

## UNI-PASS at the MRA: Consultancy Project by the Korean Customs Service



*The Korean delegation with members of the MRA Senior Management Team at Custom House, Mer Rouge*

A team of Korean Customs Officials and IT experts led by the Deputy Director of the Korean Customs Service, Mr. Kyungwook Min, is in Mauritius for the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of a consultancy project relating to UNI-PASS, the Korean Customs Management System. The team will be visiting the different economic operators along the logistic supply chain in order to understand the actual clearance process and make recommendations based on best practices.

MRA has sought the technical assistance of the Korea Customs Service (KCS), which has generously agreed to share its expertise to benchmark MRA Customs' operational processes, risk management framework and MRA Customs Management System with the Korean system.

The UNI-PASS System is Korea's e-clearance system developed and used by the KCS for more than 20 years now and has been internationally acclaimed for its functionalities, effectiveness and stability. The World Customs Organisation (WCO) has acknowledged UNI-PASS as Korea's automated customs administration system which has been implemented in over 10 countries including Kazakhstan, Nepal, Tanzania, Cameroon, Ethiopia, and Ecuador. The UNI-PASS is at its 4<sup>th</sup> generation phase - adapting mobile concepts with the goal to create an intelligent customs administration system based on smart clearance. The World Bank Report on Ease of Doing

Business has recognised the UNI-PASS as one of the first 100% electronic clearance systems comprising several modules such as Cargo Management, Clearance Management, Integrated Risk Management (IRM), Single Window, Investigation, Audit and Advanced Passenger Information System.

The WCO Technology Network has apprised UNI-PASS for providing a complete customs administration solution, fully customizable to fit in any economic environment. Such a sophisticated system, if adopted by Customs Departments, promises to optimise customs clearance processes.

At the kick-off meeting of the consultancy project, the Director General of the MRA, Mr Sudhamo Lal expressed his gratitude to the government of South Korea for providing technical assistance and for funding this important project. He also stressed on the importance to reform and modernise its processes with a view to attaining the conflicting objectives of trade facilitation and control.

The Consultancy project started on 11<sup>th</sup> June and will end on 06<sup>th</sup> July 2019.