

Press releases issued 2008 to 2013(Backwards)

17th December 2013

Visit to Male' by H.E. Mr. Nobuhito Hobo Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Maldives

H.E. Mr. Nobuhito Hobo, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Maldives will visit Male' from 17 to 18 December. He will pay courtesy calls on H.E. Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abudl Gayoom, President of Maldives and other cabinet members during his stay. He wishes to discuss with the leaders of new government possible ways to further promote the friendly ties between Japan and Maldives. Ambassador Hobo is also planning to participate in a signing ceremony for the Non-Project Grant Aid for the Provision of Japanese SME's Products on 18 December.

November 20, 2013

Statement by the Press Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Presidential Election in the Republic of Maldives

1.The Government of Japan welcomes that the presidential election in the Maldives was held peacefully and successfully despite difficulties such as delays of the process, and that Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom was elected as President in the runoff vote on November 16th.f

2.Japan expects under the new President's leadership, all the people concerned will be united in making efforts for further development of the Maldives including advancement of the democratic process.

3.Japan will continue to support these efforts taken by the Maldives and work to further develop our cooperative relationship. (END)

November 14, 2013

Dispatch of Election Observer Mission to the Republic of Maldives for the Second Round of the Presidential Election

The Government of Japan will dispatch an election observer mission from November 15 to 17 for the second round of the presidential election in the Maldives on November 16. This mission will be headed by Mr. Hideki Ishizuka, Minister/ Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka (with jurisdiction over the Maldives). The mission will observe the preparation and voting, and exchange views with other election observation missions.

The Government of Japan has decided to dispatch the mission to contribute to free and fair election and to support the effort for consolidation of democracy in the Maldives in response to the announcement by the Election Commission of the Maldives that it would welcome international observers.

November 8, 2013

Dispatch of Election Observer Mission to the Republic of Maldives for Presidential Election

The Government of Japan has decided to dispatch an election observer mission once again from November 8 to 10 to contribute to free and fair presidential election in the Maldives on November 9. This mission will be headed by Mr. Hideki Ishizuka, Minister/ Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka (with jurisdiction over the Maldives).

In the Maldives, the mission will observe the preparation and voting, and exchange views with other election observation missions.

The Government of Japan has decided to dispatch the mission to support the effort for consolidation of democracy in the Maldives in response to the announcement by the Election Commission of the Maldives that it would welcome international observers.(END)

September 12, 2013

**Statement by the Embassy of Japan on the Presidential Election
in the Republic of Maldives on 7 September 2013**

An election observer mission dispatched by the Government of Japan to the Republic of Maldives and led by Mr. Hideki Ishizuka, Minister/ Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan, was in the Maldives from 5 to 8 September.

The Embassy took note of the feedback by the observer mission that the Presidential Election in the Maldives was held peacefully and smoothly within the limits of the observation.

The Embassy wishes that the run-off election on 28 September will also be held smoothly and in a peaceful manner as in the first round election.

September 6, 2013

**Japan Assistance for Strengthening Electoral Process for 2013
Presidential Elections in Maldives**

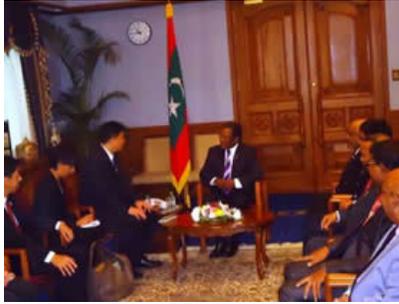
The Government of Japan allocated over MRF 11.3 million from its Counterpart Funds under Japan's KR Grant Aid for assisting the project for "Strengthening the electoral process for Presidential election 2013" identified by the Government of Maldives. This project is aimed at supporting the Election Commission of Maldives in order to facilitate the conducting of a fair and free election in line with democratic norms and regulations.

The project will make provision for purchasing the much needed machinery and equipment for overseeing the Presidential elections to be held during September and also for voter education and awareness programs.

The Government and the people of Japan sincerely hope that the assistance provided will enhance the implementation capacity of the Election Commission of Maldives and enable the Commission to carry out its duties very effectively.

3rd July 2013

State Visit of His Excellency Mr. Yoshitaka Shindo, Japan's Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications to the Republic of Maldives



Mr. Yoshitaka Shindo with Maldivian President Dr. Abdul Waheed

His Excellency Mr. Yoshitaka Shindo, Japan's Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications was on a state visit of the Republic of Maldives from Saturday 29th June to Tuesday 2nd July 2013 on invitation by the Government of Maldives. He was accompanied by an official delegation and was received at the Ibrahim Nasir International Airport, Malé by his counterpart the Honourable Minister of Transport and Communication Mr. Ameen Ibrahim.



