SYMPOSIUM NEWS
WIOMSA’s President welcomes you to the 11th WIOMSA Symposium 1
What’s new in the Eleventh Symposium 2
Changes in the Symposium Programme 4
Shuttles to the Symposium Venue 5
Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science 5

PRE-SYMPOSIUM EVENT
School Art Competition held as part of the 11th WIOMSA Symposium 6

SIDE EVENTS
Screening of the film “Sharing the Mozambique Channel” by IRD and WIOMSA, in the presence of its director Bernard Surugue 7
WiMS: Speed networking with women in marine science 8

MINI SYMPOSIA
Blue Carbon and Climate Change 8
PEACC project - A synthesis of new Knowledge, Key achievements and Reflections for future interdisciplinary research in the WIO region 9
Satellite Data for Coastal Risk Applications - building capacity in the South West Indian Ocean 10
To plant or not to plant - that is the question 11

SPECIAL SESSIONS
MeerWissen- African-German Partners for Ocean Knowledge welcomes you to our Information Booth and Special Session at the WIOMSA Scientific Symposium 12
BCSS WIO Ocean Observatory joins the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) 13
SA IORAG Hosts Special Session at the 11th WIOMSA Symposium 14
When kids meet scientists at the WIOMSA conference 14

ADVERTISEMENTS
Conservation International at the WIOMSA Symposium 15
Nature Seychelles’ Coral Reef Restoration Toolkit, developed in the Seychelles, is available for free download 16
Revealed: Technical University of Mombasa held its 1st Multidisciplinary Conference and Innovation Week from 1st to 5th April 2019 17
Special excursions during the 11th WIOMSA Symposium 18
WIOMSA’s President welcomes you to the 11th WIOMSA Symposium!

On behalf of the organisers of the Symposium, WIOMSA, the University of Mauritius and the Nairobi Convention, welcome to the 11th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium at the University of Mauritius. While it has been less than two years since the last symposium in Dar es Salaam, I hope you are as excited as I am to meet again, and Mauritius could not be more beautiful this time of year. We are particularly excited to be back in Mauritius after fourteen years since the 4th symposium in 2005. It is also good to be back in the islands after a ten-year break! The last symposium in the island states was the 6th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium in Reunion in 2009.

The beauty of this island as reflected by its beautiful beaches and inland tropical forests among others will help put you in the mindset of this symposium’s theme, “People, Coasts and Oceans: Opportunities for a changing future”. The coastal and marine environment means a lot to the Western Indian Ocean region but more importantly to Mauritius and other islands in the region.

With more than 600 participants coming from 32 countries, the Eleventh Symposium has broken all the previous attendance records. This is another confirmation that the symposium continues to be recognized as the place to be due to its reputation as an intellectual and knowledge marketplace that offers a unique regionwide platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, capacity building, strategic action and cooperation. I hope you will take advantage of every opportunity to expand your knowledge by attending a variety of sessions and networking with the field’s leading professionals.

Lastly, I want to personally thank all the individuals who have worked to make this event such a success. Your diligent efforts are vital to WIOMSA and to coastal and marine science in general.

What is new in the Eleventh Symposium

Several modifications have been made to the traditional symposium structure in order to improve the quality of science, outputs and overall experience of the WIOMSA Symposium. In addition to our regular scientific programme consisting of keynote presentations, oral and poster presentations, exhibition and specially convened sessions, new sessions referred as ‘Mini-Symposia’ have been introduced. The purpose of the mini symposia is to allow the convening groups to present and discuss issues of regional importance with the intention of coming up with syntheses on the current status of knowledge, furthering research and policy recommendations, and/or introduce novel perspectives and approaches. Ten mini symposia are scheduled on Monday and Tuesday from 1600 to 1740 covering a range of topics including satellite data for coastal risk application, digital technologies for marine biodiversity data; estuarine systems; blue carbon and Aichi targets. Other focus areas of the mini symposia include science communication, marine plastics, upwelling...
systems of the Eastern African coast, improving fisheries governance and ecosystem restoration.

