

Tailored Financial Excellence: Mauritius' Unique Investor Advantages

Recognizing the rise of Mauritius, Nadeem Carrim, Head of Global Business at AfrAsia Bank, highlights the island's position among the top 10 countries with the highest economic prospects in the 2023 World Bank's Global Economic Prospect report.

Mauritius holds a strategic advantage in the global financial landscape due to its geographical positioning and a workforce proficient in both English and French," he explains. "This positions us favorably among other IFCs as it effectively acts as a bridge connecting Africa and Asia."

The country boasts a sophisticated economy, a resilient financial system, solid regulatory structures, political stability, a well-footed banking sector, and numerous double taxation avoidance treaties with various countries. "With zero exchange control regulations, Mauritius emerges as a preferred jurisdiction for businesses and an ideal platform for structuring investment funds, fund managers, and advisors," Carrim emphasizes. "Our robust banking system serves as an ideal platform for Private Equity funds, and Mauritius is a preferred destination for Development Financial Institutions," he continues.

From a technological perspective, Carrim emphasizes Mauritius's commitment to innovation. "The Government and the private sector are closely collaborating to position Mauritius as a significant player, empowering players on the ground to support innovative services like the Variable Capital Company. This structural innovation places Mauritius on par with other globally recognized jurisdictions in technological development, a crucial factor for sustaining high flows of foreign direct investment," he says.

In addition, the Government amended relevant legislation to accommodate cashless transactions, with the Virtual Asset and Initial Token Offerings Services Act 2021 coming into effect in 2022. The banking sector is innovating in line with the international market, providing options such as tap-to-pay cards, hassle-free e-transfers completed with a few clicks, and various cashless payment methods through relevant mobile applications. Meanwhile, ongoing efforts to uplift talents and the establishment of a FinTech hub, coupled with the expanded use of Artificial Intelligence, are poised to act as catalysts in shaping the future of banking and

finance, particularly in the global financial markets, in Mauritius.

When it comes to the rapidly evolving international ESG-related regulatory landscape, Carrim affirms, "The Mauritius IFC strategically emphasizes Environmental, Social, and Governance impact, Green Finance, and Sustainable Finance; local initiatives, including mandatory ESG disclosures, are aligning with global green strategies to meet investor demands for transparency, making Mauritius a crucial player in driving impactful investment for SDG-aligned projects in Africa."



Nadeem Carrim
Head of Global Business
at AfrAsia Bank

Highlighting the diversity of services offered by the Mauritius International Finance Center (MIFC), Carrim mentions: "The Mauritius IFC offers a comprehensive range of services, catering to both banking and offshore management company needs. High-net-worth individuals and businessmen are looking for tailored and sophisticated services through Special Purpose Vehicles for asset protection, wealth preservation, enhanced returns, and well-structured succession planning. Mauritius, providing both fiscal and non-fiscal benefits, imposes no withholding tax on distributions to shareholders/investors and has no capital gains tax. The Mauritius IFC is also regarded as a low-cost jurisdiction with a highly skilled and qualified pool of talents."

In addition to being part of regional bodies like COMESA, SADC, and MIGA, Mauritius excels in political stability, offers a business-friendly climate, and operates within a favorable time zone. Supported by a well-developed infrastructure validated by international entities, including banks, law firms, audit firms, and listed companies, Mauritius serves as an ideal nexus for facilitating business engagements between Africa and Asia. The island strategically connects the MENA region with key global markets, particularly Asia, utilizing its robust network of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements and Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements.

