



Miss Lovanee, lecturer
in Sustainability.

<<Likewise, the Diploma in International Hotel and Tourism Management HTMi Switzerland offered by Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd underlines the importance of sustainable tourism under various modules such as Tourism Studies and Hotel & Resort Management.>>

With this global crisis; the hotel and Tourism Industry need to reinvent itself and one of the priorities is to focus on cleanliness & Sustainability. What's your views on same & how does Polytechnics align itself with these new norms?

During this global crisis, cleanliness & reinforcement of sustainability has become the “it” topic of concern. Therefore, enabling a wellbeing environment is the key focus.

In addition to the COVID-19 protocols and best practices, the hotel industry is now strongly committed to reflect the advice of the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and local public health authorities in markets around the world (IHG Hotels & Resorts, 2020).

Recently announced as the ‘GSTC-Recognized Standard’ status by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), Mauritius is striving to revamp its image on the international arena as one of the most prestigious tourism destinations which takes care at protecting the biodiversity of the island and preserving its ecological balance, thus ensuring sustainable development of the tourism sector (GSTC, 2019). In an attempt to endure the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): *Goal 4*, there has been a growing global recognition in Education Sustainable Development as an integral element of quality education (MIE, 2018). As formulated by UNESCO (2005) “*Education for Sustainable Development allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future*”. Sustainability is now a reality which has reached the society through education and awareness campaign done by public and private sectors.

Furthermore, our students have the opportunity to experience and participate in [sustainability practices](#) implemented by hotels during their internship. Polytechnics Mauritius aim is to have their students go through a blended approach combining practical and theoretical skills during their internship. This is to have students experience team work, pressure, making the right decision, and overcoming communication issues. In this various partners such as Veranda Group Resorts, St Regis Resorts and Sun Resorts to name a few work in close collaboration with Polytechnics Mauritius. A close monitoring is done by our lecturers and resorts supervisors during students' internship in order to monitor student's progression. The aim is to have the students at the end build up a portfolio where they can reflect on their strength and weaknesses.

OUR PARTNERS ACHIEVEMENT

By drawing on the concept of redefining cleanliness and sustainability, the Sun Resorts Mauritius under the SUNCARE Sustainability Committee works on reinforcing business ethics, empowering the community and environmental protection. A waste management framework was implemented where each hotel has its own waste management system in accordance to ISO 14001. Integrating the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) has proven to be effective for Sugar Beach Resort Hotel where 582.9 % of waste generated were recycled in year 2019. Emissions of each hotel were calculated by Earth Check and since 2015, around 23% of GHG emissions were reduced (Sugar Beach' Sustainability Report, 2018-2019).

According to the Sustainability Report (2018-2019) a Carbon Offsetting through Voluntary Carbon Markets was opted. Beach cleaning, non-motorise sea activities, cleaner production technology, coral farming, health & safety of employees and customers are among other sustainability practices. Ms Seetahul; Sustainability Champion and In-charge of Food Safety at [Long Beach A Sun Resort Mauritius](#) emphasized that "After the impact of the Pandemic Covid-19, Sun resorts focus is on the customer care. Sun resorts through it's SUNCARE programmes has implemented post Covid Sanitary protocols in collaboration with a certifying body to be in-line with the international standards and to also comply with the Safe travel hygiene measures requested by the Tourism Authority. Under their SUNCARE programmes, Sun resorts focus is also on Sustainability showing their commitments on protecting their environment, sea and preserving the heritage. Through this label of [SUNCARE](#), Sun resorts is expecting to create confidence in their guests and to welcome them back again".

In regards to cleanliness and sustainability, the mission of Polytechnics Mauritius is to inspire students to contribute as far as possible in sustainability through [PolyCore](#) and [PolyCAS](#). Education is the key to success, therefore **WE** are here to guide our students in selecting the best hotels for internship and facilitate their career pathways.

