APPENDIX - 1

OVERSEAS CITIZENSHIP OF INDIA (OCI)

OCI SCHEME IS OPERATIONAL FROM 02.12.2005

The Constitution of India does not allow holding Indian citizenship and citizenship of a foreign country simultaneously. Based on the recommendation of the High Level committee on Indian Diaspora, the Government of India decided to grant Overseas Citizenship Of India (OCI). The scheme is operational from December 2, 2005. OCI has been introduced by statute as a new category of citizenship to facilitate life-long visa, free travel to India and certain economic, educational and cultural benefits. This is not to be construed as 'dual citizenship' since it does not confer political rights. Any Overseas Indian applicant who is comfortable with his present citizenship status in the country of his residence can apply for OCI. Till October 2006, about 65,000 OCI documents have been issued, mostly to overseas Indians in the USA, Canada, UK, Australia and New Zealand. Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) of certain category, as specified below, who migrated from India and acquired citizenship of a foreign country other than Pakistan and Bangladesh, are eligible for grant of OCI.

Registered OCIs shall be entitled to following benefits:

(i) Multiple entry, multi-purpose life long visa to visit India;

(ii) Exemption from registration with Police authorities for any length of stay in India; and

(iii) Parity with NRIs in financial, economic and educational fields except in the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties. Persons registered as OCI have not been given any voting rights, election to Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha / Legislative Assembly / Council, holding Constitutional posts such as President, Vice President, Judge of Supreme Court / High Court etc.
Any further benefits to OCI's will be notified by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) under section 7B (1) of the citizenship Act, 1955. A person registered as OCI for five years is eligible to apply for grant of Indian citizenship under section 5(1) (g) of the Citizenship Act, 1955 if he/she has been residing in India for one year out of the five years before making the application.
In a significant step towards granting dual citizenship to Overseas Indians, the Government approved the person of Indian origin (PIO) card scheme to permit all such individuals visa-free entry into the country.

Definition of Person of Indian Origin (PIO)
"Person of Indian Origin" means a foreign citizen [not being a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh and other countries as may be specified by the central government from time to time] if,
i. He/she at any time held an Indian passport;
ii. He/she or either of his/her parents or grand parents or great grand parents was born in and permanently resident in India as defined in the Government of India Act, 1935 and other territories that became part of India thereafter provided neither was at any time a citizen of any of the specified countries; or
iii. He/she is a spouse of a citizen of India or a person of Indian origin covered under (i) or (ii) above.

Procedure for Application for PIO Card
The card would be issued to eligible applicants through the concerned Indian Embassies/High Commission/Consulates (Annexure II) and for those staying in India on a long term visa, from the concerned Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai) and also from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Foreigners Division, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi-110003.
The fees for the card, which will have a validity of 15 years, would be Rs.15,000/- and for the minor (below 18 years), the fees is Rs.7,500/-.
Benefits of Person of Indian Origin (PIO) Card Scheme

Besides making their journey back to their roots simpler, easier and smoother, this scheme entitles the PIOs to a wide range of economic, financial, educational and cultural benefits.

The benefits envisaged under the scheme include:-

(i) No requirement of visa to visit India;
(ii) No separate "Student Visa" or "Employment Visa" required for admission in colleges/institution or for taking up employment respectively;
(iii) No requirement to register with the Foreigners Registration Officer if continuous stay does not exceed 180 days. Registration is required to be done within a period of 30 days after expiry of 180 days;
(iv) Parity with Non-Resident Indians in respect of facilities available to the latter in economic, financial, educational fields, etc. These facilities will include:
   (a) Acquisition, holding, transfer and disposal of immovable properties in India except for agricultural/plantation properties;
   (b) Admission of children in educational institution in India under the general category quota for NRIs-including medical/engineering colleges, IITs, IIMs etc.;
   (c) Various housing schemes of Life Insurance Corporation of India, State Government and other Government agencies;
   (d) Special counters at the immigration check post for speedy clearance.
(v) All future benefits that would be extended to NRIs would also be made to PIO Card holders
(vi) They however cannot enjoy political rights in India.

