

> The Australian High Commission apart from its global mission in Mauritius works also on the Comoros, the Seychelles and Madagascar. What is your vision of the South West Indian Ocean region  
Jenny Dee?

Australia's links with the South West Indian Ocean region go back centuries, including historical trading routes and colonial linkages. Today, the region is of growing importance to all nations, in terms of being a conduit for global trade and because of its strategic significance. It is in all our interests to support regional cooperation, promote human rights and regional norms, and build regional capacity to ensure stability and security. Australian defence personnel are active in maritime security efforts under the auspices of the Combined Maritime Forces and are working hard to combat transnational crime in the Indian Ocean, including drug trafficking.

Australia is committed to advancing regional security and prosperity based on inclusive and sustainable economic development.

We are pleased to be supporting the work of key organisations including IORA and IOC that are integral to progress in the Indian Ocean. Our engagement with regional countries and communities focuses on building human capacity through our flagship Australia Awards scholarship program, supporting strong and resilient institutions and NGOs, including the delivery of programs to reduce poverty and support the most vulnerable, and promoting good governance. Our economic diplomacy agenda focuses on building stronger business linkages between Australia and the region, including recognition of Mauritius as a regional hub, with a focus on the blue economy, education, finance, tourism and extractives sectors.

Australia is a strong advocate for women's economic empowerment, including through IORA. The Embassy's community grants program has supported a Coaching and Mentoring Programme for Women Entrepreneurs in Mauritius (Rodrigues), Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles, launched during the IORA Women's Economic Empowerment Conference held in Seychelles in 2016. This year our development programs are helping encourage women participation in politics in Comoros and provide capacity building to women in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector in Madagascar. In Mauritius, we have also worked closely with the Gender Ministry, the police, emergency services, the judiciary and local NGOs on the issue of gender based violence.

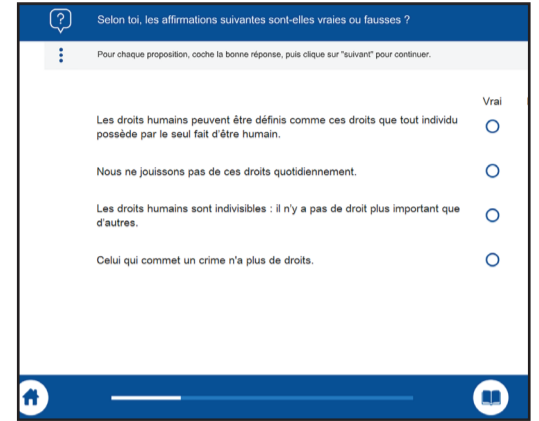
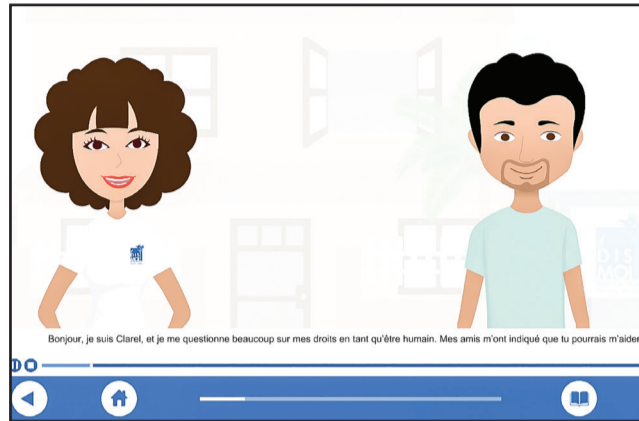
> Your country has accepted to finance a human rights education project for Dis-Moi, a human rights organisation which has as short term objective to create local Dis-Moi branches in the region. Why has this project interested your country?

This project was of particular interest because one of the priority areas of the High Commission's Direct Aid Program is to support human rights and Dis-Moi's project had a regional focus to promote human rights across all four countries of accreditation of the High Commission – Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles. Inclusiveness is also an important aspect of the Direct Aid Program and we are pleased that Dis-Moi is prioritising women and people with disabilities amongst its beneficiaries.

