



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research



National Research Week 2026

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Tertiary Education,
Science and Research

20 - 24 April 2026





FOREWORD

There is an old saying that if you want to go fast, go alone but if you want to go far, go together.

When I launched the first National Research Week in 2025, the idea was straightforward but, I believe, transformative: bring Mauritius' universities together under one roof, end the fragmentation, and replace institutional competition with national collaboration. For too long, each university had organised its own research week in isolation celebrating its own work, within its own walls, to its own audience. An island nation with a small number of tertiary education institutions cannot afford that luxury.



The response exceeded every expectation. And so here we are, second edition, stronger, wider, and this year, global.

What began as a conversation between Mauritian public institutions has grown into a broader dialogue involving researchers from private and international institutions. Young researchers are also encouraged to join and to contribute fresh perspectives, new methodologies, and the kind of intellectual challenge that sharpens our collective thinking. This is exactly as it should be. The great problems of our time ; climate resilience, ocean governance, food security, public health, digital transformation are not Mauritian problems alone. They require Mauritian solutions shaped in partnership with both the private and public sectors and with experts from overseas.

My ambition for this week is precise: that every researcher present leaves with at least one new collaboration they did not arrive with. Across institutions. Across disciplines. Across borders. I want the chemist to have found the economist. I want the engineer to have discovered the social scientist. I want multidisciplinary teams to have formed that will spend the next twelve months turning the conversations of this week into solutions for this nation.

Mauritius is small in terms of land area. But small, when united and outward-looking, can be formidable.

Welcome to the second National Research Week. Make it matter.

Dr the Hon. Kaviraj Sharma Sukon, PFHEA, FHCOL
Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research



BACKGROUND

Organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research and co-ordinated by the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC), the National Research Week aims at fostering a dynamic platform for collaboration and knowledge-sharing between higher education institutions, research institutions, policy makers, industry leaders and relevant stakeholders from civil society. This provides a common ground for Academia, Industry and the Civil Society to work in synergy to bring transformative solutions for a better, sustainable future.

The objectives of the National Research Week are to:

- Promote interdisciplinary collaboration by fostering partnerships among academic institutions, research institutions and industry.
- Showcase cutting-edge research and innovations by providing a platform for researchers and innovators to present their work to a broader audience.
- Drive economic growth and sustainability by linking research outcomes with industry needs to develop new products, services, and technologies.
- Inform policy development and integration by using insights gained during the week to bridge the gap between research and industry.

The National Research Week 2025 was organised from Monday, 14th to Friday, 18th April 2025 under the purview of the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research. The overall theme of the National Research Week 2025 was “Uniting Research, Industry, and Innovation.” During the five days, 145 abstracts were presented, 8 keynote addresses were held and 6 panel discussions were organised. 169 certificates were awarded to presenters of abstracts, keynote speakers, panellists and moderators. Following the successful launch of the proceedings in September 2025, the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) was once again entrusted with the task to coordinate the National Research Week 2026 by the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research.



For the National Research Week 2026, along with institutions under the purview of the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research [University of Mauritius (UoM), University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM), Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI), Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE), Universite des Mascareignes (UdM), Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd (PML), Open University of Mauritius (OUM), Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology Ltd (MIBL), Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI), Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre (RGSC), Higher Education Commission (HEC), Quality Assurance Authority (QAA)], Business Mauritius and representatives of the APHEI (Association of Private Higher Education Institutions) were also invited through Business Mauritius.

The schedule for the National Research Week 2026 is set. The overall theme of this year’s National Research Week is “Research for Innovation, Society, and Sustainability.”

Day 1, organised by the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC), Business Mauritius and the Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology Ltd (MIBL), will focus on strengthening industry-academia collaboration, promoting research commercialisation, and fostering innovation-driven economic growth. The programme will feature high-level plenary sessions, keynote addresses, and networking opportunities with leading local and international stakeholders.

Days 2 to 5 are being led by the University of Mauritius, the University of Technology Mauritius, the University of Mauritius (for a second day) and the Mauritius Institute of Education.



