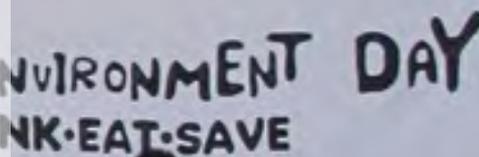


Celebrating World Environment Day in Maldives

Launching MWSC's and Island Beverage Maldives's (IBM) PET Bottle Recycling Programme

Lagoon Cleanup Campaign

A white banner with black text that reads 'WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY' and 'THINK·EAT·SAVE'. The banner is held up by a group of people at an outdoor event. The background shows a blue building and large trees.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
THINK·EAT·SAVE

Celebrating World Environment Day in Maldives

This year's world Environment Day was colorfully celebrated across the Maldives. Below is a summary of some of the major programmes held to mark the World Environment Day.

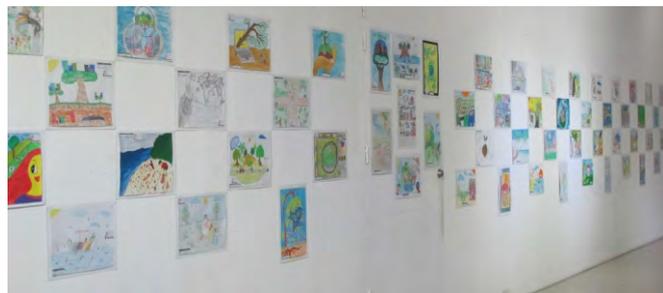
Hingaa Hoama



Maldives National University launched “Hin'gaa Hoama” programme on June 3. Under the programme students and staff of the university are encouraged to use a non-polluting means of transport, on the first Monday of each month, for travelling between their home and the university. The program is aimed to focus on the importance of our local environment and to promote healthy living. Hin'gaa Homa also aims to demonstrate that individuals advancing together can initiate positive changes in our community.

Ministry of Environment and Energy and Environment Protection Agency are partners to MNU in initiating this programme. The civil society, schools, NGO's and private companies are encouraged to participate in this voluntary programme.

Art Exhibition



An Art Exhibition on this year's theme “Think. Eat. Save” was held in National Arts Gallery from 5 – 8 June. In this exhibition art work of students of Grade 1 to 12 and University and College students were displayed. This exhibition was organized by Ministry of Environment and Energy in collaboration with John Keells Maldivian Resorts (Pvt) Ltd and Maldives National University. Architectural models prepared by students of Maldives National University were also exhibited.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Minister of Environment and Energy Dr. Mariyam Shakeela on 5 June.

Launching MWSC's and Island Beverage Maldives's (IBM) PET Bottle Recycling Programme



MWSC and IBM officially launched their PET bottle recycling programme, targeted at the domestic market in and around Male' region on 5 June. The programme which focuses on minimizing the negative impact of PET on the environment, will function under the slogan of “Citizens' Responsibility in Preserving the Environment”

The Programme was launched by the Minister of State for Environment and Energy, Mr. Abdul Matheen Mohamed, at a Function held at Fen Building. Speaking at the Function, State Minister Matheen commended MWSC and IBM for their efforts in contributing to the country's environmental wellbeing by undertaking their own recycling initiative. He stressed that MWSC and IBM should be taken as role models by other companies in the bottling industry in initiating their own recycling activities.

Under the MWSC-IBM recycling programme, TaZa PET bottles, a product of IBM, will be collected on every delivery from households and the used empty bottles will in turn be shredded at in-house facilities and exported for recycling purposes.

While recycling is an ongoing process undertaken by IBM in conjunction with its resort customers since 2005, the current programme is mainly intended for collecting empty bottles from households to ensure best practices of disposal of PET bottles by the locals.

The programme was launched to coincide with the annual Environment Day which falls on 5th June every year, as it is an important environmental initiative undertaken by both Companies in an effort to make the country a green and environmentally-friendly place as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility

Official Meeting

The World Environment Day official meeting was held in Nasandhura Palace Hotel. In this meeting message by the President, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Waheed was delivered by the Minister of Environment and Energy. The UN

Message on World Environment Day was also delivered during this function.



In this ceremony, an agreement was signed between the Ministry of Environment and Energy and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The main purpose of this agreement is to increase the collaboration between the two parties in achieving the sustainable development goals. An agreement was also signed between the Ministry and Maldives Police Service to establish Maldives Environment Police. The agreement would improve the collaboration between the Ministry and Maldives Police Services in implementing the policies and regulation set to protect the environment of Maldives.

