



## **SPEECH**

**His Excellency Mr Dharambeer Gokhool G.C.S.K., President of the  
Republic of Mauritius**

**EVENT:     TEA FOR HARMONY – YAJI CULTURAL  
              SALON AND ECHOES OF SILK ROAD CHINA  
              IN PORCELAIN EXHIBITION**

**VENUE:     CHINA CULTURAL CENTRE, BELL VILLAGE**

**DATE:       07 JUNE 2025**

**TIME:       18:30 HOURS**

## **Protocol**

Honourable Mrs Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra, Speaker of the National Assembly, and Mr Cziffra

Honourable Mr Mahen Goondea, Minister of Arts and Culture

Her Excellency Dr Huang Shifang, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China

Dr the Honourable Farhad Aumeer, Member of the National Assembly

Mr Adam Hossenally, Lord Mayor of the City of Port Louis

Miss Gabriella Batour, Mayor of Beau Bassin – Rose Hill

Mrs Aneeta Goorah, Ombudsperson for Children

Mr Yang Jun, Director of the China Cultural Centre

Distinguished Guests

All Protocol Observed

## **Introduction**

Bonsoir.

C'est avec un immense plaisir que je m'associe à vous pour célébrer une tradition millénaire qui unit les peuples — celle du thé — ainsi que l'héritage artistique remarquable de la porcelaine chinoise.

Un événement placé sous le signe de l'harmonie, d'échange et du respect mutuel.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This evening marks a celebration of not just Art, but also values that transcend time and borders.

So, it is with great warmth and pleasure that I join you for the “Tea for Harmony - Yaji Cultural Salon” and the “Echoes of the Silk Road, China in Porcelain” Exhibition.

Let me begin by congratulating and commending the China Cultural Center, as well as our esteemed guests, artists and performers from the Jiangxi Provincial Museum and the School of Music of Minzu University of China for bringing this wonderful initiative to our island.

### **Tea in Chinese Culture**

As you are aware, in November 2022, China’s traditional tea-making was inscribed on the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage — a testament to centuries of knowledge, skill, and meaning.

Tea in Chinese culture is not merely a beverage, but a bridge — representing a symbol of humility, harmony, and mutual respect that has brought people together across generations, regions, and civilizations.

Tea has also played a vital role along the legendary Silk Road.

As tea caravans journeyed across mountains and deserts, they brought leaves and stories, ideas, and philosophies — creating connections between East and West.

It is such that tea routes became melting pots of mutual learning, enabling the growth of civilizations through shared exchanges in art, science, and belief.

### **Tea in Mauritian Culture**

You would reckon that tea also has a rich presence in Mauritius – a beverage introduced during colonial times but that has now become a part of our daily rhythm and cultural identity.

From Bois Chéri to Curepipe, our tea plantations are a living testament of our heritage, resistance, and our socio-economic resilience.

And globally, tea is the second most consumed beverage after water.

### **Mauritius - China Ties**

In our shared reverence for tea, Mauritius and China find yet another beautiful common ground.

An addition to our longstanding, dynamic friendship, rooted in our shared history, trade, cultural exchange, economic cooperation, and people-to-people connectivity.

It is therefore imperative that we remind ourselves that arts, culture and our shared humanity speak a language of their own — one that does not require translation, but only open hearts.

### **Presidency and Nation Building**

As President of the Republic, my main mission is nation building, and this mission must be fulfilled with the active support, involvement and inclusion of all sections of our population.

Our Sino-Mauritian community has played and continues to play an essential role in shaping the identity of Mauritius.

In fact, this very morning, I inaugurated a library – the first children and youth reading space in Chinatown- by the Soong Chin Ling (Mauritius) Foundation.

A project made possible through the invaluable contribution of the youth and the support community members in Chinatown.

So, your contributions to our cultural, economic, and social spheres are immeasurable.

And such initiatives are pivotal in consolidating our national pride and identity as Mauritians, as well as offering a true reflection of the spirit

of our Republic – one that showcases the beauty of our peaceful coexistence, genuine cohesion and intercultural celebration.

### **A Call for Unity in Diversity**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's world –shaped by divisions and conflict- must compel us to look at powerful tools of diplomacy and remind ourselves that what unites us is stronger than what divides us.

In these times, tea, porcelain, art and music are here to show us that beauty and understanding often lie in the simple things.

This evening, marked by demonstrations of traditional Chinese tea-making, ancient porcelain craftsmanship, and Chinese music, is therefore an invitation to foster intercultural dialogue, honour traditions that bind communities, and to reaffirm our commitment to unity, both as a nation and as part of the global family.

It is essential that we celebrate the richness of our heritage and look to the future with hope, guided by the wisdom of generational values.

### **Conclusion**

I hope that this evening will inspire us to honour the spirit of peace, learning, and harmony – as One People, as One Nation.

I congratulate you all once again for this laudable initiative and wish you a very nice evening.

Thank you for your attention.