

JCI Mauritius Creative Young Entrepreneurs' Awards on Saturday 17 September 2022 at 18:30 hrs at Idyllic Mont Choisy Le Golf Restaurant

Mr. Yudhish Rohee, National President of JCI Mauritius

Mr. Ryad Subratty, President of JCI Africa and Middle East Senate Association

JCI Mauritius National Board Members

Local Presidents and Local Board Members

Chairperson and members of the Jury Panels

Members, Senators and Aspiring Members

Participants

Members of the press

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening. I am happy to be here at the JCI Mauritius Creative Young Entrepreneurs' Awards Ceremony.

JCI is recognised worldwide for having made a positive contribution to the advancement of the global community by providing opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills, social responsibility, fellowship and entrepreneurial spirit.

In this regard, the Mauritian chapter of JCI has provided many good opportunities for its members to further their personal development and management training in order to become responsible future leaders in society and business.

JCI Mauritius commits to provide development opportunities that empower young entrepreneurs to create positive change on the Mauritian market. The Creative

Young Entrepreneur Award is just an example. It seeks to recognise young Mauritians who have displayed great potential for development. It is meant for young leaders to showcase their up and running businesses and to help bring them to the next level.

Hence, the great merit of this project is to empower our youth to become innovative young entrepreneurs, while creating awareness among them.. This competition has definitely helped the participants to engage themselves in creative thinking by producing business models, which will cater for the current challenges facing the Mauritian economy in general.

Ladies and gentlemen

Worldwide, there is an agreement on the importance of entrepreneurship for economic and social development. All governments recognise entrepreneurship as an economic power, and implement policies to promote it.

In Mauritius, entrepreneurship has followed a successful historical path, with its potential to contribute to the country's economic development. Both the Mauritian Government and the private sector are giving recognition and support to entrepreneurship development.

We are well aware that jobs in the Civil Service are limited.

Similarly, jobs in the well-established private sector companies are also saturated.

The only employment sector with a potential for growth and development is the small and medium enterprise sector.

One of the key commitments of government is to unlock the potential of SMEs as vehicles that can lead to the achievement of inclusive economic growth.

Government has an ambitious plan to raise SMEs' contribution to GDP from 40% to 52%, and share of total employment from 55% to 64% by the year 2026.

To achieve this target, Government has put in place various schemes to promote entrepreneurship and to boost the entrepreneurial culture in Mauritius. People, especially youngsters, are provided adequate support and training to improve their skills in order to familiarise themselves and become competent in entrepreneur activities.

“La difficulté de réussir ne fait qu'ajouter à la nécessité d'entreprendre”. Cette phrase de Beaumarchais révèle l'essence-même de l'esprit d'entreprise : **l'audace**. Audacity is the common thread that guides any entrepreneur at each stage of the creation of a start-up.

Dear entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs to be,

My advice to you would be: **Dared to imagine, dared to take risks, dared to do!** Your audacity and your creativity are the hope of our country because they contain a promise: that of a future synonymous with progress, cultural and economic vitality, solidarity.

As I congratulate the awardees this evening and urge them to keep up their good work, I would also like to encourage every one of you to put your passion to good use and do your part in contributing to the community.

I also want to congratulate the Mauritian chapter of JCI on the successful Awards Ceremony tonight. I hope you will continue to lead the members to even greater heights!

Thank you for your attention