Issue of Gratis PIO Card

Gratis PIO Card may be issued to an exceptionally eminent person of Indian Origin, who plays an important role in building bridges between India and the country of his/her adoption, if he/she expresses a desire to obtain the PIO Card.
Duplicate PIO Card

Duplicate PIO Card can be obtained in case of loss, etc., on a request supported by FIR and other documents. A duplicate PIO Card shall be issued on depositing a fee of US $100. Duplicate PIO Cards will be issued by the same office that issued the original one.

PIO cards issued earlier as per PIO Card Scheme for US $1000 will continue to remain valid without any extra fee, with validity extendable by 10 more years.
OVERSEAS IndIANS have limited choice of either using the fast but expensive facility or the economic but relatively slow facility to remit money back home. Keeping this in view, the ministry has partnered with the UTI bank to develop an integrated, universal, electronic remittance gateway that combines the virtues of economy, speed and convenience. This portal will also extend advisory services on investment, taxation and real estate to potential and interested overseas Indians, which would enable overseas Indians to remit money to India to designated accounts in any of the 14,500 bank branches, operating on Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) network of the RBI. The facility is operational between Doha and India at present. In the last two months over 9000 remittances totalling about Rs 8040 lakhs have been made. The advisory services are fully operational and are available on the www.overseasindian.in portal. The remittance gateway is targeted to be fully operational in the GCC countries, to begin with by January 2007.

2. AAPI India Health Initiative

A MOU was signed with the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2006. The main objective of the scheme is to promote, establish and operate primary health care project through public private partnership with AAPI. The focus of the scheme will be to implement innovative and best practices to enhance access to healthcare, extend education and training to trainers and other health workers for promotion of preventive health care practices in five diseases entities - Heart disease, Deafness in children, Diabetes, Carcinoma Cervix and Prostate cancer by leveraging the knowledge, skills and resources of AAPI and its members.

The project would develop best practice guidelines for delivery of health care in the pilot villages which will be replicated by in the other areas. The scheme would initiate capacity building of the community to ensure prescribed health care standards in primary health care. The scheme will be implemented in partnership with the AAPI in the selected states of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. To begin with pilot projects will be initiated in one village in all the districts of both the states. The funding will be done by the Central Government and Partner states while AAPI will be the knowledge...
partner. To achieve the objectives intensive training of trainers from primary to tertiary level will be organized by AAPI in collaboration with local partners.

3. PRAVASI BHARATIYA BIMA YOJANA, 2006
A compulsory Insurance Scheme for the emigrants going abroad for employment known as Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) 2003 came into force from 25.12.2003. The PBBY, 2003 has now been upgraded as the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, 2006 to provide broader coverage to the emigrant workers. The PBBY, 2006 has come into effect from 01.02.2006. The emigrant workers will now get a minimum insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs (instead of Rs. 2 lakhs) and the policy will be for the entire period of employment contract. An additional cover of Rs. 25,000/- for the legal expenses incurred by the emigrants in connection with their employment has also been included. The salient features of the PBBY, 2006 are listed below:

· The Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, 2006 provides for an insurance cover of a minimum sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs payable to the nominee/legal heir in the event of death or permanent disability of any Indian emigrant who goes abroad for employment purpose after obtaining emigration clearance from the concerned Protector of Emigrants (POE).

· In the case of death, besides the cost of transporting the dead body, the Insurance Company shall also reimburse the cost incurred on one-way airfare of one attendant.

· If a worker is not received by the employer on his arrival to the destination abroad or there is any substantive change in Employment Contract to his disadvantage or if the employment is pre-maturely terminated within the period of employment for no fault of the emigrant, the Insurance Company shall reimburse one way economy class airfare provided the grounds of repatriation are certified by the concerned Indian Mission/Post.

· In cases where the Indian Mission/Post arranges the repatriation, the Insurance Company shall reimburse the actual expenses to the concerned Indian Mission/Post.

· The Insured person shall be reimbursed actual one way economy class airfare by the Insurance Company if he falls sick or is declared medically unfit to commence or continue working and the service contract is terminated by the Foreign Employer within twelve months of taking the insurance.

