébourg Football Club. This workshop enabled several of them to establish a fruitful collaboration and to support each other, which brought additional value to each of the projects involved.

Similar workshops were organised by MOL CT during the year, particularly in the areas of organic farming and mangrove preservation.



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Our Actions and Events

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ISME in Mauritius for the preservation of mangroves

The MOL Charitable Trust (Trust) organised, on Tuesday 16th of August at La Case du Pêcheur restaurant in Bambous Virieux, a workshop on the theme of mangroves between Japanese representatives of the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME) and local NGOs involved in the conservation of these areas and supported by the Trust through its funding programme.

This event was made possible thanks to the support of the MOL Mauritius International Fund, based in Japan, through the project "Human Resource Development and Scientific Support for the Conservation/Restoration and Sustainable Use of Mangrove Ecosystems". The objective of this meeting was to share information and to put ISME in contact with local associations, which could lead to future collaborations.

The ISME delegation consisted of Professor Shigeyuki Baba, Executive Director of the organisation, Professor Toyohiko Miyagi, Senior Researcher, Dr Keita Furukawa and Atsuya Yamamoto, specialist in hydrology and LiDAR, laser remote sensing. Local organisations represented were the Fondation Ressources et Nature (FORENA), Ocean Connect, Reef Conservation, la Vallée de Ferney Conservation Trust and the Association pour le Développement Durable. During the meeting, Professor Miyagi, an international mangrove specialist, gave a synopsis of the latest research on mangrove ecosystems, focusing on the unique features of these natural areas of vital importance for lagoon fauna and flora and coastal protection.



Coastal clean-up in Pointe Jérôme

On the 8th of June 2022, the MOL CT team participated in a clean-up day at Pointe Jérôme, Mahébourg. This event was organised by Mission Verte and Precious Plastics, two of the NGOs supported by the Trust, in collaboration with the Preskil Hotel.

The area covered included part of the coastline, as well as the mangrove forest behind it. Over 100 kilos of waste were collected in two hours, of which 20 kilos were recycled, mainly aluminium cans and PET bottles.



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MMCO completes training programme

The Mauritius Marine Conservation Organisation (MMCO) has completed its training programme for the people of the South East. The programme included a diving course, a Dolphin & Whale Watching course and a biodiversity training course. The objective of the organisation was to help the inhabitants of the region discover the wonders of the marine



world, their vulnerability and the importance of protecting them. Around 60 participants were awarded certificates at a ceremony at the Preskil Hotel on the 19th of August.

Mangrove clean-up in Bois-des-Amourettes and Anse-Jonchée

On the occasion of the International Day for the Protection of Mangroves, celebrated on the 26th of July, cleaning activities were organised in Bois-des-Amourettes and Anse-Jonchée by the Association pour le Développement Durable, one of the NGOs sponsored by MOL CT.

The event brought together about 100 participants from various organisations, including ADD, Bois des Amourettes VCA, the District Council of Grand-Port, the Rotaract Club of Flacq, AnAngel, New Invaders Club and MOL Charitable Trust, as well as volunteers from the area.

A Japanese delegation of eight people, including His Excellency Kawaguchi Shuichiro, Ambassador of Japan to Mauritius, was also present. In addition to the clean-up, public awareness sessions on the ecological importance of mangroves were organised. During the day, more than 100 garbage bags were filled with various types of waste, mainly plastic.



improving the employability of people in vulnerable situations.

The objective is to give participants confidence in themselves, to develop good communication habits (understanding before speaking, better communication, problem solving, etc.), and finally to teach them things that are useful in everyday life (preparing a family budget, making them responsible for work, etc.). The highlight of the event was the testimonies of several beneficiaries of the project, emotional speeches that touched all those present.



First phase of Caritas project completed

MOL CT participated in the evaluation session of the first phase of the Caritas Mauritius project, which took place in mid-June at the Church Notre-Dame-des-Anges in Mahebourg. This project, which covers the communities of Mahébourg, Vieux-Grand-Port, Trou d'Eau Douce and Vieux-Bel-Air, aims primarily at



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Boat Launching Ceremony of the MOL VANSOUET

The MOL VANSOUET, a fishing boat chartered by the NGO Mouvement Bien-Être Cité La Chaux (MBECC), was officially launched on Saturday the 15th of October at the Centre Social de Cité La Chaux in the presence of the Japanese Ambassador to Mauritius, representatives of the association and MOL CT, as well as the beneficiaries of the project.

This Long Liner will allow a group of local fishermen to access the open sea and make a better living from their trade. The christening of the MOL VANSOUET was carried out in the Japanese tradition of shinsuishiki, a ceremony including the purification of the boat with sake, while the fishermen christened their new work tool with champagne.



La Chaux Mahébourg Football Club receives equipment for youth

Young footballers from La Chaux Mahébourg Football Club received their equipment at a ceremony at the Cité La Chaux Social Centre on Saturday the 15th of October. The donations included shirts, shorts, socks, shoes, balls, goals, hurdles, etc.

The club's project is to offer the young people of Cité La Chaux a healthy activity and a passion that will enable them to avoid the pitfalls of drugs and alcohol. In addition to sports coaching, the young people also benefit from regular training aimed at instilling a discipline of life and helping them to build a future. The club currently has 62 children aged between 6 and 15.



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