

FOREWORD

As the year comes to a close, we should all be proud of our achievements despite the many challenges we faced. We have made much progress and we now have a dedicated team and office and a program of work which is getting us closer and closer to the University of Seychelles.



During this year, we have held fruitful discussions with University of Manchester, University of La Reunion, University of Montpellier, among others. These meetings were very productive and we have their commitment to support the implementation of our very own University. Over and above these, there are a number of other universities that are also keen to partner with us.

We have conducted also reached out to the local community here in Seychelles by organizing a number of workshops and fund raising activities. The funds raised through those donations are a testament to the commitment and belief that education and knowledge are key factors to success and better job prospects in the future.

Although it has been a successful year we realize that we are at the beginning of a long road and there is much more to be done. However with your support, we can realize this dream for the Seychelles.

We wish you peace, prosperity and success in 2009.

The National Assembly endorses the Seychelles University

On the 18th September 2008, Honorary Jeniffer Vel presented the motion of the Seychelles University to the National Assembly. The topic was discussed at length and many points were raised, both for and against it. Most members of the National Assembly were very enthusiastic about the project. This enthusiasm illustrates the fact that it has been recognised nationally that we have reached a stage in our national development whereby there is a need for an institution of higher learning beyond where we are today.

The members of the National Assembly raised several points with respect to the opportunities that would be created with the establishment of the University of Seychelles. During their deliberations, it was stressed that our level of development has reached a certain point and we need to go further from here. There is a need to train more people to work in our ever growing industries and multi- tasking is becoming a must, given our limited human resources. Although the Seychelles University will not be in a position in the short to medium term, to offer courses across the board in all disciplines, our unique location comes with advantages. We have certain areas of well recognised competencies; for example in tourism, environment and fisheries. Moreover, it was felt that such a venture, with implementation of a modern university offering quality education would attract international students. This will go a long way towards promoting an international image for our National University.

Whilst all members were convinced that the creation of a National University would be a great benefit for the country; there were also many concerns. Several members of the National Assembly were concerned about the status of the University. Another argument brought forth by the National Assembly, was the sustainability of the project.

In view of the educational reforms that are being undertaken, it is obvious that there is a commitment to addressing the issue of education as a whole, aimed at the betterment of the society and its impact on the strategic developments of the country. The new reforms will create the necessary environment to ensure the projects viability. Besides, the Seychelles University Foundation reiterates its commitment to establishing the Seychelles University as an institution for all Seychellois, regardless of political affiliations, religion, culture and social status. The Seychelles University was conceptualised in the spirit of national development and innovation

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and will remain so.

It is obvious that there is a need for a higher education institution locally, and this need has been recognised by local businesses and Seychellois public at large. The Seychelles University Foundation has been established to address and do the needful towards creating a well educated human resource pool

It is therefore important and essential for the whole of Seychelles to rally behind the Seychelles University Foundation in order to achieve our common purpose. Together we can make a difference for the next generation.

Mon trajet



Un enseignement de niveau universitaire n'était pas quelque chose que j'aspirais au cours de mon enfance et adolescence. Comme la plupart de mes amis, je pensais qu'à la fin des études et de trouver un emploi. Suite à mon admission à la Polytechnique, les choses ont commencé à changer. J'ai commencé à fréquenter des élèves d'autres écoles et de milieu différents; des jeunes avec des ambitions et des rêves. C'est alors que j'ai commencé à réfléchir sur ce que je voulais vraiment faire de ma vie. Voulais-je atteindre et de faire quelqu'un de moi-même ou tout simplement prendre la vie comme elle vient?

J'avais eu un but et j'avais le choix, toute ma perspective sur la vie avait changé. Mon chemin a pris un tour pour les meilleur lorsque j'ai qualifié pour une bourse d'étude financée par le gouvernement Seychellois. Tous mes efforts ont été payés et j'étais prêt pour la prochaine étape de mon voyage. Mon séjour à l'Université a réaffirme mon engagement à l'égard de l'éducation et de mon éventuelle carrière. Au cours de ces trois années, j'ai rencontré des gens de différentes couches sociales et milieux éducatifs, qui se sont révélé à moi que l'éducation est la clé de la réussite et l'auto

illumination.

Il est près de deux ans depuis mon diplôme, je suis maintenant un jeune professionnel avec un avenir prometteur. Bien qu'ayant un diplôme universitaire ne garantie pas nécessairement un bon emploi, mais il contribue à l'autonomisation d'une personne en lui attribuant des compétences analytiques nécessaires pour faire quelque chose de lui même. J'ai suivi les progrès de la Fondation de l'Université Seychelles et je pense que l'éducation est la meilleure chose qu'un gouvernement peut donner à ses citoyens. Pour l'éducation soit véritablement le moteur du développement et de l'innovation.