The Nairobi Convention and partners have started a process of developing a regional Ocean Governance Strategy. The focus of the strategy is on the attaining the objectives of the agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and goal 14. The strategy also aims to strengthen existing regional oceans governance mechanisms, and frameworks and provide options and alternative arrangements to support Blue Economy and marine biodiversity conservation in the region. The symposium provides a unique opportunity to give input to the development of the regional ocean strategy. In this respect, session chairs (with support of rapporteurs) and conveners of mini symposia will be summarizing the key findings of their sessions and submitting three recommendations that are of regional importance to be considered during the development of the regional ocean strategy. The recommendations will focus on knowledge gaps; capacity needs and management/policy challenges/opportunities. A synthesis of these recommendations will be presented on the 5th July 2019 during the plenary and in the Special Session on Ocean Governance for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO).

Another major event is the workshop organized by the Network for Women in Marine Science (WiMS) that will be held on 30th June 2019. This workshop, ‘Women and Ocean Workshop: Implementation of the SSF Guidelines and their gender dimension’, is the first event to be organized by the Network and will bring together scientists and practitioners, to explore new levers for the implementation of the small-scale fisheries (SSF) Guidelines as part of the SDG 14 that blend the insights from different scientific disciplines, including the social sciences, with the experience of practitioner in search of new room for maneuver.

The 11th WIOMSA symposium has broken two records: the highest number of special sessions and exhibitions! Twenty-two special sessions will be held, and 11 exhibitors will showcase their work and products during the symposium.
Changes in the Symposium Programme

Oral Presentations
Two changes have been effected in the programme for Oral presentations on Monday, 1 July 2019 and 3 July 2019. A presentation ‘Schleyer, M.; S. Porter; C. Floros; S. Laing; A. Macdonald; P. Montoya-Mayo; T. Morris; M. Seré - The Future of High-Latitude Coral Systems: A Review Based on Three Decades of South African Reef Research’ in Session III: Status of coral reef and services dependent on them has been interchanged with ‘Macdonald, A.; C. Onyango. - A biochemical index to assess response to heat stress and bleaching in two coral holobionts of varying resilience in the KwaZulu-Natal Coast, Durban’ in Session XV: Climate change related stressors.

Withdrawn Orals
A presentation, ‘Kimathi, A.; J. Wakibia; M. Gichua. - Growth rates of Eucheumoids (Rhodophyta; Gigartinales) cultured using modified off-bottom and floating raft techniques in the Kenyan coast’ in the Session XXI: Mariculture and FADs has been withdrawn.

Reorganisation of Poster Presentations
To maximise on available space and resources, please note that each poster will only be displayed at the Raised Plaza thematically for 2 days as per the schedule below. Posters being displayed on the 1st and 2nd July will be mounted on Sunday- Monday morning and will have to be removed after the poster session on Tuesday 2nd July. The posters being presented on the 3rd and 4th will be mounted on 2nd (after 4 pm) and on 3rd July 2019. Poster presenters are requested to avail themselves at the assigned times.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 July 2019</td>
<td>• Capacity development and outreach</td>
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<td>• Coastal and marine technologies supporting management</td>
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<td>• Marine biodiversity and threatened marine species</td>
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<td>2 July 2019</td>
<td>• Coastal and marine living resources</td>
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<td>• Coastal governance and policy</td>
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<td>3 July 2019</td>
<td>• Critical habitats</td>
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<td>• Environmental and climate vulnerability, resilience and adaptation</td>
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<td>4 July 2019</td>
<td>• Genetic diversity and connectivity</td>
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<td>• Human dimension of coastal communities</td>
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<td>• Physical, metrological and geological process</td>
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<td>• Pollution: source, fate and social and environmental impacts</td>
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The Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science is the research publication of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA). It publishes original research papers or other relevant information in all aspects of marine science and coastal management as articles, reviews, and short communications (notes). It is a free access online journal with no charges for the authors. The journal is referenced in most citation indexes, its papers have DOI indexation and was recently attributed a star by the Journal Publishing Practices and Standards (JPPS) framework.

