

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM**

Government of the Republic of India represented by the Ministry of Tourism and the Government of the Republic of Maldives represented by Ministry of Tourism, (herein after referred to as "The Parties").

RECOGNISING the desire of both the Parties to enhance bilateral cooperation and strengthen the ties of the existing friendship between the two countries, realizing the importance of tourism sector in economic development and employment generation and mutual interests on equal grounds;

EMPHASISING the need to strengthen, deepen and broaden cooperation in tourism sector;

RECOGNISING further the importance of tourism in the enhancement of knowledge and understanding between their people and as an essential element of both countries;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the importance of the Parties as partner and major source market for tourism;

HAVE REACHED the following understanding:

Article I

The Parties will seek, in accordance with their national laws of each country, to enhance the bilateral cooperation in tourism, trade and hospitality sectors.

Article II

The Parties will encourage their citizens to travel to each other's country according to their applicable Laws, Rules and Instructions. The Parties shall promote cooperation and direct communication between the stakeholders of tourism, trade and hospitality industry for enhancing tourism cooperation.

Article III

The Parties shall endeavor to enhance cooperation in following areas under this Memorandum of Understanding:

- a) Expansion of bilateral cooperation in tourism sector
- b) Exchange of information and data related to tourism
- c) Encouraging cooperation between tourism stakeholders including Hotels and Tour Operators

- d) Establishing exchange programmes for cooperation in Human Resource Development
- e) Investment in the Tourism and Hospitality sectors
- f) Exchanging visits of Tour Operators/Media/Opinion Makers for promotion of two way tourism
- g) Exchange of experience in the areas of promotion, marketing, destination development and management
- h) Participation in travel fairs/exhibitions in each other's country
- i) Promoting safe, honourable and sustainable tourism

Article IV

Within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding in order to exchange views of the Parties and draw a road map for enhancing cooperation, the Parties may constitute a Joint Working Group which shall include an equal number of members of each Party. The Joint Working Group shall conduct periodical meetings preferably once in every two years in turn on pre-specified dates mutually agreed between the Parties. The Parties may invite representatives from tourism trade and hospitality sector to attend these meetings.

Article V

For Joint Working Group Meetings, the sending Party shall bear all expenses on delegation's travel, boarding and lodging. All expenses for organizing the meeting shall be borne by the host country.

Article VI

Any difference or dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation and/or application of any of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled amicably through mutual consultations or negotiations between the Parties through diplomatic channels, without reference to any third party or international tribunal.

Article VII

Either Party may request in writing an amendment of all or any part of the Memorandum of Understanding through diplomatic channels.

Any amendment agreed to by the Parties will be reduced into writing and will form part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article VIII

This Memorandum of Understanding shall come into effect on the date of its signature and shall remain in effect for a period of five (5) years. Thereafter, it shall be automatically renewed for similar successive periods at a time, unless either Party may terminate the present Memorandum by giving a written notice of its intention to terminate, to the other Party at least six (6) months in advance.

Termination of the present Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the implementation of the projects which are already in progress under the present Memorandum of Understanding and will be continued in accordance with the terms and conditions of the present Memorandum of Understanding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised thereto, by their respective Governments, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed at New Delhi on the 10th day of the month of April of the year 2016 in two(2) originals each in Hindi, and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

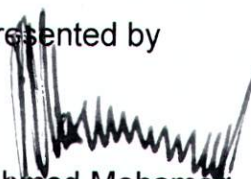
The Government of the Republic of India The Government of the Republic of Maldives

Represented by



Mr Vinod Zutshi
Secretary
Ministry of Tourism

Represented by



Mr Ahmed Mohamed
High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives in India