



THIS ISSUE No 001: 2019/01 -January

[For open circulation to every member and person on AeSM's mailing list, including AeSM's Corporate Partners]

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LATE NEWS

This year the Moon is the News!

Please read Item 6 on Page 3

The AeSM Council

President: Captain Richard Twomey
Vice-President: Jagadish Soobarah
Secretary: Sarupanand Kinnoo
Asst. Secretary: Dr Amrita Kundomal
Treasurer: Abedeen Madarbakus
Asst Treasurer: Nadeem H Kaudeer.
PRO: Jacques Gentil + Keshav Nundloll (co-opted).

AeSM Registered Office: c/o Mauritius Research Council, Level 6, Ebene Heights, Ebene

The Website: <https://aesm.mu/>

E-mail : secretary@aesm.mu

Mailto : president@aesm.mu

(1) From the President Dick Twomey

Dear Colleagues

A very happy new year to you. Our Society was registered on the 9th December 2013. We are already 5 years old, and I believe it is quite appropriate that we take a pause to take a look at ourselves and ask to what extent we have achieved the objectives which, right from the beginning, we had set ourselves. The answer will certainly be that we are on the right track but are still far from fully delivering all those objectives, which are spelt out in the Constitution of the Society, and available for perusal and download from the Society's website. [[Click Here](#)]

A Humble Start.

It was in 2010 that a handful of existing members of the Royal Aeronautical Society (the RAeS is based in London and with a vast worldwide membership) conceived the idea of establishing an aeronautical society in Mauritius. We were soon joined by many like-minded friends, some aviation professionals but others simply enthusiasts for flying, for whom a matrix of membership grades was designed, and an Application-to-join format adopted, based largely on that used by the iconic RAeS. As of 01 January 2019, the membership roll stands at 49, plus 9 Corporate Partners - which are organizations or businesses wishing to support us in our endeavours. As the first years passed it became clear that there was a great deal of pent-up passion for aviation in young Mauritians of secondary school age, inspiring us to establish a new younger section of "Junior Aviators". This group has already eclipsed that of the senior members with a current count of 68. They keep us both busy and motivated to do more!

BUT...If a total Roll-call of over 120 sounds good, it is far too few to give the AeSM the critical mass to ensure continuance and to contribute usefully to the progress of our country. My target is a thousand (1,000). A rethink is necessary!

Our Membership Potential

The Mauritius aviation and aerospace community is fairly large if we consider that the air transport and tourism industry contributes 26% of the Mauritius GDP or MRs 62.5 billion or so.



Besides the staff and employees of the Department of Civil Aviation, Airports of Mauritius, Airport Terminal Operations and the National Airline, all of whom would certainly qualify for one or other membership class of our Society, there would be hundreds of other persons engaged in providing the various services required for ensuring the safe operation of aircraft and expeditious processing of air travellers in compliance and conformity with international and national norms.

Add to this personnel of other airlines having an office or representation in Mauritius, the staff and employees of every other business established to offer their expertise and services to the aviation sector and the host of agencies and outlets serving the travellers themselves and freight handlers, at the airport or on off-airport locations, and you can guess-estimate the size of the crowd we would like to reach out to. More members means more ideas, more energy for achieving goals and more success and longevity for the Society.

The AeSM is not a trade union or an association established to safeguard the personal interest of its members, so would be the wrong forum for anyone desiring to settle a score with its administration to join. Our mission to which we are committed is *“to engage in the encouragement and maintenance of excellence in the fields of aviation and aeronautics, leading to the general advancement of Aeronautical Art, Science and Engineering, and more particularly for promoting that sector of knowledge which distinguishes the profession of Aeronautics (which includes Astronautics) in Mauritius and the Indian Ocean area”*

We have undertaken to perform three primary roles: to support and maintain the highest standards for professionalism in all aeronautical disciplines; to provide a unique source of specialist information and a central forum for exchange of ideas; and to exert influence in the interest of aeronautics in both the public and industrial arenas. This is a tall order whose delivery depends on the Society priding itself

with having a wide range of specialists in aerospace and aviation within its various classes of membership. Some of these specialists we already count within the Society, but many more are out there! AeSM would like to welcome you all in its folds. Interest in aviation and aeronautics is an acceptable qualification to join us as an Affiliate. The entry or upgrading requirements to our various membership classes are diverse enough to accommodate individuals from the wide range of aviation, travel and tourism sectors. The Council of AeSM is getting into an overdrive mode to work out a strategy to attract individuals from all branches of Mauritius' large and diverse Aviation & Tourism sector into the several classes of membership, as well as to persuade the Aviation, Travel and Tourism sector companies to join us as Corporate Partners. By sharing – experience, expertise and advice – everyone moves further forward. We need your support... and you will get ours!

