

- **His Excellency, Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon, Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius,**
- **His Excellency, Omar Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office of the United Arab Emirates,**
- **His Excellency, Souef Kamalidini, Minister of Post, Telecommunications and Digital Economy of Comoros,**
- **Honourable Members, Excellencies, Dignitaries,**
- **Representatives from the Private and Public Sectors,**
- **Exhibitors and Participants,**
- **Dear Students and Teachers,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**
- **All Protocols Observed,**

Good Afternoon to you all.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius, I have the honour to welcome you all to the first ever Mauritius Emerging Tech Exhibition (METX) 2024.

I extend a warm welcome to all participants, exhibitors, and stakeholders from Mauritius and overseas, who are gathered here.

As some of you will recall, the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, has been organising the InfoTech for many years. It was a successful gathering of Tech Companies to sell their products and solutions to the Public.

This transition from InfoTech to METX reflects our commitment to embracing the transformative power of emerging technologies.

We are standing at the threshold of a new era, where innovations such as Artificial Intelligence, blockchain and Internet of Things, amongst others, are reshaping industries and redefining possibilities.

METX is not merely a showcase of tech solutions; it is a platform for collaboration, learning, and exploration.

Our objective is to bring together industry leaders, start-ups, researchers, policymakers, and tech enthusiasts to engage in meaningful networking, forge partnerships, and chart a course towards a more technologically advanced and inclusive future.

I am thrilled to see our vision of a dynamic and technologically advanced Mauritius come to life through this EXPO thanks to you all for having accepted our invitation and hence contributing to make it a success.

As you can see around you, we are gathered amidst a diverse array of local and international exhibitors, showcasing the latest advancements in Emerging Technologies.

It is a melting pot of ideas and innovations that have the potential to redefine industries and transform societies.

By bringing together government bodies, companies, universities, startups, associations and entrepreneurs under one roof, we create a fertile ground for new ideas to flourish and partnerships to blossom.

This synergy of expertise and innovation not only fuels the growth of startups but also invigorates established companies, sparking creativity and pushing boundaries.

And the ripple effect of these collaborations extends beyond the EXPO, permeating our ICT ecosystem with a renewed energy and a wealth of opportunities.

As we harness the potential of emerging technologies, we not only boost our economy but also pave the way for a more vibrant and resilient digital future for our country.

I encourage you to immerse yourselves in the various exhibits, seminars, presentations and networking opportunities available throughout the METX.

Let's embrace the spirit of curiosity, collaboration, and experimentation that defines the tech community.

Let us, together, seize the opportunities presented by emerging technologies to propel Mauritius towards a prosperous and resilient digital future.

I particularly extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our esteemed sponsors for their invaluable support and contribution to making this expo a resounding success.

Your generosity and commitment have played a pivotal role in bringing together industry leaders, innovators, and stakeholders to showcase the latest in emerging technologies.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and look forward to continuing this journey of innovation and excellence together.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support.

Let me seize this opportunity to thank the chairman of the Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council, Dr Suraj Juddoo, the Executive Director, Vrigesh Futta, and their dedicated team who have been the Linchpins of the AI Summit and METX.

I wish you all a successful Expo.

Let us make the most of this momentous occasion and pave the way for continued innovation and progress in our beloved nation.

Thank you.