> Anything you wish to add which has not been broached in our interview?

The High Commission is pleased to be partnering with Dis-Moi to promote human rights education in the region, using on-line systems and collaborative tools. An active civil society is an important pillar of functioning democracies and we are looking forward to launching this project in Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles who are already collaborating with each other in various forums. We hope this project helps support and strengthen links with civil society in the region and reinforces their capacity to address human rights issues.

## L'Australie finance un grand projet de droits humains



Le parcours comprend huit modules interactifs de 10 minutes basés sur les techniques de neuropédagogie. « Les techniques qui visent à s'assurer que l'apprenant retienne un minimum d'informations », explique Astrid Bauwens de Learnbox Ltd. Les modules incluent des animations, des questionnaires, des voix off.

**D**roits Humains Océan Indien (DIS-MOI) lance son programme d'éducation aux droits humains en ligne pour les citoyens malgaches, comoriens, mauriciens et seychellois. La cérémonie se tiendra, le samedi 23 juin, à 10 heures à l'Hôtel St Georges, à Port-Louis et sera honorée de la présence du Président de la République par intérim, Son Excellence Mr Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, GOSK et du Haut Commissaire de l'Australie, Son Excellence Mme Jenny Dee.

DIS-MOI, Organisation internationale non gouvernementale basée à Maurice, a pour mission de promouvoir, à l'échelle régionale à Maurice, aux Comores, à Madagascar et aux Seychelles, les droits de l'homme tels qu'énoncés dans la Charte Africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples (1986) et la Déclaration Universelle des droits de l'homme (1948).

Le projet *South West Indian Ocean* est une formation en ligne concernant l'éducation aux droits humains pour les pays du sud-ouest de l'Océan Indien. Il touchera 50 citoyens Malgaches, 50 Comoriens, 50 Seychellois et 50 Mauriciens et s'échelonnera jusqu'à la mi-2019.

Programme financé par le gouvernement australien, il consistera en un mois de cours, un stage dans une association de leur choix et un séminaire résidentiel animé par les formateurs de Dis-Moi. La société Learnbox abritera la plateforme de formation en ligne pour les 200 citoyens.

La cérémonie verra aussi par la participation de l'Ombudsperson for Children's, Mrs Rita Venkatasawmy, du Directeur des poursuites publiques Mr Satyajit Boolell SC, du ministre de la justice Maneesh Gobin, et du maire de Mutsamudu, principale ville d'Anjouan (Comores), Mr Amirdine Mohamed.+

### Program

- 10.15 Welcome speech by Mistress of Ceremony, Ms Qayinaat Annawar of Dis-Moi
- 10.20 Speech of Roshan Rajroop, Attorney at law and President of Dis-Moi
- 10.25 Speech of Ombudsperson for Children, Mrs Rita Venkatasawmy
- 10.30 Speech of Mayor of Mutsamudu, Anjouan (Comoros) Mr Amirdine Mohamed
- 10.35 Speech of the Hon Maneesh Gobin, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms.
- 10.40 1st Interlude by Zulu
- 10.50 Speech of Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Satyajit Boolell SC
- 10.55 Lindley Couronne, Director Regional Secretariat of Dis-Moi and Astrid Bauwens of Learnbox explain and demonstrate the on-line project
- 11.05 Address of H.E, Ms Jenny Dee, Australian High Commissioner
- 11.15 2nd Interlude by Malagasy Republic artist
- 11.25 Launching by H.E Mr Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, GOSK, Acting President of the Republic of Mauritius
- 11.35 3rd Interlude
- 11.45 Award Ceremony for Mauritian citizens having followed the HRE course



DIS-MOI (Droits Humains-Océan Indien) est une organisation non gouvernementale qui aide à promouvoir la culture des droits humains dans la région du sud-ouest de l'océan Indien, notamment les Seychelles, Maurice, Rodrigues, Madagascar et les Comores. Fondée en 2012, l'organisation milite pour la défense et l'enseignement des droits humains. Vos dons sont les bienvenus.

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