In this function Waste Management Plans of 13 islands of Baa Atoll were introduced and contracts to establish waste management centers in AA. Thodoo, R. Maakurathu and Th. Veymandoo were signed between the contractors and respective island councils. The Waste Management Regulation of Maldives and Maldives Motor Vehicle Emission Standard were also introduced in this meeting.

Lagoon Cleanup Campaign



A Lagoon Clean-up Campaign was launched in Male' Swimming Area to mark this year's World Environment Day. This campaign was organized by Maldives National Defense force in collaboration with Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives Police Services, Maldives National Cadet Corps, Scout Association of Maldives and Maldives Girl Guide Association.

The campaign was initiated by Minister of Environment and Energy, Dr. Mariyam Shakeela and Dr. Dechen Tsering, the Deputy Regional Director of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Cleanups were held simultaneously in all the regions of Maldives, where scout groups, guides, cadets and officers of Maldives Police Services and Maldives National Defense force actively participated.



Activities in Vilimale'



World Environment Day evening, organized by 'Save the Beach' in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Energy was held in Villimale' beach area during the 5th June evening. Students of all schools of Male' City, teachers and government officials including Ministers, State Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Permanent Secretaries of several Ministries participated in this evening.

As part of the activities, 'Look and Learn' Center was opened at the beach area. This center provides with various interesting information about marine organisms

and how coral reef islands are formed. The activities also included a fun quiz in which government officials and Students worked together in groups to fill out MCQ questions with the help of different information banners placed at random spots on the beach area. Prizes were awarded to the winning group.



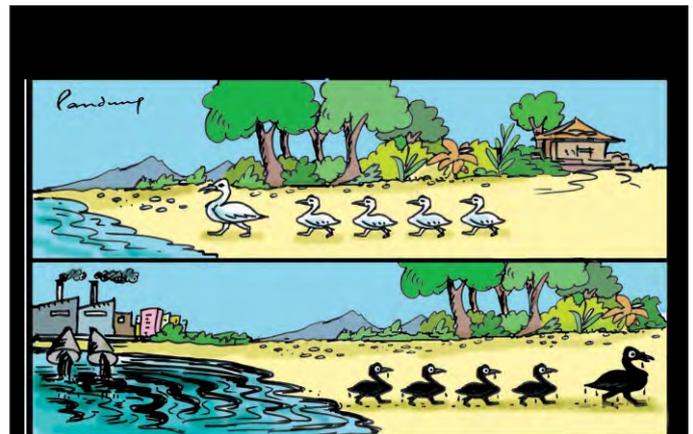
Launching of World Scout Environment Program in the Maldives

To celebrate this year's World Environment Day and to mark the 57th year of Scouting in the Maldives, The Scout Association of Maldives launched the World Scout Environment Program in the Maldives on June 6. The programme was launched by the Minister of State for Environment and Energy, Mr. Abdul Matheen Mohamed at a special ceremony held at Gulhee Falhu.



Speaking at the ceremony, Minister of State, Mr. Abdul Matheen Mohamed said that, World Scout Environment Program in Maldives is extremely important as Maldives is a country that is continuously subjected to environmental threats. He requested the Scouts to further strengthen their roles in protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development.

A special planting campaign, to make Gulhi-falhu a greener island was initiated to mark the launch of the World Scout Environment Program in the Maldives were several trees were planted. 57 Coconut Palm trees were donated by 1st Male' Scout Group to the Program as a gift to celebrate 57 years of Scouting.





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World Environment Day Essay Competition

Topic: Sustainable Consumption: A critical subject in the 21st Century

Category: Advanced Level

First Place

Zain Ahmed Naseem
Villa International High School

... Every time you purchase a product, you are consuming natural resources. Clothes, food, books, and cars are all made of natural resources. It is important to keep in mind that the products are made of limited resources so as to control how much we consume them. Consumers play a key role in altering the way of consumption. All of us being consumers of goods could try to drive the economy to a more sustainable development by change how much we purchase and dispose products and the type of goods and services we consume.

As a matter of fact, as the world's population is greatly increasing a lot of pressure is put on the natural resources. It is important to minimize the use of both renewable and non-renewable resources and at the same time improve the quality of life. 'Using less and producing more and better' should be a key motive or aim when manufacturing products. The earth has a finite amount of resources and they are being over-exploited in order to reach the high levels of demand of consumers. It is important to keep in mind to conserve the natural resources for the upcoming generations as they deserve their fair share of clean water, air and other resources just as much as we do.