Onwards to reputable affiliations and quality education.

The vision of the Seychelles University Foundation is to establish a University in Seychelles that 'will operate as a centre of academic excellence for the future prosperity of the nation'.

We believe that the key to a country's development is largely dependent upon its stance on education. In Seychelles education is offered freely to all those who wishes to make good use of it. However, it is not in the country's best interest to just offer education, but quality education.

We live in a highly competitive world and therefore, there is a need for us to carve a niche for ourselves in this globalised world. As a result, it is our task, from the very beginning to ensure that the Seychelles University is a credible institution which will offer quality education to all its students.

During the middle of September a delegation from the University of Manchester came to Seychelles, to discuss the possibility of a partnership with the Seychelles University Foundation. This working visit is the result of an exchange of correspondence between President James Michel and the President of the University of Manchester, Prof. Alan Gilbert. Dr. Timothy Westlake and Prof. Rorden Wilkinson spent a week in Seychelles discussing with various stakeholders about their views and expectations from such a partnership. The feedback from the week long visit was very positive, and the discussions were taken further, when Dr. Rolph Payet, the Chairman of the SUF, met with the President and Vice- Chancellor of the University of Manchester, Prof. Alan Gilbert. During this meeting, Prof. Gilbert confirmed his support to help the Foundation, establish a quality and credible University in Seychelles.

The departure of the Mancunian delegation was immediately followed by the visit of Prof. Manfred Eich from the University of Hamburg, Germany, who has to offered his services as a consultant

to the Foundation. Having been a senior management consultant with such companies as McKinsey & Co. and Siemens, as well as having Co-founded a private University in Hamburg, Prof. Eich brings expertise in his field and is more than qualified to assist with the implementation of the Seychelles University Project. During his week long visit to Seychelles, Prof. Eich met with various stakeholders both in the public and private sector and advised the Board of Trustees on means of effectively and efficiently establishing the University of Seychelles. His visit culminated in a 'Workshop on IT Education Needs and Opportunities'.

These two, very high profile, visits demonstrates the willingness of the outside community in helping Seychelles achieve its goal of establishing a credible and quality higher education institution, here in Seychelles. Whatever knowledge was imparted to the Foundation was done on a pro bono basis, which illustrates the fact that if we are willing to help ourselves, there are people outside who are willing to help us to meet our goals.



Dr. Rolph Payet with the Prof. Alan Gilbert

The Foundation goes public

The Seychelles University Foundation, since its conception a year ago, has managed to capture the attention of the Seychellois Public and organisations locally. In addition, we have captured the attention of persons and some organizations abroad. Many individuals and organisations have come forth with their commitment to support the establishment of the university by wanting to raise funds for this very noble project.

Thus September 2008 marked a month of events and activities geared to acknowledgment, sharing of information and the future of the project.

On the 16th September 2008, the Seychelles University Foundation celebrated its First Anniversary. This milestone event was wholly sponsored and held at The Wharf Hotel and Marina at Providence. The Chairman of the Foundation took this opportunity to update the guests present on the status of the University and the activities being

undertaken by the SUF team. During the presentation, the guests were taken on a digital walk through the Seychelles University City Campus.

Present at the event were, high government officials as well as donors to the Foundation. This included people who have been making a voluntary monthly contributions as well as corporate donors. The chairman took the opportunity to thank and reward them for their support. This was followed by a series of pledges from local entrepreneurs. Amongst those who pledged their support to the Foundation were Mr. Joe Albert who pledged Rs. 1 million of behalf of his companies, and Mr. Vinod Sud, the Chief Executive of Telecom Seychelles pledged Rs. 1 million in support. The most substantial pledge on that evening came from Mr. Patel of Vijay Constructions Ltd, who pledged a massive Rs. 10 million which will go towards the construction of the IT hub, the City Campus, which will be based on Ile du Port. All in all, the event was very successful.

In the following weeks, the SUF in collaboration with SBS and SPDF held two separate events to acknowledge and thank the personnel of these organizations for their support through salary contributions towards the project. The individual contributors received certificates as supporters of the Seychelles University Foundation.

This was followed two days later with a Consultative workshop on 'IT Education Needs and Opportunities'. This half day workshop, held in the STC Conference Room, saw the participation of stakeholders from the public as well as the private sector. The workshop was co- chaired by both Dr. Rolph Payet and a visiting German Professor Manfred Eich, of university of Hamburg. Having worked as a top management consultant with international companies like Siemens and McKinsey & Co., Prof. Eich was willing to share his knowledge and experience with the Foundation and provided quality materials for deliberations during the workshop.



