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MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

**Seventh Provincial Awareness Workshop  
held in Gnaviyani Fuvahmulah island**

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PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY  
VISITS MALDIVES**

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FOR THE YEAR 2012**

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# SEVENTH PROVINCIAL AWARENESS WORKSHOP HELD IN GNAVIYANI FUVAHMULAH ISLAND

*Ahmed Hassaan Zuhair*



A workshop on Environmental Awareness was held in Gnaviyani Atoll Education Center (GnAEC).

The seventh provincial environmental awareness-raising workshops organized by Environment Department began on 24 February, Friday. 100 students from GnAEC participated in this workshop. The workshop was targeted for secondary and higher secondary students.

In the first session, information was given to students regarding the current environmental situation that exist in the country, the challenges we face and how to tackle those problems. Presentations were delivered on several topics, including mangroves, ozone layer protection, dangers of plastic bags, rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge. In addition to this a brief overview of how to carry out a waste segregation survey and interpret the data was delivered. As a last activity of the day students were asked to present what they have learned.

The second session was held on 25 February, Saturday. In this session, students with the guidance of teachers carried out a waste segregation survey. Several locations were identified and different groups were sent to specific points, where they were required to collect waste and segregate them on spot. The results of the survey were then presented by students representing each group.

At the end of the workshop certificates were awarded to students. Certificates were distributed by Mr. Ali Fazaadh, President of Gnaviyani Atoll Council. A number of books published by the Ministry were donated to the school library.



A small information session was conducted for the island community leaders as part of the workshop. This session conducted on 23 February, Thursday, was held in Gnaviyani Atoll Council. In this session information on funding opportunities were given to participants.

## MRS. KATHERINA REICHE, GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY VISITS MALDIVES.

*Aishath Aileen Niyaz*

Mrs. Katherina Reiche, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany visited Maldives at the invitation of Minister Aslam from 7 to 10 January 2012.

During her visit, Mrs. Reiche paid courtesy calls on H.E. President Nasheed, Minister of Housing and Environment Honourable Mohamed Aslam and Minister of Foreign Affairs Honourable Mohamed Naseem. On behalf of the government of Germany, Mrs. Reiche expressed interest to provide assistance to address the waste management situation in the Maldives.

The highlight of Mrs. Reiche's visit was inauguration of the six islands solar energy project of State Electric Company in Villingili. After launching the event, Mrs. Reiche visited the roof top of the Police accommodation building to inspect the solar installations.

Mrs. Reiche made field visits to the garbage dumpsite at Thilafushi, and the waste management and beach erosion sites at Male Atoll Himmafushi. In addition, she also visited the Marine Lab at Banyan Tree Maldives Vabbinfaru where a presentation was given to her on coral bleaching in the Maldives.

Mrs. Reiche was accompanied by His Excellency Jens Plötner, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Maldives.

# BEST PRACTICE GUIDE AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BAIT FISHERMEN

*Ahmed Yasir - MEMP*

## USE BAIT MORE EFFICIENTLY

### (1) Minimize bait wastage

When bait is abundant, Maldivian fishermen will often take more than they need for a day's fishing. This is particularly true of the new very large masdhonis. These boats can hold very large catches of tuna, so the fishermen do not like to be short of bait, even though the largest tuna catches are only made on a few days each year. As a result, on many days fishermen take too much bait, which (if it is a delicate variety such as rehi, hondeli or miyaren) will inevitably die. When fishermen do have excess bait which is still alive when tuna fishing is finished, they will often throw it overboard while still out at sea. It is almost inevitable that such bait will be eaten relatively quickly. It would be better to throw it overboard when the masdhoni is back inside the atoll, so that the bait has a higher chance of survival.

**Key messages:** Do not take more bait than you need. If you have live bait left once tuna fishing is finished and are going to throw it overboard, throw it inside the atoll, where it will have a better chance of survival than out at sea. If everyone wastes bait today, there will be less for all tomorrow.

