



PRESS RELEASE

***Noo Raajje* Program Conducts Workshops for the Development of a Maldivian Blue Economy Strategy**

April 6, 2021, MALE': A virtual workshop was held yesterday involving participants from the government, NGOs, and the private sector, to help develop a Blue Economy strategy for the Maldives which focuses on diversifying the Maldivian economy.

The workshop was conducted by City Facilitators, an expert consultancy firm based in Denmark that advises governments, cities and towns on sustainable urban growth and development.

During the workshop participants discussed scenarios that the government could adopt to promote the Blue Economy and encourage diversification. This was the first among a series of workshops targeting different stakeholder groups. A second part of the workshop continued today with government policy executives. The Government's Strategic Action Plan identifies diversifying the economy as a key priority.

Prior to the workshop, City Facilitators conducted online public survey and interviews with people working in the Maldivian government, NGOs, and the private sector.

The *Noo Raajje* Program is a five-year collaborative effort to ensure that the Maldives' ocean resources are utilized sustainably, while boosting tourism and livelihoods. Noo Raajje is also supporting the Government in its Blue Economy work, and hired City Facilitators in that regard.

The backbone of the *Noo Raajje* Program is the development of a Marine Spatial Plan – an approach that uses spatial information about natural resources and human uses to establish a comprehensive management system for the Maldives EEZ. The MSP will be based on data and findings from extensive scientific surveys, stakeholder consultations and existing information. The MSP will also support the Blue Economy initiative, promoting the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improving livelihoods and ocean ecosystem health.

Learn more at www.nooraaajje.org

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