

Editorial

This is the third issue of *Seychelles Research Journal*, with writings on a variety of topics. The aim of the journal is to demonstrate the vitality of research in Seychelles, and also to attract researchers from beyond these shores to write about different aspects of the small island state. There are some excellent examples of both.

Dr Gerard Rocamoura and Professor Karl Fleischmann have each for long made studies of the unique environment of Seychelles, Gerard with an international reputation for his work on invasive species and Karl for his revealing exploration of the forest habitat. Generations of students and practitioners alike have cause to be indebted to them for their meticulous research and it is an honour to be able to include two contributions – the one being the outcome of an interview with Gerard and the other a detailed article by Karl and associates. Thanks are due to another environmentalist, Dr Jérôme Harlay, for undertaking the interview.

The Blue Economy will always be a major topic of interest in Seychelles, and this time we are including articles from three German researchers on aspects of renewable energy, including the means to finance it. Too often, our enthusiasm runs away with us and ideas are not always supported with a means to make them happen. Our thanks are due to Michel Köhler, Stefan Wehner and Björn Dransfeld for redressing this imbalance. Also on the theme of how to fund the Blue Economy, Dr Stuart Laing, a South African environmentalist working in Seychelles, has added an interesting research note. In this, he presents an exemplary account of blue bonds and how these are being used in Seychelles. It is to be hoped that he will follow this with an article to take this treatment of the subject a step further.

A different approach to the Blue Economy comes in the form of an article by Dr Indra Persaud, in which she shows that there are potential costs as well as benefits that can result from the sustainable development of the ocean. Indra shows that good governance will be essential if a fair balance is to be struck between competing interests.

Apart from the Blue Economy, linguistics always attracts plenty of interest in Seychelles, not surprising perhaps with no fewer than three official languages (English, French and Creole). In this instance, Dr Olga Klymenko crosses linguistic boundaries to produce this article on the descriptivity of graphic verbs in Seychellois Creole.

From a very different field, Dr Hans Manee has produced a fascinating study of the incidence of the unexpectedly prevalent condition of rhinosinusitis. One might have thought, in the relatively clean air of these oceanic islands, that the population would be little troubled by this kind of condition but Dr Hamee has discovered the very opposite. More worrying is its apparent association with respiratory tract infections and pneumonia, which are also on the rise.

My own article takes another look at geopolitics in the region, this time pointing to some of the many potential challenges facing Seychelles. A paradise in one sense, the archipelago is also in the cross-currents of a troubled sea. On a different topic, I have reviewed a new book on heritage and cultural connections across the ocean, a subject that is relevant to work in the Creole Language and Culture Research Institute at the University of Seychelles.

Research notes are an important feature of the journal, helping to let people know what is going on and perhaps heralding future articles on the various subjects. This is why Alexander Murugaiyan's contribution is very welcome, inviting readers to delve into the fast-changing world of computing science.

With this latest issue now online, it is time to encourage contributions for the next one. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you think you can offer something or if you know someone else who might.

Dennis Hardy

Editor