

# The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Trade

## **Background**

The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Trade (IDFT) was set up in 2007 and operates as a platform under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

It also operates as the Ministry's in-house training, capacity-building and thinking-tank platform. The IDFT offers a series of lectures, workshops, as well as opportunities for mentoring and sharing of experiences throughout the year. Though the main audience of the IDFT is the diplomatic cadre and analytic cadres of the Ministry, some events are open to civil servants from other Ministries, the private sector and civil society.

The objective of the IDFT is to provide participants with key input on issues of international, regional and global concern related to political, economic/trade, social, cultural, environmental issues, diplomacy, protocol, and others. Its aim is to enable participants to develop the necessary skills to effectively handle issues with an international dimension.

Since its inception, the IDFT has organised over 100 training sessions which have benefited more than a thousand participants. The training sessions can either be short or long term. They are delivered by both internal and external resources persons from Mauritius and from friendly countries / institutions.

## **Collaboration with other Diplomatic Institutions**

The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Trade has also expanded its outreach to its counterparts of other countries through the signature of Memorandum of Understanding, namely with

- the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India in December 2007, for the establishment and development of the IDFT.
- the China Foreign Affairs University and China Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on 30 August 2018.

The conclusion of similar MoUs with other Institutions for eg the Estonian School of Diplomacy is currently being discussed.