

Address by Hon (Mrs) L.D. Dookun-Luchoomun
Minister of Education & Human Resources,
Tertiary Education & Scientific Research
HUAWEI AUTHORIZED INFORMATION AND NETWORK
ACADEMY (HAINA)
22 MAY 2017

Protocol

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

Let me at the outset congratulate both Huawei Mauritius, the Mauritian branch of one of the leading ICT companies worldwide and the University of Mauritius. It is only fitting that, at a time when the key word in both the world of enterprise and that of academia, is “COLLABORATION”, both UOM and Huawei Technologies Mauritius Co Limited should be getting together to formalise this collaboration through today’s launch.

I believe it is important to note that one of the cardinal elements in any form of collaboration is that of TRUST.

That Huawei Mauritius fully trusts the graduates of the UoM has never been in doubt. In fact, I am told that the company has, in the past, recruited several engineering and accounting students who had graduated from the UoM.

If this is not a clear recognition of the quality of the local graduates, I wonder what is!

So, obviously, it is gratifying to note that, through the setting up of the Huawei Authorized Information and Network Academy (HAINA), it is a full set of expertise that is being placed at the doorstep of the University.

Indeed, I am informed that there will now be on offer a full range of ICT career certifications that would support local ICT education, share knowledge, create more opportunities, and build a better ICT talent ecosystem.

I believe the fact also deserves a mention that these programs are based on ICT best practices that Huawei has identified through its global penetration. I can therefore safely say that the first batch of students and in-service professionals to be exposed to the programmes are in for a significant and enriching learning experience. There will certainly be other batches in the future and I am glad that the University has, for its part, committed itself to provide the training, using state-of-the-art facilities to upskill all course participants.

In this enterprise, I thank Huawei Mauritius, for sponsoring two lab kits, one for the Switching and Routing course and one for the Cloud course, all of which amounts to about USD 40,600. I am also deeply appreciative for your arranging for Huawei Technologies Professionals to visit the UoM.

Thank you as well, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, AUF, for having agreed to sponsor one lab kit for this project.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you have been told, the launching of the HAINA is but one of the two activities planned for the day. The other is the signature of the “**SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE**” Training Agreement. Under this program, ten final year students from the BEng (Hons) Electronics and Communications Engineering Programme, run by the UoM’s Faculty of Engineering, will go for a two-week internship in the People’s Republic of China from 27th May to 10th June 2017.

Again, the sponsorship of Huawei Technologies (Mauritius) Ltd in the People's Republic of China has been largely contributory to the realisation of this agreement.

I have absolutely no doubt that, in addition to gaining valuable experience in a global business environment, our 10 students will have the chance to experience cross-cultural work practices as well as experience and enjoy the rich and captivating Chinese culture.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I started by saying how important inter-institutional collaboration can turn out to be. This kind of joining of hands and forging ahead together is basically what we are always looking for in the world of education and training.

This is the mindset we are introducing in our schools as well. In fact, in schools, we have to move beyond the conventional 3 Rs and ensure the development of the whole-person. At University level, too, we have to see to it that our students do not carry with them the high school sense of dependency on notes and the knowledge dispensed by Lecturers.

Rather, I believe the crucial role of Universities is to foster an environment where the 4 Cs assume far greater importance. All students studying at the tertiary level should master the 4 C's –namely, **Creativity, Critical thinking, Communication, and Collaboration.**

Future employability depends upon these.

Innovation depends upon these.

And the potential for change and transformation depends upon these 4 C's.

So, thank you Huawei Mauritius and especially Mr. Thierry Fontaine, Senior Channel Manager, Head of Enterprise Business Group for being the “cheville

ouvrière”, the linchpin, in giving shape to the whole collaboration leading to the HAINA project.

Et je ne pourrai terminer mon discours sans avoir un mot en particulier pour mon ami, SE Mons Li Li, l’ambassadeur de la république populaire de Chine à Maurice. Merci Excellence d’être toujours la force tranquille mais la force motrice derrière beaucoup d’actions éducatives visant à nous épauler pour le bien-être de nos apprenants.

Good luck to both Huawei Mauritius and UoM.

May your collaboration yield rich dividends for the country.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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Future collaborations/activities

Same as in brief provided in the seeds of the Future.

Vote of Thanks

1. Technology Integration

Rather self-explanatory and covered very well in other sections of this site. It involves more than just use of technology, but students using technology to achieve goals in a different way than was possible before.

So it's a whole question of changing the HOW we teach and learn and here none of us can deny the significance of technology// **creating and constructing with technology**

UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

• Salient Features of MoU

Huawei Mauritius is part of a group of countries supporting Engineering or Telecommunication projects in the Indian Ocean and Sub-Sahara Africa. . Therefore it was decided to look into the possibility of any form of collaboration with UoM. Subsequently FoE was selected and the main focus was put on the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering. Initially, fifteen (15) students were shortlisted. Following the selection process which included internal IQ test and technical interviews of the students, **Brief about Seeds for Future Programme (SFTF)**

SFTF is Huawei's biggest global flagship corporate social responsibility programme in which Huawei leverages its world-leading ICT technologies to cultivate ICT professionals and thus drive knowledge transformation.

The training programme comprises the following:

- 1 Courses at BLCU (Comprehensive Chinese)
- 2 Courses at BLCU (Chinese Culture& Calligraphy& Painting)

- 3 Mobile Internet Application and Development Trend
- 4 Network Supporting of Mobile Internet
- 5 3G Network Voice Service Experience
- 6 4G Network Voice Service Experience
- 7 Intelligent Network Application and Development Trend
- 8 Network Supporting of Intelligent Network
- 9 Internet/IPTV/VOIP/ Video Call Experience

- **Activities UoM had/has with Huawei**
- **Future collaborations/activities**

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES

Internship programmes will surely benefit to both UoM students and Huawei. Interns could receive academic credit and/or experience in the field of telecommunications. Huawei would gain fresh perspectives, cutting edge theory and interaction with potential employees and academics.

STUDENT PROJECTS

Huawei-sponsored student projects could offer students additional hands-on, interactive experiences on proof-of-concept projects. These projects could provide an opportunity to meet and mentor students in the field of telecommunications and evaluate participating students as potential employees while Huawei could strengthen its links with the University of Mauritius.

TECHNICAL SEMINARS

UoM could organise technical seminars in collaboration with Huawei so that the latter could provide opportunities to learn about the latest development in the field of Telecommunications and also to interact with other experts and professionals in the field of ICT.

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

UoM could organise international conferences in collaboration with Huawei in new and emerging areas of ICT.