### (2) Maximize bait utilization

In terms of quantity of tuna caught per unit of bait used, Maldivian fishermen have perhaps the highest rate of bait utilization in the World. In Maldives the average catch is about 7-10 kg of tuna for 1 kg of bait. Elsewhere in the World pole and line fishermen catch 10-22 kg of tuna for 1 kg of bait. It is not clear why Maldivian fishermen are so much less efficient than fishermen elsewhere.

**Key message:** Make the best use of the bait you have. It is possible to catch more tuna using less bait.

## MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

### (3) Coral anchoring

Traditionally, masdhonis would anchor near or on a reef in order to catch bait. This inevitably resulted in damage to the coral reef. Nowadays, mechanized masdhonis are highly manoeuvrable, and usually do not anchor (although they will do so when they need to maintain position and there is much wind or current). Typically bait is most abundant on the upstream side of a reef, so if a masdhoni does anchor it will tend to place its anchors well away from the reef on the upstream side. There are some occasions, however, when masdhonis do drop anchors on corals. This needs to be avoided.

**Key message:** If you have to anchor for baiting, avoid anchoring on corals. Corals are important in many ways (they build the reefs that protect the islands, and they provide shelter for bait fish). So breaking corals is bad for all.

### (4) Avoid by catch

The Maldivian livebait fishery takes relatively little bycatch. Nevertheless, it does occasionally happen during night baiting that quantities of small non-target species, including fish larvae (funi), are attracted to the lights. Most fishermen are able to avoid catching such unwanted bycatch by moving the boat slightly before hauling the net. However, some funna are sometimes caught, and inevitably are killed.

**Key message:** If there are funi attracted to the lights while night bait fishing, take necessary measures to avoid catching them. These small animals are the juveniles of other reef fishes.

## IMPROVE GOVERNANCE

### (5) Maintain logbooks

The Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture is introducing a new logbook recording system for all fishermen. This will provide key information towards sustainable management of the fisheries, including the livebait fishery. In addition, it is increasingly a requirement for exports to Europe that source fisheries must be properly monitored and managed. Therefore, proper compliance with logbook requirements will be necessary to achieve the full financial benefits from export markets.

**Key message:** Keep proper logbook records of your fishing activities. It is important both to help ensure sustainability of fish resources, and to achieve best prices from exports.

## (6) The message of sustainability

Most Maldivian fishermen do not have a good grasp of the concept of overfishing. This is perhaps because generations of Maldivian fishermen have fished for highly migratory tuna species, which may be present one day but gone the next. As a result, Maldivian fishermen often feel that a decline in abundance of any fish species is just a result of it 'moving away' and that it will return in due course. However, this is not the case with many reef resources, which are being overexploited. Increasing numbers of fishermen are realising that sea cucumbers have been overexploited, so this could be used as an example to explain what happens when too many fishermen exploit the same finite resource. More generally, there is a need for dissemination of information about responsible fishing and the need for proper management of all fisheries.

**Key message:** Marine resources are not infinite, and all can be overexploited. If we want to keep healthy fisheries for the next generation, we need to take care of what we have now.

*Extracted from the BAIT FISHERIES MONITORING FINAL REPORT by R. Charles Anderson for the Maldives Environmental Management Project, December 2009*

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## CONTRACT SIGNED WITH HCFC IMPORTER FOR THE YEAR 2012

Ministry of Housing and Environment has signed the contract today, with the least cost bidder, Bright Brothers Pvt Ltd. for the import of HCFC for the year 2012. Based on the financial proposal submitted, Bright Brothers will be the only authorized importer of HCFC for the Maldives this year.

The government under its target to phase-out HCFCs and HCFC Blends by 2020 has set 67MT as the quota for HCFC import to the Maldives this year.

The 'Regulation on the Use and Management of HCFC' published in December 2010 requires users and distributors to have a user/distributor permit issued by the government.

