



PRESS RELEASE

The Presidency of the Republic of Mauritius clarifies its position regarding Planet Earth Institute (PEI).

The Planet Earth Institute (www.planeteearthinstitute.org.uk) is an international civil society organization based in London, and is registered under the Charities Commission of the UK since 2010. The PEI's work program is guided by a Global Scientific Committee (GSC), a group of eminent, international scientists and leaders with proven track records of scientific accomplishments and public service. The PEI has attracted international support for its work and advocacy for a scientifically-empowered Africa.

In July 2015, President Gurib-Fakim was invited to make a keynote address at the PEI annual conference. The keynote was on the theme *“Mobilizing Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa”*.

It was during this meeting that the Trustees decided to open a branch in Mauritius, in view of addressing African problems from within the African continent.

“As a scientist, academician, and lifelong advocate in favour of mobilizing science for sustainable national development, President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim supported the establishment of the local chapter of Planet Earth Institute to provide advanced training to Mauritian nationals and young African scientists, especially women, in key development topics at internationally renowned universities.

PEI Mauritius branch was launched in November 2015 to help build capacity for the African continent and President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim was designated Vice Chairperson. Since the public launch of the PEI program in Mauritius in November 2015, seven students have now been placed at leading universities.

Contrary to some media reports, President Gurib-Fakim was never involved in any of the business-related aspects of PEI's founder. Any allegation to the contrary are speculative and false.

Her work with PEI was strictly limited to nurturing scientific talent and supporting young African researchers. The Presidency regrets the recent series of unsubstantiated and speculative press articles that have consistently failed to meet the required standard of responsible journalism.

The President would like to take this opportunity to assure all Mauritians that they can count on the professionalism and integrity of Mauritius' public regulatory institutions and financial system to handle business or investment-related requests from the private sector in a fair and equitable manner. It is for this reason that Mauritius consistently earns top standing in international ease of doing business rankings.

**State House
Le Réduit**

17 April 2017