Earth Day 2014

GREEN CITIES

Report on Activities (21 – 24 April 2014)



INFORMATION AND EDUCATION DIVISION

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development 25th April 2014

Recognizing that Mother Earth reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living things and the planet we all inhabit, the United Nations General Assembly declared the 22nd of April as the international Mother **Earth Day**. Earth Day is a call from Mother Earth to each inhabitant of the blue planet, for concrete and concerted actions.

This event was first celebrated in the United States of America in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson to promote ecology and respect for life on the planet.

Every year on April 22, over a billion people in 190 countries take action for Earth Day. It reminds us to reinforce our go green attitude towards planet Earth. From all corners of the world, people plant trees and clean up their communities to preserve the environment.

This year's theme is "Green cities". As the world's population migrates to cities, and as the bleak reality of climate change becomes increasingly clear, the need to create sustainable communities is more important than ever. With smart investments in sustainable technology, forward-thinking public policy, and an educated and active public, we can transform our cities and forge a sustainable future. Nothing is more powerful than the collective action of a billion people.

Introduction

To mark the Earth Day 2014, and in line with the ongoing campaign on 'Tree Planting for Clean Air', activities were held between 21st and 24th April.

The main celebration of Earth Day was held at Rabindranath Tagore Secondary School, Ilot, Pamplemousses on the 23rd April 2014. The event comprised:-

- (i) Launching of a campaign "Un enfant, UnePlante" and distribution of trees/ plants;
- (ii) Organisation of a 'Training of Trainers Programme' on the importance of trees and forests for officers of Community Centres, Social Welfare Centres, Women Centres, Village Councils and Municipal Councils;
- (iii) Launching of poster and pamphlet on tree planting;
- (iv) Launching of rainwater harvesting system; and
- (v) Handing over of compost bins and waste segregation bins.

The other activities in the context of the Earth Day were as follows:-

Date	Event
21 April 2014	Planting of 500 "Flamboyant" trees on Signal Mountain
22 April 2014	Planting and distribution of trees at SSR Disability Services
	Centre
24 April 2014	Tree planting with the sugar cane industry

Objectives:-

- (i) To raise awareness of the public at large on importance of trees and plants.
- (ii) To encourage people, in particular children to grow trees for a cleaner, greener and more beautiful Mauritius.

Earth Day 2014 Green Cities Tree Planting at Signal Mountain



The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

Signal Mountain

Monday 21st APRIL 2014 at 17.00 hours

Planting of 500 "Flamboyant" trees on Signal Mountain

Date:21 April 2014 at 17 00 hours

Venue: Signal Mountain, Port Louis

- The event was marked by the esteemed presence of
 - Hon. Devanand VIRAHSAWMY, GOSK, FCCA, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development;
 - ❖ Dr the Hon. Ahmed Rashid Beebeejaun, GCSK, FRCP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Renewable Energy and Public Utilities; and
 - ❖ Hon. Abdullah HafeezHossen, Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Collaboration

NGO Indian Ocean Centre for Education in Human Values.

- Some 100 people were present for the event including students of surrounding localities.
- The ceremony comprised:-
 - > Symbolic planting of flamboyant trees; and
 - ➤ Songs on Mother Earth by students of the NGO Indian Ocean Centre for Education in Human Values.



Audience



Students of the NGO Indian Ocean Centre for Education in Human Values

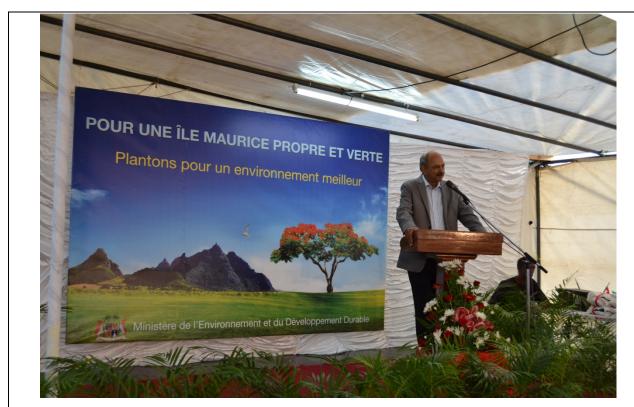


Welcome Address by Mr. P. Jhugroo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable

Development



Address by Hon. Abdullah HafeezHossen, Parliamentary Private Secretary



Address by Hon. Devanand Virahsawmy, GOSK, FCCA, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development



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