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President assures public services for settlement on reclaimed islands

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has affirmed that all essential public services necessary for the settlement of residents on reclaimed land in the islands will be established within the current term. He made the commitment while speaking at a gathering with the residents of Meedhoo, Dhaalu Atoll.

Speaking at the gathering, President Dr. Muizzu highlighted that despite various land reclamation projects across the nation, the populace has not reaped the benefits. As such, he noted that the reclaimed land in Meedhoo, now a decade old, remains uninhabited despite the allocation of land plots.

Additionally, President Dr. Muizzu emphasised prioritising the provision of basic services for residents on reclaimed land. He pledged to accelerate efforts to establish water, electricity, and sewerage services, aiming to populate the area. He also pledged to develop at least 200 housing units in response to requests from the local council and residents. He mentioned ongoing technical and administrative work for a larger housing project encompassing 40,000 units across all islands, including the initiation of soft loan issuance for flats, land, and housing.

Furthermore, President Dr. Muizzu announced plans to reclaim the Meedhoo lagoon and connect the land to the island via a road. He outlined development projects for the island's harbor, including an ice plant, and pledged to establish schools, healthcare facilities, sports amenities, a children's park, ATM services, and the Raaje Transport Link (RTL) ferry system.

SOURCE : PSM

In 2024, waste management centres will be developed in 100 islands

Minister of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy, Thoriq Ibrahim, has announced plans to establish waste management centers in 100 islands of Maldives by the end of the current year. He made the remarks at a press conference held at Seneco Hall to share information about the ministry's initiatives during President's 'Week14'.

During the press conference, Minister of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy, Thoriq Ibrahim highlighted the national plan launched on February 22, 2024, to address waste management issues in the country's islands. Despite existing waste management services in many islands, the minister acknowledged that the work is often hindered due to the lack of necessary facilities and arrangements. In response, the government has initiated a five-year national programme named 'Magey Saafu Raajje' to ensure proper waste disposal in islands. Minister Thoriq Ibrahim further stated that the project aims to launch and complete waste management centers in 100 islands by the end of the year. Out of these, 54 islands will receive brand new waste management centers, while the remaining 44 islands will undergo repairs and additional work.



Under the programme, the 100 islands will be equipped with necessary facilities. The country is divided into seven zones, and three of these zones will have regional waste management centers, namely Vandhoo in Raa Atoll, Thilafushi in Kaafu Atoll, and Addu City. The minister emphasized ongoing efforts to manage waste in these areas. Highlighting the significant daily import of more than 500 tonnes of garbage to Thilafushi, the largest waste management area in the Male' Region, Minister Thoriq Ibrahim mentioned plans to increase the facility's waste management capacity, necessitating additional land in the future. He confirmed the expected completion of the waste management center under construction in Thilafushi by the end of this year, while the center in Addu City is slated to be operational in 2027.

To enhance waste management at the island and atoll levels, the government has decided to involve the private sector in collaboration with island councils. The minister announced the opening of opportunities for private sector participation in waste management at the atoll and island levels.

SOURCE : PSM





Maldives participates in IT Berlin 2024



Maldives Marketing & PR Corporation (MMPRC/Visit Maldives) is participating in ITB Berlin 2024 alongside a delegation of 214 representatives from 107 Maldivian tourism companies. Taking place from March 5-7, 2024, in Berlin, Germany, the Visit Maldives team is joining hands with the Minister of Tourism, delegates from the Ministry of Tourism, industry partners and other government tourism bodies in a powerful demonstration of the country's commitment to advancing the travel and tourism industry.

Visit Maldives aims to foster strong connections with travel trade partners from Germany and across the globe at ITB Berlin 2024. Sharing the latest updates on the evolving Maldivian tourism landscape and its diverse offerings will be a key focus, while conducting productive one-on-one meetings in-person remains a crucial part of this activity. We are seeking to solidify the Maldives' position as a top-tier holiday destination for German travellers and provide a platform for participating stakeholders to showcase their individual tourism products and properties.

Visitors to the spacious 504 sqm double-decker Maldives stand will embark on a journey to the heart of our island nation. The captivating design and imagery showcases the diverse experiences, rich culture, and heritage that await travellers in the Maldives. Additionally, the stand features 104 co-exhibitor counters, 60 B2B meeting tables, and captivating LED screens displaying mesmerising experiences

that will leave visitors yearning to explore the World's Leading Destination firsthand.

Throughout the event, the Maldives stand will be a hub of engaging activities. B2B meetings facilitate valuable business connections for industry partners and cultural performances bring the vibrant Maldivian culture to Germany. Gastronomic experiences showcase the culinary delights of the Maldives, featuring food preparation, presentations and tastings. Displays of authentic Maldivian creations showcase the country's rich heritage and craftsmanship, while 360-degree camera experiences will offer a truly immersive glimpse into the beauty of the Sunny Side of Life.

