

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE**  
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

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## **NEWS**

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**MALDIVES PARTICIPATED IN THE TWENTY THIRD JOINT MEETING  
OF THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH AND EAST ASIA AND THE  
PACIFIC; AND UNWTO CONFERENCE ON MAINSTREAMING TOURISM IN  
THE MEDIA, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, 24-26 MARCH 2011**

The Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture participated in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for South Asia, the East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Conference on Mainstreaming Tourism in the Media, organized in association with the 23<sup>rd</sup> UNWTO Joint Commission Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 24-26<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

The Conference discussed on how tourism can be a key vehicle to overcome adverse publicity and to rebuild the image of a country while repositioning it against a backdrop of socio-political challenges. During the 23<sup>rd</sup> UNWTO Joint Commission a special resolution was adopted on Japan, expressing support to, and solidarity with the government of Japan and the Japanese people following the recent earthquake and tsunami.

During the official visit, the Hon Minister also made a courtesy call to HE Mr. Basil Rajapaksa, the Sri Lankan Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, at the Parliament House Sri Lanka. In the meeting, discussions were held regarding bilateral and mutual cooperation in tourism development in both countries and South Asian regional cooperation in tourism. Hon Minister also made note of the SAARC Conference to be held in Addu City in Maldives later this year.

The Ministerial call was also attended by the Honorable Gulam Qadar, the Tourism Minister of Bangladesh, Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena Deputy Economic Development of Srilanka, Dr. P. B.Jayasundara Finance Secretary, Dr. Nalaka Godahewa Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourist Board and Moosa Zameer Hassan, the Deputy Director General of this Ministry.