SESSIONS

DATE	SUB-THEME	SESSION VENUE
Day 1 Monday 20 April 2026	From Discovery to Deals: Turning Research Excellence into Economic Impact	Conference Hall, Level I, SABV Tower, Ebene Cybercity
Day 2 Tuesday 21 April 2026	Bio-Health, Medicine and Biotechnology	Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit
Day 3 Wednesday 22 April 2026	Climate Action, Blue Economy and Sustainable Agri-Food Systems	Lecture Theatre 2, University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit
Day 4 Thursday 23 April 2026	AI, Digital Transformation and Industry 4.0	Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium (POWA), University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit
Day 5 Friday 24 April 2026	Future Society, Education and Human Development	Lecture Theatre 1, University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit

DAY 1 - MONDAY 20 APRIL 2026

From Discovery to Deals: Turning Research Excellence into Economic Impact

Mauritius Research and Innovation Council in collaboration with Business Mauritius and Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology Ltd



Venue:
Conference Hall, Level I,
SABV Tower, Ebene Cybercity



OPENING CEREMONY

09:00 – 09:10	Welcome Address Prof. Theesan Bahorun, G.O.S.K. Executive Director, Mauritius Research and Innovation Council
09:10 – 09:30	Address Dr. the Hon. Kaviraj Sharma Sukon Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research
09:30 – 10:00	Keynote Address Dr. Anna Keyte Avian Species Director, Colossal Biosciences (USA) - online
10:00 – 10:05	Token of Appreciation
10:05 – 10:30	Coffee/Tea Break



DAY 1 - MONDAY 20 APRIL 2026
From Discovery to Deals: Turning Research Excellence into Economic Impact
Mauritius Research and Innovation Council
 in collaboration with Business Mauritius
 and Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology Ltd
Conference Hall, Level 1, SABV Tower, Ebene Cybercity

MORNING SESSION

10:30 – 10:40	Welcome Address Mr. Kevin Ramkaloan Chief Executive Officer, Business Mauritius
10:40 – 11:45	Session 1: Collaborate to Innovate: Building Sustainable Research-Industry Pathways This session will be moderated by Mr Raj Makoond, Former CEO, Business Mauritius and will feature: Industry leaders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cedric De Speville, Chief Executive Officer, Eclasia Group • Mehul Bhatt, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, Bioculture Group • Vidia Moonegan, Global Head Shared Services, Dayforce Academics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vincent Florens, Assoc. Prof. of Ecology, University of Mauritius • Myriam Blin, Head, Charles Telfair Centre
11.45 – 12:30	Session 2: Intellectual Property (IP) and Commercialisation of Research in Mauritius: Strategic integration of IP into business and research frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daisy Sharma, SKS Law Associates, India
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break



DAY 1 - MONDAY 20 APRIL 2026

From Discovery to Deals: Turning Research Excellence into Economic Impact

Mauritius Research and Innovation Council
in collaboration with Business Mauritius
and Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology Ltd

Conference Hall, Level 1, SABV Tower, Ebene Cybercity

AFTERNOON SESSION

13:30 – 14:00 Pitch Session: 5-minute Decks - Research with Commercial Potential

14:00 – 14:45 Session 3: The Next Innovation Frontier:

- **BioFrontiers**
Dr. Claire Blazy-Jauzac, Group CEO, Centre International de Développement Pharmaceutique (CIDP)
- **Scaling Innovation:** The role of Venture Capital
Fabrice Boullé, Founder and Managing Partner, Equitable Ventures
- **Satellite Data and Applied Technology**
Juan Pablo Ramirez Angeloni, Chief Executive Officer, Epiphyte-Corp, Singapore

Moderator

Dr. Drishtysingh Ramdenee, Secretary General, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry

14:45 – 15:30 Session 4: MRIC Initiatives, Achievements and Future Perspectives

- **From Funding to Deployment:** Delivering Value through MRIC-supported Projects
Vikramsing Bhujun, Managing Director, Prodesign Engineering Consultants Ltd
- **The Entrepreneurship Ecosystem:** The contribution of the National SME Incubator Scheme (NSIS)
Dr. Vickram Bissonauth, Research Coordinator, Mauritius Research and Innovation Council
- **The Journey of MRIC (Mauritius Research and Innovation Council) to NRII (National Research and Innovation Institute)**
Prof. Theesan Bahorun, G.O.S.K., Executive Director, Mauritius Research and Innovation Council

