



AVINASH MEETOO

COMPUTER SCIENTIST & TEDx SPEAKER

with more than 25 years experience in innovation, science, technology, education and policy-making

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Knowledge7

Quatre-Bornes, Mauritius
Since May 2023

Founder, Owner & Director

Knowledge7 started as a training and consulting company, is registered as a multimedia company and is pivoting towards the intersection between strategic thinking, technology, innovation and policy-making.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Mauritius & Seychelles

Port-Louis, Mauritius
Feb 2021 – Apr 2023

Digital Advocate & Head of Experimentation Accelerator Lab

As part of a network operating in 91 countries, the Accelerator Lab aims to accelerate learning to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. I was responsible for creating multi-stakeholder solutions to address complex problems using innovation, technology and leadership. I was also mandated to disseminate the UNDP Digital Strategy in Mauritius and Seychelles.

Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation

Ébène, Mauritius
Jun 2017 – Jan 2021

Senior Adviser of the Minister

I advised the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation on ways to transform Mauritius into an inclusive high-income country as per Vision 2030 of the Government. I advised on creating a culture of innovation among the population, identifying strategic growth areas and making ICT a key driver for economic and social development.

University of Technology (UTM)

La Tour Koenig, Mauritius
Jul 2018 – Jan 2021

Member of the Board of Governors

UTM operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Education. I also chaired the Planning and Finance Committee and I was part of the Staff Committee and the Academic Council of the university.

National Computer Board (NCB)

Port-Louis, Mauritius
Feb 2018 – Jan 2021

Member of the Board of Directors

NCB promotes the development of ICT to transform Mauritius into a cyber island and a regional ICT hub. As board member, I contributed to strategic planning and decisions impacting both government and citizens.

ICT Advisory Council

Ébène, Mauritius
Jan 2015 – May 2017

Chairperson of the ICT Advisory Council

The Council advises the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation on policies to promote users' interest for ICT services.

Knowledge7 Quatre-Bornes, Mauritius Nov 2008 – May 2017	Founder, Owner & CEO Knowledge7 is an institution which has trained more than 600 people in highly technical fields (Linux, Android & Web Development). It also provided consultancy and mobile application development services (for both Android devices and Apple iPhones & iPads).
Supinfo University Nov 2014 – May 2017 University of Mauritius Mar 2005 – Aug 2008 MCCI Business School Sep 1999 – Feb 2005	Lecturer in Computer Science Computer science and software engineering taught at undergraduate and graduate levels at Supinfo University at Unicity Education Hub in Mauritius, at the department of Computer Science & Engineering of the University of Mauritius and at the Business School of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Also engaged in Research and Consulting activities.
DCDM Consulting Port-Louis, Mauritius Jan 1999 – Aug 1999	Business Analyst Provided support for the Mauritian sugar industry (Weighbridge & Payroll systems) and developed a fixed-assets management software for banks.

EDUCATION

ENS Lyon Lyon, France Sep 1997 – Aug 1998	Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) in Computer Science “Diplôme d'Études Approfondies en Informatique” at the “École Normale Supérieure” (ENS Lyon).
INSA Lyon Lyon, France Sep 1995 – Aug 1998	Master's Degree in Computer Science “Diplôme d'Ingénieur en Informatique” at the “Institut National des Sciences Appliquées” (INSA Lyon). Ranked 1 st in 1996.
Université de la Réunion Réunion Island, France Sep 1993 – Aug 1995	Diploma in Maths, Physics & Computer Science “Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Générales (DEUG) Sciences et Structures de la Matière” at the “Université de la Réunion”. Ranked 1 st in 1995.
Royal College Curepipe Curepipe, Mauritius Jan 1990 – Dec 1992	Higher School Certificate (Science Side) Higher School Certificate (GCE A-Level) of Cambridge International (UK) in Science in 1992. Ranked 25 th in Science at the National Level. Awarded a French excellence scholarship.
Royal College Curepipe Curepipe, Mauritius Jan 1985 – Dec 1989	School Certificate (Science Side) School Certificate (GCE O-Level) of Cambridge International (UK) in Science. Ranked 1 st in Computer Science at the National Level.
Notre Dame des Victoires RCA school Rose-Hill, Mauritius Jan 1979 – Dec 1984	Certificate of Primary Education Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) in Maths, Geography, English & French. Ranked 19 th at the National Level.

CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

United Nations Development Programme	Expert in the UNDP ExpRes Roster since December 2023, a consultant deployment mechanism of pre-vetted experts for quick support to countries where UNDP is present in both crisis and non-crisis situations. All experts on the ExpRes Roster have been thoroughly vetted by UNDP's technical teams.
United Nations Development Programme (E-Learning)	Certificates for the following courses from 2021 to 2023: BSAFE security awareness, Fraud & Corruption Awareness and Prevention, Ethics & Integrity at UNDP, Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment & Abuse of Authority, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation & Abuse of the Local Population, Procurement Level 1 Certification, Greening the Blue, The Gender Journey, UNDP Legal Framework and UN Human Rights & Responsibilities.
Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (E-Learning)	Certificate with Distinction for "Introduction to Financial Accounting" in 2014. Statement of Accomplishment for "Gamification" in 2015.
University of Mauritius (UoM)	Passed the Academic Induction module (TAL 5010) in 2008. This is an important part of the teaching and learning in higher education programme of the university. Consultancy work in 2008 through the University for Pearson Education for a study on the situation of ICT in Mauritius. Consultancy work in 2008 through the University for the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund for the design and implementation of a vagrants database.
Red Hat Inc.	Red Hat (Linux) Certified Engineer in 2001. (Certificate ID 110-978-970).
Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)	Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Professional Member for 6+ years. ACM is the world's largest scientific & educational computing society.
Linux User Group of Mauritius (LUGM)	Founded the Linux User Group of Mauritius in 2000 to promote Linux & open-source software. Member of the Managing Committee.
ElectionsMauritius.com	Created the ElectionsMauritius.com website for the 2014 and 2019 general elections in Mauritius. The website was very successful, was featured in the local press and is still fully functional and online.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Soft skills	Creativity, innovation, critical-thinking and problem-solving, leadership, team-building, collaboration and time-management, communication, public speaking and teaching.
Business skills	Entrepreneurship, management, strategic planning, finance & accounting, marketing & sales, human resources.
Technical skills	<p>Software engineering, object-oriented analysis & design, design patterns, enterprise architecture.</p> <p>Programming, web and mobile development, Java and Python frameworks, Android application development.</p> <p>Relational and nonrelational databases, data science, artificial intelligence, machine learning.</p> <p>Linux & macOS (UNIX), networking, cybersecurity, concurrency and parallelism.</p>
Writing skills	<p>Blogging at avinashmeetoo.com (professional) & noulakaz.net (family)</p> <p>Personal social networking at avinashmeetoo.com/facebook</p> <p>Professional social networking at avinashmeetoo.com/facebookpage, avinashmeetoo.com/linkedin & avinashmeetoo.com/twitter</p>
Artistic skills	<p>Piano, guitar and ravanne player.</p> <p>Music composition, production, mixing and mastering at avinashmeetoo.com/music</p> <p>Photography at avinashmeetoo.com/photos</p> <p>Videography at avinashmeetoo.com/videos</p>
General knowledge	<p>Extensive knowledge of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with public speaking and teaching experience.</p> <p>Broad knowledge of philosophy, social sciences, history, economics, politics and humanities.</p>
Other interests	<p>Discovering new countries and cultures. I have visited or stayed in Africa (Mauritius, Rodrigues, Réunion, Ethiopia, Ghana & South Africa), Asia (India, Turkey, Malaysia & Thailand), Europe (France, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands & the UK) and the USA.</p> <p>I am an avid reader and love discovering new movies & TV shows. I am also passionate about music, especially electronic music from the beginning of the 1970s to now. I am a musician.</p> <p>I also like enjoying quality time with family and friends.</p>

SELECTED TALKS & MEDIA APPEARANCES

2024

3 May – Presentation on “ElectionsMauritius.com: Why? How? And the way forward” with Christina Chan-Meetoo during a seminar on “Building Stronger and More Exciting Journalism” organised by her and students in Communications and Journalism at the University of Mauritius.

28 March – Presentation on “Emerging Technologies for a Sustainable Future” during the National Science Week 2024 organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre at the Côte d’Or National Complex.

2023

8 December – Member of the Jury during the FinTech Youth Summit 2023 organised by the Mauritius Africa FinTech Hub under the sponsorship of the Mauritius Commercial Bank.

2 December – Presentation on “Towards Smart Citizens and a Smart Mauritius with Artificial Intelligence” at the PGD Conference 2023 hosted by Publicis Global Delivery in Ébène.