We invite researchers working on the WIO region to submit their manuscripts to the Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science. In particular, we would like to invite delegates of the WIOMSA 11th Scientific Symposium to submit their presentations to the journal, either for the regular issues or by proposing thematic Special Issues derived from sessions of the Symposium. Guest editors for Special Issues are welcome.
The National School Art Competition was one of the side events organized in the context of the 11th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium. The Competition involved paintings only and had to reflect the theme: People, Coasts and Oceans: Opportunities for a changing future. The competition was a scientific art competition, i.e. winners were not judged solely by the quality of their artwork but rather by their ability to portray the theme accurately. The competition was open to all primary and secondary schools of the country. At the primary level, there was a single category, Grades 4-6 (ages 8-11) and at the secondary level, there were two categories, Grades 7-9 (ages 12-14) and Grades 10-13 (ages 15-18). The competition was hosted by the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre (RGSC), where the Prize-Giving Ceremony was also held on 13th June 2019. This competition was a huge success as more than 200 schools submitted works of art and there were 1172 entries received, a record number of entries for an art competition. During the prize-giving ceremony, the Guest of Honor, Associate Prof (Dr) Mohammad Isaack Santally, the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Planning & Resources) of the University of Mauritius, stressed the importance of marine education in today’s education curriculum and told the students that they were our future ocean leaders and that their education and sensitization to the issues regarding our marine environment and marine resources now were extremely important for them to be able to create a nation with a diverse, knowledgeable, and adequately prepared workforce to enhance understanding of the marine environment and make decisions regarding complex ocean- and coastal-related issues. Each category featured 3 main cash prizes and 7 consolation prizes. This art competition was a beautiful way of integrating Science and Art and prove that the two can be complimentary, because they are both human attempts to understand and describe the world around us. All the participating students were thanked and encouraged to continue exploring their capacities as scientists and artists.

Winning pictures

CATEGORY A (Grade5-6) 3rd Prize

CATEGORY A (Grade5-6) 2nd PRIZE

CATEGORY A (Grade5-6) 1st PRIZE
A real fish nursery in the Indian Ocean, the Mozambique Channel is both a great biodiversity reserve and a strategic economic area. With a growing population and the discovery of natural gas in the Channel, neighbouring countries will have to explore this potential to develop their economy. How to do that while preserving the marine environment, without
The WIOMSA Network of Women in Marine Science presents our Speed Networking special event - an unparalleled opportunity for professionals and students to meet and interact with exceptional female marine scientists from the Region. We invite all WIOMSA delegates to attend this event where we will share our collective stories about gender aspects of marine science and practice.

**WiMS: Speed networking with women in marine science**

The WIOMSA Network of Women in Marine Science presents our Speed Networking special event - an unparalleled opportunity for professionals and students to meet and interact with exceptional female marine scientists from the Region. We invite all WIOMSA delegates to attend this event where we will share our collective stories about gender aspects of marine science and practice.

**By James Kairo, KMFRI/Pew Fellow (2019)**

Blue carbon (BC) describes the carbon storage potential of vegetated coastal ecosystems, including tidal marshes, mangrove forests, and seagrasses. These coastal ecosystems are of global significance in carbon capture and storage. When degraded, co-benefits provided by BC are greatly diminished along with the ecosystems’ capacity to sequester carbon. Restoration and protection of mangroves is, therefore, recognized as a priority for both climate change mitigation and adaptation; and several countries have identified measures that harness these benefits in their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC’s) to Paris Agreement.

**Blue Carbon and Climate Change**

**Venue:** POWA, Wednesday 3 July 2019, 8:15 am
Previous studies have shown that WIO region has a great potential as a carbon storage hotspot with high to moderate carbon storage in relation to global estimates. In Kenya for instance, carbon estimate for mangroves has been estimated at 1500tC/ha, which is 10 times higher than that of their terrestrial counterparts. The mini-symposium on ‘Blue Carbon in WIO’ on July 1, 2019 aspires to fill information gaps and prioritize research agenda on BC in WIO. Work in the ensuing years has seen a vast improvement in the depth of information on BC in the region, thereby providing the basis for considering inclusions of carbon gains and losses associated with national reporting. Together with learning of new tools and protocols for measuring, reporting and verifying BC, the session will provide a good opportunity for country-to-country dialogue on the status and conditions of BC. Lastly, the session will identify barriers that hinder mainstreaming of BC in the national and regional climate change agenda.

