End of Year Message from Mrs. Nomita Seebaluck,
President of WOMESA Mauritius

2015 has been a fruitful year for the Association of Women Managers in the Maritime Sector in Eastern and Southern Africa (WOMESA) Mauritius.

To begin with in March this year, we organized a roundtable discussion with the participation of port stakeholders to mark the International Women’s Day along with the Annual General Meeting.

On 25 June 2015: Day of the Seafarer, awareness talks were held in three different girls state secondary schools on career prospects in the maritime sector. Finally on the occasion of the World Maritime Day, a conference was organized on Ocean Economy.

All these achievements would not have been possible without the active participation and close collaboration of all stakeholders involved in the maritime/shipping activities in the port area.

On behalf of the Managing Committee and on my personal name, we seize this opportunity to express our gratitude to our various Sponsors and Partners with whom we have worked closely in 2015. We wish you, as well as all members of WOMESA Mauritius, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2016.

World Maritime Day 28 September 2015


♦ Honourable Premdut KOONJOO, Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands did the opening the conference.

Wishing You all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2016
As you may be aware the World Maritime Day 2015 is celebrated by International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in the last week of September. The World Maritime Day theme for 2015 was “Maritime Education and Training”.

To mark this occasion, WOMESA National Chapter organised a conference for women employed in the maritime sector at the Zilwa Attitude Hotel, Royal Road, Calodyne on Monday 28 September 2015.

Mrs. Nancy Karigithu from KENYA, former Director General of the Kenya Maritime Authority and founder member of WOMESA Regional Association, has been invited to intervene at this event. The latter is an eminent speaker at various regional and international events.

The Conference was themed: “Ocean Economy: Emerging Issues and Challenges”. At the end of the day, participants from various stakeholders in the port area, maritime-related service providers, private institutions and public bodies came up with some recommendations as regards to the following:

♦ Poverty Alleviation & Women in the Maritime Sector
♦ Employment Opportunities for Women in the Maritime Sector
♦ Economic Empowerment in the Maritime Sector

To close the event, a dinner was organized for the sponsors of the conference, which was graced by the presence of the Honourable Minister Premdut Koonjoo.
Day of the Seafarer is an official United Nations international observance day which takes place every year on 25 June.

It is organized by the IMO and aims to increase awareness among the general public of the world’s 1.5 million seafarers for their unique, and all-too-often overlooked, contribution they make to the well-being of all of us.

Day of the Seafarer pays tribute to the world’s 1.5 million seafarers and encourages people to say Thank You Sea- farers on 25 June.

This year the IMO has shifted its focus to maritime education and it wants us to consider a career at sea. Most people go to work in offices, factories and shops, but it’s a different picture for seafarers: an office can be a hundred thousand-ton oil tanker or a cargo ship navigating the world’s oceans with beautiful landscapes.

In view of the above, members of WOMESA Mauritius national chapter organized an awareness campaign about career prospects in the maritime sector with the aim of encouraging young girls of Lower Six to eventually join the maritime sector.

Thus, talks were held at the following girls state secondary schools (SSS):

- G. M. Dawjee Atchia State College, Port Louis
- Manilall Doctor SSS, Lallmatie
- M. P. Sharma Jugdambi SSS, Goodlands

Mrs. Hawanty Teeluck, Vice-President WOMESA Mauritius with Mrs. Rajessree Gungadeen of G.M.D Atchia College and Ms. Vanina Christine, Member of WOMESA Mauritius (left to right)

The theme of the roundtable session evolved around the daily challenges that women professionals have to face in their career in their daily life and how they can be tackled.

This event provided an excellent opportunity for women working within the port area to learn from the experiences of leading women in the sector and interact amongst themselves.

With a view to increasing networking and sharing of experiences outside the formal working environment amongst members, WOMESA Mauritius organized a networking dinner on Friday 27 February 2015 at Le Suffren Hotel.