## EARTH HOUR 2012

*Ahmed Hassaan Zuhair*



Earth Hour is a global initiative in partnership with WWF. Individuals, businesses, governments and communities are invited to turn out their lights for one hour on Saturday March 31, 2012 at 8:30 PM to show their support for environmentally sustainable action. The event began in Sydney in 2007, when 2 million people switched off their lights. By 2011, Earth Hour was being reported as 'the World's largest campaign for the planet' with participation in 135 countries and territories across every continent, including the world's most recognized man-made marvels and natural wonders in a landmark display of environmental action. Earth Hour 2011 also marked the start of something new – going Beyond the Hour to commit to lasting action on climate change.

With the invitation to 'switch off' extended to everyone, Earth Hour quickly became an annual global event. It's scheduled on the last Saturday of every March – closely coinciding with the equinox to ensure most cities are in darkness as it rolled out around the Earth.

At 8.30pm local time on Saturday 31 March, Earth Hour 2012 will see hundreds of millions of people around the world cross borders of race, religion, culture, geography and society to unite in a single moment of contemplation for the planet and celebration of their year-round commitment to protect it.

**WHAT:** Earth Hour 2012

**WHEN:** Saturday 31 March at 8.30pm in your local time zone

**WHERE:** Across the globe **WHY:** To celebrate your commitment to the planet with the people of the world

**HOW:** Switch off your lights, register your support and get more details at [earthhour.org](http://earthhour.org)

The iconic 'lights out' event that has seen some of the world's most recognized landmarks, including the Forbidden City, Eiffel Tower, Buckingham Palace, Golden Gate Bridge, Table Mountain, Christ the Redeemer statue and Sydney Opera House switch off in a global celebration of the one thing that unites us all – the planet.

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- \* Scholarships cover course fees and pocket money
- \* Scholarships covered until mid-2013



MALDIVES ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT PROJECT









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	<p>4o52'47"N, 73o0'8"E                  4°52'46"N, 73°0'7"E                  4°52'44"N, 73°0'5"E                  4°52'43N, 73°0'2"E                  4°52'41"N, 72°59'57"E                  4°52'41"N, 72°59'53"E                  4°52'42"N, 72°59'52"E                  4°52'44"N, 72°59'52"E</p>			
5 مئی 2011	<p>5°11'15"N, 72°50'31"E                  5°12'27"N, 72°50'34"E                  5°13'6"N, 72°50'52"E                  5°13'3"N, 72°51'21"E                  5°12'45"N, 72°51'42"E                  5°11'48"N, 72°51'57"E                  5°10'26"N, 72°52'20"E                  5°9'54"N, 72°52'25"E                  5°9'28"N, 72°51'42"E                  5°9'17"N, 72°51'8"E                  5°9'52"N, 72°50'21"E</p>	ڈیپارٹمنٹ	0	35
5 مئی 2011	<p>5°22'23"N, 73°3'46"E                  5°21'24"N, 73°51'4"E                  5°20'54"N, 73°4'60"E                  5°20'16"N, 73°4'15"E                  5°20'26"N, 73°3'53"E                  5°20'44"N, 73°3'47"E                  5°21'35"N, 73°3'12"E                  5°22'23"N, 73°3'12"E</p>	کاؤنٹی	0	36
5 مئی 2011	<p>4°48'48"N, 72°53'14"E                  4°48'48"N, 72°53'37"E                  4°49'8"N, 72°53'37"E                  4°48'12"N, 72°53'26"E                  4°48'58"N, 72°53'10"E</p>	ڈیپارٹمنٹ	0	37
5 مئی 2011	<p>04°54'33"N, 74°54'03"E</p>	سٹیٹ	0	38
5 مئی 2011	<p>5°8'44"N, 73°2'33"E                  5°8'39"N, 73°2'22"E                  5°8'45"N, 73°2'1"E                  5°8'48"N, 73°1'55"E                  5°8'56"N, 73°1'51"E                  5°9'8"N, 73°1'56"E                  5°9'11"N, 73°2'2"E                  5°9'10"N, 73°2'8"E                  5°8'55"N, 73°2'32"E</p>	ٹیپو	0	39

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