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Maldives News Update

RW Robert Wexler



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 joe_curtsinger@corker.senate.gov; colleen_donnelly@flake.senate.gov; igor_khrestin@gardner.senate.gov;
 ryan_evans@isakson.senate.gov; carol_foster@ronjohnson.senate.gov; andrew_kalaris@kaine.senate.gov;
 mark_appleton@markey.senate.gov; sarah_arkin@menendez.senate.gov; louie_reckford@merkley.senate.gov;
 jim_webb@paul.senate.gov; tyler_brace@portman.senate.gov; chris_socha@risch.senate.gov;
 robert_zarate@rubio.senate.gov; naz_durakoglu@shaheen.senate.gov; matthew_padilla@tomudall.senate.gov;
 brad_bowman@young.senate.gov; david_seyferth@murphy.senate.gov

Sent Items

I thought you might be interested in the latest developments regarding the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation.

This material is distributed by Ballard Partners on behalf of the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

The Maldives Gains Support & Enhances Diplomatic Relations

-The Maldives Trade Delegation paid a visit to Pakistan, meeting with Senior Management at TDAP and various pharmaceutical companies in Karachi to discuss a two-phase plan, with the first phase allowing the purchase of emergency medicine, and the second phase allowing them to place orders for routine medicine.

-China and the UN support the Maldivian government's decision to end its state of emergency.

-Chinese FM Chunying, stated, "China believes that the Maldivian government and political parties have the wisdom and ability to resolve differences through dialogue and negotiations to jointly maintain the political stability and social harmony of the Maldives."

-The United Nations visited the Maldives to continue engagement with the government, political parties, and civil society representatives.

<https://pakobserver.net/trade-delegation-maldives-concludes-pakistan-visit/>

<http://www.ecns.cn/2018/03-23/296921.shtml>

The Maldivian Economy Shows Promise

- The Maldives Monetary Authority's state reserve has increased by 30%, reaching \$625 million by the end of February.
- Inflation in the Maldives has decreased bringing it to 1.1%.

<https://avas.mv/en/46826>

<https://avas.mv/en/46991>

Tourism Rises in the Maldives

- Tourism rose over 19% this February, compared to February 2017, with the highest population of visitors coming from China and Europe.
- 1.3 million tourists visited the Maldives in 2017.
- The largest underwater restaurant just opened in the Maldives, where patrons are surrounded by 2,000 species of sea life while indulging in spectacular cuisine. This top-tier underwater restaurant is now hosting the world's first underwater yoga class.
- The Maldives is home to many luxurious resorts that provide snorkeling tours, jet ski excursions, and top-notch restaurants and bars with spectacular settings ranging from underwater restaurants, to restaurants up in the trees.
- A new island, Hulhumale, is being developed in the Maldives to become a sustainable city that fosters creative entrepreneurship.
- Hulhumale is welcoming investors as it hopes to become home to two-thirds of the nation's population, consisting of an international airport, a waterpark, an international cruise terminal, a yacht marina, and a football stadium.

<http://menafn.com/1096621197/Tourist-arrivals-to-Maldives-record-19-growth-in-Feb-despite-travel-advisories>

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/travel/392182-review-niyama-private-island-maldives>

<http://lifestyle.inquirer.net/288843/worlds-first-underwater-yoga-class-take-place-maldives/>

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1263106/travel>

<https://www.luxurytravelmagazine.com/news-articles/worlds-first-underwater-yoga-experience-at-hurawalhi-island-maldives>

<http://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/an-ultra-ambitious-new-island-city-is-coming-to-the-maldives-1018532246>

<http://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-news/underwater-yoga-hurawalhi-maldives>

<https://borneobulletin.com.bn/maldives-resorts-now-out-to-win-tourists-with-top-level-cuisine/>

The Maldives are Increasing Funding for Schools & Curriculum

- The Maldivian government is working to enhance educational development and has created a plan to increase funding and prioritize its education system.
- Maldives educationalists are praising Allama Iqbal Open University for its free educational schemes and its efforts to upgrade its educational practices through collaboration nationally and internationally, stating that they hope they can use the university as a model.

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/864611521031915031/pdf/Plan-Archive-24.pdf>

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/289686-maldives-educationists-praise-aiou-education-schemes>

Maldivians Look for Environmentally Friendly Alternatives

- The Maldives are beginning to move away from diesel fuel for power, and have recently looked at alternative energy efficient methods like floating solar panels, which are safe for the oceanic ecosystem, easy to put together and can supply clean energy to its islands.
- The Maldives Police Service, Waste Management Corporation and the Ministry of Environment have created the "Environment Police", which will manage waste more efficiently, prevent and take action against people who are transporting waste illegally, enforce waste management regulations, and maintain the cleanliness of the islands.

<https://inhabitat.com/how-floating-solar-panels-are-helping-the-maldives-ditch-diesel-fuel/>

All the best,

The Honorable Robert Wexler