



NEWSLETTER
THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
Mauritius Branch
Creating global understanding through English

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At the 2011 Annual Dinner - Messrs Mohamad A. Vayid and Parmaseeven Veeraragoo talking to our Chief Guest, The Rt Hon. Sir A. Jugnauth, President of the Republic of Mauritius

At the 69th Executive Meeting of the English-Speaking Union held on Monday 4th July 2011 at the British Council, Rose-Hill, Mr Mohamad A. Vayid, GOSK, CMG, was elected President of ESU-Mauritius following Ms Sharmilla Bhima’s decision to step down as President. Mrs Marie-France Roussety was nominated as one of the 3 Vice-Presidents of the ESU, along with Prof Jagadish Manrakhan, GOSK, and Mr Prem Burton, CSK.

Mr Vayid was one of the Vice-Presidents of the ESU since its inception in 1993.

Mr P Veeraragoo, former Secretary of the ESU, was readmitted as an Executive Member.

The President of the ESU takes this opportunity to thank Ms Bhima and all members for their commitment and devotion towards the ESU.

ESU 14th Annual Dinner

The 2011 annual dinner was held on Friday 22nd July at La Bonne Marmite Restaurant. The ESU was delighted to welcome once again its Chief Guests, His Excellency The Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, President of the Republic of Mauritius and Lady Sarojni Jugnauth.

The dinner was also attended by Lady Patmavatee Ghurburrun, H.E. Mr Nick Leake, British High Commissioner, Mrs Rowan Ainsworth, Acting Australian High Commissioner, Ms Sharon Rogers, Representative of the US Embassy, Shaun Payen, the National winner of the 2011 Public Speaking Competition, ESU members and their guests. At the dinner, Shaun Payen delivered his speech entitled “Actions speak louder than words – I’m aware, are you?”, in line with this year’s theme at the IPSC : “Words are not enough”.

We are pleased to reproduce hereunder an edited version of the speech of the President of ESU-Mauritius, Mr Mohamad A. Vayid, GOSK, CMG, at the Annual dinner

“I shall briefly deal with three aspects of the ESU : its genesis, its role in the context of various world developments and its future plans.

ESU was founded in 1918 to create global understanding through the use of the English language. Its patron is H.M. Queen Elizabeth II and its President H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. One of its earliest Presidents was Winston Churchill. ESU exists in over 60 countries and its headquarters are in London.

ESU-Mauritius turns 18 this year. This is the age of reason, of responsibility, of discernment, even if it is not yet the age of wisdom. It is also the age when one looks back critically on one’s track record and achievements.

ESU Mauritius has covered a lot of ground over the past several years. We have been actively assisting Government’s strategy of liberating and emancipating people through education - not just from poverty, but also from ignorance and insularity - by promoting the use of English to plug into the outside world and to create global understanding.

English remains the indispensable medium of communication in every sphere of human activity: in business, diplomacy, international relations, science and technology, the media.

English is the quintessential tool of human contact: Universities all over the world are increasingly offering medical and scientific courses in the English language to attract foreign students.

The leading newspapers in China, India, Pakistan, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore are written in English. The Indian Film industry now offers English sub-titles to market its feature films to a larger audience overseas.

But it would be wrong – and imprudent – to think that English will continue to progress without obstacles or contrary pressures. Mandarin and Hindi, not to mention Spanish, German and Russian have their supporters too.

It is forecast that in a few decades English will be replaced by Spanish as the most widely spoken language in the United States. One cannot overlook the fact that China and India represent over one third of the world's population and therefore can expect their national language to gain greater currency and prominence – a legitimate enough ambition, given the shift in the centre of economic and financial gravity to the East.

In these circumstances, the future progress of English as a most favoured language cannot be taken for granted.

In Mauritius, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation broadcasts in 15 languages, including seven Indian regional idioms.

There is now a new initiative to introduce Creole and Bhojpurī in schools. Whatever the merits or demerits of this plan, it is easy to surmise that the space for English will be further squeezed, as the curriculum (and attention span) of school children is spread over additional subjects.

