

**Annual Leadership Award of Team Synthesis on Friday 20 October 2023 at
18:15 at Ravenala**

**Mr TAN Chee-Peng, Organizing Chairman and Group CEO,
Team Synthesis**

**Dr Dinesh Kumar HURREERAM, Director General,
University of Technology**

Chairmen, CEOs, DGs & GMs of companies

Honoured Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

All protocols observed

Good evening

It gives me, indeed, the utmost pleasure to be invited once again as the Guest of Honour of this esteemed Annual Leadership Award event – an annual highlight to celebrate and sustain the Leadership Excellence with the leaders of the industries in Mauritius and the region.

This course aims at empowering the Project Leaders, Portfolio / Programme / Project Managers and all those involved in project management with the skills needed to build high performance teams that can drive projects to successful completion and obtain the desired outcome.

In order for organisations not to perish, they must urgently incorporate Transformation 5.0 so that their upskilled people are able to rapidly respond to a disruptive operating environment and optimally sustain resilient growth.

The PLC Leadership 5.0 is an inspiring and knowledge-laden Bootcamp. Gaining new techniques and tools, the leadership aspects certainly will benefit the participants in both professional and personal life.

INDUSTRY 5.0

Digital technologies are considered general purpose technologies which can affect entire economies and societies worldwide. These technologies are not intended to benefit single individuals or fulfill single objectives; rather, they have broad influence and application but require appropriate capabilities to realise their full potential for addressing economic, societal, and environmental issues.

Ladies and gentlemen

There have been successive waves of complementary digital technologies. During the 18th and 19th centuries, **Industry 1.0** was focused on manual labour performed by people in industry and agriculture.

Between the early 20th century and the 1980s, **Industry 2.0** was characterised by advances in mechanical and electrical technologies.

The period between 1980 and 2000 saw the emergence of **Industry 3.0**, characterised by a shift from analog to digital, shorter product life cycles, and modular goods.

The advent of **Industry 4.0** occurred in 2000, marked by the integration of the Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data, electric vehicles, 3D printing, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence (AI) and is the result of recent exponential progress in the IoT.

Following the birth of Industry 4.0 and the rapid digitalization of several economic sectors, **Industry 5.0** emerged.

Industry 5.0 is a new phase of industrialization which focuses on humans, resilience, and sustainability. The concept of Industry 5.0 is mostly focused on the integration of humans working alongside robots and IoT devices in the automated industrial environments of the future.

Innovation 5.0 comprises several interrelated elements, each essential for becoming a successful innovator in the market.

Effective communication and strong leadership are critical to fostering innovation within an organization. Communication is vital in idea generation, diffusion, and execution of innovation initiatives. To drive innovation, leaders must actively promote a culture of innovation.

Leaders must foster collaboration among employees, suppliers, clients, and external partners such as startups can fuel innovation.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Ladies and gentlemen

The Mauritian population is heading towards a new mindset towards creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Government is endeavouring to establish the right ecosystem for Mauritius to embrace innovation.

Excellency in Science and Research for innovation is necessary but not sufficient. Innovation is not only made by one institution but calls for multidisciplinary

initiatives, teamwork, knowledge, and reward sharing. Innovation is also about wide collaboration between institutions, both local and overseas.

On the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2022, Mauritius ranks 1st in Sub-Saharan Africa and 45th globally, having moved up seven places compared to the 2021 edition.

Government wishes to implement the latest innovations that shape the AI and Blockchain roadmap in the various sectors namely: Digital Public Services, Transportation, Supply Chain, Emergency Management, Healthcare, FinTech Services, Smart Cities, Smart Education, and Industrial Internet of Things (IoT) and Manufacturing.

The national Budget 2023-24 makes provision for the adoption of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare for enhanced electrocardiography, and fisheries, for digital information on sea condition. This decision will of course be accompanied by AI regulations, data standards and training of resources to reap the benefits

During the **World AI Show and the Blockchain Summit** held in Mauritius in November 2018, the **social humanoid robot, Sophia**, was present and had live chat with those present. To the question whether robots or Humanoids could replace human beings in the future, she replied **“I am a robot. I don’t consider myself as a human being. But human beings and robots can work together. I can help people to do their jobs.”**

DIGITALISATION TRAINING

Ladies and gentlemen

What is fascinating about AI is that it is not capital-intensive and does not require many resources. In fact, we only need intelligence to develop and implement AI. Mauritius does not have many resources but can capitalize on its human intellect.

We should ensure that our young graduates have the abilities to design algorithms and software to implement AI in view of solving problems.

Following an announcement in the budget speech 2021-2022, the Economic Development Board (EDB) was entrusted with the responsibility of setting up a **Digital Industries Academy** to address the problem of shortage of skills in the ICT sector and create a national pool of talent.

The Academy is currently operating as an industry training platform with strong collaboration from the ICT Industry Associations and supports in bridging the gap between school leavers/ fresh graduates and industry requirements.

During a Certificate Handover ceremony on 5 October this year, the Minister of Finance, Hon Renganaden Padayachy, reaffirmed the government's dedication to accessible and industry-relevant training, sharing statistics of more than one million people trained over the past 31 years, with Rs 4.4 billion disbursed for training funds in Mauritius.

SECURITY

In the wake of development in emerging technologies, regulatory leaders are faced with a key challenge: how to best protect citizens, ensure fair markets, and enforce regulations, while allowing these new technologies and businesses to flourish.

Cyber criminals are becoming more sophisticated and continue to develop malicious software and devise improved methods to attack computer systems and networks.

Mauritius is now viewed as the country most committed to cyber security in Africa and is ranked sixth in the world by the Global Cybersecurity Index.

In November 2021, the National Assembly of Mauritius adopted the Cybersecurity and Cybercrime. This document defines how Mauritius will fight against cybercrimes and explain how the country will reinforce its cybersecurity measures.

Ladies and gentlemen

We are living in an era with technologies available for software, hardware and data interconnectedness is and will dictate the agenda for the future creating both challenges and opportunities for a Society 5.0.

The agenda for most countries is the need for creating a more Inclusive World, Driving Gender Inclusive Climate Action, Bridging the Gender Digital Divide and Harnessing Artificial Intelligence responsibly.

We are at a juncture in history where the decisions we make now will determine the future of our people and our planet. Together we have an opportunity to build a

better future. We have to pursue development models that implement sustainable, inclusive and just transitions globally, while leaving no one behind.

Innovations for sustainable and inclusive Social Good are essential for addressing the complex challenges facing our world and building a more equitable and environmentally responsible future. This conference provides the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to a Society 5.0 in the making, encompassing the broad themes as listed below.

I would like to conclude by extending my sincere congratulations to Mr. Tan Chee Peng and his Organizing Committee for the holding of the Annual Leadership Award tonight, giving a unique opportunity to business leaders and all stakeholders to get acquainted to and renew acquaintance with each other.

Thank You & Have a Wonderful Evening Ahead!