Second Place

Mohamed Muazzaz Mausoom
Center for Higher Secondary Education

... Often here in Maldives, especially in recent times, people have garnered an attitude to attribute environmental issues such as global warming, pollution and any such problems as things we have nothing to do with. Any issue not directly related to sea-level rise is barely known at all, let alone acknowledged as a serious issue; and to think we can do anything about those problems is borderline luxury in many people's eyes.

Our attitude to environmental problems should be changed if we are to stand a chance of changing anything at all. We may merely be a drop in the ocean of troubles our world has, but without that one drop, the ocean will be that little bit smaller.

Third Place

Ibrahim Widhaadh
Villa International High School

Since the discovery of electricity by Benjamin Franklin in the 19th century and the invention of light bulbs by Sir Humphry Davy, our lives have changed drastically. The machines took over the course of all the work we do in our daily life, which all comes down to a matter of energy. Energy drives the human body as such it drives the rest of the things in the world. With more machines built the pressure was on to find a reliable power source to drive the hearts of all these machinery. Over the years hundreds of scientists have come up with innovative ideas to find a power source, in which a well-known invention is the turbine generator invented by Michael Faraday. It was a ground breaking discovery whereby the aim was to benefit all living beings. However one crucial element came into a great disadvantage! The environment ...

Category: Ordinary Level

First Place

Aishath Ashna Abdul Rasheed
Iskandhar School

... At our present consumption, our world might be changed considerably in only 40 to 80 years- that is my lifetime! If we continue as we currently do, we may leave the world an extremely dark and hopeless place for the next generation, with less opportunities and only mixture resources. Let us look at a few examples.

If we consider the stock of fish in the world, we find extremely alarming statistics. It is estimated that 80% of the global fish stocks are being used at, or beyond their capacity. Moreover, it is found that in majority of the areas in the world, it has been already overfished, and as a result, the fish stocks are not able to replenish itself at as fast a rate as we can hope. What I suppose is more alarming is that the rate of decline, rather than decreasing, is moving in the opposite direction, upwards! This news is especially terrifying for us Maldivians, as fishing is not only our main source of food, but one of our oldest and most important income generating industries ...

Second Place

Mariyam Azha Ibrahim
Iskandhar School

... Waste and the disposal of it, is growing concern nowadays. The problem with waste is that there is not enough space in the world to accommodate all of it. Kitchen waste may decay quickly, but what about plastic? It takes centuries, maybe even millennia, to decompose them. Our current solution; dump all the waste into a huge fire, and watch the pungent, harmful

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smoke rise up into the air. We might be getting rid of that waste, but we are also getting rid of Mother Earth, one factory load of harmful chemicals and toxins at a time. No wonder the Earths' atmosphere has a huge hole in it now. If this carries on, global warming is going to increase, and that will again harm the Earth more. Do we really want our bright green pastures to be replaced with acrid dying deserts, our rivers with thick slimy sludges of harmful chemicals, that vast expanse of clear blue sky with an endless cloud of suffocating smoke? No? In that case, I think we should cut burning waste off our list. Maybe it is time we try reducing our waste instead of trying to make it disappear ...

Third Place
Sifa Mohamed Adam
Hiriyah School

... Our mother Earth is currently running out of resources which most of us have no idea about and the people who do have knowledge of it chooses to ignore. Maybe because everyone wants to live in the moment and it is in most of our nature to not think about what tomorrow may bring... It is not too late to preserve the gifts our planet has provided us. We can return a favour to it, for giving us fresh air, water, food and all those things that are probably uncountable... We need to stop asking the Earth to give us more than what it can. We need to stop being selfish and cut the Earth some slack. We need to preserve the resources and we need to think about tomorrow. It is about time we returned the favour...

World Environment Day Poetry Competition

Topic: Think. Eat. Save
Category: Advanced Level

First Place
Mohamed Muazzaz Mausoom
Center for Higher Secondary Education

To be frank we are on the brink
 Our Noah's ark is going to sink
 We'll all be dropped into the drink
 And all because we did not think.

We eat and drink without any heed
 To the fully of our wasteful deed
 The situation's grave indeed
 When the poor begin to beg and plead.

If those with plenty would believe
 The needy will get what they crave
 And thus a road, we will help poor
 To help our earth which we can yet save.