Beyond the stand, Visit Maldives has meticulously planned several events on the sidelines of ITB Berlin 2024 to further enhance the Maldives' presence at the fair. The Maldives Media Meet, held on March 5th, will connect with leading media representatives from Germany and around the globe, providing them with the latest destination updates and generating excitement. This media meet will also highlight the government pledges and country's commitment to diversification, sustainability, commitment and new initiatives. In addition to the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Visit Maldives, Ms Fathmath Thaufeeq, speakers at the event are Minister of Tourism Honourable Ibrahim Faisal, the President's Advisor on Tourism Development Mr Mohamed Khaleel, and the Chairperson of the MMPRC Board Ms Ayesha Nurain Janah.

The speakers will provide valuable insights on ongoing travel trade efforts and future prospects within the Maldivian tourism industry.

Germany has been reliably in the top 10 markets for the Maldives for decades, currently ranked at the 5th spot with 27,563 visitors till 3rd March 2024. Visit Maldives has a comprehensive marketing strategy planned for Germany. We engage in social media campaigns to connect with potential visitors and industry partners, while joint marketing programmes with tour operators (JMPs) further elevate the destination's reach. In the remainder of this year, collaborative efforts with the German Travel Association (IMM Germany) will strengthen industry partnerships, while targeted airline campaigns will encourage travel from Germany to the Maldives. Familiarisation trips (FAM trips) for travel professionals will offer firsthand experience, and advertising in high-end print media will reach a targeted audience of potential travellers. Active engagement with the Maldives Representative Office in Germany will ensure effective communication and collaboration, while influencer FAM trips will leverage the power of social media to reach a wider audience.



ITB Berlin presents an ideal platform for Visit Maldives to showcase the Maldives on a global stage. As the leading travel trade fair, it attracts over 160,000 visitors and connects participants with more than 90,000 industry delegates and 3,000 international media representatives. This allows the Maldives to reach a vast audience of potential visitors and industry partners, educate and create wider destination awareness, promote the Maldives as a top-of-mind destination for a diverse range of travellers, and engage in valuable partnerships. Visit Maldives is eager to showcase the Maldives' unparalleled beauty, diverse offerings, and our commitment to responsible and sustainable tourism at this prestigious event.

SOURCE : Visit Maldives.com



President congratulates Pakistan Prime Minister



H.E. President Dr Mohamed Muizzu congratulated H.E. Shehbaz Sharif following his appointment as the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for the second time.

In his message, the President emphasised the strong diplomatic relations and close bonds between the Republic of the Maldives and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which are rooted in shared faith, values, and mutual respect. He also reiterated the Administration's commitment to maintaining their close bilateral partnership for the mutual benefit of the citizens of both countries.

Concluding the message, the President expressed his eagerness to work closely with Prime Minister H.E. Shehbaz Sharif and the Government of Pakistan to deepen their friendship, strengthen ties, and broaden cooperation based on their shared values.

SOURCE : The President's Office



Maldives calls for urgent action to prevent Gaza genocide at OIC

The Maldives has called on the international community to take decisive actions to prevent the acts of genocide in Gaza. The remarks were made by Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed at the Extraordinary Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to discuss the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

During the meeting, Minister Shaheem said that the Maldives strongly condemned the violence in Gaza and the threats by the Israeli Government to attack Rafah. Reiterating the demand for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, he said that the Maldives called on the international community to take decisive actions to prevent the acts of genocide in Gaza, which now amount to apartheid. He also said that the Maldives urged for a stronger push to ensure an adequate volume of aid enters Gaza.

Reflecting on the oral submission delivered in support of Palestine on the Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem at the International Court of Justice, the Maldives also noted its intent to file a declaration of intervention in the case filed by South Africa. Reassuring its support for the Palestinian cause, the Maldives then stressed that the only means for lasting peace is the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

SOURCE : PSM

President announces Kudahuvadhoo as one of the seven urban centers

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has declared Kudahuvadhoo as one of the seven urban centres slated for development in the Maldives. The President made these remarks while addressing the residents of Kudahuvadhoo today.

The President emphasised the significance of concentrating development in various zones and implementing a population consolidation policy, for the sustainable growth of the Maldives. He also announced plans to establish development zones in the four northernmost and four southernmost atolls of the Maldives. Additionally, the President outlined the development of seven urban centers with high-end public services, excluding Male' City.

