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Maldives News Update

RW Robert Wexler
Fri 5/11/2018 2:34 PM

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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 Continues to Enhance Diplomatic Relations

- The Maldives and Zambia signed a joint memorandum to formalize diplomatic relations.
- The Maldives and the Ivory Coast formalized diplomatic ties and their intent for future cooperation, bringing the number of countries the Maldives has diplomatic relations with to 167.
- A Maldivian charity, "Ghouta Emergency Relief", sent MVR 1.3 million to help humanitarian efforts in the Syrian suburb of Ghouta, for those citizens who are living in duress.

<https://avas.mv/en/47032>

<https://raajje.mv/en/news/29608>

<https://avas.mv/en/47121>

<https://en.sun.mv/48285>

<https://raajje.mv/en/news/30220>

The Maldivian Government is on The Mend

- Maldivian President Yameen met with several UN Ambassadors at the Developing Sustainability: Sharing Experiences, Seeking Solutions Workshop, where they praised him for the country's rebounded political state.
- President Yameen assured visiting UN Ambassadors that the administration is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the Maldivian people and foreign visitors, that the recent state of emergency did not affect the daily lives

industrial areas, which create environmentally friendly policies like solar powered energy systems in resorts.

-The current Maldivian administration has doubled the value of per capita income in its four years in office, due to the President's commitment to bring about a better economy, and his pledge to bring about a better quality of life.

-The President stated that the Maldives is a major advocate for human rights and environmental issues, and that the Administration will continue to work toward strengthening the country's democracy.

-ADB is working to implement a national single window (NSW) system in the Maldives, which will improve international trade and customs procedures to make it easier to do business in the Maldives by eliminating operational inefficiencies, creating a modern and effective customs administration, creating more streamlined and transparent business regulations and procedures, and improving the merchandise trade in the private sector.

-Cafes, restaurants, and shops are now allowed to be open 24/7, and authorities now plan to extend gas station hours past 6 pm.

-The Bank of the Maldives announced positive results for the first quarter of 2018, with operating profit up 11%.

<https://avas.mv/en/48040>

<https://raajje.mv/en/news/29658>

<https://raajje.mv/en/news/29709>

<http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/?lid=11&dcid=18950>

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/Article/3481-adb-promoting-national-single-window-to-improve-maldives-trade-procedure>

The Maldives Makes New Plans to Harness Energy from Ocean Waves

-A new project is in the works in the Maldives to obtain energy from ocean waves, aiming to supply sustainable energy and reduce carbon emissions. The WEC-units capture energy from surf waves along the shoreline and convert it into usable electricity.

-The WEC-units are designed to look like dolphin fins or flower stems, and are built to withstand breaking waves, and are completely safe for sea life.

-Wave energy provides a continuous stream of energy, which is a major advantage over other types of renewable energy.

-The Maldives is an ideal place to test the Wave Energy Converters because of its geographic location, its inability to transmit electricity between the islands (requiring each island to develop its own energy), and because each island is only elevated a few meters above sea level.

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/06042018-maldives-plan-to-harness-energy-from-ocean-waves/>

<https://raajje.mv/en/news/30161>

The Maldives Sees Increases in Its Tourism Industry

-The Maldives saw a 9.3% year-on-year increase in UK tourists this February, and a 17.5% year-on-year increase in UK tourists this March.

-The Maldives saw a global visitor increase of 19.2% year-on-year in February, and a 18.5% year-on-year visitor increase in March, with a 12.2% year-on-year increase in tourists in the first quarter.

-The Maldives was recently recognized as the Indian Ocean's Leading Beach Destination by the World Travel Awards.

-A new Fairmont Hotel is opening in The Maldives, which will boast 112 villas, each with a private pool. The resort includes a large resort lagoon, a large assortment of luxury restaurants and bars, a kid's club, and a teen town. The resort will be surrounded by the Maldives' first coral regeneration project, and will be home to a large array of sea life.

-“With several new tourism developments taking place in the Maldives this year, including a new runway and terminal being built at Velana International Airport and 23 new resorts scheduled to open in 2019, our tourism infrastructure is continuing to expand which will provide visitors with even more choice when visiting the Maldives”, stated Mohamed Haris with the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation.

-A new nature park is being promoted for eco-tourism, and will include protected areas for hiking, biking, canoe tours, snorkeling, and reef diving.

-Marriott International is opening their first Indian Ocean resort in the Maldives. The resort will include 29 secluded beach villas and 32 water villas, a treetop restaurant, a wine cellar, an open-air cinema, a kid's club, a gym, a yoga pavilion and beauty salon, a spa, and it will offer numerous activities like fishing, sailing, para-sailing, jet-skiing, and diving.

-The Conrad Maldives Rangali Island offers an Instagram Butler, two spas, scuba-diving, snorkeling, 12 award-winning restaurants and bars (including an underwater restaurant), private water slides in each overwater villa, and an

the surface, with a second floor which sits above sea level. The underwater portion of the villa includes floor to ceiling glass, immersing occupants in vibrant sea life. This suite also offers a gym, an ocean-view tub, a sunset facing deck, 4 24/7 butlers, a chef, a set of jet skis, spa treatments, an infinity pool, and an on-call fitness trainer.

-Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas now has an overwater observatory (the only one in the world) that offers champagne along with unbelievable stargazing, surrounded by the serene ambiance of sea waves.

-Outrigger Hotels and Resorts' OZONE program allows tourists to participate in coral planting through educational workshops, allowing them to plant the coral, and offering a snorkeling session over a coral bed alongside a marine biologist.

-The St. Regis Maldives now offers ayurvedic retreats that offer holistic treatments that promote good health and cleansing, including massages, exfoliation, and steam treatments to heal the mind and soul.

<https://raajje.mv/en/news/30256>

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All the best,

The Honorable Robert Wexler