IOC Circular Letter No. 2387  
(Available in English only)  
13 April 2011

To: Official National Coordinating Body for Liaison with the IOC in States Members of the IOC

Cc: Permanent Delegations to UNESCO and National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States  
Chairperson and Vice-chairpersons of the IOC

Subject: Nomination of Mr Mitrasen Bhikajee (Mauritius)

I have the pleasure of informing you that Mr Mitrasen Bhikajee has been appointed Deputy Executive Secretary of the IOC mainly in charge of:

- the overall coordination of planning, execution and evaluation of the IOC programme;
- the harmonization and coordination of our capacity development activities to structure them along the approved principles of Capacity Development within the IOC and the UN;
- the organization and running of meetings of the Executive Council and the Assembly;
- the coordination of programme activities decentralized to the IOC Sub-commissions, regional Committees and field offices.

Mr Bhikajee joined us on 1st April 2011. Please find attached his Curriculum Vitae.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming Mr. Bhikajee to the IOC secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC  
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO
Dr Bhikajee has supervised a number of scientific projects, including direct involvement in the preparation of the submission of Mauritius to the United Nations Commission on the Extension of the Continental Shelf and preparation of the official tsunami inundation map for Mauritius.

He was the Mauritius focal point for the IOC of UNESCO and headed the country’s delegations to the IOC Assembly and Executive Council during the recent years. He also contributed to IODE, Census of Marine Life and UNESCO’s Coastal Regions and Island States project. He was a member of the steering Committee of the ASCLME project.

He was the chair of the Regional Alliance of the Global Ocean Observing System of the member countries bordering the Indian Ocean (IOGOOS). He has also been involved in the activities of other UN organizations, contributing to UNEP’s Global Environment Outlook II for the Western Indian Ocean (1998), to UNDP’s Global Environment Facility projects on the Environmental Management Plan of Seychelles (1999–2000) and to Mauritius’ Report for the Review of Progress, since the Rio Conference (2002–2003), in the implementation of Agenda 21.

He has been Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), which groups more than 1,000 marine scientists from Eastern African and Western Indian Ocean countries and Chair, from 2005 to 2007, of the Forum of Heads of Academic and Research Institutions for the Eastern African Region (FARI), established under UNEP’s Nairobi Convention.

In 2011 Dr Bhikajee received a national presidential award for his contribution to oceanography.