

2nd Regional Workshop on Early Childhood Care and Education 18th to 20th November 2025

Mahe,
Seychelles

2nd Regional Workshop

Day 4: A day of discovery and experience for International Delegates

International delegates attending the 2nd Regional Workshop on Early Childhood Care and Education enjoyed a full day of engaging activities yesterday. Despite the scorching hot sun, they joined IECD Chairperson Dr Javier Rose, CEO Mrs Shirley Choppy, and her employees in a brief ceremony to inaugurate a new billboard near the Perseverance market.

The billboard campaign celebrates progress in early childhood development and promotes the Institute as a UNESCO Category 2. In addition, two more billboards were unveiled at Gordon Square and Le Chantier.

Following the ceremony, delegates then split into groups for field visits based on their areas of interest. These visits included child care services, private and public preschools, and the Victoria Hospital.

Dr Latifa Abdullah Al Awadhi from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, visited the Seychelles Hospital, where Dr Juliette Rioux guided her through the children's ward, labour room, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and the Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Diagnostic Centre.

During her visit, she exchanged insights with staff, discussed daily challenges, and encouraged mothers to breastfeed during conversations.



Other groups explored institutions in Perseverance, including Trotters Stop Preschool, Footprints Day Care Centre, Kiddies Childminding, and Perseverance North Crèche.



Tree Planting at the heart of one of Seychelles' National Parks

Another highlight of the day took place at Tomazin, located within the heart of the National Park in Sans Soucis. Delegates participated in a symbolic tree-planting activity, each planting a young and endemic palm with care and enthusiasm. Many silently wished to return in a few years to see how their trees had grown.

"We felt today's programme was meaningful, as it allowed delegates to discover some of our early childhood institutions and witness firsthand the progress we shared during the workshop. The tree-planting activity was also a powerful way to showcase our commitment to nature conservation and to actively involve them in this effort," remarked an IECD representative.

Delegates expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the thoughtful organisation of the day and the warm Seychellois hospitality they had received.



"We have never done this before in our lives—thank you, thank you, thank you," one participant shared.

"We have travelled to many countries around the world, but we have never met such hospitable people. It has been a real pleasure," added another.

The morning concluded at the Mission Lodge in Sans Soucis, where the group enjoyed a tranquil tour of the historic site. This was followed by photography sessions capturing the breathtaking panoramic views of the western coast, as well as the lush mountains and dense forests surrounding the area.