· The Insurance Policy shall be valid for a minimum period of two years or the actual period of contract, whichever is longer.
· The Insurance Policy shall also provide medical cover of a minimum of Rs. 50,000/- as cash-less hospitalization and/or reimbursement of actual medical expenses of the insured emigrant workers on grounds of accidental injuries and/or sickness/ailments/diseases occurring during the period of insurance whether in India or in the country of his employment.

· An insured person shall be covered for a minimum sum of Rs. 25,000/- in connection with the legal expenses incurred by him in any litigation relating to his/her employment.

· The Insurance Policy shall also provide maternity benefits, subject to a minimum cover of Rs. 20,000/- in case of women emigrants. In case of medical treatment in the country of employment, the maternity benefits would be provided if the concerned Indian Mission/Post certifies the requisite documents.

· The family of emigrant worker in India consisting of spouse and two dependent children up to twenty one years of age shall be entitled to hospitalization cover in the event of death or permanent disability of the insured person for a maximum amount or Rs. 25,000/- per annum.

· The Insurance Companies shall charge fair and reasonable premium. Service tax will be charged as applicable.

4. PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION AND SKILL UPGRADEATION OF EMIGRANT WORKERS

The scheme of Pre Departure Orientation & Awareness programme for workers and skill upgradation of Indian Workers is started by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to impart orientation training and to upgrade the skills of Indian Workers intended to go abroad to give them competitive edge over the workers from other countries.

In the changing competitive environment of world economy Indian workers were going abroad are slowly losing their jobs to the more skilled workers coming from other countries. The orientation programme and skill upgradation training will help Indian workers retain their jobs and also enable them to earn more wages and return more money.
as remittance in the country. There would be inputs on human behavior, recruitment, visa and emigration procedures as well as elementary inputs in bookkeeping.

The scheme is implemented through the state Government labour departments and overseas manpower corporations who will arrange the training of the potential overseas Indian workers. MOIA will give funds upto Rs. 1 crore to each of the participating state during the financial year for the training of at most 10,000 workers.

5. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR DIASPORA CHILDREN (SPDC)

The specific objective of the Scholarship Scheme is to make higher education in India accessible to the children of Overseas Indians and publicise India as an education hub. Through this scheme, it is hoped that the students selected for such scholarships would become brand ambassadors for India and its educational institutions. Under the proposed Scholarship Scheme, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) provides 100 scholarships to Indian students each year starting from 2006-07. The students are selected on the basis of an entrance test conducted by M/s Educational Consultants India Limited (Ed.CIL), an autonomous body under MHRD with whom the Ministry is working on a partnership basis. Children from developing countries where there are no extant educational facilities or have less opportunities for higher studies and where there are large concentration of the diaspora are targetted. The scholarship amount provided in 2006-07 would cover approximately 60-70% of the tuition fees, depending on the courses selected.

6. KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME (KIP)

The Know India Programme (KIP) is an on-going programme of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, which aims at associating closely the younger generation of the Indian Diaspora with India. It provides a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to share their views, expectations and experience and bond closely with contemporary India. This is a 3-week comprehensive orientation programme organized by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. Participants are expected to make full use of this time and the opportunities given by way of connection extensively with each segment in the programme. The Ministry proposes to organize KIP 3-4 times a year including the one with Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held every year on 9 January.
Under KIP, full local hospitality is provided by the Government. Selected Interns are received and seen off at the airport. They have to pay only the international airfare. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs issues a circular to all Indian Missions/Posts abroad in this regard. Interested students and young professionals from Indian diaspora should get in touch with the Indian Mission/Post nearer to them for detailed information in this regard. The age of the Intern should be between 18 and 25 years. The main objectives of the program are to create awareness about the phenomenal transformation taking place in India and the country's progress from just a destination for culture, heritage and art to an emerging powerhouse in the global economic system, build linkages to bridge the information gap and to prepare a blueprint for creating a sustained mechanism for engaging the Diaspora youth with India.

OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS
SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENTS

The Ministry signed a Social Security Agreement (SSA) on November 3, 2006 with Belgium further strengthening bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries. The importance of this agreement is that it is a bilateral instrument that best meets the needs of a rapidly globalising economy such as India where there is increasing circular movement of technically qualified and trained persons with other countries.

