

FEEDBACK FROM THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE INDIAN OCEAN FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

This historic meeting of The Indian Ocean Festival Association took place in Reunion from March 4 to 7, 2004. The IOFA is an association of professional music institutions and festivals.

Founder members include Hanitra Rasaonaivo – Antshow, Madagascar; Dan Chiorboli - Awesome Africa, South Africa; Alain Courbis - Pole Regional, Reunion; Jerome Galabert - Le Sechoir, Reunion; Yusuf Mahmoud – Busara Productions, Zanzibar & Roland Hohberg – MOYA, Mozambique. **Associate member:** Christian Mousset – Musique-Metisses, France. Founder territories include Madagascar, South Africa, Reunion, Zanzibar & Mozambique, and other territories will be invited to join. The criteria is that festivals must be within the greater Indian Ocean area and the SADC diaspora and subscribe to the ethos of the IOFA.

Aims 1) To help artists of the Indian Ocean get a larger exposure and a wider recognition.

2) To build a synergy to increase cultural cooperation between countries of the Indian Ocean.

3) To provide musicians & technicians alike with a formal training locally. This can be achieved either by an exchange program or by organizing master classes in every location where an event takes place.

4) To develop the practice and the values of each country's traditional music.

5) To increase respect amongst local populations for their own traditional music & instruments.

6) To develop the South-South cultural cooperation.

7) To put forward the fact that the Indian Ocean is the only place that brings together Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia (Oceania) and all major art forms ð it has the most vivid traditional art forms in the world.

8) To help preserve the musical tradition of each country by releasing educational DVD's & other products. These tuition tools should be presented in multilingual formats (subtitles) so that the spreading of these cultures is optimized. Today's technologies allow such possibilities by using either subtitles for languages other than the artist's or dubbing with other languages.

9) To aim at hosting an Indian Ocean Music Expo & Trade Fair on a revolving basis, starting in 2005 in Reunion, thereafter Durban, South Africa in 2006 and so on. This expo will aim at incorporating as many music institutions from as broad an area within the Indian Ocean as possible, thus featuring as many artists and music forms as possible. An important element will be music education / training in traditional forms.