Second Place
Aminath Azba

I want to save
 Our home from the sun's glare
 All life on the planet I share
 For they are not our slave

I want to save
 The pedestrians from the grime
 The politicians from committing crime
 And see the situations they pave

I want to save
 The soldiers in pointless fight
 Their families from horrific fright
 Crying at their grave

I want to save
 The families in Starvation
 Victimized by useless conversation
 While we pollute and rave

I want to save
 Us, and save us fast
 We don't have time to undo our past
 Let's not let our actions be our last.

Third Place
Ibrahim Muan Asad
Villa International High School

The World is dying
 And there's no denying
 But we can't save it all alone
 Let's join hands and unite
 And then we can ignite
 The way to work as one

Let's think about it
 Let's give what we have to those who need
 Let's feed hungry
 Let's help the poor and homeless
 Let's save a life
 Join together and raise our voices
 Let's all sing a song
 And let's all get along

From one side to the other
 We should help one another
 Help those in need of food and shelter
 One little contribution can make it better

We can't be greedy
 We must share
 With the needy
 To show that we care

We are all for one and one for all
 We should join together and stand tall
 Let us Think. Eat. Save
 And the path to a bright future; we can pave

Category: Ordinary Level

Third Place

Aishath Ashna Abdul Rasheed
Iskandhar School

Many a child, man and lady walk skeleton thin
Hunger-borne, and with poverty stricken, bare
No breakfast, dinner of lunch, no food within
To hold the hunger which makes them stare
At the men and women who daily throw
Good meat, and tender fruit all
While this state stops not at the door
Of the rich, but known classes all
But must this monotonous melancholy
Continue in a world so advanced
Reflect should we not with food daily
About others without which do?
So think before you waste, eat but do not throw
Save, to sustain the world for even more.

Category: University

First Place

Fathimath Zooshan
Maldives National University

There was once a time
When in abundance yours was the world.
But met with men and their ways
Time has left a tale to be told

Think.

Whatever happened to the green around you?
What became of the land and rivers too?
The land that once welcomed men with open arms
Now withdraws as deserts met with firearms.
The tress that once provided men with shade
Now in great numbers from the earth doth fade.
What of the rivers that provided water?
That too became polluted by a son and a daughter.

Think.

Who is to be blamed but you?
For the changes around you by things you do.

Save.

A little water every day,
For the future generations if you may,
And if you will please
Plant so that the heat will cease.
But more so save the land
So you may walk with loves once hand in hand.

Eat

Only so much that you require.
And others to save do inspire.
Give others half of that you eat,
So greed may not itself in you seat.
Live not as if the world was yours alone.
But leave it as a better home for others once you're gone.

Second Place
Aishath Rashfa

Maldives National University
If you are thinking of throwing me away
You need to think of me in another way
Look at me and see the farmer who grew me
Nurtures and helped me from seed to tree
His hands speak of the hard work he put
Not tires and sick, never did he quit
Many fruits he grew but none he got to taste
Only for someone to let me to go to waste
So don't think of me only as something you bought
Take a second, give me a second thought

Think of the time spent and the oil burnt
Oil that may not be there later when we want
Value of it gone to carrying and distributing me
Carried to you over distances of land, air and sea
By men breaking their backs for livelihood
For them to earn a little and get some food
Rations less than what we throw out easily
Divided, shared and eaten by just one family

Think of women and children dying from starvation
Lives lost to diseases and deaths from dehydration
Do you know I was given their share of water?
Or that your food can make someone's life better
Can you ever make up for the water they lost?
The food they had least and salvaged most
Can you ever imagine yourself in their shoes?
The way they valued food that others don't use
So if you are thinking of throwing me away
Take a minute and hear what I have to say

I am the result of a famer's hard work
The oil and energy that went up in the smoke
I am the water available in such scarcity
The water inaccessible to those in poverty
I am the meal shared over heads of many
Treasured buy those suffering war and tyranny
So hear my saying and realize my worth
Take the time to give me a second thought

Third Place
Bishaara Adam
Villa College

People utter,
People suffer,
But do we think or care?
No, we don't

People cry,
People try,
'Cause they got nothing to eat.
But do we share?
No, we don't.

We've got so much to wear,
And we've got so much to eat.
Yet we always chose to waste,
But never to save.

Oh, how wonderful life would be,
If everyone thought to share.
Oh, how healthy life would be,
If everyone bothered to care.
Oh, how beautiful the world would be,
If all of us just cared to share,
The beauty of life with each other.

If all of us just thought to think then eat,
And bothered to share or save,
Without a huge waste,
Life would have been such a better place.

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