The Social Security Agreement negotiated by the Ministry Of Overseas Indian Affairs with Belgium provides for the following benefits to Indians and Belgians working in each other's countries:

1. Those working on a short-term contract of up to sixty months are exempted from social security contributions in the host country provided they continue to make social security payments in their home countries.

2. Those who live and work for periods longer than sixty months and make social security contributions under the host country laws will be entitled to the export of the social security benefits should they relocate to the home country on completion of their contract or on retirement.
3. These benefits will also be available to employees sent by a company to the host country from a third country.

4. Self-employed Indians in Belgium contributing to the Belgian social security system will be entitled to the export of social security benefits should they choose to relocate to India.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is already negotiating similar agreements with countries like The Netherlands and France.
APPENDIX – 4

SCHEME FOR GIVING LEGAL /FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN DESERTED BY THEIR OVERSEAS INDIAN SPOUSES

I. **Objective:**

The objective of the scheme is to provide some financial assistance to needy women in distress who have been deserted by their overseas Indian spouses for obtaining counseling and legal services. The term “Overseas Indian” would include NRIs and foreign citizens of Indian origin. The counseling and legal services would be provided through credible Indian Women’s Organizations/Indian Community Associations and NGOs identified for providing such services and empanelled with the Indian Missions in the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Gulf. The scheme is a welfare measure to support women of Indian origin in distress, through the mobilization of the local Indian community in the endeavor and with some financial assistance from the Government.

II. **Scope of and Eligibility for the Scheme:**

The scheme would be available to the women who have been deserted by their overseas Indian spouses or are facing divorce proceedings in a foreign country subject to the following conditions:-

(i) The woman is an Indian passport holder.

(ii) **The marriage of the woman has been solemnized in India.**

(iii) The woman is deserted in India or after reaching abroad within five years of the marriage.

(iv) Divorce proceedings are initiated within five years of the marriage by her overseas Indian spouse.

(v) **An ex-parte divorce has been obtained by the overseas Indian spouse within 10 years of marriage and a case for maintenance and alimony is to be filed**

(vi) The scheme would not be available to a woman facing criminal charges or having a criminal case decided against her.
(vii) The domicile of the woman seeking relief under the scheme is not relevant for allowing the benefit. The woman may be domiciled in the country of her overseas Indian spouse or in India at the time of making the application.

(viii) Preference may be given to applicants on the basis of financial needs.

(ix) Assistance will be limited to meeting initial cost and incidental charges for documentation and filing of the case by the Indian women’s organization/NGO on the woman’s behalf.

(x) The assistance will be limited to US $1000 per case and will be released to the Indian community organizations/NGO concerned to enable it to take steps to assist the woman in documentation and preparatory work for filing the case.

(xi) The women’s organization/NGO will make efforts to enlist community advocates, preferably women advocates, to extend further legal assistance/appearance in court etc on a pro-bono basis.

**Pattern of Assistance**

Under the scheme Indian Missions in the countries concerned would empanel credible Indian Women’s Organizations/Indian Community Associations/NGOs and their member advocates, preferably women, to provide legal aid to the victims in distress and whose names have been approved by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. The applications for providing legal aid received by the Missions would be examined by an officer designated by the Head of the Mission on case-to-case basis and approved by Head of Mission/Deputy Chief of the Mission.

The applications received in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs will be examined by an internal committee consisting of a legal advisor and an officer of the rank of Director/Deputy Secretary and approved by Secretary. Thereafter, the Ministry will recommend the case to Mission concerned to provide legal aid support. The applicant would also be informed to approach the Mission concerned in this regard.

