

Ashit Gungah: "Operation COSHARE has produced very positive results"



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A training seminar, as part of the Operation COSHARE (Covid-19 Occupational Safety and Health & Resource Efficiency) project, organized by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), was held on October 21 at the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Tower in Ebony. This project, launched in September 2021, is an initiative of the NPCC in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and the Tourism Authority. The project was developed with technical assistance and funding from the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Partnership for Action on the Green Economy (PAGE). The aim is to help position Mauritius as a safe and environmentally sustainable tourist destination, in order to encourage foreign visitors to make the island their destination of choice.

The Executive Director of NPCC, Ashit Gungah, and the Director of the ILO Country Office for Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles, Dr Coffi Agossou, were present on this occasion. Representatives of tourism companies that have carried out Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (RECP) projects, in the context of Operation COSHARE, shared their testimonies during this event. The seminar was also an opportunity to present a case study of 28 RECP projects that were carried out by the 21 participating companies.

Ashit Gungah pointed out that the COSHARE project was developed as a national project with technical assistance from the ILO. He affirmed that "the objective was to support a reopening of borders in order to prioritize the health and safety of workers, travellers, host communities and at the same time to help the tourism sector to resume its activities safely".

Ashit Gungah also clarified that the COSHARE program was carried out in two phases, between September 2021 and June 2022. During the first phase, operators in the tourism value chain were made aware of the importance of protocols sanitary. A total of 2,023 companies have been encouraged to put in place security measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. "Employees from 1,342 companies have been formally trained in managing proper health protocols in the workplace to protect everyone from any risk of infection," he said. "The second phase focused on resource efficiency and cleaner production to improve the resilience of companies in the sector," he added. Emphasis has been placed on improvements such as eliminating waste, including food waste and avoiding single-use plastic. It should be noted that 21 companies have launched resource efficiency and cleaner production projects.

"Operation COSHARE has produced very positive results and demonstrated how all parties involved can come together to bring strong and positive impact and transformation when they are met," said Ashit Gungah. The latter recalled that following the various and overlapping crisis situations, the NPCC has been proactive in developing a number of national projects aimed not only at giving a new wave of productivity to enterprises, but also at strengthening the resilience of industries. These include the Enterprise Go Digital project, launched in March this year, which aims to improve productivity and build resilience in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Dr Coffi Agossou recalled that people, workers and employees were the most important assets for any business, according to the ILO. "Promoting decent work for all is our business," he emphasized. NPCC now had a team trained to engage, assess and help implement continuous productivity improvement projects with knowledge of the tourism and hospitality industry. "The knowledge gained will help them independently support similar initiatives in the future," he said. NPCC consultants, who have been trained to deliver training to participating companies, have received certificates and are now recognized as SCORE Certified Trainers. Certificates were also given to trainers from the Ministry of Tourism and the Tourism Authority.