

'Green' conference on Business Law

By Sunil Gopal

Business Law 2010, a two-day conference on the global trends and legal implications for the converging tourism, hospitality and property industries, will be held on June 17 and 18 at the InterContinental Mauritius Resort at Balaclava.

The conference is organised by Lex Communications Ltd in collaboration with Juristconsult Chambers. The official partners of the organisers are the Board of Investment (BOI) and the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA).

This is the first time that such a high-level conference focusing mainly on the business and legal aspects of this high growth industry has been held in Mauritius.

"Business Law 2010 is the first of a series that will be held annually. The theme of the conference scheduled in June will be: tourism, hospitality, IRS and RES development – innovative trends and legal implications.

"We have noticed that many operators from the tourism and hospitality sectors lack a good knowledge of law. The aim is to inform and train stakeholders and all those

involved in these activities," the Head of Practice of Juristconsult Marc Hein told NEWSNOW.

He added that as far as the IRS and ERS development sectors are concerned, there is a completely new legal framework, which seems still unknown to developers, promoters, real estate agents and even lawyers themselves.

"On June 17, the conference will be geared towards innovative trends in tourism with a discussion on 'innovative trends and investment opportunities'. Then we will proceed with topics like 'global trends and investment opportunities,' 'Mauritius – a strategic investment hub', health tourism, E-tourism and laws related to tourism – the legal framework and civil liability of tourist stakeholders."

On the second day, the following issues will be tackled: the Master Plan and Landscape of Mauritius in 2015; environment and tourism development; residence and occupation permits: foreigners in Mauritius; laws relating to real property: IRS and ERS, arbitration, mediation; project finance case study: an IRS and Invest – Hotel development.

"The conference will involve lots of networking and socialising of all stakeholders involved," promised Mr Hein.

The conference has another interesting feature: it will be hosted as an energy-neutral event and will be the first green conference ever organised in Mauritius.

The organisers are committed to sound environmental practices and as such have partnered with impactChoice to eliminate the CO2 equivalent emissions that will be produced by the conference as a result of energy use.

"We also want to sensitise people on environmental issues. That is why we have linked up with impactChoice so as to determine the CO2 emitted during the conference. Each participant will contribute around Rs20 and in return he will receive a CO2 voucher. Ultimately in the years to come large events and companies will be able to change the vouchers for cash. This is a mechanism that was set up following the Kyoto conference," explained Mr Hein.

The official opening ceremony of the conference will be performed by the Minister of Tourism and Leisure, Mr Nando Bodha.



● Marc Hein.

The conference will bring under one roof eminent speakers such as Mr Bernard Sik Yuen, Chief Justice, Mr Raju Jadoo, Managing Director of the Board of Investment, Mr Karl Mootosamy, Managing Director of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority, Mr André Bonieux, Senior Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Mr Gaëtan Siew, Architect, Lampotang and Siew, Mr Gregory Hart de Keating, Notary, Mr Afsar Ebrahim, Senior Partner, BDO De Chazal du Mée, Mr Marc Hein, Head of Practice, Juristconsult and Mr Jean-Michel Ng Tseung, Head-Corporate, Mauritius Commercial Bank.

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Port Louis helped inspire a poet



By Sunil Gopal

The Lord Mayor of Port Louis Sheikh Mukhtar Hossenboccus launched the most recent publication of Catherine Boudet entitled "Nos éparses nos sulfureuses".

The Lord Mayor said he was deeply honoured to launch the collection of poetry as several of the poems are inspired by the city.

"We are pleased that Port Louis is a source of inspiration for you," said Mr Hossenboccus.

He added that he was also moved by the reflections of the author on the city, expressing his appreciation that the beauty and cultural heritage of Port Louis have been highlighted.

Catherine Boudet said her poems were inspired by moments she has lived daily, adding that she learned more about Mauritius thanks to her profession, her colleagues and her contacts with other people from various sectors of activity.

She also expressed her gratitude to famous author Mrs Ananda Devi for writing the preface to her book.

Catherine Boudet hails from Réunion Island. She holds a doctorate in Political Science and is a specialist in the identity and political construction in Mauritius. She is now based permanently in Mauritius and works for *Impact* magazine.

She is the author of two other collections of poems.