Coupled with this policy of political correctness, there is a palpable decline in the use and quality of English practised in the country. While our colonial administrators introduced English in Government, the Civil Service and the Judiciary, we witness today a growing tendency to speak creole in most official spheres, while the standard of written English has gone down dramatically in most official correspondence and even in Court decisions. So much so that it can be said that the English language in Mauritius is honoured more in the breach than in the observance of its rules.

In this context, the ESU can claim to have struck a blow in favour of English as a highly desirable medium, educationally, socially and professionally. Our English in Action Programme which emphasises conversational English is a success in deprived regions and will need to be expanded; our National Spelling Bee Competition attracts a larger number of school participants every year. Our support to Teachers by way of scholarships to the UK and the USA is a pedagogical contribution for which the scholars are very grateful.

We have even placed Mauritius on the English Language map by producing a local Champion, Mr Sebastien Ng Kuet Leong, who went on to win the International Public Speaking Competition in London in 2009, while last year our candidate, Mr Advik Goorah, won a standing ovation and was among the six best contestants. When one remembers that over 40 countries participate in this annual

competition, this is an achievement for which ESU Mauritius can be rightly proud.

But to carry on our activities, we need additional resources. Through a quirk of the system, the ESU is the Cinderella of Speaking Unions, receiving much less Government subsidies than similar institutions, although it was the first of its kind in the country. We are able to maintain an adequate level of activity only through the generosity of our sponsors like Ken Lee Investment, HSBC, MCB, Harel Mallac Foundation, Reinsurance Solutions, Currimjee Foundation, Mr Alex Fon Sing of Jade Group of Companies, SICOM, Onsong Associates, Kross Border Trust Services Ltd and others.

We are most grateful to them all. Without their backing, the ESU would not have been able to maintain a satisfactory level of activity.

Finally, at 18, ESU is updating its structure and organisation to cope with new challenges and new opportunities. To that effect, we are revisiting our charter with a view to providing for greater access to membership and greater flexibility in our approach to the promotion of English, so that we can respond more accurately and effectively to the needs of the new generation. In this endeavour, we may require amendments to the Act setting up the ESU and we shall approach the Ministry of Arts & Culture, our parent Ministry, for appropriate action. We also hope to have the blessings of the President of the Republic, who has been a keen supporter and friend, in the restructuring of the ESU. I look forward to the support and collaboration of all our members in achieving the objectives we have set ourselves.



ESU Vice-President Mrs Marie-France Roussety with Mrs Sharon Rogers of the US Embassy and Mrs Rowan Ainsworth, Acting Australian High Commissioner

We would like to thank Scott & Co Ltd who again donated drinks for our Annual dinner.

Speech of the President of the Republic, H.E. The Rt Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, at ESU Annual dinner:

"It gives me pleasure to share a few moments with you on the occasion of this annual dinner, hosted by the English Speaking Union.

Each year is a new challenge for all of us and I am sure that the President and Members of the English Speaking Union must have spared no effort to enhance the propagation and use of English Language. A word of praise must go to Ms Sharmilla Bhima, who because of professional commitments, had to resign as President of the Union on 4th of this month. She has been working selflessly for the Union since quite a long time, and hope she will continue to extend her help as and when possible.

My best wishes go to the newly elected President, Mr Mohamad Vayid, whom I know since a very long time, and am sure he will take the English Speaking Union to still greater heights.

It gives pleasure to learn that the Union has been instrumental in furthering the importance and widespread use of the English Language. Regarding the achievements of the Union, the National Public Speaking Competition has again been a success, with a considerable number of participants. This year has seen the success of Mr Shaun Payen from "Collège du Saint Esprit". Mr Payen proudly represented Mauritius at the International Public Speaking Competition held in U.K. The theme of his intervention was "words are not enough".

As you are aware, English being an international language is widely used across the globe. Through the internet, and the use of English Language as a medium, much trading is being done, and this will continue to be so in the future. The ultimate aim is to create global understanding through English.

Today distance or geographic position is no longer a problem. Communities are connected together through technologies and the use of English Language. Understanding and speaking the English Language has become a "sine qua non" condition for progress and success in today's world economy.

