

Trade, Technology and Transformation Conference 2025

Empowering Africa's Future: Unveiling Economic Growth and Technological Advancement



PROGRAMME OUTLINE

VENUE: Lecture Theatre 2, New Academic Complex, University of Mauritius

Monday, 9 June 2025 – Arrivals

DAY ONE: Tuesday, 10 June 2025

9:30 – 10:30	<p>Programme Directors</p> <p>Mrs Varsha Mooneeram-Chadee (UoM)/ Mrs Georgina Ragaven (Director, Tutwa Consulting Group)</p> <p>Welcome to the Academic Conference by the Universities & Tutwa Consulting Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof Stephen Mutula, Dean and Head of the School of Commerce, University of KwaZulu-Natal - Professor Sanjeev K Sobhee, Vice Chancellor of University of Mauritius. <p>Keynote Address: HE High Commissioner Dr Hlamalani Nelly Manzini, South African High Commissioner to Mauritius – Women Will Not be Left Behind in Trade or Transformation</p> <p><i>Welcome to the Minister - Lesley Wentworth, Managing Director Tutwa Consulting Group</i></p> <p>Opening of the Conference by Honourable Junior Minister H. Narsinghen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade – AfCFTA and Importance of the Digital Trade Protocol for Island States</p>
10:30 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Discussion Panel - Whither Global Trade ... and How will Digital Transformation Influence it?</p> <p><i>Keynote Address: By Videolink: HE Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AfCFTA Secretariat</i></p> <p>Panel Lead: Mrs Varsha Mooneeram-Chadee (UoM) with HE Usha Dwarka- Canabady Former Mauritius Ambassador to the WTO, Professor Jaime de Melo, University of Geneva and Lesley Wentworth, Tutwa Consulting Group</p> <p>Panel Preview: As global trade patterns shift, Africa is embracing digital transformation to boost competitiveness and how tools like PAPSS, digital customs, and AfCFTA protocols are redefining trade for African economies—especially small states like Mauritius. How will Africa shape the future of trade?</p>
12:30-13:30	LUNCH
Session One: Digital Trade and Economic Integration	
13:30-15:00	<p>Keynote Speaker: Dr Kiru Pillay, Digital Researcher & Senior Lecturer</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Professor Upasana Gitanjali Singh, UKZN</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Digitisation of the Simplified Trade Regime as a means of Trade Facilitation, Sitshengisiwe Ndlovu ▪ Digital Trade as a Catalyst for Africa's Economic Integration, Amshuly Chandran and Tathagata Choudhury, Center for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, IIFT Department of Commerce, Government of India
15:00	Break for the Day
DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2025	
09:00-09:30	Registration
Session Three: Issues of Sustainability, capacity building in trade, investment and digital transformation	
09:30-10:30	Keynote Speaker (Nilesh Moodley, Sustainability Financing Expert)



	<p><i>Facilitator: Professor Boopen Seetanah</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bridging the Divide: Digital Transformation, Public Service Access, and Educational Equity in South Africa's Digital Future, Dahlvik Julia and Upasana G Singh, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa ▪ Connected Communities and Smart Cities in Africa: Digital Transformation for Sustainable Urbanisation, Joshua C. Ngoma and Stella Muhoro, Enterprising Africa Regional Network (EARN)
10:30-11:00	Tea
Session Four: Emerging issues in the trade, investment, and digital trade domain	
11:00-12:00	<p>UKZN Seminar: Secure, Smart, and Seamless: Harnessing Digital Technologies for Trade and Investment Growth</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Professor Upasana Gitanjali Singh, UKZN</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data Governance as a Pillar for Secure Digital Trade, Diana Sang, Africa Director, The Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL), Kenya ▪ India's Digital Trade Landscape – Lessons and Emerging Practices, Saroj Bishoyi, Senior Fellow, Centre for Technology and Scientific Studies, Vivekananda International Foundation, India ▪ EU Digital Tools for Trade – Regional Innovations and Policy Frameworks, Chloe Teevan, Head of Digital Economy and Governance, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) ▪ Smart Technologies and Startup-Driven Innovations in African Trade, John Kamara, CEO, Adanian Labs
12:00-13:00	Lunch
Session Five: Fundamental issues of trade, investment and digital transformation	
13:00-14:30	<p>Ms Vonesai Hove, Tripartite Non-Tariff Barriers Online System Administrator</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Thabelo Muleya (Tutwa Consulting Group)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-Tariff Barriers Transparency and Elimination through Online Reporting Mechanisms in the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement and Regional Economic Communities, Thembekile Mlangeni, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), SA ▪ EU Export of Regulatory Overreach: The Case of the Digital Markets Act (DMA), Matthias Bauer, Dyuti Pandya and Vanika Sharma, European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE) ▪ India-SACU Economic Engagement: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Impact of Digital Trade, Dr Animesh Kumar and Pooja Maurya, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT and Centre for Research in International Trade (CRIT) (Under Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry)
DAY THREE – THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2025	
9:30 – 11:00	<p>Special Panel: Green Transformation for Women and Youth</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Thabelo Muleya, Tutwa Consulting Group</i></p> <p>Mrs Georgina Ragaven (Tutwa Consulting Group-Mauritius)</p> <p>Ms Kate Chamley (Australian High Commission)</p> <p>Ms Nomzamo Mngqeta (Technical Assistance Expert for the Infrastructure Technical Assistance Facility (ITAF) Programme of the South African National Treasury)</p> <p>Mrs Kheeran Bahadoor (Economic Development Board)</p> <p>Mrs Danisha Sornum (Leadinclude Africa Ltd)</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee
Session Six: Building Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for inclusive Growth and Resilience in Africa	
11:30-12:30	<p>Keynote: Sukhwinder Singh, Director IMF Africa Training Centre</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Lesley Wentworth, Managing Director Tutwa Consulting Group</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understanding the Potential of Digital Public Infrastructure on Growth: Considerations for South Africa and Africa, Jayanthi Basdew and Katlego Nkgudi, National Treasury- SA ▪ Digital Engineering as a Necessary Capability to Facilitate AfCFTA, Professor Joe Amadi-Echendu, University of Pretoria
12:30 – 13:30	Certificate Ceremony