



High Commission of Maldives
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Newsletter

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Issue 5



Second Edition of Eku Ekeegai Orientation Program Held Virtually

30 November



The High Commission hosted the second edition of its orientation program, Eku Ekeegai, virtually. Initially launched by High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed on 12 October 2024, the initiative is designed to facilitate a seamless transition for new students adjusting to life in Malaysia.

The virtual session provided students with guidance on adjusting to life in Malaysia, becoming familiar with visa regulations, adapting to Malaysian customs, understanding local culture, and building connections with fellow students.

Since its inception, Eku Ekeegai has been lauded by participating students for its effectiveness in equipping them with the essential knowledge needed to navigate their educational journey in the country.

More Than 500 Scholarships Facilitated Through Maldives-Malaysia MoU

28 November

In a noteworthy achievement, facilitated in part by the High Commission, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) and the Government of Maldives, paving the way for more than 500 scholarships for Maldivian students to study at selected Malaysian institutions.

The MoU exchange ceremony saw the Maldives represented by State Minister at the Ministry of Higher Education, Dr. Abdul Raheem Hasan, and CEO of Maldives Qualifications Authority, Mariyam Fizaana Rashyd.

This agreement reflects the strengthened educational ties between the two nations and offers new opportunities for Maldivian students to achieve their academic goals in Malaysia.



Deputy High Commissioner Joins Ministry of Higher Education Delegation for University Visits

27 November



Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Ibrahim Shaaz Habeeb joined the visiting delegation from the Ministry of Higher Education Ministry of Higher Education Labour and Skills Development, during their visits to higher education institutions in Malaysia.

The delegation, invited by Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), visited universities with substantial Maldivian student enrolment. They held meetings with university management and engaged in discussions with Maldivian students to hear their perspectives.

The visits included Sunway University, Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU), and International Medical University (IMU).

Minister Counsellor Aishath Samaha and Counsellor Abdulla Mamdhoo accompanied the Deputy High Commissioner.

Deputy High Commissioner Represents Maldives at EMGS Networking Dinner

27 November

Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Ibrahim Shaaz Habeeb represented the High Commission at a networking dinner organized by Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS).

The event marked the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EMGS and its international partners, including the Maldives, aimed at strengthening collaborations in higher education.

During the dinner, the Deputy High Commissioner, accompanied by Counsellor Abdulla Mamdhoo, engaged with Maldivian students, listened to their concerns, and acknowledged their experiences.





Deputy High Commissioner Meets with the Management of International Islamic School Malaysia

7 November

Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Ibrahim Shaaz Habeeb met with the management of International Islamic School Malaysia to address concerns about extended delays in visa processing and other visa-related issues being reported by Maldivian students and their dependents.

This meeting is part of the High Commission's ongoing efforts to resolve challenges faced by Maldivian students.

High Commission Hosts Meeting to Explore Investment Opportunities

7 November

The High Commission, led by High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed, hosted a strategic meeting with key representatives from the Pacific Alliance Group (PAG) and the BRICS-ASEAN Chamber of Commerce.

Discussions centered on financial and investment opportunities to support Maldives' industrial and infrastructure development. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to strengthen collaboration and explore avenues for impactful partnerships.

This engagement highlights the High Commission's dedication to fostering meaningful bilateral relationships and driving the Maldives' national development agenda.

High Commissioner Participates in Top 50 Professional & Career Women Global Awards 2024

7 November

High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed participated in the 14th Top 50 Professional & Career Women Global Awards 2024 ceremony, organised by Women in Management (WIM) Malaysia Chapter, a leading NGO dedicated to advancing women's leadership and professional advancement.

She also took the opportunity to personally congratulate Ms. Minha Faiz Rashaad and Ms. Shidhatha Shareef, the Gold Award Winners from the Maldives.



High Commissioner Meets Maldives National University to Discuss Educational Partnerships

6 November

High Commissioner H.E Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed held a virtual meeting with the Maldives National University (MNU). The meeting facilitated a productive dialogue on exploring research and higher education partnership opportunities between MNU and Malaysia's public and private universities.

The High Commissioner expressed her interest in fostering cooperative relationships between Malaysian universities and the Maldives.

Dr. Aishath Shehenaz Adam, Vice-Chancellor of MNU, spoke about the need to explore such partnerships and conveyed her appreciation to the High Commissioner for her commitment to facilitating collaborations between Maldives and Malaysian academic institutions.



