

## **TDB supports renewable energy project in Mauritius**

The Trade and Development Bank (TDB) approved a USD 55 million syndicated facility co-arranged with Exim India to finance a 29.4 Mega Watt Curepipe Wind Farm Project to be located at Plaine Sophie, Mauritius.

The TDB portion of the co-arranged facility is USD 28.725 million and Exim India portion is USD 27 million. The project is in a priority sector for the Bank as it is a catalyst for economic development and enables indigenous companies to optimize on locally available natural resources. This is expected to enhance the country's energy security through reduced reliance on imported liquid fuel and associated exogenous risks thus positioning Mauritius as a world model of sustainable development, particularly in the context of small-island states.

The project is being undertaken as a joint venture between local and foreign investors, with the main sponsors having wide experience in the construction sector in Mauritius. The foreign investor, Suzlon Energy Ltd, has over 20 years of experience in erecting and commissioning wind turbines projects in Europe, India and South America, with an estimated 14,000MW installed capacity worldwide.

The Government of Mauritius identified that with its increasing energy demand and dependence on imported fossil fuels (85.8% or USD 1.0 billion per annum in 2014), fluctuation in petroleum prices and constant depreciation of the Mauritian Rupee against the United States Dollar, there was a need for a strategic rethink of its energy policy. The Mauritian Government became fully aware of the risks associated with reliance on imported energy sources and susceptibilities to energy supply and energy security. In response, the government developed the Long-Term Energy Strategy (LTES) 2009-2025 with a view to diversifying its energy supply mix to reach 35% from renewable energy sources by 2025.

