



Closing Remarks by Vera Hakim,

UNDP Maldives Resident Representative, ad interim

Handover of Equipment to Support Polytechnic Online Stations

*Wednesday, 15 September 2021, 10:00am - 10:30am (UTC +5), Maldives
Polytechnic*

Her Excellency Keiko Yanai, Ambassador of Japan to the Maldives

Dr. Ibrahim Hassan, Minister of Higher Education

Mr. Ahmed Nasir, Chief Executive Officer, Maldives Polytechnic

Special invitees gracing our ceremony today

Assalaam Alaikum. A very good morning.

It is an honour for UNDP in the Maldives to support our national partners as you strengthen the foundations for resilient technical and vocational education systems in times of crisis.

We are delighted to handover the digitalization equipment to Maldives Polytechnic via the Ministry of Higher Education. This is a crucial step to provide uninterrupted access to education for more students across the country and enhance their learning experience through the COVID-19 crisis and beyond and bridge the digital divide.

Today, we are welcoming the opportunities that digitalization can provide towards building the sustainable society of the future.

Our gratitude and thanks go out to our partner Japan, for the continued support to our work, and the endowment to bridge the access gap and promote inclusive and equitable lifelong learning opportunities for the Maldivian people.

TVET systems have been uniquely impacted during the pandemic. Not only in relation to how you provide services during lockdowns and restrictions, but also in anticipating and preparing the country's future workforce needs, especially at the local level, for a rapidly changing and increasingly digital workplace.

The Rapid Livelihoods Assessments undertaken by the Government of Maldives with the support of UNDP to understand impact of COVID-19, revealed the upshots of the crisis on employment and livelihoods.

It brought to focus the impact on vulnerable groups including women, youth-at-risk, persons with disabilities and informal workers. These groups, who are often served by the TVET system, are particularly vulnerable to crises.

Digital solutions are expected to revolutionize how people access basic services, such as health and education, and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The efforts of the Government of Maldives and service institutes to embrace existing and emerging digital technology and accelerate provision of services in a decentralized and effective manner, is a step towards greater inclusion, equity and opportunities.

This is a step we are honoured to be a part of. UNDP is committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the principles of universality and equality. We remain committed to serve our partners in their efforts to achieve the SDGs, and Leave No One Behind.

Through this support, UNDP seeks to reduce the barriers to knowledge and skills by increasing access to technology and digital literacy - to eliminate gender inequality, social and economic exclusion and ensure vulnerable populations are not left behind.

We once again thank Maldives Polytechnic and the Ministry of Higher Education, as well as our development partner - the Government and people of Japan. Our actions today will help to build a strong and resilient TVET systems for a more equitable world and a better tomorrow.

Together, let's build a future that works for everyone.

I thank you.

Shukriya. Stay safe and well.

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