15-16 November – Speaker at a workshop in Accra, Ghana, with around 50 participants from different parts of the Ghanaian government. The workshop was organised by the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT and the UNDP.

8 November – Presentation on “How Artificial Intelligence can be a formidable tool to tackle complex problems” to students and faculty of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business School.

27 October – Presentation on “ChatGPT – Should we celebrate or be cautious?” at the e-MIG 2023 Conference organized by the Open University of Mauritius.

20 October – Participation in a panel on “Leveraging on AI and Circularity as Game Changers” at Industry 5.0 / Leadership 5.0 Masterclass organized by Team SYNthesis.

10 August – Moderator during the “Mauritius Africa Fintech Hub Regulatory Roundtable 2023” at the Financial Services Commission with discussions on Open APIs, eKYC, Digital Banking, RegTech, Virtual Assets, Web 3.0, Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Rupee.

2 August – Participation in a high-level panel on the “Opportunities and challenges of Artificial Intelligence” organised by the Rotary Club of Bagatelle. I spoke about the need to use the best parts of technology (including AI) to transform Mauritius into a Smart Mauritius.

12 July – Keynote presentation on “How to Embrace Artificial Intelligence in Academia” during a workshop on AI and AI Text Generators at the University of Technology, Mauritius.

9 July – Three pages interview in Le Matinal, in both English and French, on the ICT sector in Mauritius and its potential as a major enabler for the development of the country.

28 June – Presentation on the ICT Landscape in Mauritius for a high-level EDB Madagascar delegation during their “Voyage d’étude axé sur la digitalisation des services publics”.

27 June – Participation in a one hour radio programme “Le Dossier sur l'Intelligence Artificielle” on Radio One.

22 June – Participation in a high-level panel on the impact of disruptive technologies on public service delivery during UN Public Service Day 2023 organised by the Ministry of Public Service.

18 May – Participation in a high-level panel on “How Brands Can Embrace Technology to Stay Ahead of the Curve” during Brand Magic 2023 organised by Mind Initiatives.

12 May – Presentation on “How Emerging Technologies can Contribute to Create a Smart Mauritius (and Smart Jobs)” at a Meet our Experts in Emerging Technology session during the National Science Week 2023.

11 May – Presentation on the “Jobs of the Future in Technology and IT” at a STEM Careers of the Future session during the National Science Week 2023 organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre.

4 May – Two-hour programme on Artificial Intelligence in “Au Cœur de l'Info” on Radio Plus. I explained AI, how it can be beneficial for Mauritius and what we need to do together to embrace AI.

3 March – Interview on ChatGPT during the by MBC Journal Télévisé of 19:30. I explained how ChatGPT chatbot works and what Mauritius needs to do to better leverage Artificial Intelligence.

2022

7 December – “Robotique et IA à Maurice: Historique, État des lieux et Challenges” during the “Robotique Cooperative et Intelligence Artificielle” at the “Université des Mascareignes”.

30 November – “Achieving our 2030 Development Targets” at the “Road to Net Zero” conference at the University of Technology.

23 November – “A Brief History of Programming” at the Developer Conference 2022 at the Caudan Arts Centre.

7 November – Keynote speech on “SDGs and Innovation for the Educational Technologies sector in Mauritius” during the UoM Research Week.

27 April – TED-style talk on the UNDP Offer during the “Assises de la Recherche et de l'Innovation” by the MRIC.

2021	<p>21 October – Moderation of a high-level panel during the UoM Innovation Week organized by the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council.</p> <p>12 October – Presentation during a workshop on the Sandbox Framework organized by the Ministry of Public Service and Institutional Reforms.</p> <p>4 September – “Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Mauritius” during the “AI4LOCAL: À la découverte de l’IA” at the “Université des Mascareignes”.</p> <p>21 April – “The Innovation Ecosystem in Seychelles” during the official launch of the UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Accelerator Lab.</p>
2020	<p>5 October – “Tibiznes dan Moris: comment valoriser davantage votre business?” on Wazaa FM.</p> <p>16 September – “Confluence: Post COVID-19, quel avenir pour le secteur des TIC?” on Wazaa FM.</p> <p>8 April – “La technologie comme alliée pour combattre le COVID-19” in Business Magazine.</p> <p>3 April – “La mouvance vers le télétravail va s’accélérer” in Le Défi.</p> <p>16 January – “Privacy aspects of ICT Projects” at the Data Protection workshop organised by the Data Protection Office.</p>
2019	<p>20 September – “AI Opportunities in Mauritius” at the Innovtech 2019 AI for Good conference.</p> <p>19 September – “Jobs of the future and how YOU can prepare for them” at the Innovtech 2019 youth forum.</p> <p>16 July – “L’Intelligence Artificielle à Maurice, ses perspectives, ses challenges et opportunités” during AI Tuesdays.</p> <p>26 June – “La question du numérique” during the “Assises de la Recherche” at the “Université des Mascareignes”.</p> <p>20 June – “What the Hell are Emerging Technologies and are they useful to me” during the SME TECH-INNOV conference organised by the National Computer Board.</p> <p>11 April – “How Deep Learning Works and Building a Chatbot using Deep Learning (Tensorflow)” during DevCon 2019.</p> <p>14 February – “Jobs of the future and how YOU can prepare for them” during a workshop organised by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.</p>

