

MRA hosts the WCO Workshop on Small Island Economies



Launching ceremony of the SIE workshop

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) hosted a WCO workshop on Small Island Economies (SIEs) at Custom House, Mer Rouge from 11 to 14 June 2019, for customs administrations in the Indian Ocean region. Officials from Comoros, Madagascar and Seychelles Customs administrations participated in the workshop along with their counterparts from the MRA.

The objective of the workshop was to assist SIEs in addressing their unique challenges in the pursuit of customs modernization and reform programmes, including accession to, and implementation of, key WCO instruments and tools. In a broader context, the aim of this workshop was to discuss and suggest potential measures to assist SIEs in integrating the global

supply chain, while strengthening their capacities for effective risk management, trade facilitation, security and revenue collection.

Such workshops are organised in 3 geographical locations: Caribbean Islands, Indian Ocean Islands and the Pacific Islands. The workshop in Mauritius will be followed by one in the Pacific Islands, after which virtual meetings will be held to apprise Small Island Economies Customs Administrations about the outcome and possible solutions to challenges already being faced by Customs Administrations.

The Director General of the MRA, Mr Sudhamo Lal pleaded that small island states be treated differently. Our limited resources, low product differentiation and great susceptibility to natural disasters and vulnerability must be acknowledged, he added.

M. Samson Bilangna, resource person from the World Customs Organisation, underlined the importance of helping Small Island Economies facing difficulties due to their geographical positions. It is now more than necessary to equip them with the necessary tools and competences which is possible through regional cooperation, he said.