

Environment Ministry and UNEP Jointly Conduct Training for Enforcement Officers in the Maldives on Curbing Environmental Offences

The National Training Workshop for the enforcement officers on curbing cross border environmental offenses begins in Male' today.

The four day workshop is organized jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme and Ministry of Housing and Environment under Green Customs Initiative. The workshop is funded by the Multilateral Fund for Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

The objective of this workshop is to provide the Customs, and the enforcement officers working in the Maldives Police Service and Maldives National Defense Force with the necessary skills to monitor and control the imports of controlled or banned ozone depleting substances and other and equipments.

The Green Customs Workshop which is held back to back with the ODS workshop aims at raising awareness among the enforcement officers on detection and prevention of illegal trade of these substances.

In the opening ceremony which was held at the Maldives Customs Service the welcome Address was delivered by the Minister of State, Principal Collector of Customs, Mr. Mohamed Aswan. In his speech he highlighted the Role of Customs in the protection of the environment and stated that the Customs is ready to play a greater role in enforcing various environment-related national and international laws to protect the environment.

Mr. Lui Ning, UNEP representative, highlighted in his remarks that UNEP wishes through customs training and Green Customs Initiative, the synergies for the enforcement of environmental agreements such as Montreal Protocol, Base Convention will be enhanced.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Deputy Minister of Environment Dr. Mohamed Shareef. In his remarks Dr. Shareef emphasized the importance of networking and working actively to promote partnerships in protecting the environment.

Highlighting the efforts of Maldives in protecting the environment, Deputy Minister pointed out the successful phase-out of CFCs in 2008, two years before the target set by the Montreal protocol.

A total number of 76 Participants are attending the workshop.

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