

**Speech of Honourable Deepak Balgobin
Minister of Information Technology,
Communication and Innovation**

**Launching of DigiTalent Program Phase II &
ICT Competition 2023 Awards by Huawei**

**Thursday, 30th November 2023 at 4pm, Huawei
Tower, Cybercity, Ebene.**

- **His Excellency, Mr Zhu Liying, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Mauritius,**
- **Professor Sanjeev Sobhee, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius,**
- **Mr Zheng Kui, CEO of Huawei Technologies Mauritius,**
- **Mrs. Qu Ying, Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy,**
- **Mr. Roshan Halkhoree, Director, Centre for Information Technology and Systems (CITS), University of Mauritius**
- **Industry partners, Technologists, ICT experts,**
- **Dear Students and Participants,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon to you all.

Today, we are addressing a crucial aspect of our rapidly evolving world.

That is, the imperative need for upskilling in the ICT sector, which is constantly presenting new opportunities as well as new challenges.

As we navigate the ever-changing landscape of technology, it becomes increasingly evident that continuous training and upskilling are a necessity if we are to thrive in the digital age.

It is a significant step towards fostering innovation, nurturing talent, and propelling our nation into a digitally-driven future.

The ICT sector is the heartbeat of our global economy, driving innovation, efficiency, and transforming ways of conducting business processes as well as the way we live.

However, the very nature of technology is such that what is cutting-edge today may become obsolete tomorrow.

In this dynamic environment, the importance of continuous learning and upskilling cannot be overstated.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ICT cultivation is not just about sowing the seeds of knowledge.

It's about nurturing a garden of innovation, where the blossoms of connectivity, creativity, and capability flourish to shape an ever-vibrant future for humanity.

Huawei Talent Cultivation Program is to leapfrog us into the digital era, contributing to the fine motive of not leaving anyone behind.

We need innovation and we need to continuously support local innovators, to reach scale and develop our economy.

We all reckon that the power of ICT should never be underestimated, as **it has its effects on every aspect of our life.**

ICT has given us almost equal access to knowledge.

We believe that Mauritius's future is in the hands of its youth and we urge students to take full advantage of every learning opportunity.

I commend Huawei for its Talent Cultivation programs, launched in 2021, with more than 1000 Mauritian trainees already and I urge more students to get on board this programme.

By providing university students with the right tools, mentorship, and opportunities, we are investing in a future where our nation will not just keep up with technological advancements, but lead in shaping them.

The DigiTalent Programme is helping to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

It ensures that students not only excel in their academic pursuits but are also equipped with the practical skills and insights needed to thrive in the dynamic world of ICT.

From coding to cybersecurity, from Artificial Intelligence to data analytics, this program covers a spectrum of disciplines, preparing students to be versatile contributors to the digital economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Upskilling is essential to keep pace with technological advancements.

To harness the full potential of these technologies, our workforce must be equipped with the latest skills and knowledge.

Upskilling ensures that our professionals remain at the forefront of industry trends, contributing to the competitiveness of businesses and the growth of our economy.

The demand for specialized skills in the ICT sector is soaring.

There are approximately 900 companies in the ICT sector in Mauritius employing more than 32 thousand people.

Employers are presently seeking individuals with expertise in Emerging Technologies, Cybersecurity, Data Science, and Cloud Computing, to name a few.

By upskilling, you not only enhance your employability but also address the widening gap between the skills employers need and the skills the workforce possesses.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government, under the leadership of our Honourable Prime Minister, aspires to position Mauritius as a regional hub for Technology and Innovation through strategic partnerships, international collaboration, and the creation of innovative ecosystems.

My Ministry, through dedicated efforts, has played a pivotal role in the digital transformation of our country, mainly through significant advancements in digitalising Government services.

As the Minister of ICT, I wish to emphasize on the Government's commitment to creating an environment where talent flourishes.

We are investing not just in infrastructure but in revamping our institutions such as the Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency and creating new ones like the Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council, which will drive our nation's digital transformation.

The success of students in this program will be a testament to the strength of our education system and the potential of our youth.

My message to the students and professionals engaging in the DigiTalent Programme this year: Engage, learn, collaborate, and let your creativity flow.

The digital landscape is yours to shape, and we believe in your ability to make a difference.

This program is not just about skills; it's about unlocking your potential to become the leaders and innovators who will propel our nation into a prosperous digital future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us remember that the true measure of success lies not only in the technological advancements we achieve but in the positive impact we create for our society.

Let the **DigiTalent Programme** be a beacon of inspiration for innovation, collaboration, and excellence.

May the digital future we envision become a reality through the talents and efforts of our remarkable young minds.

And to all the Huawei ICT Award Winners, my sincere congratulations, and I wish you all the best.

Thank you.