Belt and Road Initiative’, writes Island can play vital role in expansion of China’s Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius, has the potential to become the financial services hub of the African continent. economy. transforming the island’s such as Huawei to Mauritius, attracting hi-tech Chinese firms countries. He is interested in China that would benefit both Mauritius and China have expressed interest in Mauritius being part of the new Maritime Silk Road because of the country’s strategic location, which positions the island nations as natural extensions of the same Silk Road. Apart from building transport to diversify its trading network and boost exports to Indo-Pacific Ocean and the African economic corridor.

Jugnauth says economic reforms in Mauritius have not changed much since the country gained independence, with a large economy away from a long term dependence on resources. Mangat says economic structures in Mauritius have not improved substantially since that time. Although the two countries are far apart, geographically, China has access to a sizeable market in Africa, and can play a role in setting up a gateway between China and Africa. Other topics discussed included the role Mauritius has played in globalisation and merely keeping pace with other economies. Jugnauth hopes that adopting a revised industrial policy will help to establish the four pillars of the economy – sugar, export processing, tourism and financial services, and an offshore renminbi clearing business in Port Louis. Both sides intend to strengthen economic cooperation as well as eliminate trade barriers.

Mauritius and China have already established diplomatic relations with Mauritius in April 1972, and bilateral relations have improved substantially since that time. Although the two countries are geographically far apart, China has become Mauritius’s second largest trading partner in recent years. China is also the second largest source of foreign direct investment in Mauritius, according to official figures, and it is estimated that it accounts for 13 per cent of total foreign investment in the country. Mauritius is bound to benefit as China focuses more attention and investment funds into the African continent. As the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in Beijing, on December 3, 2015, President Xi Jinping had announced that China would invest US$60 billion in the continent by the end of this year. This sum can help China enterprises to access Africa.

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Mauritius is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its independence from Britain this year. More than half a century on, the island republic – once a British possession, now accessible in one and a half hours from the coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean – vows from time to time under the weight of its financial insignificance. Five decades on, Mauritius – with a population of 1.25 million – is now a key exporter of textiles, wood, stone and glass. Hong Kong, and by extension mainland China, remains the largest supplier of T-shirts, the third largest exporter of raw wool products, and Europe’s fourth largest supplier of oil. However, the island now faces increasing competition from lower-cost suppliers in other parts of the region and from distant producers. Some firms have responded by shifting their operations offshore, including the diversifying from basmati rice, canned fruits, spices, tea, lottery and fully fashioned knitwear to items of higher added value. Mauritius’ regular flights to mainland China, remains the largest supplier of T-shirts, the third largest exporter of raw wool products, and Europe’s fourth largest supplier of oil. However, the island now faces increasing competition from lower-cost suppliers in other parts of the region and from distant producers. Some firms have responded by shifting their operations offshore, including the diversifying from basmati rice, canned fruits, spices, tea, lottery and fully fashioned knitwear to items of higher added value.

ECONOMY

DIVERSE ISLE OF COHESION AND GROWTH

Business-friendly, multicultural nation has become ‘Africa’s miniature miracle’, writes ED PETERS

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Welcome to the new LUX* Grand Gaube, a totally reimagined retro-chic tropical retreat in Mauritius. What’s Next?

What’s Next?
Unforgettable inland attractions and tasty menus soon reveal the nation’s unique history and ethnic diversity.

ED PETERS

Mauritius and the Maldives fall squarely into the category of “Indian Ocean Paradise”, with scores of exotic blue and sandy beaches. And both island republics boast a striking diversity of culture, with a rich mosaic of people and cuisines. By nature, Mauritius is a land of contrasts: its two island republics have their own unique histories, geography and food cultures with top-dollar class hotels.

The main difference is geographic—the major resorts in Mauritius are concentrated on a single island, whereas in the Maldives they are strung out across the archipelago, since governments, getting guts out of the seaweed means boarding a boat or helicopter. In Mauritius, it is much easier to get out and about and explore. More importantly, Mauritius is simply bigger.

There are no true inland attractions, different cultures to discover, and several surviving food trails combined with multiple activities that cater to all age groups and cultures.

Various categories of food enthusiasts can find something to their liking, from traditional dishes to modern Indian and Creole cuisine, Chinese street food and international fusion. Naturally, the island’s top-end resorts pull out all the stops for foodie trail combined with world-class facilities, making your island visit a gastronomic and holistic experience.

The widest choice of delicacies is at the many stalls along the roads and in the towns and villages. Mauritius has its own unique spices, and street food is the most delicious and tasty. Local fish, pork, and sweet potato cakes. Indian, African, Chinese – it’s the island’s delicious street food sold all the way along the roads and in the rooms and villas. The widest choice of delicacies is on land and around the island’s markets, whereas ports have fresh local meals like fish, shrimp, seafood and beef.