Apart from promoting the English Language, the Union also believes in the potential of our youth. It is for this reason that every effort is being made to empower the youth, through the various competitions that are being organized.

For many years, we focused our attention on the formal mainstream of education. Gradually we moved towards extracurricular programmes with a view to moulding the child's character and potential. Today we all agree that imparting education and training alone is not sufficient. Good communication skill is a must to achieve success. Public speaking is an art which is not given to all. However, we should create opportunities for our youngsters, so that in future they do not face difficult situations. Given the opportunities, I am sure our youngsters will do well.

I am pleased to note that there has been an increase in participation in the main educational activities, namely the

Public Speaking Competition, the National Spelling Bee Competition and the Commonwealth Essay Competition. For this, I must congratulate the past and present Presidents and Members of the English Speaking Union.

I heartily congratulate Mr Shaun Payen for his success and wish him plenty of success in future."

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the ESU was held on Monday 4th July 2011 at the British Council. Ms Sharmilla Bhima read a comprehensive report of all activities carried out during the past year. The Accounts were presented and approved. The renewed Executive Committee members are:

Patron: Sir Victor Glover, Kt, GOSK	
President	Mr Mohamad A. Vayid, GOSK, CMG
Vice-President	Prof Jagadish Manrakhan, GOSK
Vice-President	Mr A. Prem Burton, CSK
Vice-President	Mrs Marie-France Roussety
Secretary	Mr Rajen Gangoosingh
Asst Secretary	Mr Parmanand Nunkoo, OSK,
Treasurer	Mrs Yajna Ghurburrun
Deputy Treasurer	Mr Rajendra Korlapu-Bungaree
British High Commission	Representative
US Embassy	Ms Vanessa Harper, in replacement of Mr Craig White
British Council	Ms Dawn Long, Director
Ministry of Arts & Culture	Ms A. Chummun
Ministry of Education, & Human Resources	Representative
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration & Intl Trade	Mrs K. Ruggoo
Prime Minister's Office (Home Affairs)	Representative
Member	Mrs Pratima Devi Beedasy
Member	Mrs Patricia Day-Hookoomsing
Member	Mr Jayraj Dayal
Member	Mr Philip Li Ching Hum
Member	Mr Aniroodh Ramjeeawon, PDSM
Member	Mr Ganesh Rampat
Member	Mr Parmaseeven Veeraragoo
Member	Mr Barlen Vyapoory

ESU moves to a more spacious location

ESU offices have moved from the 5th Floor of Ken Lee Building to a more spacious office space, on the 6th floor of the same building. We look forward to welcoming ESU members at our new premises.

We would like to thank Courts (Mauritius) Ltd for its donation of office furniture and PCs to the ESU.

Thank you also to the British Council for having donated some office furniture to the ESU.



THE NATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

With his speech entitled “Our changing lifestyle due to rapid technology” Shaun Payen, from College du St Esprit, won the 2011 National Public Speaking Competition run by the English-Speaking Union. Dooshweena Awatar of Mahatma Gandhi Institute was the runner-up.



SPONSORED BY HSBC Bank (Mauritius) AND HSBC Global Education Trust, the Public Speaking Competition started on 27th January 2011 and reached the Finals on Wednesday 23rd March 2011 at the Municipal Council of Curepipe, in the presence of distinguished guests including Hon. M. Choonee, Minister of Arts & Culture, Sir Victor Glover, Patron of ESU-Mauritius and Hon. Representative of the Royal Commonwealth Society in Mauritius, Mr James Boucher, Managing Director of HSBC (Mauritius) Ltd and Ms Dawn Long, Director of the British Council.

This year, a total of 89 participants from 64 schools, from both Mauritius and Rodrigues, took part in the competition. In Mauritius, six heats were organized across the various educational zones and 8 participants reached the Finals. The winner for Rodrigues’ competition, Ms Madeleine Marianne of Le Chou College, flew to Mauritius to join the 8 Mauritian Finalists to compete for the winning prize.