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APPENDIX – 5

MADAGASCAR FACT SHEET

[Map of Madagascar with major cities and regions labeled, including Antananarivo, Antsirabe, Morondava, Toliara, and others.}
Location: Southern Africa, island in the Indian Ocean, east of Mozambique

Geographic coordinates: 20 00 S, 47 00 E

Area: total: 587,040 sq km
land: 581,540 sq km
water: 5,500 sq km

Coastline: 4,828 km

Maritime claims:
- territorial sea: 12 nm
- contiguous zone: 24 nm
- exclusive economic zone: 200 nm
- continental shelf: 200 nm or 100 nm from the 2,500-m isobath

Climate: tropical along coast, temperate inland, arid in south

Terrain: narrow coastal plain, high plateau and mountains in center

Elevation extremes:
- lowest point: Indian Ocean 0 m
- highest point: Maromokotro 2,876 m

Natural resources: graphite, chromite, coal, bauxite, salt, quartz, tar sands, semiprecious stones, mica, fish, hydropower

Land use:
- arable land: 5.03%
- permanent crops: 1.02%
- other: 93.95% (2005)

Irrigated land: 10,860 sq km (2003)

Total renewable water resources: 337 cu km (1984)

Freshwater withdrawal:
- total: 14.96 cu km/yr (3%/2%/96%)

Natural hazards: periodic cyclones, drought, and locust infestation

Environment - current issues:
- soil erosion results from deforestation and overgrazing; desertification; surface water contaminated with raw sewage and other organic wastes; several endangered species of flora and fauna unique to the island

Environment - international party to:

- signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Geography - note: world's fourth-largest island; strategic location along Mozambique Channel
Population: 20,653,556 (July 2009 est.)

Age structure:
- 0-14 years: 43.5% (male 4,523,033/female 4,460,473)
- 15-64 years: 53.5% (male 5,483,684/female 5,557,098)
- 65 years and over: 3% (male 280,677/female 348,591) (2009 est.)

Birth rate: 38.38 births/1,000 population (2008 est.)
Death rate: 8.32 deaths/1,000 population (2008 est.)
Sex ratio:
- at birth: 1.03 male(s)/female
- under 15 years: 1.01 male(s)/female
- 15-64 years: 0.99 male(s)/female
- 65 years and over: 0.8 male(s)/female
- total population: 0.99 male(s)/female (2009 est.)

Ethnic groups: Malayo-Indonesian (Merina and related Betsileo), Cotiers (mixed African, Malayo-Indonesian, and Arab ancestry - Betsimisaraka, Tsimihety, Antaisaka, Sakalava), French, Indian, Creole, Comoran

Religions: indigenous beliefs 52%, Christian 41%, Muslim 7%

Literacy: definition: age 15 and over can read and write
- total population: 68.9%
- male: 75.5%
- female: 62.5% (2003 est.)

Education: 3.1% of GDP (2006)

Government type: republic
Capital: Antananarivo

Administrative divisions: 6 provinces (faritany); Antananarivo, Antsiranana, Fianarantsoa, Mahajanga, Toamasina, Toliara
Independence: 26 June 1960 (from France)

Legal system: based on French civil law system and traditional Malagasy law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Executive chief of state: President Andry RAJOELINA (since 18 March 2009)
head of government: Prime Minister Monja ROINDEFO (since 18 March 2009)
cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the prime minister

Elections: president elected by popular vote for a five-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held 3 December 2006 (next to be held in December 2011); prime minister appointed by the president

Election results: percent of vote - Marc RAVALOMANANA 54.8%,
Jean LAHINIRIKO 11.7%, Roland RATSIRAKA 10.1%, Herizo RAZAFIMAHALEO 9.1%, Norbert RATSIRAHONANA 4.2%, Ny Hasina ANDRIAMANJATO 4.2%, Elia RAVELOMANANTSOA 2.6%, Pety RAKOTONIANA 1.7%, other 1.6%; note - RAVALOMANANA stepped down on 17 March 2009

Legislative branch: bicameral legislature consists of a National Assembly or Assemblee Nationale (127 seats - reduced from 160 seats by an April 2007 national referendum; members are elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms) and a Senate or Senat (100 seats; two-thirds of the seats filled by regional assemblies; the remaining one-third of seats appointed by the president; to serve four-year terms)

elections: National Assembly - last held 23 September 2007 (next to be held in 2011)

election results: National Assembly - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - TIM 106, LEADER/Fanilo 1, independents 20

Judicial branch: Supreme Court or Cour Supreme; High Constitutional Court or Haute Cour Constitutionnelle