15:30 – 16:00 Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks

16:00 – 16:30 Chai & Chat: Networking



Keynote Address

Anna Keyte, Ph.D., is the Avian Species Director at Colossal Biosciences, where she leads research on avian developmental biology, genome editing, and reproductive technologies for conservation and de-extinction. Her work addresses longstanding challenges in avian systems focused on engineering the avian germline—particularly through primordial germ cells - to link genetic variation with physical traits and enable genetic rescue strategies.

She has developed methods for culturing, modifying, and reintroducing germ cells, while also advancing alternative approaches such as in vivo genome editing and embryonic stem cell technologies. Her research addresses key challenges in avian genetics, including transgenesis, embryo access, and surrogate host development.

At Colossal, Keyte's group integrates comparative genomics with experimental embryology to investigate the genetic basis of avian morphology. Her team uses genomics and embryo experiments to find and test genes that shape traits like skulls, limbs, and size.

Keyte previously worked at The Rockefeller University and earned her Ph.D. from Duke University, with a focus on gene regulation and morphological evolution. She resides in Dallas, Texas and works out of Colossal headquarters.



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026

Bio-Health, Medicine and Biotechnology

University of Mauritius (UoM)
in collaboration with
Mauritius Institute
of Biotechnology (MIBL)
and University of Technology,
Mauritius (UTM)



Venue:
Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2),
New Academic Complex,
University of Mauritius Campus,
Réduit



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026

Bio-Health, Medicine and Biotechnology

University of Mauritius (UoM)
in collaboration with Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology (MIBL)
and University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM)

Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), New Academic Complex,
University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit

08:45 – 09:15

Registration of Participants and Seating of Audience

09:15 – 09:20

Welcome Address

Assoc. Prof. Marie France Chan Sun

Chairperson, Organising Committee for Day 2 of the National Research Week 2026, University of Mauritius

09:20 – 09:30

Address

Prof. Kavi Kumar Khedo

Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius

09:30 – 10:00

Keynote Address: Genomic Precision Prevention and Medicine in Metabolic Diseases

Prof. Philippe Froguel

Professor of Genomics, Imperial College London (UK) and University of Lille (France)

10:00 – 10:45

Tea Break and Research Showcase
(Venue: Raised Plaza)



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026
Bio-Health, Medicine and Biotechnology

University of Mauritius (UoM)
in collaboration with Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology (MIBL)
and University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM)

**Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), New Academic Complex,
University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit**

MORNING SESSION

**Addressing Key Challenges in the Bio-Health,
Medicine and Biotechnology Sector**

10:45 – 11:45

Panel Discussion

Multisectoral Collaboration for Research in Mauritius

Panelists:

- **Me Rajkumar Baungally**, Assistant Solicitor General, Attorney General's Office
- **Mrs Sambaladevi Chemen**, Member, Pole of Research Excellence on 'Stroke Care Continuum', University of Mauritius
- **Dr. Abdou Salam Gueye**, World Health Organisation (WHO), Resident Representative to Mauritius
- **Dr. Pankaj Wadhwa**, Founder, Chairman and Director, Aegle Cancer Hospital, Aegle Clinic and NIVARAN Hospital
- **Representative**, Ministry of Health and Wellness

Moderator:

- **Prof. Archana Bhaw-Luximon**, Head, Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research, University of Mauritius



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026
Bio-Health, Medicine and Biotechnology

University of Mauritius (UoM)
in collaboration with Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology (MIBL)
and University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM)

**Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), New Academic Complex,
University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit**

11:45 – 12:15

Spotlight Talks

Data Protection & Ethics of AI

Mrs Bhawna Narain-Cunniah, Legal Executive, Data Protection Office, Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation (MITCI)

