



MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

Ref Number: 88-SR/NEWS/2011/17

10 October 2011

NEWS

The Dissemination and Consultation Workshop on Tourism Sector Work

As part of the Maldives Tourism Technical Assistance / Policy Note of the World Bank, a team from the Bank carried out some analytical work on the tourism sector of the Maldives, which included devising suitable forecasting methodologies for tourist arrivals to the Maldives. After consultations held with government authorities and stakeholders over the period from November 2010 to February 2011, the team developed four models to forecast tourist arrivals to the country and drafted a paper on the Maldives tourism sector positioning.

A consultation workshop was held on Monday, 10 October 2011 at MMA Building, to share and discuss the “*Maldives Tourism Sector - Position Paper*” drafted by the World Bank team and to introduce the forecasting models designed by the team. The workshop, which was organized together by Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and the World Bank, was attended by relevant government authorities and tourism sector stakeholders.

The workshop was carried out in an interactive discussions style divided into three sessions, of which the first session was based on the overview of the Maldives Tourism Sector Study and Key Analytical Findings. Session two was based on the technical work on forecasting arrivals. During this session, the World Bank consultants introduced and explained the four forecasting models namely; the Global Elasticity model, the Temporal Method, the Time Series model and the Econometric model. Session three was on Contemporary Issues in the Maldives Tourism Sector and areas for further Analytical Work.

Discussions were held on possible next steps for tourism forecasting and finding areas to further research and studies. After the discussion held, it was agreed that the government of the Maldives shall endorse the four models and to use these models in tourist arrival forecasting.

Opening remarks for the workshop was given by Mr. Ahmed Salih, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture. And concluding remarks was given by Ms. Aishath Ali, Director General of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture on behalf of the Government of the Maldives and Mr. Rajatha Wijeweera, Economist on behalf of the World Bank.