

## Editorial

The unique features of Seychelles – cultural as well as environmental – repeatedly attract the interest of researchers from overseas. This is in addition to locally-based research, evident at UniSey and in government departments. As this latest issue testifies, *Seychelles Research Journal* attempts to capture findings from all sources.

Leading this time is a fascinating article by Australian researchers, Michael R. Crossland and Sheau Fong Chan. At the heart of the story (that will be little known to non-specialists) is the close association of marine species, where the foraging on the seabed by one offers hidden prey for the other. In this case, the moray eel is the provider and the bluefin trevally the beneficiary. The research was undertaken along the reef, just beyond the shore of Fairyland in Anse Royale.

A different kind of exploration is the work of German researchers, Olivia Kühner and Benno Rothstein, who tell of their meetings with farmers in Seychelles to discuss the potential of mixing agriculture with renewable energy generation. They concentrate on small-scale (or ‘backyard’) farming and conclude that, with the cooperation of the government, there is plenty of goodwill and enthusiasm to develop this activity.

Even in the tropical splendour of Seychelles, disputes between nations in the region cannot be ignored. But how should they be dealt with? Geoff Harris, a leading figure on matters of peace, writes from South Africa on the potential to resolve conflict through non-violent actions. It is a topic which carries weight in prison reform as well as international relations. Dennis Hardy follows this with an overview of war and peace. One might have thought that everyone would naturally opt for peace but, as he shows, there is also a powerful lobby for war. In any journey towards a less conflictual world, this obstacle needs first to be overcome.

In addition to these articles, we are pleased to reproduce the text of a memorial lecture on Creole culture delivered by a distinguished visitor to Seychelles, Ananya Jahanara Kabir. In this, Professor Kabir focuses on how, because of its location and history, the Seychelles archipelago is home to a unique mix of influences, not least of all from the African continent. She concludes with the important assertion that Seychelles presents not just another version of what ‘Africa’ is, but a vision of what ‘Africa’ can and must be for the future.

The past year also saw the inaugural Seychelles Marine Science Symposium, held at Eden Bleu, Mahé. As Murray Duncan reports, this was an innovative event, designed to bring together the many researchers working on different aspects of the archipelago’s marine environment. He draws attention to how much is owed to enthusiastic, early-career researchers as well as more experienced scientists. The organizing team should be congratulated on achieving a very successful symposium that is intended to become a regular item in the Seychelles research calendar.

Finally, this issue contains reviews of a number of relevant publications. Diana Benoit shares with readers the message of a book on trauma that she has found valuable in her own doctoral research on the subject. Although it is now ten years since publication, she believes the emphasis placed on the physical effects of trauma (alongside the more widely attributed mental impact) is something that has still to be recognized.

In turn, Dennis Hardy looks at two weighty books on the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific. Together, they collate the views of a range of specialist contributors, weighing up changing power relationships within the region. For Seychelles, what is happening within the Indian Ocean and also the connected Pacific, is central to our own security and economic welfare. The publisher, Routledge, has developed an influential series on the region, of which these two volumes are a part.