

Seychelles

NATION

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On World Oceans Day in New York

Young Seychellois join colleagues to sign pledge to protect the ocean

Young Seychellois environment activists Alvania Lawen, Jean-Yves Mancienne and Neil Commettant were among the 32 children from more than 10 Unesco marine world heritage sites who have called upon world leaders to sign a pledge to protect the ocean for future generations.

The children launched the pledge at the United Nations General Assembly on World Oceans Day in New York, United States of America, as part of the UN Ocean Conference which was attended by over 40 heads of State.

The three children were part of the Seychelles delegation at the conference led by Vice-President Vincent Meriton.

The children travelled from some of the remotest places on Earth to highlight the global nature of the threats posed to the ocean, and the need for collective action. Each child represented a Unesco marine world heritage site, an area that has been recognised for its outstanding universal value, and protected for humanity

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Alvania reading out her message at the United Nations General Assembly on World Oceans Day

Decision-makers in health discuss service delivery, quality of care

Sixty senior decision-makers of the Health Care Agency, the Public Health Authority and the National Institute for Health and Social Studies came together in an 'Extended Coordination Meeting' to discuss service delivery

and quality of care being offered to the population.

The meeting, which took place at the Eden Bleu Hotel conference room on Friday, was aimed at reviewing recommendations from the 'Modernisa-

tion Agenda' implemented by the Ministry of Health after the creation of the Health Care Agency, the Public Health Authority and the National AIDS Council in 2013.

Sitting at the head of the table, fac-

ing board members of these three entities, were the Minister of Health Jean-Paul Adam, the principal secretary Dr Bernard Valentin, the chairperson of the Health Care Agency board, Daniella

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TODAY'S INDICATIVE CURRENCY RATES

	Notes		TT/Draft	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	13.35	13.95	13.35	13.90
Euro	14.95	15.65	14.95	15.65
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NATIONAL NEWS

Minister Adam and PS Valentin joined health care decision-makers last Friday to discuss service delivery and quality of care being offered to the population

Decision-makers in health discuss service delivery, quality of care

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Larue and the chairperson of the Public Health Authority, Dr Conrad Shamlaye.

Presentations and discussions followed a brief introduction by Minister Adam, who had stressed on the importance of good governance behind the scenes to ensure the best service delivery.

"I don't feel at the moment that we have completely cracked the human resources problem," Minister Adam stated during his opening remarks.

"We are prioritising specialisation of our Seychellois doctors, of which there

are 17," he further added.

Refining human resource remain a key objective of the Ministry of Health, not just in service delivery but within all departments. This was a point echoed throughout the whole discussion.

It was Minister Adam, supported by Dr Valentin, who led the discussion on a better way to coordinate strategies to improve service delivery and quality of care between chairpersons, board members, chief executive officers and members of the senior management of all the public health entities.

"It is important that we do this now because we are at exactly four years since the Cabinet approved the seminal Health Task Force Report and empowered the public health sector to implement the recommendations contained therein," said Dr Valentin Valentin.

The impact of the strategies used to implement these recommendations were reviewed extensively. The various entities compared recommendations from 2013 and their relevance to the current operations of the ministry today.

Key points raised during the discus-

sions, which paralleled previous discussions from the health team, was the role of the Ministry of Health and its entities, as well as communities between these parties. It was established during these discussions that a distinction needs to be made between these establishments to ensure proper communication with stakeholders.

Mrs Larue, chairperson of the Health Care Agency board, commented on several shortcomings experienced throughout the years due to this.

Upon the minister's suggestion to

have more external partners, such as the National Assembly members visit the health centres so they can have a better understanding of their operation process. Mrs Larue proposed that a more coherent strategy be used to not only ensure premium services throughout health centres but also throughout the whole ministry.

"We should consider doing something else to complement them coming to the hospitals. We need to do more for them to understand what takes place," she stated.

Young Seychellois join colleagues to sign pledge to protect the ocean

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under the 1972 World Heritage convention.

The international community has committed to care for our natural wonders, and these children are bearing a message of hope: if we work together, we can overcome today's ocean challenges. Like the rest of the world's oceans, world heritage marine sites are suffering from the impacts of climate change, including warming waters, stronger storms, rising seas, and ocean acidification. The children know that decisions made today will have ripple effects for generations to come.

"These children have travelled from the farthest corners of the Earth to highlight the global nature of the threats facing the ocean, and the need for collective action," declared Unesco (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation) director general Irina Bokova on June 8 as she signed the "My Ocean Pledge" to protect our ocean for future generations.

"They remind us that the international community has committed to care for our natural wonders. Together, they bear a message of hope: if we work together, we can overcome today's ocean challenges."

During the presentation several of the students, including Alvania Lawen, described what the ocean means to them and made an impassioned request that world leaders commit to protecting the oceans. Alvania told those assembled that her "love for the ocean is as deep as the ocean itself" and described the ocean as "a humongous God-given treasure chest".

"Growing up I have never required classes to value the ocean. The ocean is where my heart lies. It's where both physical and emotional wounds heal. It's where we find relaxation and comfort. The ocean is our home," added Alvania.

The children unveiled the pledge titled 'My Ocean Pledge' on stage at the United Nations General Assembly Hall, and then invited world leaders to sign their commitment online after the presentation. People from across the globe are invited to sign the pledge on the Unesco marine world

heritage website,

<http://whc.unesco.org/myoceanpledge>.

Children who live in or near Unesco marine world heritage sites, but were unable to travel to New York in person, have made video pledges launching a social media movement #myoceanpledge, and these video pledges can be found on facebook, twitter and youtube. Video pledges have been posted from across the planet including sites such as the Galapagos islands in Ecuador, The Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and the Phoenix Islands protected area in the Southern Pacific Ocean to name a few.

The world's oceans are at a tipping point. Climate change is already affecting several world heritage marine sites, and no place on earth is immune to this global threat. There is hope, however. We still have a chance to save our ocean treasures. But we must act now, and we must work

together. Future generations will inherit the consequences of our actions – or inaction. This initiative was hosted by the Unesco World Heritage Centre Marine Programme and is made possible by the generous support of the Government of Flanders, the Explorers Club, Stefan & Irina Hearst and the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation.

The event was coordinated locally by the Seychelles Islands Foundation, with support from the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For more information and to sign the pledge visit: <http://whc.unesco.org/myoceanpledge>

The students were chaperoned by Maria Briche, the Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF) education and outreach programme officer.



Alvania was accompanied by fellow young Seychellois eco-warriors Neil Commettant and Jean Yves Mancienne and Vallée de Mai education officer Maria Briche



Members of the Seychelles delegation who attended the conference