



CFA Society
Mauritius

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 17

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Dear Members/Candidates,

It seems that spring cleaning has started off earlier than usual in the local financial industry.

Unfortunately and invariably, it is once again the unwary investor/taxpayer who indirectly has been taken to the drycleaners!!

The implosion of the BAI group, the discovery of toxic debts at the MPCB and the embezzlement of funds from an obscure multipurpose cooperative have all left the local investors with a bitter taste in their mouth. Media overexposure of these events has further aggravated the perception of mistrust in the financial industry. Sensational news is interesting for a while, but not when it touches the investor's pockets.

In this reputational mayhem we exhort you, our dear readers, to maintain integrity and stay true to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct enshrined in the CFA Charter. These self-regulatory standards, *based on self-esteem*, are the tenets of our objectivity and independence; for, "*Self-esteem is a steed that never lets it's rider fall, neither at someone's feet nor in someone's eyes!*"

This noble thought has to be reinforced practically by constantly enhancing professional competence both for self and for other investment professionals. To this effect, your society is organizing a full day conference on the topic of "Laddering up the Value Chain: Building Substance in the Mauritian

International Financial Centre" to be held on the 25th June 2015 at Intercontinental Hotel Balaclava. There would be an interesting brochette of speakers of the like of Aaron Low, CFA (Chair of Board of Governors, CFA Institute as well as Principal of Lumen Advisors LLC).

We would encourage you to participate; also kindly do encourage your entourage to attend this event. The details of the event will be communicated to you in the weeks to follow.

Prior to chronologically reporting what your society and its representatives have been up to, we would like to wish our candidates success in the upcoming exams and sunshine beyond!!!

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Contact Information:

CFA Society Mauritius
admin@mauritius.cfasociety.org
www.cfasociety.org/mauritius/

OUTREACH INITIATIVE

13th February 2015: Financial Services Commission Outreach Initiative

On this date, three CFASM representatives, namely Ved Auckaloo, Randhir Mannick and Nousher Sait, met with Mr.G.Ballam, Head Policy, FSC to discuss the pertinence of the CFAI Asset Managers Code. On the same occasion, a report authored by the Advocacy Chair, entitled “Walking that extra mile in promoting a code of ethical and professional conduct for Asset Managers” was remitted to Mr.Ballam.



L to R: Mr.G. Ballam, Head Policy, FSC, Randhir Mannick,CFA and Nousher Sait,CFA

This report advocates the role of the voluntary CFAI Asset Managers Code and it’s complimentary nature while shoring up the existing Securities Act. Further to the meeting, a letter delineating the possible integration of the AMC within the Code of Business Conduct framework as freshly promulgated by the FSC was proposed. We hope to renew the dialogue with the new office bearers at the FSC and to charter a way forward towards a more transparent investment industry

5TH MARCH 2015: PRE-BUDGET CONFERENCE HELD AT HENNESSY HOTEL, EBENE

A Round Table discussion on “The Challenges and Expectations of the National Budget 2015” was organized by CFASM, given the time relevance of the topic and also as a forum to voice our opinion in nation building. The event regrouped representatives of both the public and private sector. Ravin Dajee, Managing Director of Barclays Bank Mauritius Ltd, deliberated on banking, Mahen Govinda, Head of Technology and Corporate Finance Advisory, presented on the global business and Bernard Yen, Managing Director of Aon Hewitt (Mauritius), concluded on the insurance sector.



L to R: Ashwin Prayag,CFA, Norman Fon Sing, CFA, Sharona Rambocus, CFA, Bernard Yen, Mahen Govinda, Ravin Dajee, Randhir Mannick,CFA, Nousher Sait, CFA, Rajeev Hasnah,CFA, Ved Auckaloo



Bernard Yen, Managing Director of Aon Hewitt (Mauritius) giving his presentation



Attendees of the Pre-budget conference 2015



Q&A Session

19TH TO 21ST MARCH 2015: CFA INSTITUTE EMEA REGIONAL MEETING AT BUCHAREST, ROMANIA



L to R: Sudha Ramsurrun, Randhir Mannick, CFA, Paul Smith, CFA, CEO of CFA Institute, Sharona Rambocus, CFA, and Norman Fon Sing, CFA during the Regional Meeting at Bucharest.

Your society was represented at this regional conference by Randhir Mannick, Sharona Rambocus, Norman Fon Sing and our administrative officer, Sudha Ramsurrun.

The theme of the conference was “Building Our Brand” and the regional meet was designed to give society leaders the opportunity to learn and network with their colleagues of the EMEA region. At this conference, the management of the “CFA” brand was established as a key priority for CFAI and the regional societies across the world. In this context, working sessions were organized in order to identify as to how a better awareness of local societies, the Charter and the Institute could be accomplished. Given the holistic nature of the task, CFAI has set up a Society Brand Council, thus dedicating resources and synergy to this global initiative.

14TH-15TH APRIL 2015: CAREER FAIR, UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

The Society had participated with an aim to provide further career guidance to the outgoing university students. Marketing resources outlining the CFA curriculum were also distributed. It was interesting to note that many students knew about the CFA designation and brand, even before coming to the stands. Indeed, a just compensation for the sustained efforts of the previous years.

This year we were aided in this initiative by members Shanaka Katuwawala, Sazia Khodabaksh and candidates Aswin Nenduradu, Soovydhee Mohanpersad, Arvind Nilmadhub, Vythelingum Neetya and Luv Krishna Soyjaudah.

We are ever so grateful to all these volunteers for their time and effort.