Except for the Finals, the participants were allowed a free choice of subject for their speeches. This has enabled them to reflect on a great number of important issues - the most popular ones being related to climate change, corruption, child abuse, human rights, human values, poverty alleviation, the role of Women in society, science, technology, good governance policies and youth issues.

This year, all finalists from all English Speaking Unions across the world were asked to deliver their speeches related to a common theme “**Lessons for the Future**”.

The 2011 Finalists were:

- Shaun Payen of College du St Esprit
- Neeksha Ramprosand of Droopnath Ramphul State College
- Manisha Chellaya of France Boyer de la Giroday SSS
- Madeleine Marianne of Le Chou College
- Dooshweena Awatar of Mahatma Gandhi Institute
- Eshna Jeebaun of Queen Elizabeth College

- Premnarain Akshay Trivedi Gowrisunkur of Royal College Curepipe
- Muhammad Yousuf Alimohamed of Royal College Port Louis
- Julien Chaperon of St Joseph’s College

We would like to convey our warmest thanks and gratitude to all those who have contributed to making the event such a success.

First, the HSBC Mauritius and the HSBC Global Education Trust for having sponsored the event and for their continued support. We are extremely grateful to them.

The British Council has been a loyal supporter of the Public Speaking Competition for many years. Once again they have donated prizes to all finalists.

Librairie le Cygne in Rose-Hill has generously offered gifts to all participants in Rodrigues.

The Commission for Education and REDCO, in Rodrigues, sponsored Ms Marianne’s air ticket which enabled her to travel to Mauritius to take part in the Finals.

Our Masters of Ceremony were Messrs Sanjit Teelock, Barlen Vyapoory and Rajen Gangoosingh for Mauritius, and Mr Lelio Roussety for Rodrigues. Thank you very much.

Our panel of judges for the Finals : Sir Victor Glover, Kt, GOSK, Patron of ESU Mauritius, Mr James Boucher, Managing Director of HSBC Bank (Mtius) Ltd and Ms. Dawn Long, Director of British Council.

Our judges for the heats : Messrs Prem Burton, CSK, Rajen Gangoosingh, Parmanand Nunkoo, OSK, Aniroodh Ramjeeawon, PDSM, Ganesh Rampat, Jayraj Dayal, Roshan Chundusing, Ashwin C. Baijnath, Sivenanda Vencatapillay, Kevin Pather, Dr K. Pauvaday, Philip Li Ching Hum, Quentin Pyne, Aurele Anquetil André, Mrs Marie-Josophe Chan-Liat, Anitah Aujayeb, Pratima Beedasy, Priya Nunkoo, Viroona Bufion and Andrea Waterstone

Our thanks also to the Rectors & teachers of host schools: Droopnath Ramphul State College, Loreto College Port Louis, Gaetan Raynal State College, Loreto College Curepipe, College du St Esprit & Le Chou College and to all participants and participating schools.

COMMONWEALTH DAY OBSERVANCE

Commonwealth Day is the annual celebration of the Commonwealth of Nations. In Mauritius, it was marked at the Finals of the National Public Speaking Competition (PSC) on 23rd March 2011, with Sir Victor Glover, Kt, GOSK, patron of the ESU and Honorary Representative of the Royal Commonwealth Society in Mauritius, reading the message of H.M the Queen.

Advik Goorah, the National Winner of the 2010 PSC, read the Commonwealth Day affirmations.

The theme for 2011 was 'Women as Agents of Change'.

The 2011 International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC) - 23rd to 27th May 2011



The International Public Speaking Competition, one of the most exciting of ESU's annual contests, took place in London from 23rd to 27th May 2011.

82 National winners from 49 countries around the world took part in the 30th annual International Public Speaking Competition run by the English-Speaking Union.

Jeon Kang from the Republic of Korea was the winner of the 2011 IPSC. With his speech "Umm...I can't teach?!", Jeon wowed the audience and judges at the grand final held at HSBC Headquarters.

As part of the programme, students attended workshops in debating and public speaking. They were given a tour of the Shakespeare's Globe and Hampton Court Palace and celebrated the 30th anniversary of the competition with an alumni dinner at ESU headquarters at Dartmouth House. For the first time this year, the competition involved semi-finals where students gave impromptu three-minute speeches on a topic they received 15 minutes beforehand.

