MAURITIUS CHINA RELATIONS

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

The China-Mauritius relationship is not only historic but has been nurtured ever since the arrival of the Chinese immigrants in the mid-18th century. Mauritius is very proud that an economically dynamic and culturally vibrant section of its population is of Chinese descent and contributes significantly to the human and cultural diversity that make up the Mauritian population. Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius, is home to one of the oldest Chinatowns in Africa having been built by the first big wave of Chinese immigrants that arrived as far back as the 1780s.

The Chinese way of life has, in a way, influenced the Mauritius multi-cultural society. Chinese cuisine has become an integral part of its culinary landscape. Every year, the Chinese Food Festival attracts an important gathering in China Town. Firecrackers which are engraved in the Chinese culture have been transmitted to other communities. Nowadays, every Mauritian is fond of firecrackers, be it New Year, Divali and Christmas. The art of living in harmony with one's environment Feng Shui (water and wind) is being adopted by Mauritians of diverse origins.

Mauritius is the only African country, which lists the Spring festival as a public holiday.

FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Mauritius and the People's Republic of China in 1972, the two sides have been deepening cooperation in various areas. These amongst others include signature of various agreements in different sectors. Opening of Mauritius Embassy in China, Opening of Chinese Cultural Centre and Confucius Institute in Mauritius:

- Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation in 1972
- Signature of a Cultural Agreement in 1980
- Establishment of Sino Mauritius Joint Commission on Economic, Technical and Trade Cooperation in 1983
- Opening of the first Chinese overseas Cultural Centre in Africa in 1988
- Twinning of Port Louis with Foshan in 1989
- Signature of Agreement of Double Taxation and Prevention of Tax Evasion in 1994
- Signature of Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) in 1995
- Signature of Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investment Agreement in 1996.
- Opening of the Mauritius Embassy in Beijing in 1996
Twinning of Beau Bassin and Changzou in 1997

Twinning of Curepipe and Meixian in 2002

Signature of a Political Consultation Mechanism in 2005

Twinning of Quatre Bornes and Daquin in 2007

Memorandum of Understanding between Municipal Council of Vacoas Phoenix and city of Nantong in 2008

Signature of a Visa Exemption Agreement in 2013

Opening of the Confucius Institute of the University of Mauritius in 2016.

**High Level visits to Mauritius:**

- H.E. Mr. Hu Jintao, President of the People’s Republic of China was on official visit to Mauritius in February 2009

- H.E Mr. XI Jing Ping, President of the People’s Republic of China visited Mauritius in July 2018
High Level visits from Mauritius:

- The late Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the then Prime Minister visited China in 1972.
- Dr. Navin Ramgoolam, the then Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius undertook official visits to China in 1997 and 2007.
- Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth Prime Minister visited China in September 2018 during which four agreements were signed namely, the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance, the Extradition Treaty, Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Agreement on the Conclusion the Negotiations for Mauritius-China Free Trade Agreement

Ambassadors of Mauritius to China since opening of Mauritius Embassy in 1996:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>From presentation of credentials to departure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H.E. Mr Rhafic Janhangeer</td>
<td>20 August 1996- 28 January 2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.E. Mrs. Madeleine Lee</td>
<td>12 June 2000 – 01 January 2001</td>
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<td>H.E. Mr. Lim Kwat Chow Lam Po Tang</td>
<td>8 July 2002 – 29 August 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.E. Mr. Paul Reynold Lit Fong Chong Leung</td>
<td>21 February 2006- 19 January 2015</td>
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<td>H.E. Mr. Miao Kwong Lee Hon Chong</td>
<td>19 August 2015 – present</td>
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