Bio-Health

Oligogenic Diabetes: The Spectrum of Genetic Risk in Diabetes and how it could be leveraged for Precision Medicine, Clinically

Dr. Amélie Bonnefond, Director of Research, INSERM, CNRS, University of Lille, France

12:15 – 12:30

Q & A/Open Discussion

12:30 – 13:00

**Networking Lunch and Research Showcase
(Venue: Raised Plaza)**





DAY 2 - TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026

Bio-Health, Medicine and Biotechnology

University of Mauritius (UoM)

in collaboration with Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology (MIBL)
and University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM)

**Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), New Academic Complex,
University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit**

AFTERNOON SESSION

**Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships in the Bio-Health,
Medicine and Biotechnology Sector**

13:15 – 15:05

Plenary Sessions

Keynote Address: Transforming Access: Regulatory and Clinical Innovation
(online)

Prof. Ram Sasisekharan

Professor of Biological Engineering & Health Sciences and Technology,
Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, Massachusetts Institute of
Technology, USA

Advancing Applied Research and Commercialisation in the Bio-Health
Sector

Prof. Archana Bhaw-Luximon, Head, Centre for Biomedical and
Biomaterials Research, University of Mauritius

Public-Private Funding and Innovation Support Mechanisms

Prof. Theesan Bahorun, G.O.S.K., Executive Director, Mauritius
Research and Innovation Council

Advancing Next-Generation Therapies from Research to Clinical Practice

Dr Uday Kumar, Founder and Chief Development Officer of VRise
Therapeutics Inc.

Stroke Pole of Research Excellence: Promoting Multi-Disciplinary
Approaches to improve Stroke Care in Mauritius

Assoc. Prof. Marie France Chan Sun, Lead Academic, Pole of Research
Excellence on 'Stroke Care Continuum', University of Mauritius



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026

Bio-Health, Medicine and Biotechnology

University of Mauritius (UoM)

in collaboration with Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology (MIBL)
and University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM)

**Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), New Academic Complex,
University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit**

InnoVAL Pole of Research- Impactful Projects to foster Food and Nutrition
Security in Mauritius

Assoc. Prof. Brinda Ramasawmy-Molaye, Lead Academic, Pole of
Research on 'Innovative Agriculture Value – Chains for Food and Nutrition
Security', University of Mauritius

Health in Mauritius: Why Multidisciplinary and Context-relevant Research
matters

Dr. Fiona Grant, Lead Academic, Pole of Research on
'Diversity, Identity and Psychological Well-being', University of Mauritius

The Art of Evasion: Engineering Nanovaccines to overcome Plant Defence
Mechanisms

Dr. Yash Boyjoo, Member of Research Team, CBBR Biotech
Project, Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research, University of
Mauritius

15:05 – 15:30

Flash Talks

Unlocking the Health Potential of Terpene-Rich Mauritian Endemic Fruits
Ms Cheetra Bhajan, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius

Valorising Underutilised Mauritian Fruits for Functional Food Innovation
and Health Promotion

Ms Bibi Warda Jambocus, Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials
Research/Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Mauritius

Waste-to-Healing: Multifunctional Patch for Cutaneous Leishmaniasis
Wounds

Dr. Marie Andrea Laetitia Huët, Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials
Research, University of Mauritius





DAY 2 - TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026
Bio-Health, Medicine and Biotechnology

University of Mauritius (UoM)
in collaboration with Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology (MIBL)
and University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM)

**Lecture Theatre 2 (LT2), New Academic Complex,
University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit**

Wound-healing Scaffolds: A Data-driven Modeling Approach
Dr. Lakshmi Sujeeun, Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials
Research, University of Mauritius

Developing a Collaborative Care Framework to enhance Stroke
Rehabilitation in Mauritius
Nathan Rutatina, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of
Mauritius

15:30 – 15:50	Interactive Discussion
15:50 – 16:00	Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks
16:00 – 16:30	Tea Break and Research Showcase (Venue: Raised Plaza)



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026

**Climate Action &
Sustainable
Agri-Food Systems**

**University of Technology,
Mauritius**
in collaboration with
**African Leadership College
of Higher Education,
Université des Mascareignes,
Mauritius Institute of Education,
Middlesex University Mauritius**



