

## Press Release

### Mauritius elected vice-Chair of WCO ESA Region



Mauritius has been elected on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011 as vice-Chairperson of the World Customs Organization (WCO) East and Southern Africa (ESA) Region for a period of 2 years. The Gavel was received by Sudhamo Lal, Director General MRA, from Uganda the previous Vice-Chairperson, in the presence of Secretary General Mr Mikuriya Kunio and 70 participants of customs administrations of Eastern and Southern African region. This election will allow MRA to sit in the WCO Council as well as the Policy Commission of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

The 16<sup>th</sup> WCO ESA Governing Council meeting was held on 19-20 May 2011 at Le Meridien Hotel, Pointes-aux-Piments. The Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development was the chief guest at the opening ceremony. Mr Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the WCO and representatives from other regional organizations namely, African Union, COMESA, SADC, EAC as well as a representative from the University of Canberra also participated in the meeting.

In recognition for its active participation and firm commitment in the activities aimed at promoting the Customs Reforms and Modernization agenda, Mauritius was honoured to be unanimously elected as Vice-Chairperson of WCO ESA Region and will thus be privileged to sit in the WCO Council which is the governing body of WCO as well as the Policy Commission, another key organ of the WCO. In this capacity, the Vice Chairperson is also responsible for overseeing the activities of the 3 important organs of the WCO ESA region, namely, the Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) located in Kenya, 3 Regional Training Centers (RTCs) in Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe, and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO).

**Mauritius Revenue Authority**

**23 May 2011**