*Explaining to the students
about CFA Program in
Paul Octave Wiehe
Auditorium*





L to R: Imrith Ramtohol, CFA and Nousher Sait, CFA during the 68th CFAI Annual Conference, Frankfurt, Germany

26TH TO 29TH APRIL 2015: 68TH CFA INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD AT FRANKFURT, GERMANY

The conference was on the topic of “Investing for a Purpose”. The conference was not only attended by the habitual two evergreen veterans, James Benoit and Imrith Ramtohol, but also saw Nousher Sait marking a debutant presence in this international circuit. There were more than 2000 delegates from the financial sector from all over the globe. Interesting enough, the speakers were of diverse backgrounds; including Philippa Malmgren (former geopolitical advisor to President G.Bush), Jurgen Stark (European Central Bank Board of Governors) and Martin Wolf (Chief Economics Commentator, FT) and many others. The two main currents of the topics were the “Effects of Geopolitics on asset pricing” and the “The impact and consequences of high frequency trading” with recurrent mentions of big data, algorithmic trading and the speed of trade execution given the advent of super computers.



68th CFA Annual Conference Ambience and conviviality at Gala Dinner held at Kurhaus, Wiesbaden, Germany.

16TH MAY 2015: CFA MOCK EXAMS FOR ALL LEVELS, EX-MBC BUILDING, CUREPIPE



Candidates sitting for Mock exam

This is the second consecutive year that the mock exams are being conducted by the CFASM to help candidates plug up the knowledge gaps revealed during this exercise. This year the exams were conducted in collaboration with Kaplan Schweser. The number of candidates registered for the mocks was 31.

It was almost double the number of candidates since last year indicating that this initiative has taken roots and is appreciated. This year our administrative officer, Sudha, got the candidates to give a feedback so as to make improvements to this feature.

SUSTAINED MEDIA PRESENCE:

Bizweek, 14th February 2015: An article entitled “*Investment Perspectives 2015*” based on the General Market Sentiment Survey of the CFA Institute was published. This has been a regular feature for the last three years. It is a means of dispersing and making available knowledge gleaned from the annual CFAI survey of respected investment practitioners to the local industry.

Bizweek, 14th March 2015: News coverage headlined as “*Le Code Voluntaire de CFAI*” recording the handing over of the report making the case of the AMC by CFASM to FSC was published.

Le Matinal, 14th March 2015: Randhir Mannick gave an interview disseminating to the general public the budget

proposal submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development during the budget consultation process. It made a case to bring more substance in the Mauritius International Financial Centre and to diversify the market base. The CFASM proposed several measures for the financial services sector including: the review the legal and business framework, creating substance and the creation of a dedicated institution for the development and promotion of financial services. It was gladly noted that a few of the proposed measures were thereafter announced in the budget.

Bizweek, 21st March 2015: The CFASM Round Table Pre-budget Deliberations on the National Budget Speech were brought out under news coverage “*Mauritius to be the Singapore of Africa*”.

Bizweek, 30th May 2015: An article titled “*Ponzi to be or not to be?*” was published taking recent local events into consideration. The article outlines the different firewalls of a hypothetical regulatory protocol that could be put in place, prior to bringing a financial scheme to market, so as to mitigate the “runaway” effects.

CFASM WEBSITE REVAMPING INITIATIVE:

Revamping of the website has been one of our objectives in the current financial year so as to better (1) promote the public’s understanding of CFA designation and within the investment industry, and (2) facilitate the exchange of information and opinions among people within the local investment community, through the use of social media amongst others. However, given that we recently learnt at the EMEA Meeting that CFAI is in the process of upgrading its website and system platforms worldwide, it was decided that the conclusion of this upgrade be stalled, before we decide on any customization that will be required domestically. The MC would like to place on record its appreciation of the assistance provided by Jessica Ha Shun, CFA on this project.

RESEARCH CHALLENGE INITIATIVE:

The CFA Institute Research Challenge is a global competition that tests the equity research and valuation, investment report writing, and presentation skills of university students. This annual educational initiative promotes best practices in equity research among the next generation of analysts through hands-on mentoring and intensive training in company analysis and presentation skills. CFASM is pleased to announce that it has embarked on a project to host the first-ever local Research Challenge, in conjunction with participating local universities and local CFA Institute volunteers. We are currently in the process of soliciting local universities to participate in this initiative, and have identified a local public company to work with. Moreover, to bring this initiative to fruition, CFASM requires the assistance of volunteers in various roles. In this regard, we are expecting our members to positively respond to our recently sent request. We would like to place on record our appreciation for the assistance being provided by Shanaka Katuwawala, CFA for this initiative.

Last but not least, we would like to thank Rajeev Hasnah for volunteering to help in the organization of the conference: “Laddering up the Value Chain: Building Substance in the Mauritian International Financial Services Centre”. The MC is appreciative of the increasing support of volunteers and look forward to more of such assistance and collaboration in the future.

This being the last Newsletter of our tenure as Managing Committee, we would like to thank all our valued members for their unstinted support and cordiality shown to us during the last three years. We have enjoyed serving you and hope that we are leaving with a lasting impression. The date of the Annual General Meeting and the election of a new Managing Committee will be announced shortly. Wishing you the very best!!!!

THE MANAGING COMMITTEE



**Randhir
Mannick, CFA
President**



**Sharona
Rambocus, CFA
Vice-President**



**Ashwin
Prayag, CFA
Secretary**



**Norman Fon
Sing, CFA
Treasurer**



**Nousher Sait, CFA
Advocacy Chair
& Asst. Treasurer**



**Ved Auckaloo
Education Chair,
Membership Chair
& Asst. Secretary**

OUR CORPORATE PATRONS 2014/2015