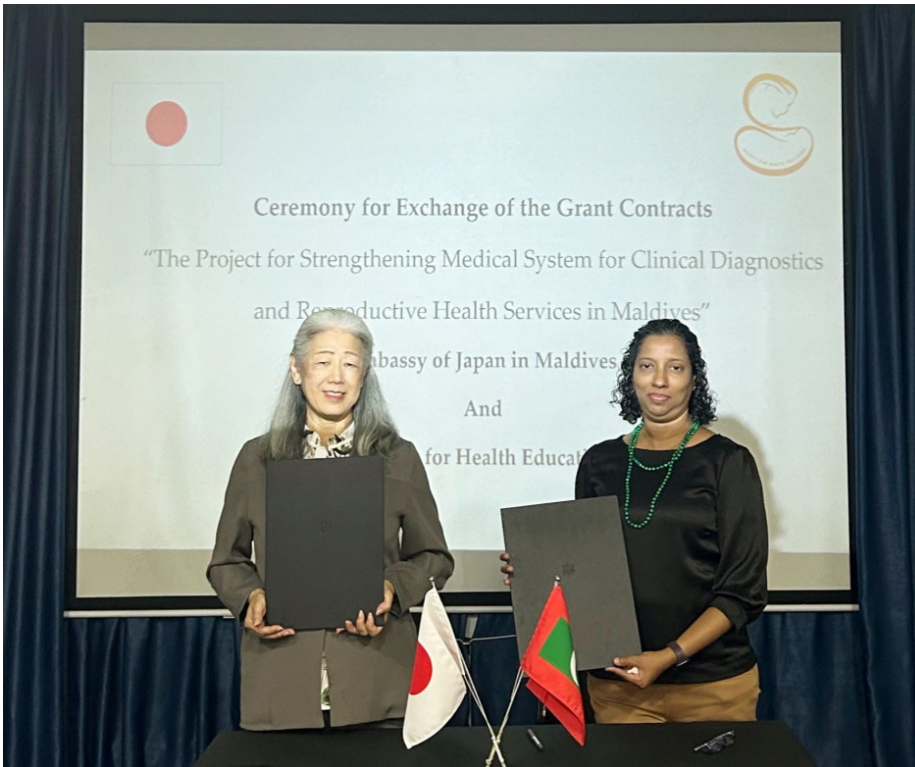
Speaking at the gathering, President Dr Muizzu conveyed intentions to develop Kudahuvadhoo into an urban center, incorporating the outlined needs of the Council. The initiatives include upgrading the port to high standards, establishing a commercial harbour, enhancing and expanding hospital services, constructing a new hospital building, developing a multi-sports complex, and ensuring the implementation of all essential amenities expected in an urban center.

SOURCE : The President's Office



Japan donates USD 73,000 to Maldives Health Sector

MNU signs with Thai company to enhance medical studies



The Government of Japan has contributed USD 73,500 as aid to the health sector of the Maldives, aiming to enhance healthcare capabilities. This assistance is provided under the “Japan grant assistance for grassroots human security project” (GGP).

The agreement formalising this support was signed by the Ambassador of Japan to the Maldives, Takeuchi Midori, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Society For Health Education (SHE), Iyasha Leena.

As per the agreement, Japan commits to providing USD 73,538 and furnishing SHE

with 10 pieces of diagnostic equipment. Furthermore, the Japanese government will equip SHE with modern tools for thalassemia and diagnostic laboratories, introducing scanning services to SHE’s gene sequence technology and family planning clinic.

The Japanese embassy has affirmed that the GGP is designed to bolster various sectors in the Maldives. Since its inception in 1996, the project has contributed to the development of education, health, transportation, and energy sectors in the country.

The Maldives National University (MNU) have signed a five-year agreement with Thailand’s Samitivej Public Company aimed at enhancing the competencies of MNU students in the medical field.

The official signing of the agreement took place with Vice Chancellor of MNU Dr. Aishath Shehenaaz and Deputy CEO of Thailand’s Samitivej Public Company Surangkana Techafaithoon.

MNU asserted that the agreement will benefit the development of expertise in research areas and facilitates students in seeking professional advice from the Thailand-based company. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to participate in overseas travel and attend various awareness programmes, said the university.

Furthermore, the agreement underscores a heightened focus on nursing and allied health sectors.

Samitivej Public Company, a private brand, operates numerous hospitals and health centers in Bangkok and Chon Buri province. Notably, it is part of Bangkok Dusit Medical Services (BDMS), one of the largest and prestigious private hospital networks in Bangkok.

SOURCE : PSM

SOURCE : PSM

Maldives, Sri Lanka discusses defense strengthening



Maldives and Sri Lanka have engaged in discussions to enhance relations in the field of defense during a meeting between Sri Lankan Minister of State for Defense Premita Bandara Tennakoon and Maldivian Minister of Defense Mohamed Gassan Maumoon.

The meeting addressed various issues in the defense sector, focusing on the safety and security of the region. Both countries explored potential ways to strengthen military cooperation. In addition to discussions with Sri Lanka, Maldives is actively working to enhance military partnerships with various nations.

As part of these efforts, Maldives has signed an agreement with China to seek assistance from the Chinese defense ministry.

The Maldivian government is also undertaking initiatives to provide modern equipment to the Maldivian military, aiming to enhance its capabilities.

These developments underline Maldives’ commitment to bolstering defense ties with regional and international partners.

SOURCE : PSM