Maldives Explores Innovation at Smart Nation Expo 2024

19 November



The High Commission officials attended the Smart Nation Expo 2024 at MITEC, Kuala Lumpur, an event that featured over 600 exhibitors and brought together 20,000 industry professionals from 73 countries.

The High Commission was represented by Trade Representative Abbas Adil Riza, First Secretary Hussain Ibrahim, and Second Secretary Ismail Madhih, engaged with stakeholders to explore opportunities in renewable energy, smart agriculture, and digital transformation. Discussions highlighted the potential for integrating innovative technologies to advance the Maldives' sustainability and development goals.

Asia Smart Farming Exhibition

26 November

The High Commission participated in the Asia Smart Farming Food Security Exhibition & Conference, officiated by YB Dato' Sri Mohamad bin Sabu, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of Malaysia.

The event, held at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC), showcased innovative solutions in smart farming and food security. It provided a platform for industry leaders, experts, and stakeholders to share insights on agricultural advancements and sustainable practices.





Maldives Promotes Trade Opportunities at MIBS 2024

28 November

Representatives from the High Commission participated in the opening ceremony of the Malaysia Import & Export Commodity Fair (MIBS 2024) held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. Held in conjunction with the 19th Malaysia International Branding Showcase and endorsed by MATRADE, the event featured over 400 exhibitors from a range of industries.

They engaged with exhibitors and stakeholders to explore potential collaborations and opportunities for introducing Maldivian products, particularly fisheries exports, to Malaysia and Southeast Asia.

The exhibition provided a valuable platform to promote Maldivian trade interests and establish connections with key players in international trade. Follow-ups on these engagements are planned to strengthen bilateral trade ties and consider future participation by Maldivian businesses in similar events.

Participation in Diplomatic Events Hosted by Foreign Missions in Malaysia

5,7 and 11 November



The High Commissioner engaged in various diplomatic events hosted by foreign missions in Malaysia.

On 7 November 2024, she attended the reception organized by the High Commission of the Republic of Uganda to commemorate Uganda's 62nd Independence Day. On 11 November 2024, the High Commissioner participated in the National Day reception hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

On 5 November 2024, the High Commissioner joined a luncheon hosted by the Ambassador of Hungary. Additionally, on 6 November 2024, she attended the opening ceremony of the 8th International Conference on Heritage Tourism in Oman, organized by the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman.



Consular Statistics of November

In November, the High Commission's Consular Department actively supported citizens by managing a significant total of 256 cases and enquiries. The High Commission received a diverse array of requests, from emergency assistance to document processing, ensuring citizens received timely and professional service.

Here's a breakdown of the services provided:

► **Passport Renewals and Cancellations:** 16 individuals sought assistance with renewing or cancelling their passports. Passport applications can only be accepted for individuals with long-term visas.

► **Certificates of Identity:** A total of 12 emergency travel documents were issued primarily for cases involving lost passports and newborns. In the event of a lost passport, it is strongly advised to report the loss to the nearest police station promptly. For newborns, it is important to obtain a birth certificate from the Malaysian authority before the application.

► **Document Verification and Attestation:** Significant number of 14 documents were sent for verification, and 57 documents were attested as true copies. It is essential to verify the documents from the governing authorities in the Maldives prior to attestation as true copies. This process requires 3-5 working days. Hence, we request to plan the visa process as early as possible and allocate time for this process.

► **Email Correspondence:** The Consular Department handled a high volume of enquiries, responding to 72 emails covering various issues, including visa assistance, passport renewals, family relationship letters, license verification, and more.

► **Visa-Related Assistance:** 7 individuals sought assistance with visa-related matter. A total of 20 visa-related letters were issued. Students and families are advised to request assistance through email and maintain email communications. Additionally, for expedited visa processing, it is recommended to inform the respective university before seeking the High Commission's assistance on visa-related issues, along with the supporting documents. (For expedited visa processing, students should first consult and work with their university. If unresolved within the allocated time period, they may seek assistance from the High Commission, ensuring all supporting documents are submitted at the time of the request.)

► **Meranaa and Medical Services:** A substantial number of 14 applications were verified. Applicants are strongly advised to upload updated visas and ensure all details are accurately filled in to prevent application rejection.

► **Other:** An additional 12 letters were issued for topics such as marital status, passport notifications, and license verification.