PEACC project - A synthesis of new Knowledge, Key achievements and Reflections for future interdisciplinary research in the WIO region

Convener’s correspondent: Dr Issufo Halo

The Productivity of the East African Coastal Current (PEACC) project, was a multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary scientific research venture involving institutions from the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) countries namely Tanzania, Kenya, South-Africa, and international institutions in USA and the UK. The PEACC’s main goal was to investigate the responses of biological productivity and fisheries to changes in atmospheric and oceanographic conditions in the upwelling region associated with the East African Coastal Current (EACC). To achieve its goals, PEACC with support from WIOMSA-MASMA and UNESCO-IOC, compiled and analyzed a suit of datasets retrieved by different platforms including in-situ oceanographic instruments, satellite remote sensing, numerical models, and regional small pelagic fisheries biology and catch assessment, primary production and socio-economic surveys. The wealth of new scientific and societal information and knowledge the PEACC project has generated is underway to be published in a special issue of a journal, and it is expected to be of interest for the WIO community and the public at large. Furthermore, the project has established legacy in the form of virtual networking able to efficiently link highly qualified professionals in the field with high interest in the WIO region. On Tuesday 2nd July 2019, Mini-Symposium-8 will run in parallel with the WIOMSA general
We warmly invite WIOMSA participants to attend this mini-symposium on Monday (1st July) at 1600-1740 in LT1.

In the South-Western Indian Ocean region the lives and economic security of coastal populations are highly vulnerable to the consequences of climate variability and change. The region also hosts internationally important marine ecosystems, which are endangered by a changing marine climate.

Access to enhanced regional information on coastal risk factors (sea level, wave and wind extremes) can support planning to protect coastal communities, maintain environments and safeguard economic activity, and can also contribute to increased industrial and commercial competitiveness in the maritime sector. However, sustained in situ observations are sparse, so scientists have adapted satellite data to address the information gap.

This mini-symposium will bring together stakeholders and scientists to review the state of the art (in terms of relevant satellite data information and processing tools), consider initial results from example Use Case applications and discuss steps necessary to build a self-supporting regional network. This regional network will aim to build local capacity in the use of satellite data, providing scientific decision support for strategy development, governance and management of coastal areas to increase coastal resilience.

Interested? Please come and join in our discussion!

Also come and see our posters (numbers 1, 4 and 5) in the Capacity Development and Outreach session.
With 1-7% loss by area per year blue carbon ecosystems (i.e. mangroves, seagrass and salt marshes) are the most threatened natural ecosystems on earth. Although many restoration projects have been initiated to return the lost blue carbon ecosystems, only few successful examples exist. Causes of restoration failures ranges from poor species-site matching, lack of community participation, poor monitoring and lack of protocols to guide such projects. Through the regional UNEP’s WIOSAP project, Nairobi Convention unveiled regional restoration guidelines for mangroves and seagrass restoration. These guidelines provide step-by-step procedures of planning, implementing, and monitoring restoration project. The two guides will be discussed during a Mini-Symposium on Facilitation of Successful Ecosystem Restoration in the WIO Region scheduled on 2nd of July. Participants will meet and discuss with authors of the documents on the question of whether to plant or not to plant mangroves and seagrasses.
The MeerWissen Initiative supports partnerships between marine research institutions in Africa and Germany that work at the science-policy interface. Come meet the MeerWissen team at its Info Booth and learn more about the initiative, funding opportunities and the African-German partnership projects. Our partners will give short presentations about their projects during coffee breaks. On Friday, 5th July we cordially invite you to join MeerWissen’s Special Session “Building capacities for knowledge-based policy-making in the WIO Region”. We will discuss possible roles, communication outputs and best practices in knowledge-based policy making, while learning about the four MeerWissen projects from the region:

- **New Digital Technologies for Marine Biodiversity Data Handling in East Africa - Data linking people (NeDiT).** Partners: Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) and Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT)

- **The West Indian Ocean Governance & Exchange Network” (WIOGEN) Partners:** International Ocean Institute (IOI) South Africa and ZMT

- **CoastWise: Improving knowledge for integrated marine and coastal management in South Africa.** Partners: South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Nelson Mandela University (NMU), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht (HZG)

- **Fishing Data East Africa - Improved data handling for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in East Africa (FiDEA).** Partners: Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI); Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS); National Institute of Fisheries Research (IIP, Mozambique) and ZMT.

