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Clinton Arrives in Male' to Help Promote UNDP 'Adopt an Island' Scheme

By Minivan News
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Former US President Clinton arrived in Maldives yesterday evening as the United Nation's Special Envoy for the Tsunami.

Clinton is to visit Tsuanmi-hit Laamu Funadhoo on Sunday where he will give a speech and hold a press conference.

The UN said Clinton is in the Maldives to promote UNDP's 'adopt and island' scheme.

The 'adopt an island' scheme was launched by UNDP in February. It is a chance for wealthy individuals and organisations to sponsor the reconstruction of one or more of the Maldives' 22 worst-hit islands. In return, sponsors are given information on the progress of their island, which they are encouraged to publicise.

Clinton will also be helping focus international attention on Tsunami work of the UN and pressure donors countries to release money for the work the UN is doing post-Tsunami.

"We have all the funding for 2005 but money for 2006 and 2007 is not yet secure" a UN spokesperson told Minivan News.

"President Clinton is eager to keep everyone focused on results, transparency and accountability" the UN further said in a press statement.

He is keen on "keeping the world's attention on the tsunami operations in order to ensure that this recovery effort is not forgotten; supporting coordination efforts at the country and global levels, in order to ensure all the actors work together efficiently and that resources are used to maximum effect."

He wants to focus also on "promoting transparency and accountability measures that will ensure resources are used transparently while retaining the engagement of the millions of 'investors' in this operation; and championing a new kind of recovery, one that seizes the moral, political and financial opportunities the crisis presents to set these communities on a better, and safer, development path" the UN further said.

This is the second visit to Maldives by the former President since the Tsunami hit. Clinton was last in the country on February 21st with former President Bush.

The Clinton-Bush visit was positively received across the political spectrum.

A visit by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in January however, was severely criticized by the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party after Annan shook



hands with Police Chief Adam Zahir who the MDP brandishes as “the Maldives Chief Torturer.”

If you would like more information on the UN’s ‘adopt an island’ initiative, please contact:

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