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# TODAY

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## SEYCHELLES YOUTH FESTIVAL

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## Newsline

News Sports Business Life

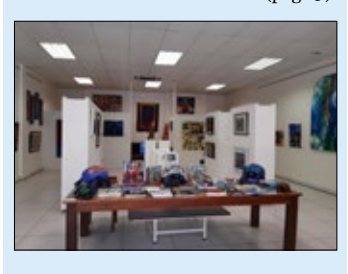
**Imports: 50 containers delayed**  
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**The Tokyo Olympic Games kick off today!**  
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**Eden Art Space Gallery reopens today!**  
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**French School: "Education is constantly evolving"**  
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## Research

# ETH Zurich and University of Seychelles students present research findings

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, University students from the ETH Zurich University and the University of Seychelles (Unisey) presented their preliminary results of the study about the 'Sustainable Land Use - Transport System in Seychelles'. The research has been conducted in collaboration with UniSey students since 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

By N. Derjacques

Dr. Pius Krütli from ETH Zurich University, Dr. Daniel Etongo, Senior Lecturer at UniSey and Mr. Chasper Sarott, Swiss Ambassador for Madagascar, Comoros, and Seychelles stated that this inter-student collaboration and sharing of experience would be beneficial to Seychelles.

Eight groups were broken down to investigate different sectors of the study.

Group 1 investigated the potentials and limitations of different transport demand management measures to ease the congestion issue in Victoria and other developments that could be helpful in enhancing urban traffic movement. They concluded that there were too many cars in the centre,



Group 7's concept for Cable Cars from Victoria to Beau Vallon

pointing out that the issue begins outside of the capital of Victoria and the need for decentralization of services that could be a further solution that needs to be looked at.

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## Memorial

# Cultural icon Marietta Matombe passes away

Marietta Matombe came from Anse Boileau and grew up in a very artistic family and very much in touch with Seychelles culture and traditions. Marietta, known as 'Manta', was most certainly a big part of the teaching and passing on of Seychelles' traditional dances and she will always be an icon in Seychelles' culture.

By Y. Savy

Marietta began her career as a dance instructor in 1998 with the Department of Culture. She strived to inspire the younger generation to embrace the passion of dancing Seychelles' traditional dances, especially the 'kanmtole'.

She had a knack of making her classes incredibly interesting and inspired others to be as passionate as she was about 'kanmtole'.

For two decades, Marietta worked very hard at putting up a 'kanmtole' dance competition for different age groups during the annual Festival



The late 'Manta'

Kreol. She often taught adults from diverse backgrounds (educational institutions, private sector organisations and community groups) on how to master the first steps of a 'kanmtole' dance, which lead them to organise 'kanmtole' nights where all students had a chance to dress up and show off their new dance skills. Ms. Cecile Kalebi, the Principal Secretary of the Department of Culture, stated that during her 23-year career, Marietta has trained over 5,000 people to dance traditional dances.

In 2004, she was awarded the Honorary Arts Award for her outstanding contribution, commitment

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**French School**

**“Education is constantly evolving”**

After almost 10 years in the Seychelles, Professor Malik Chaib continues to teach at the Ecole Française des Seychelles. TODAY interviewed the Professor for an inside view.

By Y. Savy

The school had closed for vacation since July 2<sup>nd</sup>, and it is now preparing for its next school year. The pre-entry school children will start on September 1<sup>st</sup> and other students on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**How did the school organize itself during the distance learning phases?**

It's been a special year that the world has experienced! The health crisis raged since March 2020 and has imposed unprecedented working conditions on the school, to which it was necessary to adapt very quickly. Our teaching practices, work organization, operations and relationship methods have been modified. It took mobilizing an entire team to allow pedagogical continuity and the school is delighted with the commitment of everyone.

**The exams were maintained in the end - that must have been a relief for you?**

As you know, the School organizes the Diplôme National du Brevet for the 3<sup>rd</sup> years students who complete their cycle 4. The

Premières ones (first year of post-secondary), for their part, discovered the first part of the Baccalauréat. The Terminales (second and last year of post-secondary) have passed the final exams of the Baccalauréat, the Passport for University Studies. Exceptionally, to take into account travel restrictions and avoid stress for students during this COVID period, the School obtained an exemption which allowed it to organize the Baccalauréat exams in the country.

We are fully satisfied, both with their progress and with results obtained. The school year ended on a high note, and we will not hide our joy.

Maintenance of pedagogical continuity resulted in 100% success in exams with the extension of approval of the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of the school year. The smoothly running of the operation was completed thanks to Mr. Dominique MAS, Ambassador of France, Mr. Jean Pierre CORTESI, Director of the School, and Madame Rose - Mayrie AR-CAMBAL her assistant, as well as the entire teaching team.

**Why teach in Seychelles?**

Chance, or rather a combination of circumstances! I have always wanted to teach in high school and



Mr Malik Chaib

presented the opportunity that was seized to me.

With a double Masters in History and Economics, I arrived in Seychelles in 2012 as a high school Professor of Economics. At the

time I did not know the country at all.

I am someone who follows my instincts and this destination met my expectations - a place of change of scenery where life is

good. Here, I found professional satisfaction, motivated students, nice colleagues and on a personal level I started a family.

**What challenges do you face as a teacher?**

Education is a constantly evolving. The confinement and closure of schools have precipitated us into distance education, a method well established for middle and high school students with the Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance (CNED) and entry into digital power. Thus, in the meantime we have developed tools and implemented courses to allow for pedagogical continuity. There was a massive class move on the Net and families had to equip and organize themselves quickly.