**Mr. Shindo with Minister Amen Ibrahim,
Minister of Transport and Communication**

During his visit Mr. Shindo called on His Excellency President of Maldives Dr. Abdul Waheed, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Dr. Abdul Samad Abdullah, and several other senior officials of the Maldivian Government and held discussions on various bilateral issues and also briefed them on the advantages of the Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting Terrestrial technology (ISDB-T).



**Mr. Shindo at a meeting with Mr. Mohammed Shahyb,
President of Maldives Broadcasting Commission (MBC)**

Mr. Shindo also visited Felivaru Fisheries Maldives, the Maldives Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and the Male Water & Sewerage Company Pvt. Ltd. Prior to his departure from Male Mr. Shindo addressed a joint press conference together with his counterpart the Honourable Minister of Transport and Communication Mr. Ameen Ibrahim to brief the media on the outcome of his official visit to the Maldives.

February 19, 2013

Japan extended MVR 2 million for construction of a gymnasium in Meemu Atoll



The Government of Japan has provided US\$ 144,395 (approximately Maldivian Rufiyaa 2,165,925) grant aid for the construction of a gymnasium in Meemu Atoll under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

"The Project for Constructing a Gymnasium in Mulak School, Mulak Island in Meemu Atoll" will help to improve the educational and living environment for students of the island while the facility would also serve as a community hall. The gymnasium would be utilized by the students for their physical training programmes, free from the risk of being infected by mosquito borne diseases as well as a venue for organizing Student Skill Seminars or Language Days. Furthermore, the building would also serve as a community hall to organize public awareness and vocational training programmes and also as a temporary shelter for the displaced in times of natural disasters. The project has been developed in cooperation with a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) attached to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) who worked at the Mulak School as a computer teacher.

The Principal of Mulak School delivering a message from students, parents, teachers and the community of Mulak Island stated; "It is with immense pleasure that we the communities of Mulak School thank the Government of Japan for pioneering to provide a sports indoor facility at Mulak School, through the project under the GGP".

The Government of Japan has extended assistance to Maldives for over 40 years in various sectors such as fishery, education, communication and broadcasting, electricity, restoration from Tsunami disaster, ranging from grassroots level to large infrastructure level. Especially in the renewable energy sector, the government of Japan has provided grant funds amounting to approximately USD 12 million (Japanese Yen 1 billion) under the "Project for Clean Energy Promotion in Male" since 2010.

The Grant Contract between His Excellency Mr. Nobuhito Hobo, Ambassador of Japan and Mr. Uthayaraj Reddiar, Principal of Mulak School was signed February 19, 2013 at the Ministry of Education in Male.

25th April 2012

Japan Assists in the Promotion of Education and Youth Development in Maldives

The Government of Japan allocated over MRF 4.8 million from its Counterpart Funds under Japan's KR Grant Aid for implementing eleven projects identified by the Government of Maldives. These projects are aimed at developing early childhood development, vocational training and education and enhancing the opportunities for youth development in the Maldives. Education and youth development are considered essential elements in effective socio-economic development and long-term nation building.

These projects include the construction/improvement of six pre-schools and provision of equipment and facilities, provision of a bus service for school children, and provision of a well equipped vocational training centre, and a training program on media for young professionals. The projects will be implemented in 10 islands including N. Kendhikulhudhoo, R. Ungoofaaruu, GA. Kolamaafushi, GA. Gemanafushi, R. Innamaadhoo, R. Vaadhoo, F. Feeali, H.Dh Huldudheli, R. Alifushi and Male'.

The Government and the people of Japan sincerely hope that these projects will enhance and improve the quality of pre-school education and vocational training, and create much interest in media education among youth, and thereby contribute to sustainable development of Maldives.

12 March 2012

Japan Provides 47 million MRf to Maldives for Purchase of Industrial Products

The Government of Japan granted Japanese Yen 250 million (approximately 47 million Maldivian Rufiyaas) to the Government of Maldives for procuring a range of equipment and products manufactured in East Japan, especially in the Tohoku region, aimed at supporting crucial sectors that would contribute to social and economic development in the Maldives. The Great East Japan earthquake caused significant damages to the local economy, and as such this grant scheme will be mutually beneficial to both the people as well as the economies of the Tohoku region and the Maldives.

The type of equipment to be procured under this Non-Project Grant Aid scheme would be decided by the Government of Maldives in consultation with line agencies. The Government and the people of Japan hope that the equipment and products provided under this grant would be effectively utilized to improve the quality of health and education services in the Islands and eventually improve the economy and lives of the people of Maldives.

The signing of the Exchange of Notes took place between H.E. Mr. Nobuhito Hobo, Ambassador of Japan to Maldives and H.E. Ms. Dunya Maumoon, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, on March 12th at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Male'.

