



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

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Length: 4'30"

MAURITIUS: AN EMERGING CYBER ISLAND

VIDEO

WORKERS AT COMPUTERS
(11")

LIST OF IT COMPANIES/ (17")
YOUNG PEOPLE ON STREET

DEV CHAMROO AT
WORK/OFFICE

DEV CHAMROO ON CAMERA
(12")

AUDIO

NARRATION

These workers are part of the emerging global outsourcing workforce. They can provide services for any business anywhere – without leaving their home country.

Information technology companies like this are transforming the future for Mauritius. They are creating a new "knowledge" industry, offering dream jobs for a younger generation.

Dev Chamroo is the Chairman of the Mauritius Board of Investment.

CHAMROO:

"We have seen that our workforce are people with at least a minimum of twelve years of studies, and they are looking for jobs – more white-collared, new aspirations of the people."

NARRATION

W/S ISLAND/STREET SCENE IN
PORT LOUIS & PEOPLE (14")

Mauritius lies in the Indian Ocean between Asia and Africa. The island is about the size of Singapore. Its 1.2 million people are an ethnic mix of Indians and Africans, with some Asians and Europeans.

BUILDINGS AND PEOPLE (7")

The issues it faces are typical of small island nations, says the UN Resident Coordinator, Rose Gakuba.

ROSE GAKUBA ON CAMERA (14")
CORALS AND FISH

GAKUBA:

"The small economy, of course, the vulnerability to climate change, the pressure on coastal and marine resources, the threat to biodiversity."

GOVERNMENT HOUSE (10")

NARRATION

The greatest challenge is to develop a competitive economy, thereby reducing poverty. Rajesh Bhagwan is the Environment Minister.

RAJESH BHAGWAN ON CAMERA
(11")

BHAGWAN:

"The people in Mauritius are ambitious. We know that we are much vulnerable in this world of competition. We have to depend upon ourselves."

WORKER CUTTING SUGAR
CANE (7")

NARRATION

In the old days, sugar cane plantations were the major employer and effectively the only industry

on the island.

MACHINE HARVESTING SUGAR
CANE (11")

But mechanization has displaced most of the workforce. Since Mauritius gained its independence from Britain in 1968, the government has made a major effort to diversify the economy.

WORKERS AT SPINNING MILL
(14")

Today, the manufacturing sector, especially textiles and clothing, have replaced sugar as the country's major exports. Last year alone, the island exported one billion dollars worth of goods.

TOURISTS AT HOTEL (16")

Tourism is now the third largest industry. The number of tourists has doubled in the last ten years. With more than one hundred hotels, the focus is now on the luxury market. Nearly three quarters of a million people visited in 2002.

BANKS (9")

Financial services, such as offshore banking, are another fast-growing sector. It now accounts for 20 percent of the economy.

TOURIST AT BEACH/IN WATER
SPORT/HOTEL (11")

Once considered too remote to be a trading partner, Mauritius is now poised to launch a fifth industry based on ICT, or information communications technology.

NARRATION

CONSTRUCTION SITE OF CYBER
CITY (6")

Just a few kilometres outside the capital, Port Louis, a cyber city is in the making.

MODEL OF TOWER (14")
GUJADHUR IN FRONT OF MAP

Scheduled to open this year, the centrepiece is a 12-storey office tower for IT companies. It's a high-tech city to live, work and play in, says the Cyber City Project Manager, Kishore Gujadhur.

KISHORE GUJADHUR ON
CAMERA (11")

GUJADHUR:

"Then we have a hypermarket and shopping malls on this side here. This area is reserved for a hotel complex. That is residential facilities for people who are going to work in the cyber city."

DEV CHAMROO WORKING IN
OFFICE (12")

NARRATION

The Board of Investment, created with the help of the UN Development Programme, is responsible for promoting investment. Dev Chamroo says that many businesses have expressed interest in the cyber city.

DEV CHAMROO ON CAMERA
(15")

CHAMROO:

"The Victoria Group has set up a 300-seat call centre. Teleformer from France, they are setting up something. A huge company from the US is now finalizing the project for business process outsourcing."

W/S ISLAND/OFFICE BUILDING/
OFFICE WORKERS ON STREET
(12")

NARRATION

In just three decades, Mauritius has achieved a remarkable transformation. Per capita income has tripled to 4,000 US dollars a year, ranking it

as a medium-income country.

WORKERS AT COMPUTER/
ISLAND (16")

With an increasingly educated workforce, who speaks both French and English, this small Indian Ocean island nation is riding on the crest of the global digital revolution. Its aim is to become an intelligent island, and a regional cyber hub.

LOGO (12")

This report was prepared by Patricia Chan for the United Nations.