As for the profession, teaching requires a lot of energy and one has to be enthusiastic, rigorous, flexible, attentive and authoritarian at the same time.

**How do you see the evolution of Ecole Française des Seychelles?**

It is a school with great potential and secondary school enrollment has doubled in the last 10 years.

It is a bilingual school and the only one in the country to offer a double degree (Baccalauréat and



IGCSE), which allows students to study anywhere in the world. Today, our former students mainly study in France of course, but also in England, Mauritius and Canada. Two of our new graduates will be studying in Australia and New Zealand.

The students finish their schooling by mastering four languages, three of which are spoken fluently, French, English and Creole. The school is supported by Agency for National Human Resource Development (ANHRD) and the Seychellois students can apply for government grant to study overseas.

**What are your plans for the future?**

To pass the competition for management staff and/or teacher and to continue this job which fascinates me.

**Any advice you would like to give to a young person who wants to become a teacher?**

Be versatile! It obviously takes a lot of patience, availability, and listening. You have to have a good capacity for adaptation, a touch of humility, know how to question yourself and be able to learn to learn.

**ETH Zurich and University of Seychelles students present research findings**

(Continued from Cover)

Group 2 analysed the relationship between freight movement and congestion. They stated that their findings in regards to this were unclear. They found that critical routes are from the commercial port to locations at the Fishing Port, Ile du Port and Providence. Freight movement is not a major contributor to congestion, but is negatively affected by it and dedicated collaboration and consultation are needed for long term planning.

They interviewed government authorities such as the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) and transportation companies, as well as people from the fishing sector and fishing authorities. According to the study there was a total of 2908 movements to and from the commercial port in June 2021 which is not that much compared to commuters. They studied three main locations: Fishing Port (IOT), Ile du Port (Ile du Port Handling Services - IPHS) which is an industrial fishing quay and Providence, the location of other commercial



Ms Angela Servina, CEO of the Seychelles Planning Authority

and industrial companies. They found that the freight movements were mostly between 8:30-11:30 and 13:00-15:00. There were not many movements during traffic peak hours except during lunchtime. They concluded by saying that because of the relatively low number of trips and the timing of the transport, freight movement was not a major contributor to congestion and is not crucial.

Group 3 worked on the perception towards different modes of



Mr Patrick Andre, PS Dept. of Transport

transport. They wanted to understand how are common and alternative modes of transport perceived by residents of Mahé and the main factors affecting the choice for a certain modes of transport. It took them seven days, 296 participants from 8 districts and more than 75 hours of surveying. They found that the five most mentioned problems were congestion, unsatisfactory road infrastructure, the number of cars on Mahé, unsatisfactory public transportation and unsatisfactory parking situations. The proposed solutions given were improvements of road infrastructures, parking infrastructures, public transportation, restriction of car imports and improvements of regulation and law enforcement. The study also showed that cars are perceived very positively and are likely to remain in high demand unless other modes of transportation become more attractive.

Group 4 researched on which short-term infrastructure measures can improve the slow transport system. They found that walking and cycling need to be



Kritli Pius, Dr.

highlighted as valid, healthy and flexible modes of transportation by authorities to support a shift in perception.

Group 6 wanted to find out to what extent was the supply of public transportation currently matching the demand and needs of the public. The methodology employed were literature reviews, survey and stakeholder interviews. Their findings were that there was

a mismatch between supply and demand. Additionally, they found that improving comfort, safety, reliability and availability of real time information could be especially effective approaches to improve the attractiveness of the bus system.

Group 7 researched whether there were environmental benefits for adopting cable cars in favour of private cars or public buses. Policies targeted to increase share of renewable energy in Seychelles are crucial. Sensitization of the public is important to promote acceptance of cable cars as an urban mass transit solution. Integration with other modes of transport is key. Cable cars complement, rather than compete.

Group 8 sought to understand the potential for ecological upgrading along transport infrastructures in Victoria and at the prospective locations of cable car stations. They found that a way to enhance green infrastructures could be to create it more natu-

rally, with different layers instead of only a tree and/or grass layer. In terms of specific locations for promoting green infrastructures, they have suggested the former playground at the waterfront, the Peace Park and Freedom Square area, due to their central location in the city.

They also found that in terms of society there could be health benefits for natural environments, which will also encourage walking and cycling. They opined that green spaces and nature can be vibrant community spaces and that green and recreational spaces establishes place identity and attachment within the community. They also stated that native plants and medicinal herbs are an important aspect of Creole heritage. In regards to economy, a healthy and functioning environment forms the basis for a flourishing economy, offset environmental impacts of station construction, operation and infrastructure development in the city. It could also be beneficial to the environment. It could sustain native and endemic plants which would contribute to food security, raising of awareness, biodiversity, climate resilience etc.

Chief Executive Officer of the Planning Authority Ms. Angela Servina and the Principle Secretary for the Department of Transport Mr. Patrick Andre, stated how pleased and impressed they were that this study. They are happy for the help.

The professors and coaches from ETH Zurich University were Dr. Pius Kritli, and Danny Nef. From the University of Seychelles Paul Kangethe, Dr. Daniel Etongo, and Ms Mariette Dine.



Group 8 Green Infrastructure and Environmental Restoration for Greater Victoria



Group 4 Slow Transport Infrastructure in Victoria