

Opening Remarks

by

Ambassador Nalin Surie,
Director General, ICWA

at

Nineteenth Sapru House Lecture

on

'Maritime Security for the Blue Economy'

at

Sapru House
27 August 2015

Your Excellency Mr. James Alix Michel, President of the Republic of Seychelles,

Your Excellency Mr. Joel Morgan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Transport,

Your Excellency Mr. Jean-Paul Adam, Minister of Finance, Trade & The Blue Economy,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. On behalf of the ICWA it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all at Sapru House. We are greatly indebted to you Mr. President for agreeing to deliver the Nineteenth Sapru House Lecture today on Maritime Security for the Blue Economy. The subject is one of critical importance not only to the Seychelles but also to India and the international community at large.
2. For me Mr. President, this is a particularly special occasion for you, Sir, are the first Head of State, that too from one of India's closest partners, to be delivering the Sapru House Lecture after I have taken over very recently as Director General of this institution. The establishment of the ICWA goes back in history to before India's independence. It has since the turn of this century been declared as an institution of national importance by an Act of the Indian Parliament.
3. India has always considered the Seychelles a vital partner in the Indian Ocean Region. Our security partnership is strong and has

been mutually beneficial. Following our Prime Minister's visit to your beautiful nation in March this year and your on-going visit, this partnership has acquired greater significance and salience.

4. Equally important is Your Excellency's focus on the development of the Blue Economy. Prime Minister Modi during his visit to the Seychelles in March had underlined that the Ocean Economy is indispensable to meeting our (common) future challenges. This aspect of our cooperation has received a substantial boost during Your Excellency's current visit. I have no doubt that our developing collaboration on the marine economy and resources will not only be mutually beneficial but also benefit the entire Indo-Pacific Region; a region that looms increasingly larger in India's future plans and programmes.

5. It is not my intention Excellency to stand between you and this distinguished audience much longer. We are all looking forward to hearing from you and Ministers Joel Morgan and Jean-Paul Adam about how the Seychelles perceives and wishes to progress Maritime Security for the Blue Economy. India will no doubt exert its utmost to help the Seychelles realize these goals.

6. May I now invite Your Excellency to deliver the Nineteenth Sapru House Lecture.

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