The finalists were Jeon Kang from the Republic of Korea, Germaine Chuabio from the Philippines, Luisa Cassar Pullicino from Malta, Sahil Sanjay Bhattad from India, Caleb Yaw Kudah from Ghana, and Xu Jiru from China.

In 2009, Mr Sebastien Ng Kuet Leong from College du St Esprit representing Mauritius won the International Public Speaking Competition. This was the very first time a Mauritian has won such a prestigious International competition. In 2010, Mr Advik Goorah, our National winner from College du St Esprit, was amongst the six finalists.

This year, ESU-MAURITIUS was represented by Shaun Payen, again from College du St Esprit, who travelled to London where he met with some of the best and brightest people of his generation and he competed against them at the International Public Speaking Competition. Although Shaun did not actually reach the Finals, he delivered a great speech entitled "Actions speak louder than words – I'm aware, are you?" and proved that ESU-Mauritius has once again placed an excellent participant in the art of public eloquence at international level.

Shaun Payen reported that "Being the National Winner of the Public Speaking Competition is the greatest achievement in my life and I feel so proud for having represented my college at National level and my country at International level."

ENGLISH IN ACTION – CONVERSATIONAL CLASSES



The programme provided regular sessions of conversational English to a small group of adults to raise their level of English and help them improve their fluency and appreciate the finer points of the English language.

ESU was delighted to run the Conversational classes for a group of people living in the vicinity of Bel Ombre.

Sponsored by Bel Ombre Foundation, the 10-week programme was successfully conducted by Mr Barlen Vyapoory, an Executive Member of the ESU, who travelled to Bel Ombre once weekly to run the courses.

As conversation was on a "small group" basis, participants were keen to express themselves on any topic of discussion which ranged from day to day living to international politics. The sessions were designed to be very flexible to help students gain the most from them. Discussions included books, sports, current newspaper articles and other subjects of common interest. "Reading Aloud" was also encouraged to help improve English expression and understanding written text as well as increasing depth of comprehension. It was conducted in a casual atmosphere and included simple tips for improving reading skills.

CAN YOU SUPPORT THE ESU BY MAKING A DONATION THROUGH THE CSR PROGRAMME

If you would like to support our mission or know of anybody who would like to make a donation to the ESU, please contact

The English-Speaking Union

6th floor, Ken Lee Building, Edith Cavell Street,
Port Louis

Tel: 208 8591 / Email: esumau@intnet.mu

ESU AMBITIONS TO WELCOME MORE MEMBERS AND TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN ITS PORTFOLIO

Our mission is to encourage the enjoyment and constructive use of English, initiate & administer a forum for national and international youth exchange, focus on key current affairs issues through international conferences, seminars & meetings, promote understanding through cultural activities and building on the support and enthusiasm of our members & sponsors.



THE 2011 NATIONAL SPELLING BEE COMPETITION – MAURITIUS

The continuing growth in participation shows that the Spelling Bee Competition has now become one of the important activities of Secondary schools, both in Mauritius and in Rodrigues. 540 participants took part in the 10th edition of the National Spelling Bee Competition, which started on Thursday 5th May 2011 and culminated in the Finals held on Wednesday 1st June 2011 at the Municipal Council of Curepipe. 10 participants from each Form (F I, FII, FIII & FIV) competed during the finals.

The winners were:

- Form I : Tisha Heera, Swami Vivekananda SSS
- Form II : Aisha Alymamod , Lady Ramgoolam SSS
- Form III : Priyanka Jahul, Loreto College Quatre-Bornes
- Form IV : Shivangi Misra, Hindu Girls College

The 2011 National Spelling Bee Competition was once again sponsored by the US Embassy, the Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd, Reinsurance Solutions, Currimjee Foundation and the Municipal Council of Curepipe.

The winners were offered books by Mr Craig White, Public Affairs Officer of the United States of America, a cash voucher from Mrs Jane André of the Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd, a medal and a certificate from the Patron and President of the English-Speaking Union.