23 October 2011

**NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS
TO H.E. THE PRESIDENT**



His Excellency Mr Nobuhito HOB0, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and to the Republic of Maldives arrived in Sri Lanka on 16th October 2011. Ambassador HOB0 succeeds Ambassador Kunio Takahashi who left Sri Lanka on 9th October. Ambassador HOB0 presented his credentials to His Excellency President Mohamed Nasheed, on 23rd October 2011.

Born on 9th August 1950, he graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University in 1975 and joined the Forestry Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. In 1983, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and served as an officer in the Technical Cooperation Division of the Economic Cooperation Bureau. In 1993, he was appointed as Senior Coordinator, Press Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thereafter, he assumed duties as First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Indonesia and in 1994, was promoted to the rank of Counsellor at the same Embassy. Since 1996, he served as Director, Multilateral Cooperation Division, Technical Cooperation Division, and Aid Policy Division, respectively of the Economic Cooperation Bureau and Director, Information and Communications Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2001, he assumed duties as Deputy Assistant Vice Minister (Parliamentary Affairs) and in 2003 was appointed as Director General, Policy Coordination Department of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In 2007, he was appointed as Consul-General of Japan at Sydney, Australia and in 2010, he assumed duties as Vice-President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Equipped with a wide experience in the Economic Cooperation Bureau and JICA behind him, Ambassador Hobo is hopeful that he would be able to contribute positively towards further promoting bilateral relations between the two countries. (END)

16 August 2010

Japan and Maldives Technical Cooperation Agreement



The signing of the Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Maldives (Japan-Maldives Technical Cooperation Agreement) took place in Male between H.E. Mr. Kunio Takahashi, Ambassador of Japan to the Maldives, and Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives.

This agreement is considered as an important milestone in the technical cooperation between both countries and will further strengthen the desired socio-economic development in the Maldives. Japan's technical assistance mainly aims to transfer Japanese technology, skills and knowledge to developing countries in order to develop human resources that play a leading role in the country's socio economic development. The Agreement sets forth basic measures and actions to be taken by the Government of the Maldives in accepting Japan's technical

cooperation, such as dispatching Experts, Senior Volunteers, Missions for Development Study to the Maldives, providing technical training to Maldivian Nationals and equipment, machinery and materials. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will implement the technical cooperation on behalf of the Government of Japan.

Japan's technical cooperation so far has mainly focused on counterpart training including training opportunities for Maldivian youth in Japan and dispatch of Japanese Volunteers. Up to the end of 2008 the Government of Japan has disbursed over 5.8 billion Yen (774 million Rufiyaa) as technical cooperation assistance to Maldives. This includes the dispatch of 50 Experts & 249 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) from Japan to the Maldives and counterpart training provided to 735 Maldivians in Japan.

June 1st, 2010

Japan Provides Non-Project Grant Aid to the Republic of Maldives



The Government of Japan provided Japanese Yen 300 million (approximately US 3.3million / MRF. 42million) under its Non-Project Grant Aid scheme (NPGA) for 2010 to the Republic of Maldives for importing petroleum products. The Government of Maldives spends a considerable amount of its revenue income on the import of petroleum products. The Grant will enable the government of Maldives to invest more on development and the much needed poverty reduction programs.

Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid is intended to support developing countries by promoting its economic structural adjustment efforts through the provision of foreign currency for import of goods. In principle at least half of the FOB price of goods procured under the grant in local currency is to be deposited in the Counterpart Fund for use in social and economic development purposes. In this regard, the Grant will not only provide petroleum products but also enable the government of Maldives to utilize the currency deposited in the Counterpart Fund for development projects that will collectively benefit the wider community.

NPGA is granted to the Government of Maldives for the first time, although NPGA amounting to 2 billion Japanese Yen was provided to Maldives under the emergency assistance scheme in 2004 for meeting the tsunami relief and rehabilitation needs. The emergency assistance was used for restoration of livelihoods and for reconstruction of destroyed infrastructure in the islands and in Male.

H.E. Mr. Kunio Takahashi, Ambassador of Japan to the Maldives and H.E. Ali Hussain Didi, High Commissioner of Maldives in Sri Lanka signed the Exchange of Notes for the NPGA today at the Embassy of Japan, Colombo

March 25, 2010

Japan Provides Japanese Yen One Billion for Climate Change Adaptation to Maldives

The Government of Japan provided Grant Aid amounting to Japanese Yen 1 billion (approximately US\$ 11.1 million/ Mrf. 141,525,000) for the "Project for Clean Energy Promotion in Male" under the Grant Aid for Environment and Climate Change (GAEC) Program. The GAEC

is a program initiated by the Government of Japan under its Cool Earth Partnership announced in January 2008 to help developing countries undertake adaptation measures against climate change by reducing Green House Gas emissions and improving their access to clean energy.

