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ދިވެހިސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް، ބިނާއިން ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކޮށްފައިވާ ގޮތުން

## Ministry of Housing, Transport and Environment

### Launching Ceremony of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 in the Maldives

The International Year of Biodiversity was officially launched in the Maldives by the Vice President of the Maldives, Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik in a ceremony held at the Sultan Park on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2010. The ceremony began at 9:00am with the recitation of Holy Quran, followed by the introductory remarks of Mr. Mohamed Zahir, Director General of Environment Department.

IYB was launched when the Guest of Honour, Vice President unveiled the official IYB logo to be used in the Maldives. After the unveiling, Vice President addressed the gathering. In his speech the Vice President highlighted that, the biodiversity is an invaluable asset to human kind and destroying it will only bring about our destruction. He also said that each species is either directly or indirectly beneficial to the rest of the species including the humans, and should be safely transferred to the generations to come. Also creating awareness at all levels about our vulnerable biodiversity should come to the frontline of the activities planned for this year.

After the Vice President's speech, Mr. Mohamed Aslam, the Minister of Housing, Transport and Environment addressed the gathering. In his speech the minister expressed his vision of making the Sultan Park a more useful place to Maldivians. He said that discussions are going on to make the park a symbol of the rich biodiversity of the Maldives, as well as to make the park informative and educational to students, teachers and researchers alike. He also highlighted that global warming and other environmental impacts are the results of destructive developmental activities of human, and being a small island nation Maldives is one of the most affected countries of such activities. Minister said that it is important to change our current mindset and approach of biodiversity. After the speech the Minister launched the Dhivehi Theme Song of IYB 2010.

After the launching ceremony the invited guests took a tour of Sultan Park with the assistance of students from Environs (Environment Club of Centre for Higher Secondary Education).

Prior to this event, the plants and trees of Sultan Park were identified and mapped by Environs with the assistance of Environment Department, Environmental Protection Agency and Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. Small information boards with local name, common name, scientific name and uses of the plant, etc. were placed near each plant.

After the opening ceremony, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., students from all schools of Male' were given tours of the Sultan Park. Special biodiversity awareness activities and game stalls were also in place for the students to take part in.







Opening remarks by Mr. Mohamed Zahir



IYB Dhivehi Logo Launched by the Vice President of the Maldives Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik



Address by the Vice President of the Maldives



Address by the Minister of Housing, Transport and Environment



Vice president taking a tour of Sultan Park





Minister and other invitees taking a tour of Sultan Park



Minister at an activity stall



Students from different schools of Male' taking tours of Sultan Park