Political parties: Association for the Rebirth of Madagascar or AREMA [Pierrot RAJAONARIVELO]; Democratic Party for Union in Madagascar or PSDUM [Jean LAHINIRIKO]; Economic Liberalism and Democratic Action for National Recovery or LEADER/Fanilo [Herizo RAZAFIMAHALEO]; Fihaonana Party or FP [Guy-Willy RAZANAMASY]; I Love Madagascar or TIM [Marc RAVALOMANANA]; Renewal of the Social Democratic Party or RPSD [Evariste MARSON]

Political pressure: Committee for the Defense of Truth and Justice or KMMR; Committee for National Reconciliation or CRN [Albert Zafy]; National Council of leaders: Christian Churches or FFKM


GDP (official exchange rate): $9.729 billion (2008 est.)

GDP - real growth rate: 7% (2008 est.)

GDP - per capita $1,000 (2008 est.) (PPP): Investment 27.2% of GDP (2008 est.) (gross fixed):
Inflation rate 9.2% (2008 est.)

Agriculture - coffee, vanilla, sugarcane, cloves, cocoa, rice, cassava (tapioca), beans, products: bananas, peanuts; livestock products

Industries: meat processing, seafood, soap, breweries, tanneries, sugar, textiles, glassware, cement, automobile assembly plant, paper, petroleum, tourism

Industrial production growth rate: 8% (2008 est.)

Oil - production: 92.18 bbl/day (2007 est.)

Oil - 18,190 bbl/day (2006 est.)

Oil - consumption:

Oil - exports: 480.3 bbl/day (2005)

Oil - imports: 17,100 bbl/day (2005)

Oil - proved reserves: 0 bbl (1 January 2006 est.)

Natural gas - production:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2007 est.)

Natural gas - consumption:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2007 est.)

Natural gas - exports:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2007 est.)

Natural gas - imports:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (1 January 2006 est.)

proved reserves:

Current account balance: $1.088 billion (2008 est.)

Exports - commodities: coffee, vanilla, shellfish, sugar, cotton cloth, chromite, petroleum products

Exports - partners: France 31.8%, US 26.6%, Germany 6.1%, UK 4.9%, Italy 4.4% (2007)

Imports: $2.541 billion f.o.b. (2008 est.)

Imports - capital goods, petroleum, consumer goods, food commodities:

Imports - France 13.6%, China 13%, Iran 8.1%, South Africa 6.4%, Hong Kong partners: 4.9%, Mauritius 4.8% (2007)
Reserves of $996 million (31 December 2008 est.)
foreign exchange
and gold:
Debt - external: $4.6 billion (2002)
Location: archipelago in the Indian Ocean, northeast of Madagascar

Geographic coordinates:

Area: total: 455 sq km
      land: 455 sq km
      water: 0 sq km

Area - 2.5 times the size of Washington, DC

Terrain: Mahe Group is granitic, narrow coastal strip, rocky, hilly; others are coral, flat, elevated reefs

Natural resources: fish, copra, cinnamon trees

Land use: arable land: 2.17%
           permanent crops: 13.04%
           other: 84.79% (2005)
Population: 87,476 (July 2009 est.)
Age structure: 0-14 years: 22.8% (male 10,201/female 9,732)
15-64 years: 70.1% (male 31,870/female 29,439)
65 years and over: 7.1% (male 2,321/female 3,913) (2009 est.)

Population growth rate:
Birth rate: 15.6 births/1,000 population (2008 est.)
Death rate: 6.21 deaths/1,000 population (2008 est.)
Sex ratio: at birth: 1.03 male(s)/female
under 15 years: 1.05 male(s)/female
15-64 years: 1.08 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.59 male(s)/female
total population: 1.03 male(s)/female (2009 est.)