The resort – where couples on their board pay approximately HK$1,860 per night – also ensures to make the most of the sea, sand, and sun that contribute to cultural heritage.

We can only mention two budget-friendly accommodations priced at up to HK$8,000 per night, even though there are some neat deals. A night at the Tamarina Golf & Spa Boutique Hotel costs HK$6,150 per night—also includes three beaches, a 18-hole golf course, a spacious hotel with a walled private beach, and has its own golf course.

The resort’s restaurants serve Chinese street food, the famous soy sauce and ginger dressing that make the island famous. Gerhard Hecker, general manager of the Tamarina Resort and Spa, which is part of the Hong Kong-based Shangri-La group of hotels, says the 525 key resort promises a fruitful local cuisine, and in the vicinity, an international food heaven—something to be savored.

The resort, which was originally a 5,000-acre pastoral land on the east coast, opened in 1970. Its now a 280-acre resort, and has its own golf course. The resort’s restaurants serve Chinese street food, the famous soy sauce and ginger dressing that make the island famous. Gerhard Hecker, general manager of the Tamarina Resort and Spa, which is part of the Hong Kong-based Shangri-La group of hotels, says the 525 key resort promises a fruitful local cuisine, and in the vicinity, an international food heaven—something to be savored.

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White sandy beaches and aqua waters await the traveller in Mauritius, but after a day or so of relaxation, most visitors want to set about exploring everything else the island has to offer.

Visitors can choose the flight timings if they intend to arrive early enough and not waste a day recounting from flight delays to the bustle of the harbour’s cruise ships and cargo vessels. For instance, the stately cargo vessels and the Kwan Tee pagoda, a fitting symbol of the long-time Indian Ocean”, and no one should miss the chance to take in the theatre is the “oldest in the world”.

Many, one of the chief attractions to experience the sights and sounds of the harbour and picturesque capital, Port Louis. From the Place d’Armes, the capital’s old town, backed by a ring of mountains, and strolling the waterfront, it presents an array of highlights for tourists, traders, patrons, performers, and Voices nurturing culture from the harbour’s cruise ships and cargo vessels.

Inland, the landscape is fertile and unique, an essenced jewel in the rich and vibrant mosaic of the island’s colorful culture, and a place with waterlilies, across their fish-filled lagoons, and local specialities, providing taste and keen to experience the lifestyle that the island has to offer.

Any stroll around town opposite the Supreme Court; the Kwan Tee pagoda, a fitting symbol of the long-time British colonial era, and the Kwan Tee pagoda, a fitting symbol of the long-time Cantonese Opera, and the Kwan Tee pagoda, a fitting symbol of the long-time British colonial era, and the Kwan Tee pagoda, a fitting symbol of the long-time British colonial era.

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HK PLAYS ROLE IN EXPANSION PLANS

Corporation is helping Chinese investors to look at opportunities, while developing long-term global ties, writes MUKUL MUNISH

The bank traces its history way back to 1931. In that year, its founder, Sir Jean Etienne Moilin Ah-Chuen, at the age of 20, set up his small retail shop, ABC Store, at 18 Queen Street in Port Louis. In 1948, his hard work and initiatives were recognised by the British colonial government and he was appointed Minister of Local Government and served for seven years in that capacity. In 1950, Sir Jean Etienne was knighted. In 1991, Pope John Paul II conferred him the "Knight of St Gregory the Great" for his immense contribution to the Chinese Catholic Mission.

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ABC Banking Corporation is helping Chinese investors to look at opportunities, while developing long-term global ties, writes MUKUL MUNISH.
Proud to be a witness and contributor to the major achievements of our country during its 50 years of independence.

ABC AUTOMOBILE

50th
Anniversary
of the Independence of Mauritius

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www.abcgroup.mu

SPECIAL REPORT

CULTURE

MIXED HERITAGE, SHARED VALUES

Centuries of immigration have created artistic traditions, music and fun-filled festivals that are diverse and exciting, writes JOHN CREMER.

With its unique blend of people, languages, religions, outside influences and artistic traditions, the culture of Mauritius offers a fascinating mixture of contrasts and similarities that marks the island as a crossroads of many influences and artistic traditions.

In different ways, it is found in music, dance, literature, crafts, and the use of instruments from around the world. The island’s culture truly comes alive at each of the public and religious holidays during the year, such as the Carnival celebration (above), a festival of penance honouring Lord Muruga, the Tamil god of war and victory.

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