POLICY SUPPORT FACILITY

Reform Implementation Support
Towards the development of a regional Research and Innovation strategy for the Indian Ocean Commission

INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION

Dr Basudeb Chaudhuri
Chair

Dr Basudeb Chaudhuri holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne and a Habilitation from the University of Caen. He is a specialist of development economics, in particular on growth, inequality, public policy, and interdisciplinary issues in economics.

He is currently scientific advisor and research policy expert at the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. He has represented the Ministry at the European Commission, in the Programme committee of Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society (Cluster 2), and is currently an expert in the European Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change. Among his European responsibilities for France, he has covered the management of research infrastructures and European Partnerships in the areas of health and demography, heritage sciences and the cultural and creative industries. These experiences are strongly relevant to member countries of the IOC.

He has previously been Assistant and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Economics and Management at the University of Caen in Normandy, France in the earlier part of his career. He has also supervised 3 Ph.Ds in Economics.

Over the last 17 years, Basudeb has successively held the posts of: Vice-President, University of Caen; Director, Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi; National Coordinator, National Contact Point, Horizon 2020 Programme for SSH in France; Chargé de Mission, National Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, CNRS; Seconded National Expert from France to the European Commission, Directorate General of Research and Innovation, for SSH.

He has authored around 40 publications in economics and social sciences. For his services to higher education, research and international cooperation, Basudeb has been awarded the decorations of Chevalier and Officier of the Palmes Académiques.

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Dr Bouchra Rahmouni has earned a distinguished reputation as a transformative figure in the world of innovation and academic excellence across Africa and Europe. Her impressive academic experience reflects an unwavering dedication to pioneering groundbreaking ideas and reshaping the socio-economic landscape through innovation.

Dr Rahmouni's is the Director of the Social Innovation Lab a part of the Cluster Science & Technology of The University Mohammed 6 Polytechnic and as affiliated professor of geopolitics of innovation at Sciences Po Paris in France. She was also guest Professor at Pusan National University - International Trade and Law Institute (South Korea) from 2015 to 2019 and as an International Affiliated Professor at New York University - Polytechnic Institute, Finance Department (USA) from 2013 to 2019.

Dr. Bouchra Rahmouni
Rapporteur

Throughout her lengthy career, Dr. Rahmouni has combined research, education, and consulting to promote economic empowerment through innovation in Africa. She has participated in advisory committees and think tanks related to development and economic evolution in Africa and the Mediterranean region. As the Director of the Social Innovation Lab/CoopLab at the University Mohammed VI Polytechnique, Dr. Rahmouni plays a key role in driving innovative, socially impactful solutions. Dr. Rahmouni fosters partnerships with governmental entities, international organizations, and NGOs to mobilize resources and expertise for innovative projects.

Moreover, Dr Rahmouni has been the author of many books and reports on innovation, entrepreneurship and also gender in R&I. Her works not only enrich academic discourse but also have practical implications for policymakers and professionals seeking a comprehensive understanding of the ever-evolving global landscape.

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Manishi Maulloo
Expert

Manish Maulloo is a seasoned innovation strategist with over a decade of leadership experience in the technology sector and an Executive MBA from Université Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne. With a deep passion for driving innovation, Manish has a proven track record in spearheading digital transformation projects, forming strategic partnerships in the FinTech industry, and leading investment strategies targeting early-stage ventures. With over a decade of executive experience in the tech sector, he has consistently spearheaded transformative digital initiatives across the Indian Ocean region.

At Ciel Finance Ltd, Manish's strategic foresight played a pivotal role in establishing open innovation models at their banking entity in Madagascar, successfully merging corporate structures with the dynamism of startups and entrepreneurs.

As the driving force behind the Mauritius Africa FinTech Hub, he championed crucial regulatory changes, leading to the inception of digital banking, peer-to-peer lending, and the introduction of regulatory sandbox licenses in Mauritius. The founding of Reovo Ltd further underscored his expertise, where he provided invaluable consultation to regional corporations, identifying and addressing the intricacies of corporate innovation gaps.
With expertise in strategic innovation, digital transformation, investment, and business development, Manish is a dynamic leader who cultivates growth by aligning technological advancements with strategic investment opportunities.

Beyond business strategy, Manish is a revered thought leader, frequently contributing to discussions aimed at positioning Mauritius—and the broader region—as a nexus for digital evolution and entrepreneurial excellence.

Manish possesses in-depth knowledge of the innovation landscape in IOC member countries.

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Dr. Ahmed Elmouna
Expert

Dr. Ahmed Elmouna is currently the Director General of the National Agency of Scientific Research and Innovation of Mauritania. In this role, Dr. Elmouna is responsible for developing research and innovation strategies, evaluating and awarding research grants, and overseeing the monitoring of funded projects. In this role, with the support of the OACPS R&I PSF, he has successfully developed the first national R&I strategy and is currently coordinating the efforts for its further development.

Dr Elmouna served in various international research and education positions including for the British Ministry of Defence, Forensic Science Department at Teesside University. Other career highlights include serving as the Founding Director of the Institute National des Metiers de l'Energie (ISME) and heading the Chemistry Lab at the Centre of Molecular Diagnostics and Personalised Therapeutics in Hail, Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Elmouna was also a country focal point for various international in research and innovation programs, including for the PSF service in Mauritania and the Global Research Council (GRC) MENA Chapter. He actively contributes to the 5plus5 West Mediterranean Dialogue on Research, Innovation, and Higher Education as a member of the Group of Senior Officers (GSO) for Mauritania.

In addition to his leadership roles, Dr. Elmouna has contributed to international projects on Research, Education, Climate Change adaptation, and Human Genome studies. Dr. Elmouna's consultancy work includes reviewing and editing reports for the World Bank Group and overseeing science content for Aljazeera Channel (Qatar). Furthermore, he has engaged in technical and scientific consultancies for international entities such as Ankerpoort BV, CEGASA, and Leclanché.

Dr. Elmouna holds a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Middlesex University, an M.Sc. in Electrochemistry from Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Electrochimie et Electrométallurgie, and a B.Sc. in Chemistry from the University of Nouakchott.

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