Dr. Rolph Payet addresses the guests present for the Foundations first anniversary event

The Seychelles University Foundation, working towards a knowledge-based Society

We are a small island nation in the Indian Ocean with tourism and fisheries, as the main stay of our economy, and more recently focused also on offshore business development. In early 2007 the President announced his long-term vision for the Seychelles, the Strategy 2017, with the intention of consolidating our economic reform plans and doubling our GDP through the enhancement of our fisheries and tourism programmes, and most importantly the development of new business areas such as international financial services, information technology, knowledge and intellectual property management.

The government proposes to achieve its vision 2017 by operating as an economic facilitator, allowing both Seychellois and international businesses to benefit from an increasingly business-friendly economic environment, streamlined regulatory structure and a capable human resource base. To achieve this vision, the President also proposed the establishment of Seychelles first national university.

Although the present population of 85,000 has one of the highest literacy rates in Africa and has access to 10 years of free and compulsory education, the cost of sending students abroad for tertiary levels of education is becoming unsustainable. Moreover, it reaches but a few, and therefore the need for a university in the Seychelles. For the purposes of establishing such a University, the Seychelles University Foundation, a registered charity based in Seychelles was created.

Consequently, the Seychelles University Foundation is undertaking a number of studies and exploring a number of partnerships to consider all aspects of such an endeavor. The activities ranges from fund raising, setting up the tertiary level institutional and legal framework, development of the university infrastructure, and most importantly, develop a high quality academic programme and faculty in partnership with an internationally recognized University.

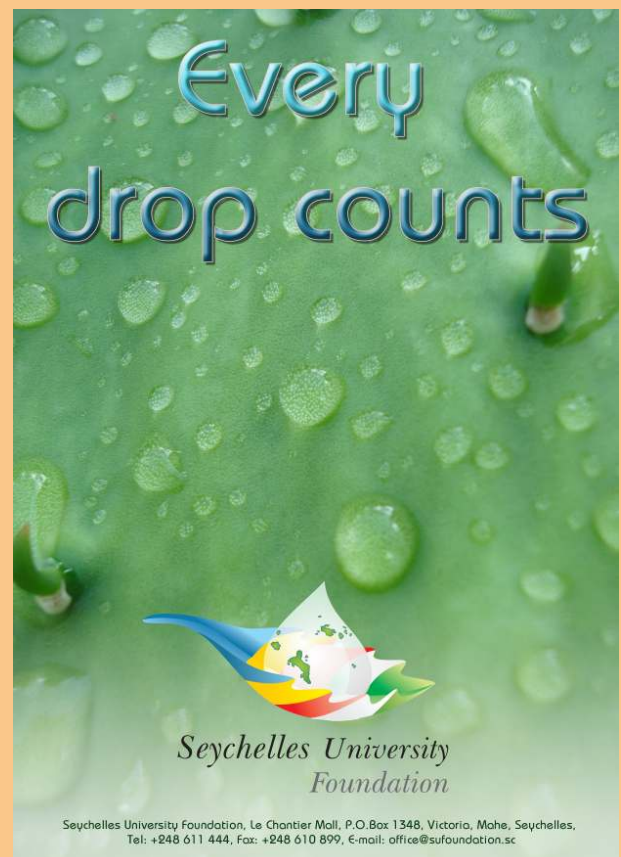
The Foundation has identified five areas of academic programmes, namely information technology, business and finance, environment and fisheries, tourism and finally teacher education. The intention of the Foundation is, to commence with an IT faculty. This will create a platform for further developments towards establishment of the University on the one hand and also address immediate needs in the Seychelles market. It will also, importantly,

identify niche areas where Seychelles can build an IT industry of international standards.

To achieve this we are keenly aware that the University will need to forge important alliances with existing and emerging businesses and economic clusters in the Indian Ocean region, elsewhere in the world, and within the Seychelles. Hence our drive to develop the University in close consultation with the private sector and well established businesses. The crying need for organizations in the Seychelles is for a multi-skilled, well educated work force. The need to take action to address this shortfall is becoming increasingly evident.

The establishment of a national university offering quality education is not only therefore essential but attractive to the local populace. In addition, it offers an interesting option to countries in the region and elsewhere in the world. We are fortunately well positioned in many aspects to succeed. Our geographical location, well outside of the cyclone belt, our well preserved environment, low crime rate and political stability are but a few advantages that put us ahead of many other countries.

It is our aim to ensure a better future for the next generation through creation of a knowledge-based society. Please access our website: www.sufoundation.sc for more information on our work and progress. We welcome your support.



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