Mauritius: TCI - Fourth Edition of Web Cup and Startup We to Be Held in May 2016

PRESS RELEASE

The 4th regional selection for Web Cup 2016, a 24-hour website creation challenge, and the first edition of Startup Weekend (WE), which aims at promoting innovative entrepreneurship ventures, will be held in May 2016 at BPML Cyber Tower 1, in Ebène Cyber-city.

Proceeding on 15 April 2016 with the launching of inscriptions for both events during a press conference in Port Louis, the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation (TCI), Mr Etienne Sinatambou, highlighted the importance of innovation, e-services and public access internet points. Innovation, he stated, is all about leaving the traditional path to think outside the box and coming up with inventions which can bring so much progress to the sector.

Government, the Minister pointed out, is coming up shortly with a National Innovation Framework which is intended to be an ecosystem for the sector for the period 2016-2020. Organisations and institutions have already been identified as well as the clusters which will be adopted and, within these clusters, 20 funded schemes being financed by Government to the tune of Rs 125 million for research and innovation have been shortlisted, he said. Mr Sinatambou also announced the finalisation of a National TCI strategy for the next five years.

The organisers of Web Cup Mauritius and Startup WE are Outsourcing and Telecommunications Associations of Mauritius (OTAM), Mauritius IT Industry Association (MITIA) and Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie France Maurice (CCIFM). This national event is partnered by the Ministry of TCI in collaboration with sponsors specialised in the ICT sector.

Web Cup Mauritius
The regional selection will be held on 14 and 15 May 2016. Inscriptions are open till Friday 29 April 2016.

Web Cup, organised annually, aims at rewarding talent in the ICT field particularly as regards the design and development of websites. In line with regional cooperation in the ICT sector, the event will be held simultaneously in Réunion Island, Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros, Rodrigues, Seychelles and Mayotte. The international final is expected to be held in one of these islands.
Originality, creativity, design, content and technology are amongst the criterion taken in consideration to distinguish the winners.

The competition is open to participants (webmaster/web developer, web-designer, community manager, web editor, students as from 16 years, professionals, amateurs) who can register in teams not exceeding four people and who will be assigned a topic with the challenge of staying awake during 24 hours to create a website. A maximum of 18 teams will be selected within two categories, namely 'PRO' open to companies and 'THE FUN' open to students and individuals. Competitors are expected to come with their own equipment (materials and computers). Four prizes will be awarded that is the first, second and third best sites, while the fourth spot will go to the site which would have received the most 'likes' on Facebook. The best team will participate in the international final.

It is recalled that the first edition of Web Cup Mauritius was held on 18 and 19 May 2013 at the Cyber-tower in Ebène Cyber-city. Also, the country hosted the international final of Web Cup 2014 on 11-12 October 2014.

**Startup WE**

Startup WE, under the theme Technological Innovative Startups towards providing support to the tourism industry, is scheduled from 27 to 29 May 2016. Inscriptions are open till Monday 16 May 2016.

The event will enable participants (investors, students, entrepreneurs or those aspiring to become entrepreneurs) to test the viability of their ideas and launch startups. The objectives are to detect innovative projects and accelerate the creation of enterprises within an appropriate ecosystem and enable the sharing of ideas. Moreover, professional coaches will act as resource persons for the 54-hour event.