(2) Plans for this year (2019)

1. Ongoing events: We shall continue our two-monthly members' meetings where guest speakers deliver presentations to us on aviation/aeronautics related subjects. The Annual Model Glider Competition which is open to secondary school students in Grades 10 and 12 is on schedule. We propose to arrange for more exciting visits and presentations to our Junior Aviators, and we shall be supporting by our active presence the projects of the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre and other branches of the Ministry of Education to stimulate more interest in Science. We are strongly supporting Air Mauritius' plans to set up a pilot training Academy; and the initiatives of the Institution of Engineers Mauritius (IEM) to pursue the Washington Accord for Mauritius.

2. Visitor from the Royal Aeronautical Society. During the past 5 years we have welcomed four Presidents of the Royal Aeronautical Society (UK). We hope to be able, again with the support of our first Partner (Air Mauritius), to repeat this joint event this year.

AeSM NEWSLETTER

Aeronautical Society of Mauritius - Reg'd 09th November 2013



3. Widen the Council of AeSM. Members would recall that last year we proposed an amendment to our Constitution to increase our Council from 7 to 9, to permit two Associate Members to be elected to the Council. We wish to go one step further. To create the opportunity for other grade members to bring in their contribution to the running of the Society it is proposed to increase membership to 11, with an additional option to co-opt one or two persons to serve on our various sub-committees. We are planning to get the resolution and proposed amendments ready before the AGM, which will take place in March 2019.

4. Likely developments post the AGM. This year we are due to hold Council Elections, and it is no doubt time to see other names joining or replacing the current list. Your President reckons that he is due for a rest, having served for 4 years since Founding President Arjoon Suddhoo stepped down. There will also be more places to fill in a larger Council which will lead the Society into a greater future.

5. Please show interest in the management of the Society. The number of members applying for election to the Council of a Society is a strong indication of a very active association, as well as an indication of the high and recognised status of the association in the eyes of the public. Who gets through and who misses out in the voting is a secondary consideration. This is my appeal to every one of you who is a member with current voting rights (this may be extended in the future) to participate in this forthcoming AeSM Council in March.

6. An event to celebrate. This year in July the world will be celebrating 50 years since astronaut Neil Armstrong first walked on the Moon, which is back in the news since China recently placed a rover on its non-visible side. AeSM will be organizing a celebration on 20 July, you can put a marker in your diary!

7. My expectation from you. I appeal to you to give a few minutes of your time to this communication, which is the first of its nature, and to send me your feedback. You must

certainly have lots of ideas revolving in your head. Please let them come out and transpose them to an e-mail addressed to me or to the Secretary Anand Kinnoo.

With my best regards

Dick Twomey



[\(3\) Updating the AeSM website](#)

Our Webmaster Nadeem assisted by Keshav is updating the AeSM website. You will soon see that new items have been uploaded together with extracts from world events in aviation and aerospace.

[\(4\) Junior Aviator News.](#) Four recent visits to places of aviation interest have been very well received, the latest – thanks to Air Mauritius - giving the JAs an opportunity to view the Airbus A350, the latest in airliner technology, on 17th December last year. Next outing will be arranged in the Easter holiday period.

[\(5\) Glider Competition](#)

Schools are currently being informed by our partner the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre of the arrangements for the fourth version of this popular competition, which will again offer prizes sponsored by the University of Southampton. Great fun in Physics and not to be missed!

[\(6\) Special General Meeting](#)

The amendments referred to in President's message will necessarily have to be submitted to a Special General Meeting. Options available to us are: either to hold it a week or so prior to the Annual General Meeting or hold it half-an hour or 45 minutes prior to the AGM as was done last year. You will be kept informed.

[\(7\) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING](#)

The Council of AeSM is due for renewal this year and that should take place through the AGM. While sitting members are advised to seek re-election, it is desirable that new members indicate their desire to serve the Society. The best way to do so is to submit their nominations for election to the Council when the notifications are issued. President has signified his willingness, if elected, to stay on the Council but to stand down as President.

[\(8\) What lies Ahead: This is up to YOU, is up to Each of US!](#)

At this point in time your membership is the reason for our existence. Please ensure your subscriptions for this year (due as at 31 Jan 2019) are up to date, and that you are not in arrears for the 2018.

[\(9\) Our Corporate Partners](#)

AeSM is indebted to the following Companies/Individuals for their continuous support to us in respect of activities we have done so far and hope to continue doing as we face the future. AeSM will rely on their continued support. They are:

Air Mauritius (CEO Somas Appavou)

SevenPHP (Wasseem Khayratee)

Adlabs Ltd (David Sauvage)

Sapere (Prof. Serge Riviere)

Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre (RGSC Director - Aman Maulloo)

Universiti Kuala Lumpur (Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology-UNIKL MIAT- Prof. Ahmad Zahir)

University of Southampton (Melissa Gibson)
Middlesex University (Prof. Mari van Rensberg)

Greenwich University Pakistan Mauritius (Rab Nawaz)

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