Venue:
**Lecture Theatre 2,
University of Mauritius**



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026

Climate Action & Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

University of Technology, Mauritius

in collaboration with African Leadership College of Higher Education, Université des Mascareignes, Mauritius Institute of Education, Middlesex University Mauritius

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, University of Mauritius

MORNING SESSION

Climate Action & Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

09:00 – 09:05

Welcome Address

Prof. Chandradeo Bokhoree

Chairperson of the Organizing Committee & Head of Doctoral School
University of Technology, Mauritius

09:05 – 09:15

Address

Prof. Hemant B Chittoo (CMILT)

Director General, University of Technology, Mauritius

09:15 – 09:35

Keynote Presentation: Circular economy in Small Island Developing States
(online)

Prof. Sebastien Bourdin

Professor of Economic Geography and Environmental Management at
IESEG School of Management, France

09:35 – 10:00

Keynote Presentation: Mauritius in a warming World: Climate Change
Implications

Dr. Prithviraj Booneedy

Ag. Director, Mauritius Meteorological Services

10:00 – 10:15

Networking Session & Poster Presentations



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026

Climate Action & Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

University of Technology, Mauritius

in collaboration with African Leadership College of Higher Education, Université des Mascareignes, Mauritius Institute of Education, Middlesex University Mauritius

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, University of Mauritius

MORNING SESSION

Climate Action & Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

10:15 – 11:00

Panel Discussion: Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

Panelists:

- **Dr. (Ms) Madhvee Madhou**, Chief Executive Officer, Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute
- **Mr Patrick Lagesse**, Managing Director Agriculture, Medine Group
- Representative of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office
- **Mr Yashvin Neehaul**, Environmental Sustainability Manager, Eclasia Group
- **Mr Ghunsham Seeborun**, President, FALCON Association
- **Mr Prihviray Dookhitram**, Programme Welfare Officer, Small Farmers Welfare Fund

Moderator:

- **Assoc. Prof. Joyce G Soulange**, Dean of Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius

11:00 – 12:15

Scientific and Practice-Oriented Presentations from Researchers and Industry representatives

12:15 – 13:00

Closing Remark & Networking Session



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026

Climate Action & Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

University of Technology, Mauritius

in collaboration with African Leadership College of Higher Education, Université des Mascareignes, Mauritius Institute of Education, Middlesex University Mauritius

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, University of Mauritius

AFTERNOON SESSION

Blue Economy and Ocean Sustainability

13:00 – 13:05

Welcome Address

Prof. Chandradeo Bokhoree

Chairperson of the Organising Committee & Head of Doctoral School
University of Technology, Mauritius

13:05 – 13:15

Address

Prof. Hemant B Chittoo (CMILT)

Director General, University of Technology, Mauritius

13:15 – 13:30

Keynote Address

Honorable Gilles Fabrice David

Junior Minister, Ministry of Agro-industry, Food Security, Blue Economy
and Fisheries

13:30 – 13:45

Keynote Presentation: Charting Mauritius' Blue Economy Future:
A Catalyst for Sustainable Development (online)

Dr. Jack Dyer, Blue Economy/Governance Specialist, Blue
Economy Future

13:45 – 14:00

Keynote Presentation: Ocean inspiration for a sustainable future: Rivers to
Seas engagement and a UN Ocean Agency (online)

Dr Adam Moolna, School of Life Sciences, Keele University, UK

14:00 – 14:15

Networking Session & Poster Presentations



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026

Climate Action & Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

University of Technology, Mauritius

in collaboration with African Leadership College of Higher Education, Université des Mascareignes, Mauritius Institute of Education, Middlesex University Mauritius

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, University of Mauritius

AFTERNOON SESSION

Blue Economy and Ocean Sustainability

14:15 – 15:00

Panel Discussion: Blue Economy & Ocean Sustainability

Panelists:

