

## Digital Finance in Africa

### Capacity Building Workshop

# Agenda

20 & 21 June 2024

Venue: [Le Meridien, Pointe aux Piments, Mauritius](#)

Physical and remote participation available

## ■ About the RCE

The Regional Centre of Excellence (“RCE”) was inaugurated on 15 March 2019. The launching of the RCE in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (“OECD”) is a première in the region and will enhance the reputation of Mauritius at the international level. This initiative is a result of the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) that was signed by the Government of Mauritius and the OECD in September 2018. This MOU laid down the foundations for collaboration between OECD and Mauritius to strengthen and support effective regulation, sound corporate governance and good conduct in the Southern and Eastern African regions.

## ■ About the OECD

The OECD is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. The goal of the OECD is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity, and well-being for all. The OECD draws on 60 years of experience and insights to better prepare the world of tomorrow. Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, the OECD works on establishing evidence-based international standards and finding solutions to a range of social, economic, and environmental challenges. From improving economic performance and creating jobs to fostering strong education and fighting international tax evasion, the OECD provides a unique forum and knowledge hub for data and analysis, exchange of experiences, best-practice sharing, and advice on public policies and international standard-setting.

## ■ About the Digital Finance in Africa Workshop

Digital finance applications have attracted particular attention among African policymakers in the recent years in contributing to economic development, driving regional connectivity, and supporting of multilateral initiatives like the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union’s Africa 2063 agenda. The rapid advancement and adoption of these emerging technologies have been met with new policy approaches and governmental frameworks to guide responsible innovation. Crucially, because the uses and impacts of digital finance applications are inherently cross-border, international standards are playing an important role in informing domestic policy and driving consistency across countries.

The digital finance in Africa policy workshop will focus on innovation, FinTech lending and Open Finance, supported by background notes dedicated to these applications in Africa and related policy considerations.

## ■ Venue of the workshop/ Physical participation

[Le Meridien, Pointe aux Piments, Mauritius](#)

## ■ Registration link (physical/virtual) Participation

<https://events.hubilo.com/digital-finance-in-africa/register>

## ■ Contact

More information on the workshop series can be obtained on the RCE website [www.rcemauritius.org](http://www.rcemauritius.org) /FSC website [www.fscmauritius.org](http://www.fscmauritius.org). For any queries, you may contact us at 403 7000 (Ext 7253)/404 5652 or email us at [rce@fscmauritius.org](mailto:rce@fscmauritius.org).

## Thursday, 20 June 2024 – 09:15-15:45hrs

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### Mauritius Time

08:45

#### Registration & Networking

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09:15

#### Protocol Session

- Address by **Mardayah Kona Yerukunondu**, Chairperson, Financial Services Commission, Mauritius, First Deputy Governor, Bank of Mauritius and RCE Governing Board Member
  - Address by **Carmine Di Noia**, Director for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD
  - Keynote address by **Harvesh Kumar Seegolam, G.C.S.K.** Governor, Bank of Mauritius and Chairperson of RCE Governing Board
  - Announcement of renewal of collaboration between the RCE and OECD
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09:45

#### Break

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10:00

#### Keynote speech

**Katherine Gibson**, Deputy Commissioner, Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA), South Africa

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10:15

#### The limits of DeFi for financial inclusion

**Chair: Pauline Charazac**, Advisor, International and Institutional Relations, Bank of Mauritius and RCE Governing Board member

#### Lead Speaker:

- **Carmine Di Noia**, Director for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

#### Discussants:

- **Peter Goodrich**, Member of Secretariat, Financial Stability Board (FSB)
  - **Arif Ismail**, Deputy Division Chief: Payment & Infrastructure, International Monetary Fund (IMF)
  - **Sandra Ro**, Chief Executive Officer, Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC)
  - **Anzetse Were**, Senior Economist, Financial Sector Deepening Kenya (FSD Kenya)
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11:30

### Artificial Intelligence in Finance

**Chair: Prakash Seewoosunkur**, Officer-In-Charge, Financial Services Commission, Mauritius and RCE Governing Board Member

**Lead Speaker:**

- **Iota Kaousar Nassr**, Senior Policy Advisor, Financial Markets Unit, OECD

**Discussants:**

- **Maria Mbeneka**, Managing Partner, Board Member, Lawyershub Africa, Kenya
- **Amr Farouk Safwat**, Manager of the African Organizations Affairs at the International Relations Division, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt; and Chair, African Union's Working Group on Artificial Intelligence
- **Conrad Tucker**, Professor, Carnegie Mellon University Africa, Rwanda

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12:45

### Lunch

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14:00

### FinTech lending in Africa

**Chair: Oliver Garrett-Jones**, Policy Analyst, OECD

**Lead Speaker:**

- **Aliza Amin**, Policy Analyst, Financial Markets Unit, OECD

**Discussants:**

- **Arnaud Bazerque-Bacha**, Director Digital Innovation & Payment Systems, Bank of Mauritius
- **Gérard Nsabimana**, Director of Market Conduct Supervision Department, National Bank of Rwanda
- **Anzette Were**, Financial Sector Deepening Kenya (FSD Kenya)
- **Paul Whelpton**, Chief Analytics Officer and Group Head of Trading, Jumo Maurice

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15:45

### END OF DAY 1

## Friday, 21 June 2024 – 09:50-15:20hrs

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### Mauritius Time

09:30

**Registration & Networking**

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09:50

**Remarks: Kheertee Ramsohok Heerasing**, Head, RCE

Summary of day 1 & brief of day 2

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10:00

**Open Banking and Open Finance in Africa**

**Chair: Hemlata Sadhna Sewraj-Gopal**, Second Deputy Governor, Bank of Mauritius and RCE Governing Board Member

**Lead Speakers:**

- **Aliza Amin**, Policy Analyst, Financial Markets Unit, OECD
- **Giuseppe Bianco**, Policy Analyst, OECD

**Discussants:**

- **Bruno Cambounet**, Head of Research, Sopra Banking Software and Berlin Group Open Finance
  - **Jimmy Couvaras**, Assistant Director, Payment Systems Oversight, Bank of Zambia
  - **Jeremy Gray**, Technical Director, Cenfri
  - **Khemraj Hurry**, Chief Payment Systems and Digital Currency, Bank of Mauritius
  - **Bright Simons**, Founder and CEO, mPedigree, Ghana
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12:00

**Privacy considerations in Open Banking and Open Finance**

**Presenter:**

- **Giuseppe Bianco**, Policy Analyst, OECD

**Discussant:**

- **Drudeisha Madhub**, Data Protection Commissioner, Data Protection Office, Mauritius
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12:30

**Lunch**

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13:45

**Regulatory Sandboxes and other innovation facilitators: lessons from Europe and the experience of Africa**

**Chair:** Iota Kaousar Nassr, Senior Policy Advisor, OECD

**Lead Speaker:**

- **Valentina Mejdahl**, Policy Officer, European Securities Market Authority

**Discussants:**

- **Ivo Jenik**, Financial Sector Specialist, CGAP World Bank
- **Ahmed Monir**, Head of Regulatory Sandbox at the Central Bank of Egypt
- **Awelani Rahulani**, Head of Fintech, FSCA, South Africa

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15:00

**Closing Session**

**Remarks by:**

- **Dr Carmine Di Noia**, Director for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD
- **Dr Navin Beekarry**, Director-General, Financial Crimes Commission and RCE Governing Board Member

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15:20-16:00

**END OF WORKSHOP**

**Networking and Refreshment**

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