For more information contact us at info@meerwissen.org
MOZAMBIQUE: On the 5th of June 2019, the Bazaruto Center for Scientific Studies (BCSS) WIO Ocean Observatory, joined the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network’s (GOA-ON) collaborative effort to provide an international ocean monitoring platform.

“This work will cover a region identified as in urgent need of basic data to identify the stresses the marine ecosystems are likely to experience and the best pathways to address these issues. The project will be an important contribution to building capacity for the region and contributing to the GOA-ON Africa Hub, which brings together African scientists, their expertise and local knowledge to tackle ocean acidification”, Bronte Tilbrook said, from CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere & Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC.

The BCSS WIO Ocean Observatory assists in monitoring the impacts of climate change and anthropogenic impacts on marine ecosystems, habitats and species by providing environmental variables long-term time-series data to understand change at the local, regional, and national scale. The Observatory innovates with its multi-ecosystem approach to separate sources and inputs and segregate them by both habitat and ecosystem.

Learn more about it on bcssmz.org and at our booth at the 11th WIOMSA Symposium.
Following on from the special session hosted at the 10th WIOMSA Symposium, and other regional networking engagements, the South African Chapter of the Indian Ocean Rim Association Academic Group (IORAG) will be hosting a special session at the 11th WIOMSA Symposium, titled ‘Fostering Regional Engagement through Transdisciplinary Research’. This session is being held in collaboration with the Western Indian Ocean Early Career Scientists Network.

South Africa will hand over the chairship of IORA to the United Arab Emirates later on in 2019, and this will therefore be one of the last international events South Africa will participate in as chair of the IORAG.

Further information can be found at the following link.

Symposium delegates are invited to join us for what will be an informative and interactive session!

When kids meet scientists at the WIOMSA conference

Do you know that you might see kids among the WIOMSA participants? They may be the future marine biologists of Mauritius! In the week leading to the symposium, the Research Institute for Development (IRD) from La Reunion Island, in collaboration with Reef Conservation of Mauritius took the students from Ecole du Nord on a fieldtrip at Cap Malheureux to do a monitoring survey on a shallow coral reef.
Cl Madagasctar is participating again in this WIOMSA symposium thanks to the C-RiSe project initiative that we are leading for the Ambodivahibe Marine Protected Area (MPA). During this symposium, we will present our posters entitled “C-RiSe Coastal Risk Information Service : Modelling the impact of climate change on ecosystem, the case study of Ambodivahibe Marine Protected Area” and we would like invite participants to come and see us. For more exchange and eventual collaboration.

We would like to continue to collaborate with C-RiSe and partners as SATOC, NOC and UK Space to complete and implement our project for Ambodivahibe MPA that we are officially managing.

Come meet them on Friday 5th July, from 11:00 to 13:00 in Room 1.9, Lecture Hall 2, to see their results and help them answer their questions on the health of coral reefs and their future. You could have the opportunity to play a participative game with them that shows the importance of cooperation for reef management. The preferred language for the exchange with the students will be French.

There, they counted the different types of fish, assessed the coral vitality, and identified positive and negative impacts of reef users. Back in the classroom, they analysed their results and drew their conclusion on the coral reef health status.

By Clarck Rabenandrasana and Ando Rabearisoa
Nature Seychelles, a leading NGO in the Western Indian Ocean, has announced the launch of a coral reef restoration toolkit developed in the Seychelles, in December 2018. The toolkit derives from a ground-breaking large scale coral reef restoration project the NGO has carried out in the Seychelles, an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean off of East Africa called the ‘Reef Rescuers.’


Nature Seychelles started the Reef Rescuers project in 2010, after receiving a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to combat Climate Change induced coral bleaching in Seychelles.

Announcing the toolkit’s launch, Nature Seychelles’ Chief Executive Dr. Nirmal Shah said, “This is an opportune moment to showcase our efforts in Seychelles to the global coral reef restoration community.”

“We want to share best practices, techniques, and tools, as well as challenges and lessons learnt to help others who might want to carry out similar work. Scientists who worked on the toolkit are attending the conference and will be on hand to discuss these efforts.”