Maldives depends entirely on imported diesel fuel for producing electricity, which leads to environmental concerns due to green house gas emissions and pressure on the economy due to fluctuation of fuel prices. The Government of Maldives has recognized the importance of diversification of energy sources and given priority to renewable energy. As an island nation Maldives being is among the countries that are most prone to be affected by sea level rise caused by climate change. The Government of Maldives aims to achieve carbon neutral status within 10 years through promoting renewable energy.

Taking into account the situation of Maldives to support climate change initiative, the Government of Japan has conducted a study on the application of Solar Energy in Male' and Hulhumale' islands which was carried out by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Following the study, the Ministry of Housing, Transportation and Environment will use the Grant Aid to install Solar Power Panels in 5 locations in Male for the generation of 400 KWh of solar power.

H.E. Mr. Kunio Takahashi, Ambassador of Japan to the Maldives and H.E. Mr. Ali Hussain Didi, High Commissioner of Maldives in Sri Lanka signed the Exchange of Notes for the Grant for the "Project for Clean Energy Promotion in Male'" today at the Embassy of Japan, Colombo.

In addition a Grant Agreement for the Afforestation Project was signed today between H.E. Mr. Ali Hussain Didi, High Commissioner of Maldives in Sri Lanka and Mr. Akira Shimura, Chief Representative of JICA Sri Lanka Office.

March 19, 2009

**Japan provides 380 million Japanese Yen
as food aid grant to the Maldives**

The Government of Japan has decided to provide 380 million Japanese Yen (approximately Rf. 49 million) as food aid grant to the Maldives. The Exchange of Notes between the Governments of Japan and Maldives was signed on March 19, 2009 at the Embassy of Japan in Colombo.

Mr. Kaoru Shimazaki, Charge' d' Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Japan to the Republic of Maldives signed the Exchange of Notes on behalf of the Government of Japan and H.E. Mr. Ali Hussain Didi, High Commissioner of the Republic of the Maldives in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka signed on behalf of the Government of Maldives. The Grant Agreement was also signed between the Government of Maldives and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Dr. Atsushi Kaneko, Chief Representative, signed on behalf of JICA.

Food aid provided under grant aid scheme by the Government of Japan which will be utilized to purchase wheat flour plays a vital role in ensuring food security in the Maldives. Owing to the fact that land suitable for agriculture in the Maldives is less than 10 percent of the total land area all of the country's staple food, including wheat flour, is imported. For the past 7 years, the wheat flour made available under this grant is approximately 30 percent of the total flour consumed in the Maldives.

The Government of Maldives sells the wheat flour to the general public through an agent, and the proceeds (equivalent to at least two thirds of the value) are utilized for economic and social development projects in the Maldives.

The Government of Japan has been providing food aid to the Maldives annually since 1981. Apart from food aid, the Government of Japan also extends assistance towards socio-economic development of the Maldives, such as construction of Seawall around Male', Schools in Male' and other islands as well as rehabilitation of Tsunami affected islands.

25th January 2008

Japan Funds to improve Hithadhoo Regional Hospital in Add Atoll

The Government of Japan has provided a sum of US \$ 76,281 (approximately Maldivian Rufiyaa 976,000) towards "The Project for Reducing Burdens of Diseases in Rural Maldives". The Project will be implemented by the JICA Alumni Society of Maldives and will benefit the Hithadhoo Regional Hospital in Addu Atoll.

The Hithadoo regional hospital is the only accessible regional hospital for many near islanders, and the number of in-patient and out-patient is the highest among the five regional hospitals in Maldives. However, patients have to make the tedious journey to the central hospital in Male when regional hospitals such as Hithadoo Regional Hospital are not able to meet their increasing medical needs due to lack of equipment and human resources.

The Government of Japan is assisting the Hithadhoo Regional Hospital by providing pediatric and maternal medical equipment such as Pediatric Monitors and Infusion Pumps, a training on usage of those medical equipment, and an awareness program and prevention of non-communicable diseases. It is the hope of the Government of Japan that this assistance to the hospital would serve the population in and around Addu Atoll at the same level as the Central Hospital in Male and improve the health conditions of the region.

The Government of Japan has extended assistance to Maldives for over 40 years in various sectors such as fishery, education, communication, and broadcasting, electricity, restoration from Tsunami disaster, ranging from grassroots level to large infrastructure level. The Construction of Seawall around Male was one such assistance while USS20 million has been provided for Tsunami rehabilitation in the affected islands. Japan has also provided wheat flour to the Maldives annually since 1981. Furthermore, the Construction of the Second Girls Secondary School in Male will also commence with Japanese assistance shortly.

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