All finalists received a consolation prize offered by the US Embassy, a T-Shirt (with MCB & ESU logos) from the Mauritius Commercial Bank and a certificate of participation from the English-Speaking Union.

The ESU would like to thank all sponsors and all the volunteers who helped during the competition : the Masters of ceremony, Messrs Sanjit Teelock and Rajen Gangoosingh; The Pronouncers and Judges : Sir Victor Glover, Kt, G.O.S.K., Mr Craig White, Public Affairs Officer, US Embassy, Ms. Sharmilla Bhima, then President of ESU-Mauritius, Messrs Prem Burton, CSK, Vice-President of ESU-Mauritius, Rajen Gangoosingh (also M.C.) Parmanand Nunkoo, OSK, Aniroodh Ramjeeawon, PDSM, Ganesh Rampat, Jayraj Dayal, Parmaseeven Veeraragoo, Kevin Pather, Ashwin C. Baijnath, Azagen Vencatapillay, Mrs Anitah Aujayeb, Ms Reema Chataroo, Ms Arthi Deenoo & Ms Ratshita Murgur. Thank you to all host schools, participants & participating schools.

THE 2011 NATIONAL SPELLING BEE COMPETITION – RODRIGUES

The 7th edition of the Rodrigues National Spelling Bee Competition was held on Thursday 16th June 2011 at Le Chou College. Prior to the competition, there was a screening of a DVD on Spelling Bee competitions held in the United States.

The four winners for Rodrigues were:

- Form I : Jeffrey Cupidon, Le Chou College
- Form II : Jean Pierre Hansley, Le Chou College
- Form III : Stélio Jean, Rodrigues College
- Form IV : Eve Géraldine Emilien, Mont Lubin College

This year, 69 students from the 6 schools in Rodrigues took part in the competition. Indeed, the ESU was delighted to welcome Marechal College (Annex) whose students (F I, II and III) took part in the competition for the first time this year.

The Spelling Bee Competition in Rodrigues was sponsored by the Commission for Education, the Embassy of the United States of America, the Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd and the State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd (SICOM).

Mr Craig White, Public Affairs Officer of the United States of America once again travelled to Rodrigues to act as Pronouncer for the competition.

All participants in Rodrigues were offered books by the US Embassy, a T-Shirt (with MCB & ESU logos) from the Mauritius Commercial Bank, and Certificates from the ESU. Winners also received a cash voucher from Mr Alain Wong So of the MCB Ltd, and a medal from the English-Speaking Union.

We were delighted to welcome Mr Gaetan Jabeemissar, GOSK, Chief Commissioner, and Mr Lélío Roussety on this occasion.

We would like to convey our thanks and gratitude to Mr William Perrine for assisting us as jury, and to Mrs Laurence François & Ms Marie Rose de Lima Edouard of Le Chou College for their warm welcome and for the organization of both the Public Speaking Competition & the National Spelling Bee for 2011.

Thank you to all Rectors, teachers and participants.

THE ESU AND GLOBE EDUCATION CULTURAL SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS AT SHAKESPEARE GLOBE

ESU London has this year received a greater number of applicants, with only 20 places available for the seminar.

ESU-Mauritius has nominated five teachers for this scholarship. We are pleased to announce that Mr Kevin Pather of Royal College Port Louis is the recipient of the part-scholarship for the 2011 ESU Globe Education Cultural Seminar which will be held at the Shakespeare's Globe, London from 7th to 13th August 2011.

The seminar, will provide participants with an insight into the crafts involved in creating a production for the Globe Theatre. They will be introduced to Globe Education's approaches to teaching Shakespeare and will meet and work with Globe Theatre staff and Globe Education practitioners.

THE 2011 E-Teacher Scholarship Program – English Teacher Professional Development Distance Learning Program offered by the US Embassy

Three teachers nominated by the ESU have successfully completed the on-line programme organised by the US Department of State. They are: Ms Marie Rose de Lima Edouard of Le Chou College, Ms Brinda Hurnauth of Mahatma Gandhi Institute and Mrs Aruna Beedassy of Dr Maurice Curé State College. They were awarded a Certificate from the prestigious University of Oregon.

