

# **Outcome of the Workshop held from 5 - 6 December, 2000 on the International Year of Volunteers- 2001**

## **Ministry of Home Affairs Housing and Environment**

The outcome of these sessions can be classified into four main groups

1. Recognition of volunteer services
2. Facilitation of volunteer services
3. Building volunteer networks
4. Promotion of volunteer services

### **1. Recognition of volunteer services**

- a. Recognition will be ensured by a country study program, which will describe and quantify the contribution of the volunteer sector. Recognition could also be increased through media in order to encourage volunteer participation. A system could be set up whereby profiles of volunteer groups could be displayed to the general public. Special emphasis must also be made on recognition of unsung heroes whose work may generally not be recognized by the public. Workshops could be organized to increase the awareness on the work done by volunteers.
- b. Promote recognition of the volunteer sector among education sector specially among school children. Organize activities to circulate information on the work of the volunteer sector among school children.
- c. A National Volunteer Day could be marked annually to promote recognition of the volunteer sector

### **2. Facilitation of volunteer services**

- a. Review and strengthen rules and regulations on the registration of voluntary organisations and their activities. The new regulations should take into account the level of volunteer work done by the groups.
- b. Hold workshops and training programs to enhance the capacity of the volunteer sector.
- c. Establish a system whereby the volunteer sector would get financial assistance from the government.

### **3. Networking of volunteers and voluntary organisations**

- a. Co-ordinate the work of all volunteers and voluntary organisations and to facilitate reaching the common goal of volunteerism through
  - establishment of an administrative unit at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Housing and Environment to co-ordinate voluntary work

- creation of a National Association of Volunteers
  - conducting a national workshop to determine the principles and articles of association.
  - formulation of a national policy on volunteerism
- b. Establish an office of Maldivian volunteers following the principles of UNV/DDS
- c. Work towards introducing elements in the import duty scheme that favours and encourages volunteerism

#### **4. Promotion of voluntary work and dissemination of information on volunteerism**

- a. Raise public awareness on volunteerism through TV and Radio spots. Conduct workshops for journalists and writers to ensure adequate significance is given to volunteerism in the public media.