- **Dr. Sundy Ramah**, Acting Head of Blue Economy, Ministry of Agroindustry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries
- **Dr. Daniel Marie**, Director, Mauritius Oceanography Institute
- **Ms Vanessa Seebaluck**, Senior Lecturer, School of Sustainable Development & Tourism, University of Technology, Mauritius
- **Mr Daksh Beeharry Panray**, Vice President & Project Leader, EPCO

Moderator:

Dr (Mrs) Toshima Makoondlall-Chadee, School of Sustainable Development and Tourism, University of Technology, Mauritius

15:00 – 16:00

Scientific and Practice-Oriented TED talk style Presentations from
Researchers and Industry representatives

16:00 – 16:05

Closing Remarks



DAY 4 - THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2026

AI, Digital Transformation and Industry 4.0

University of Mauritius (UoM)
in collaboration with
Middlesex University, Mauritius,
Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd,
Université des Mascareignes (UdM)
and **University of Technology,**
Mauritius (UTM)



Venue:
Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium (POWA), University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit

DAY 4 - THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2026

AI, Digital Transformation and Industry 4.0

University of Mauritius (UoM)
in collaboration with Middlesex University, Mauritius, Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd, Université des Mascareignes (UdM) and University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM)
Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium (POWA), University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit

- 09:00 – 09:30** **Registration of Participants and Seating of Audience**

- 09:30 – 09:35** Welcome Address
Assoc. Prof. Sameerchand Pudaruth
Chairperson, Organising Committee for Day 4 of the National Research Week 2026, University of Mauritius

- 09:35 – 09:45** Address
Prof. Kavi Kumar Khedo
Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius

- 09:45 – 10:15** Keynote Address: No Time to Waste: Ensuring Human Creativity, Critical Thinking, and Inclusivity in the AI Revolution
Mr Marc Israel
Founder of Aetheis & co-Founder of Mo Angels and Globe4Tech Mauritius
Lecturer at Université des Mascareignes and Expert at HEC Paris

- 10:15 – 10:45** **Tea Break and Research Showcase**
(Venue: Lobby of POWA)



DAY 4 - THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2026

AI, Digital Transformation and Industry 4.0

University of Mauritius (UoM)

in collaboration with Middlesex University, Mauritius, Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd, Université des Mascareignes (UdM) and University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM)

Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium (POWA), University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit

MORNING SESSION

Advancing AI Adoption across Key Sectors

10:45 – 11:45

Panel Discussion

AI Adoption across Key Sectors

Panelists:

- **Mr Vrigesh Futta**, Director AI & Innovation, BDO IT CONSULTING
- **Mrs Shalini Jugessur**, Managing Director, Accenture Services Mauritius Ltd
- **Dr. Heman Mohabeer**, AI Resilience Strategist & Researcher
- **Mr Aroun Poligadu**, Group Director, Application Delivery, iQera
- **Dr. Sheeba Armoogum**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Information, Communication and Digital Technologies, University of Mauritius

Moderator/Rapporteur:

- **Dr Visham Ramsurrun**, Senior Lecturer, Middlesex University

11:45 – 12:00

Q & A/Open Discussion

12:00 – 13:00

Networking Lunch and Research Showcase
(Venue: Lobby of POWA)



DAY 4 - THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2026

AI, Digital Transformation and Industry 4.0

University of Mauritius (UoM)

in collaboration with Middlesex University, Mauritius, Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd, Université des Mascareignes (UdM) and University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM)

Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium (POWA), University of Mauritius Campus, Réduit

AFTERNOON SESSION

Advancing Industry 4.0 through AI and Digital Technologies

13:00 – 15:20

Plenary Sessions

AI, Industry 4.0 and 5G

Driving INDUSTRY 4.0 with 5G Mobile Communications

Mr Salman Tarsoo, Incident and Problem Manager, The Rank Group

A Cyber Resilient Mauritius

Mr Sachindra Reechaye, Information Security Specialist, Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-MU), Ministry of IT, Communication and Innovation

Digital Transformation

Moving from Digital to AI Transformation: Ecosystem for the Workforce and Workplace