Mr Jhashketu (Ritesh) Ayrga of Royal College Curepipe and Ms Jayshree Dewdharee of Mahatma Gandhi Institute have recently started the programme in Web Skills and ESP Best Practices respectively.

Our nominees for the 2011 - 2012 programme

A panel of judges comprising Mr Prem Burton, CSK, Mrs Marie-France Roussety, Vice-Presidents of ESU-Mauritius and Mr Rajen Gangoosingh, Secretary, nominated the following teachers for the 2011-2012 on-line programme:

- 1) Mrs S. Seeneevassen of France Boyer de la Giroday SSS
- 2) Mrs W. Appadoo-Ramsamy of Hindu Girls College
- 3) Mrs S. Dhorbul of Gaetan Raynal State College
- 4) Mrs A. B. Ramgoolam of Sookdeo Bissoondoyal SC
- 5) Ms D. Ramparsad of Royal College Curepipe

Candidates selected for the programme have to be committed to fulfilling the program requirement, dedicating on average 8-10 hours of work per week and completing the course.

The ESU would like to express its thanks and gratitude to the US Embassy for the opportunity of nominating English teachers for the E-Teacher Scholarship Programme which provides training in the latest US methods of English language teaching via distance education. In particular, we would like to thank Mr Craig White, former Public Affairs Officer at the US Embassy who has been a loyal supporter of the ESU and who has recently left Mauritius.



E-Teacher Scholarship: Marie Rose de Lima Edouard of Le Chou College received her award from Mr Craig White, Public Affairs officer of the US Embassy

STUDY OF THE US INSTITUTE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATORS 2011

Mauritius was represented by Mr Sivananda Vencatapillay of Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School of Nouvelle France at the Study of the US Institute for Secondary School Educators conducted by the US Institute for Training & Development from 17th to 30th July 2011. Throughout the six weeks in the United States, activities included academic lectures and readings, panel discussions, film showings, site visits to historical locations and cultural and governmental institutions.

MISCELLENEOUS (Jan – June 2011)

ESU took part in the following activities:

- 1) 6th March 2011- National Day Celebrations : ESU took part in the "Artistic Fair" organised by the Ministry of Arts & Culture at the Municipality of Quatre-Bornes. Drawings made by students to mark the bicentenary arrival of the British in Mauritius were exhibited on this occasion. ESU was delighted to welcome Hon. M. Choonee, Minister of Arts & Culture at our stand.
- 2) 9th March 2011 – National Day Celebrations : Mr Prem Burton, CSK, Vice-President of the ESU sat on the judging panel of an elocution content for Form V Students, organised by the Municipal Council of Curepipe.
- 3) 10th March 2011 – National Day Celebrations : Mr Ganesh Rampat, Executive Member of the ESU, was one of the juries for a poem competition for Std V students, organised by the Municipal Council of Curepipe.
- 4) 3rd May 2011: In the context of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of International College, Messrs P. Nunkoo, OSK and A. Ramjeeawon, PDSM. Executive Members of the ESU sat on the judging panel of an elocution contest for Form IV and FV students.
- 5) 7th June 2011: Mr A. Ramjeeawon, PDSM, represented the ESU at an Inter-College Elocution Contest run by the Ministry of Youth & Sports.
- 6) 28th June 2011 : Mr R. Gangoosingh, Secretary of the ESU, sat as jury at the National Inter-College English Elocution Contest ran by the Ministry of Youth and Sports at the Municipal Council of Curepipe.

ESU now compiles stories on “How the ESU changed my life”. We encourage you to send us your experience with the ESU”.

“HOW THE ESU CHANGED MY LIFE” by Danny ONSIONG, (Participant PSC 2008, Semi-finalist PSC 2010, Laureate of the 2010 State Scholarship – Economics side, now a member of the ESU)

There occur myriad undertakings in one’s life which one forgets the following week. Other episodes linger in one’s mind for a couple of months or so. Then, there remain those experiences which – hard as one tries – cannot be forgotten.