The toolkit provides guidance on appropriate project design and describes the protocols used in the restoration, logistics, and execution of the project, based on experience and field-tested methods.

It aims to be a companion for scientists, managers, practitioners and local communities who are facing a coral reef restoration challenge and require guidance.

“We explain the methods used in our coral reef restoration project and how we solved the problems encountered, using low cost solutions with the limited resources found in a small island developing state,” Torres, Montoya-Maya and Shah say.

The toolkit is available for download here: https://marxiv.org/8eua9/.
The origin of Technical University of Mombasa (TUM) dates back to the late 1940’s as a result of the consultations by then Sir Philip Mitchell in 1948 with The Aga Khan, the Sultan of Zanzibar, the Secretary of State for the colonies. As a result, TUM underwent various phases to what it is today through the Government of Kenya’s effort in promoting technical, industrial, vocational and entrepreneurship education and training in line with the dynamic technological and industrial growth in Kenya and in Africa. First as Mombasa Institute of Muslim Education (MIOME) from 1941-1959. In 1966 MIOME became Mombasa Technical Institute (MTI) and admitted all Kenyan students regardless of religion or race. Pioneering training courses included Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Business Studies, Mathematics and Applied Sciences. In the year 1976, MTI transformed and became the Mombasa Polytechnic, the second National Polytechnic in Kenya. On 23rd August 2007, the Mombasa Polytechnic University College (MPUC) was established. In 2013 MPUC became Technical University of Mombasa (TUM) after being fully-fledged. TUM is currently a world class University of Science, Technology and Engineering with a student population of over 14,000.

TUM, being a Technical University of global excellence in advancing knowledge, science and technology successfully held its first ever multidisciplinary innovation and conference week in April 2019 focusing on: engineering, energy and green concept; applied sciences and health care technology; engineering and technology for the next generation; business, development and entrepreneurship; tourism, hospitality and media innovations; blue economy concept; and information and communication technology innovation.

This innovation and conference week over saw showcasing of a total of 50 innovations out of which 7 have already been patented, and 15 are in the process with 102 peer reviewed research papers presented. The University increased partnerships, research, innovations and collaborations with industry, institutions, and the Kenya coastal economic bloc (Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani) comprising the coastal counties of Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu and Taita Taveta. Another key achievement was the participation of a total of 65 exhibitors and outstanding exhibitions included: auto rechargeable phone battery from...
forward to host the 2nd Multidisciplinary conference and innovation week between 23rd and 27th March 2020. For more information, contact:

The Registrar Partnership, Research and Innovation
Technical University of Mombasa
michaelsaulo@tum.ac.ke

SPECIAL EXCURSIONS

Half Day - City Tour

Discover the authentic facet of Port Louis, a pleasantly surprising and vivacious city. From the Fort Adelaide, also known as the Citadel which was built during the British Colony overlooking the harbour and the Champs de Mars, our unique horseracing track to the Port-Louis Central Market and The Caudan Waterfront Shopping Mall.

Full Day - Scents & Colours

The itinerary towards the heart of the island and the South will enchant you. The contrast of a multitude of colours and scents will remain engraved in your memory forever. Discover the Chamarel Waterfalls and Seven Coloured Earth, Black River Gorges viewpoint, Grand Bassin Holy Lake & Trou aux Cerfs, extinct volcanic crater. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant.

Full Day South East Coast Catamaran Cruise

Enjoy an unforgettable cruising experience on board of a magnificent catamaran based in the south east. During the trip, you will have the possibility to swim and to discover the marine life while snorkelling. Barbecue lunch on board with unlimited refreshments. Stop at Ile aux Cerfs which is truly a perfect piece of paradise.

Other Tours are on request: Quad Biking, Ziplining, Speed Boat, Deep Sea Fishing, etc.

Minimum of 4 pax required for tour departure.

Please book your excursion with your local representative Sharon Contact: +230 5919 1630 or visit the Coquille Bonheur table at the symposium registration desk, on Tuesday 02.07.2019.
The deadline for submission of articles for Issue 2 of the WIOMSA Symposium newsletter is 2nd July 2019. Send your articles and photos to secretary@wiomsa.org.