Mr Vasenden Dorasami, Head of AI Transformation, Mauritius Telecom

Generative AI for the Creative Industry

Co-Creating Impact: Generative AI at the Intersection of Creativity, Innovation, and Society

Dr. Leila Denmamode, Senior Lecturer, Quality Assurance Coordinator for SITE, Programme Director for Digital Media and Content Creation, University of Technology, Mauritius

15:20 – 15:30

Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks

15:30 – 16:00

Tea Break and Research Showcase
(Venue: Lobby of POWA)





DAY 5 - FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2026

Future Society, Education and Human Development

Mauritius Institute of Education
in collaboration
with Higher Education Commission,
Quality Assurance Authority,
Open University,
Mahatma Gandhi Institute,
Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre,
Middlesex University Mauritius,
African Leadership College
of Higher Education



Venue:
Lecture Theatre I,
University of Mauritius



DAY 5 - FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2026

Future Society, Education and Human Development

Mauritius Institute of Education

in collaboration with Higher Education Commission, Quality Assurance Authority,
Open University, Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre,
Middlesex University Mauritius, African Leadership College of Higher Education

Lecture Theatre I, University of Mauritius

- 08:30 – 09:00** **Registration of Participants**

- 09:00 – 09:05** Welcome Address
Assoc. Prof. Ravhee Bholah
Head, Research Unit, Mauritius Institute of Education

- 09:05 – 09:10** Address
Mrs Mila Devi Seeruttun-Dosieah
Director, Mauritius Institute of Education

- 09:10 – 09:50** Keynote Address
Research futures: Designing tomorrow's sociotechnical imaginaries
Assoc. Prof. Nico Pizzolato, Director of Postgraduate Research at
Middlesex University, London

- 09:50 – 10:10** **Tea Break**

- 10:10 – 10:30** Plenary Lecture: Impactful Research funded by the HEC
Prof. Romeela Mohee, Commissioner Higher Education Commission,
Mauritius



DAY 5 - FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2026

Future Society, Education and Human Development

Mauritius Institute of Education

in collaboration with Higher Education Commission, Quality Assurance Authority, Open University, Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, Middlesex University Mauritius, African Leadership College of Higher Education

Lecture Theatre I, University of Mauritius

PANEL DISCUSSION

10:30 – 12:00

To what extent is higher education and research shaping future-ready societies in the age of AI?

- **Prof. R Mohee**, Commissioner, Higher Education Commission,
- **Prof. M Santally**, University of Mauritius
- **Prof. H Mariaye Head**, Higher Studies Cell, Mauritius Institute of Education
- **Prof. Michael Anthony Samuel**, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa (Online)

Moderator:

Assoc. Prof. Anwar Rumjaun, Mauritius Institute of Education.

12:00 – 13:00

Lunch



DAY 5 - FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2026

Future Society, Education and Human Development

Mauritius Institute of Education

in collaboration with Higher Education Commission, Quality Assurance Authority, Open University, Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, Middlesex University Mauritius, African Leadership College of Higher Education

Lecture Theatre I, University of Mauritius

TED TALK STYLE PRESENTATIONS

	Transforming Education through AI and Digital Innovation	Advancing Human Development, Well-being and Social Cohesion	Reimagining Education Systems: Policy, Ethics and Future Skills
13:00 – 14:45	TED Talk 1.1	TED Talk 2.1	TED Talk 3.1
Parallel sessions	TED Talk 1.2	TED Talk 2.2	TED Talk 3.2
	TED Talk 1.3	TED Talk 2.3	TED Talk 3.3
	TED Talk 1.4	TED Talk 2.4	TED Talk 3.4
	TED Talk 1.5	TED Talk 2.5	TED Talk 3.5
	TED Talk 1.6	TED Talk 2.6	TED Talk 3.6
	TED Talk 1.7	TED Talk 2.7	TED Talk 3.7
	TED Talk 1.8	TED Talk 2.8	TED Talk 3.8
	TED Talk 1.9	TED Talk 2.9	TED Talk 3.9
	14:45 – 15:00	Q & A	Q & A
15:00 – 15:15	Outcomes and Recommendations		



Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research



National Research Week 2026

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

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