

Workshop on “*Training of Journalists on Legal awareness in an era of media convergence*”

23-27 September 2012, Male’, Maldives

***Concluding Remarks at the Closing Ceremony by Mohamed Shahyb,
Vice President, Maldives Broadcasting Commission***

*Mr Badru Naseer, One of the pioneers of Maldivian broadcasting and Former
President, Maldives Broadcasting Commission*

Ms Manil Cooray, Deputy Director, AIBD

Dr. David Mould, Project Consultant

Commissioners,

Distinguished Guests, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed with pleasure and gratitude that I stand before you to say a few words in today’s concluding session. I’m particularly pleased to meet you all who have travelled to Maldives from different corners in our diverse region, moved by a common purpose: to share views and experiences on a common platform; views on how media and journalism are evolving in our region; views on how progress is made in our countries in developing media ethics and adopting to the abrupt changes brought about by introduction of democracy in the region.

I take this opportunity to thank AIBD for organizing this important forum in the Maldives. Ms Manil Cooray who has been the spearhead of this important event has to be complimented for the efficient manner in which the programme was organized. I also commend the work of Dr. David Mould whose wealth of experience in journalism has added the impetus needed to achieve perfection.

Distinguished delegates,

We are fortunate to have with us, as the guest of honour, our first president of the Maldives Broadcasting Commission who has been instrumental in getting the regulatory process together during our infancy. Mr. Badr has been one of the pioneers of broadcasting in the Maldives and his guidance and wisdom was of immense value to us, and I thank you for your gracious presence here today.

Since the inception of the Maldives Broadcasting Commission in April 2011, in addition to its regulatory mandate, emphasis was given to the development of the broadcasting industry in the Maldives. The main driver for such development would no doubt be the development and enrichment of human skills of our people. As such, focus was given in the Strategic Action Plan for the development of human resources and increasing trained personnel in our industry. We feel that due recognition of the services of media personnel will always be a key factor in driving the industry forward. It was an initiative of the Maldives Broadcasting Commission to propose the marking of a SAARC Broadcasting Day among our countries. I am pleased to place on record that the 11th SAARC Summit held in the city of Addu in Maldives last year has declared to mark an annual SAARC media day. Once the day for this commemoration is fixed, it will no doubt pave way for closer regional harmony among the diverse media we have today.

In addition, I am also pleased to note that Maldives Broadcasting Commission has endorsed the idea of marking a national broadcasting day to remember the services of our local media and recognize the achievements made in our industry. This, we believe, would boost the morale and competitiveness of our industry. Lifetime achievers in the Maldivian broadcasting industry such as our guest of honour, Mr. Badr Naseer, must be given due recognition and we feel that it's our duty to do so.

Speaking of recognition, I would like to congratulate Mr. Badr Naseer, for his outstanding contribution to the development of our broadcasting industry. Badr, your services to the Commission has been paramount and we sincerely appreciate your guidance and will always be our close friend and a respected mentor. While it is not wrong to say that you are the father of broadcasting in the Maldives, I am certainly obliged to label you as the father of the Maldives Broadcasting Commission.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

We believe our dependence for responsible journalism have reached to the extent that news media have become major tools of social change and interaction, the intensive use of which has become an effective indicator of the sustenance of democratic values in countries.

ladies and gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to congratulate the AIBD, for organizing this workshop on legal awareness and bringing together its members in our Region. It is one of many training events organized by AIBD that provides the opportunity for ourselves, the media communities in our region to meet, greet and exchange views on the latest developments and more importantly gather knowledge on international best practices.

Distinguished participants

Maldives, like other developing countries, is striving to catch up with modern democratic values and to adapt to the rapid changes taking place in building our democracy in the wake of new constitution enacted in July 2008. In this, it relies on its available material and human resources. This I believe can only be achieved through close international and regional cooperation to meet the

challenges of fulfilling the necessary development goals, especially in a world which has witnessed unimaginable changes due to varying undesirable activities and crises.

I am confident that AIBD training programmes will continue to benefit our media development and increase the human networking that are so important in our work to bring the benefits of exchanging the experiences of our peoples, in the framework of its cooperation and coordination.

Distinguished participants

While we face the unpleasant truth of been vulnerable to political instability, we as journalists have to work together professionally, bringing national interest ahead of everything else. We must focus on practicing responsible journalism and avoid provocation and learn to adopt to the situation in hand.

I am confident that this training has given valuable insights to its participants in translating challenges into opportunities. Most importantly these opportunities must be converted to benefits of the people.

Before I conclude, let me once again thank AIBD for having this event in the Maldives and the consultants who worked tirelessly to make this workshop a success. I also thank all the respected delegates who have travelled all the way to Maldives to participate in this event. I hope what you have learned indoors were also complemented by what you saw outside.

My gratitude also goes to my fellow commissioners, the secretary general and all our beloved staff who worked hard in making this a reality.

I am confident that this training will continue to move forward in making advances in the right direction.

I wish you all every success in your future endeavors.

Thank you