Nationality: noun: Seychellois (singular and plural)
adjective: Seychellois

Ethnic groups: mixed French, African, Indian, Chinese, and Arab

Religions: Roman Catholic 82.3%, Anglican 6.4%, Seventh Day Adventist 1.1%,
other Christian 3.4%, Hindu 2.1%, Muslim 1.1%, other non-Christian
1.5%, unspecified 1.5%, none 0.6% (2002 census)

Languages: Creole 91.8%, English 4.9% (official), other 3.1%, unspecified 0.2%
(2002 census)

Literacy: definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 91.8%
male: 91.4%
female: 92.3% (2002 census)

Education expenditures: 6.5% of GDP (2006)

Government type: republic
Capital: name: Victoria

Administrative divisions: 23 administrative districts; Anse aux Pins, Anse Boileau, Anse Etoile,
Anse Louis, Anse Royale, Baie Lazare, Baie Sainte Anne, Beau Vallon, Bel Air, Bel Ombre, Cascade, Glacis, Grand' Anse (on Mahe),
Grand' Anse (on Praslin), La Digue, La Riviere Anglaise, Mont Buxton, Mont Fleuri, Plaisance, Pointe La Rue, Port Glaud, Saint Louis, Takamaka

Independence: 29 June 1976 (from UK)

Legal system: based on English common law, French civil law, and customary law;
has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

Suffrage: 17 years of age; universal

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Executive chief of state: President James Alix MICHEL (since 14 April 2004); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government

Head of government: President James MICHEL (since 14 April 2004)

Cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the president

Elections: president elected by popular vote for a five-year term (eligible for two more terms); election last held 28-30 July 2006 (next to be held in 2011)

Election results: President James MICHEL elected president; percent of vote - James MICHEL 53.73%, Wavel RAMKALAWAN 45.71%, Philippe BOULLE 0.56%; note - this was the first election in which President James MICHEL participated; he was originally sworn in as president after former president France Albert RENE stepped down in April 2004

Legislative unicameral National Assembly or Assemblee Nationale (34 seats; 25 members elected by popular vote, 9 allocated on a proportional basis to parties winning at least 10% of the vote; to serve five-year terms)

Elections: last held 10-12 May 2007 (next to be held in 2012)

Election results: percent of vote by party - SPPF 56.2%, SNP 43.8%; seats by party - SPPF 23, SNP 11

Judicial branch: Court of Appeal; Supreme Court; judges for both courts are appointed by the president

Political parties Democratic Party or DP [James MAN CHAM, Paul CHOW]; Seychelles National Party or SNP [Wavel RAMKALAWAN]
(formerly the United Opposition or UO); Seychelles People's Progressive Front or SPPF [France Albert RENE, James MICHEL]
(the governing party)

Political pressure Roman Catholic Church
other: trade unions

Leaders:

International organization participation:
ACP, AfDB, AU, C, COMESA, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICCT (signatory), ICRM, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, InOC, Interpol, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITU, ITUC, MIGA, NAM, OIF, OPCW, SADC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO (observer)

GDP (purchasing $1.473 billion (2008 est.)


$1.332 billion (2006)

GDP (official exchange rate): $779 million (2008 est.)

GDP - real 3.1% (2008 est.)

growth rate:

GDP - per capita $17,000 (2008 est.)

(PPP):

GDP - agriculture: 1.9%

composition by industry: 28.3%
sector: services: 69.9% (2008 est.)


Labor force - by agriculture: 3%
occupation: industry: 23%
services: 74% (2006)

Unemployment rate: 2% (2006 est.)

Public debt: 92.6% of GDP (2008 est.)

Inflation rate 25.8% (2008 est.)
(consumer prices):

Agriculture - coconuts, cinnamon, vanilla, sweet potatoes, cassava (tapioca), products: bananas; poultry; tuna

Industries: fishing, tourism, processing of coconuts and vanilla, coir (coconut fiber) rope, boat building, printing, furniture; beverages

Industrial production growth rate: 4% (2008 est.)

Exports - canned tuna, frozen fish, cinnamon bark, copra, petroleum products commodities: (reexports)

Exports - UK 23.7%, France 19.8%, Mauritius 10%, Japan 8.3%, Italy 5.7%, partners: Spain 5.1% (2007)
Imports: $952 million f.o.b. (2008 est.)

Imports - machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, petroleum products, chemicals commodities:

Imports - Saudi Arabia 17.6%, Germany 10.8%, France 8.1%, Spain 7.6%, partners: South Africa 6.4%, Singapore 5.8% (2007)

Reserves of $59 million (31 December 2008 est.)

Debt - external: $1.161 billion (31 December 2008 est.)