To me, one such event is the ESU Public Speaking Competition. Actually, I cannot wipe out the competition from my memory for two reasons: first, I participated twice and, second, I never qualified for the finals!

By now, you must be wondering who is writing this article. In fact, I first represented Bell Village SSS in 2008. The college was then a novice in such national competitions since it had newly been built. As such, I can still recall how reluctant I was to agree to the proposition of Miss Gheerdya Samputh – then Head of the English Department – to embark on such a lofty venture. I happened to be the youngest participant that year.

I was convinced that my second attempt in 2010 would be the successful one. Thus, I did not hesitate to embrace the opportunity Mr. Kevin Pather had offered to me. Although my time-table was already laden by my academic pursuit, I would not miss a once-in-a-lifetime occasion to represent the Royal College of Port Louis. My instinct proved wrong! Masculine intuition often fails, indeed. Nonetheless, at least I qualified for the semi-finals and my school mate – Zoubeir Joosub – proudly represented our esteemed school at the Finals.

The English-Speaking Union (Mauritius) deserves heartfelt accolade and earnest support for being a catalyst of holistic development for the Mauritian youth.

The last two paragraphs may seem self-centred to many. Yet, they hold a universal truth: regardless the outcome of one’s endeavours, one demonstrates one’s maturity by humbly accepting the result. In fact, I admit that I was initially ashamed of my two successive shortcomings: never qualifying for the finals. In retrospect, I have no regrets though. Now, these words may sound like lame justifications; they are not. True, the genuine efforts I made were the best I could put in. No one can criticise such whole-hearted work.

Here is an excerpt of a wise prayer from the Royal College Port Louis, which everyone can muse:

*Oh God,
Grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change
The courage to change the things we can
And the wisdom to make the difference*

In fact, I mustered enough courage to change one major thing : my negative attitude to my personal failings.

In my mind, the ESU Public Speaking Competition gradually emerged as a stepping stone! I focused on the skills and qualities I had acquired on both attempts – self-confidence, maturity of thought, inter- and intra-personal aptitudes and many more. These attributes undeniably helped the Royal College Port Louis win the National Brainstrust Competition of the Rotary Club twice consecutively, in 2009 and 2010. Furthermore, they were tremendously useful to me as leader of our school winning-team at the Monetary Policy Challenge organised by the Bank of Mauritius.

Claiming that ESU Public Speaking Competition solely assists in winning first prizes at other competitions would amount to an unforgivable injustice to the virtuous mission of the Contest. In truth, the past experience of the ESU Public Speaking Competition comes in handy in other spheres of life too. As such, I have had the golden chance of shouldering the distinguished responsibility of Master of Ceremony in February, for the National Gala Show of the Spring Festival, and in March, on the National Day Celebrations at the Champ-de-Mars. Admittedly, I used a microphone on both occasions! Nevertheless, without first-hand experience at the ESU Public Speaking Competition, I would never have been at ease on stage.

I sincerely hope that the unpretentious experience I have shared will make participants, supporters and readers contemplate the countless possibilities which stem from the ESU Public Speaking Competition. Actually, my philosophy does not apply to the above-mentioned contest only. The English-Speaking Union (Mauritius) deserves heartfelt accolade and earnest support for being a catalyst of holistic development for the Mauritian youth. ‘Democratisation’ is a word very much in vogue these days. Together, let us hope that the life-changing opportunity given to a few lucky students will be extended to a greater number of Mauritian youngsters in the years to come.

More to come...
In the next issue of the ESU Newsletter, read about
how the ESU changed the life of :
Arthi Deenoo - National Winner of PSC 2006
Alvin Mahadeo Babeea, Finalist of PSC 2010

**MANAGEMENT : A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS by
Parmaseeven Veeraragoo, LLB MBA**

This book highlights the impact of culture on management evolution and development in Mauritius. It discusses a number of management concepts, theories and models with a particular slant on the Mauritian style of management. It provides insights into empowering front-line workers while working closely with people. A prominent feature is the potential application and use of the reflections and analyses by management practitioners and students.

The book is available from the ESU.