2018	<p>3 December – “The rise of Africa's digital economy”, an interview on CNBC Africa.</p> <p>28 November – “A conversation with Sophia, the humanoid robot” during the World AI Show in the presence of the Prime Minister.</p> <p>21 November – An interview on “L’Intelligence Artificielle” on Talk of the Town Radio Plus.</p> <p>26 September – “Innovative Digitalisation Initiatives in Government” during the Industry 4.0 conference organised by Team Synthesis.</p> <p>2 August – “Jobs of the Future” during Infotech Rodrigues.</p> <p>20 May – “Building a simple Chatbot using Tensorflow” during DevCon 2018.</p> <p>10 February – “50 Fraz pou 50 an Lindependans” on MBC TV.</p>
2017	<p>2 December – “Innovation as a major enabler in the transformation of Mauritius” during Innovtech 2017.</p> <p>13 November – “Public Sector Innovation” during the Transformation 4.0 conference by Team Synthesis.</p> <p>16 October – “Barriers and Recommendations for a Regulatory Framework and Innovation Ecosystem” during a brainstorming workshop on Overcoming Barriers to Innovation in SMEs organised by the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council.</p> <p>20 September – “Logiciels Open Source: Opportunités et Défis” during OSS 2017 organised by l’Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie and the University of Mauritius.</p> <p>1st August – “Innovation & Emerging Technologies” during Digital Mauritius 2030 Strategy workshop organised by the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation.</p>
2016	<p>25 May – “Être efficace avec Android” at Alteo Group.</p> <p>21 May – “Jobs of the future and how we can prepare for them” during a TEDx organised by the African Leadership College.</p> <p>30 April – “More youngsters should be Hackers” organised by Hackers.mu.</p> <p>21 April – “The ICT Advisory Council” during the World Creativity and Innovation Day Seminar organised by the MRIC.</p> <p>5 February – “Interesting Tech Jobs of the Future (for Mauritius)” for Form VI students at College Imperial in Curepipe.</p>

**2015
and before**

20 August 2015 – “Web 2.0” and “Blogging” at Charles Telfair Institute.

23 April 2015 – “Creating Elections Mauritius using Flask, a Python micro-framework” during the Developers Conference.

28 August 2014 – “Les Logiciels Libres dans le monde de l'Éducation” during OSS2014 organised by l'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie.

25 November 2013 – “Linux and Android World Domination” during Linuxfest 2013 organised by the Linux User Group of Mauritius.

21 November 2013 – “The future of Education” at the Open University.

10 September 2013 – An interview in Mauritius with Vint Cerf, one of the inventors of the Internet and Chief Internet Evangelist at Google. Visit avinashmeetoo.com/m_2013_1 for the interview.

22 August 2013 – “Les logiciels libres au service de l'éducation” during the “Rencontres Mondiales des Logiciels Libres Décentralisées” in Réunion Island.

15 June 2013 – “Why Linux is important for Mauritius” during a workshop organised at L'Escalier by the Mauritius Linux User Group.

2 May 2013 – “Android, architecture, ecosystem and development” at Lottotech.

2 April 2013 – “Les réseaux sociaux” at Rotary Port Louis.

+ more than 50 other talks and media appearances on various topics

+ hundreds of lectures made and courses taught from 1999 to 2017 at the MCCI Business School, the University Of Mauritius, Supinfo University and Knowledge7.

Some of my talks and media appearances are on my Youtube channel at www.avinashmeetoo.com/youtube_talks