



Embassy of the United States of America
Port Louis, Mauritius
PRESS RELEASE

**Mauritian to Participate in United States Embassy
International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) Studying
“Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the U.S.”**

Port Louis, May 22, 2014: Through the support of the U.S. Embassy Port Louis, Dr. Daniel Marie will participate in an IVLP study tour of the United States on the theme “Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the U.S.”, beginning on May 26 and ending on June 13, 2014. Dr. Marie, is a Research Scientist at the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI).

The project goals are to examine U.S. efforts to address coastal and marine management issues, particularly marine debris and pollution; provide opportunities to interact with U.S. professionals at Federal, state and local levels engaged in developing public policy frameworks for coastal zone management and climate change adaptation; share institutional and technical strategies to integrate local level projects with regional and international marine protection and clean-up efforts.

The program will start in Washington, D.C. and end in Key Largo, Florida. During the Washington, DC program the participants will meet with federal agencies that plan, monitor, and set policy for coastal and ocean resources such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Commerce’s National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and the Department of State’s Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Staff from the National Oceans Council at the White House Council on Environmental Quality will discuss the roles and responsibilities of federal and state agencies in the implementation of President Obama’s National Ocean Policy. The participants also will meet with non-governmental organizations that help set national and international marine policies such as the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, the Ocean Conservancy and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

From Washington, the group will travel to San Diego, California, where they will take advantage of impressive public and private institutions dealing with coastal and marine management issues. The group will spend a full day at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, one of the world’s foremost oceanic research institutions, and also will meet

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with key local and federal groups addressing issues such as marine pollution, ocean acidification and overfishing. They will meet with the US Coast Guard, San Diego Station, the Port of San Diego, the International Boundary & Water Commission of U.S. and Mexico (IBWC) and the Waitt Foundation, an organization dedicated to changing practices that lead to overfishing. The participants also will discuss planning and regulating coastal zone development with officials from the California Coastal Commission.

The group will then be divided into two smaller groups which will allow for more personalized programming and expose them to different sets of coastal management issues. One group will go to Corpus Christi, Texas and the other one to Newport, Oregon. Dr. Marie will join the group going to Corpus Christi, Texas. The city of Corpus Christi has long been tied to the sea, first as a port and a center of the Gulf fishing industry, and now as a popular tourist destination. It boasts some unique geographic features such as Padre Island, one of the largest and longest barrier islands in the world. Participants will examine Gulf of Mexico protection efforts with Mexico and the challenges of balancing tourism development, fishing interests and the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Participants will reunite in Key Largo, Florida where they will examine efforts to restore fragile coastal and reef systems. The group will tour the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary with officials from NOAA's National Center for Coral Reef Research and discuss sea-level rise challenges with representatives from the Nature Conservancy's local chapter. The participants will also visit the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park to discuss reef preservation strategies.

Participants will be coming from Seychelles, the Bahamas, El Salvador, Kuwait, the Maldives, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Russia and Malaysia among other countries.

International Visitor Leadership Program

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. It seeks to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other nations through carefully designed short-term visits to the U.S. for current and emerging foreign leaders. International Visitors are current or emerging leaders in government, politics, the media, education, the arts, business and other key fields. Over 4,000 International Visitors come to the United States from all over the world each year.

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