



NATIONAL COUNTER TERRORISM CENTRE, MALDIVES

NCTC Newsletter - Volume 29: August 2019

President calls for inclusivity and to uphold justice and fairness as the nation celebrates Holy Eid al-Adha



President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has called for inclusivity from all citizens and to uphold justice and fairness. He said this during his address to the nation on the

joyous occasion of the Holy Eid al-Adha.

In his address President reiterated the teachings of Islam to spread joy and kindness and to strengthen relations within society.

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President Solih also emphasized that all citizens should strive to present the same standards of equity and integrity to others as they hope to receive themselves to fully embrace the true spirit of this sacred holiday.



Today is the day we ought to forgive one another in society, express kindness, and spread fraternal love. It is the day to strengthen family relations, and reinvigorate our efforts to enliven and reinforce societal harmony.

HEP Ibrahim Mohamed Solih



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“At this time of rampant poverty, hateful discrimination, rising violent extremism, environmental degradation and other global threats, we must look to those hardest hit, especially young people, for solutions.”

Ban Ki-moon

NCTC conducts Working Sessions to Finalize the National Action Plan on P/CVE

27-28 August 2019



NCTC held working sessions to finalize the National Action Plan on P/CVE. The two-day sessions conducted jointly with UNDP Maldives with assistance from the government of Japan brought together partners from stakeholder agencies in the government.

The opening session was officiated by Speaker of the Parliament, President Mohamed Nasheed. Minister of Defence Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi, Ambassador of India to Maldives H.E. Sunjay Sudhir, Members of the Parliament, Members of CT Steering Committee, and Counter Radicalization Committee also attended the opening session.

Speaking at the opening session, DG highlighted the importance of a whole-of-society approach to seek sustainable solutions to address Terrorism & Violent Extremism, and thanked local & international partners for their unwavering assistance to develop P/CVE sector in Maldives.



Violent extremism in all its forms is the biggest challenge to sustainable development.



DG of NCTC BG Zakariyya Mansoor

The working sessions were facilitated by Dr Simon Finley, Governance & Peace Building Advisor, UNDP Asia Pacific. Dr. Finley has worked closely with the NCTC since the inception of the NAP drafting process. He stressed on the importance of inclusivity and coordination in the implementation of the NAP.

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Formulation of the NAP started in May 2018 and over the course of the last 14 months, various consultants and international subject matter experts helped draft the document. Every stage of the formulation process was conducted in consultation with Civil Society Actors in addition to government agencies. The goal of the working sessions is to review and revise the current draft of the NAP before finalizing it for launch in September this year.



Coordination plays a role in P/CVE. Strong executive support behind the National Action Plan is needed for strong coordination between stakeholders to implement the plan.



Dr. Simon Finley



Gender Minister calls for youth to play an active role to change society

29 August 2019



Minister of Gender, Family, and Social Services Shidhatha Shareef has called for youth to play an active role to change society.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of Global Youth Peace Ambassador Programme 2019, she stated that history has shown that our youth played a significant role to bring about change and urged participants of the program to contribute positively to the betterment of society.

The Global Youth Peace Ambassador Programme is an intensive 3-day training program organised by Regional Alliance for Fostering Youth (RAFY) Maldives in collaboration with Ministry of Youth, Sports & Community Empowerment, Maldives National University, Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP; Australia, USA), One Young World (UK), Singapore Institute of Multidisciplinary Professions (SIMP), Ascendence Asia Singapore, International Youth Committee (IYC) & several national & international partners joined together to train young peace ambassadors globally complementing UN's SDG Goal 16.

Over 183 participants from 30 countries attended the program this year.

As youth make up one-third of our population, policies and strategies must be inclusive to empower youth. It is vital to include perspective of youth, and explore and expand their role as ambassadors of peace and tolerance.

NCTC meets with Minister of Education to discuss work done to build capacity in the education sector

21 August 2019

NCTC met with Minister of Education Dr. Aishath Ali to discuss work done to build capacity in the education sector.

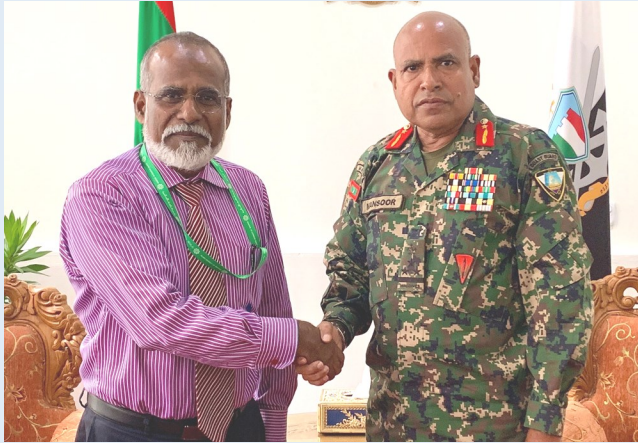
During this meeting, DG and senior officials of NCTC shared details of programs conducted by NCTC in collaboration with Ministry of Education. Officials also briefed the Minister on feedback received from programs conducted for the education sector and plans for future programs by NCTC to build resilience within the education community and

to empower senior educators to play a broader role in P/CVE.

As one of the domains specified in the National Strategy on P/CVE, education sector is a critical area in preventive and intervention efforts. The Youth Vulnerability Assessment published last month also showed that many youths believed lack of educational opportunities played a role in making youth susceptible to radicalization leading to violent extremism and crime.

DG meets with Dr. Ibrahim Zakariyya Moosa, Vice Chancellor of Islamic University of Maldives to explore areas of cooperation

29 August 2019



DG met with the newly appointed Vice Chancellor of Islamic University of Maldives Dr. Ibrahim Zakariyya Moosa. During this meeting, officials explored areas of cooperation between

the two institutions, to include areas of research, assisting in P/CVE efforts in the nation, and to develop academic capacity of the institutions.

NCTC maintains a close relationship with the higher education sector, and especially the two public universities: Maldives National University and Islamic University of Maldives. Likewise, Dr. Ibrahim Zakariyya Moosa is one of the leading facilitators in NCTC's P/CVE programs for the education sector, where his knowledge as an educator and a religious scholar has proved fruitful.

NCTC discusses areas of cooperation with Defence Attaché of India to Maldives

26 August 2019



NCTC met with Captain Prashant Handu, Defence Attaché of India to Maldives.

During this meeting, DG briefed the work done by NCTC in CT and P/CVE. DG

thanked Capt. Handu for numerous assistance from India to strengthen the security sector in the Maldives and explored ways to strengthen capacity in CT response and P/CVE.

As the closest and oldest ally of Maldives, India holds close bonds with the nation and aids in capacity building across various sectors in the Maldives.

The geostrategic location of Maldives makes Maldives-India partnership vital for Indian Ocean security and for broader safety of the Indian subcontinent.

NCTC met with a high-level delegation from Japan to discuss areas of assistance in P/CVE and emergency response

27 August 2019



NCTC officials met with a high-level delegation from Japan to discuss areas of assistance in P/CVE and emergency response. The delegation was headed by Mr. Shigeki Takizaki, Director General, Southeast & Southwest Asian Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Ambassador of Japan to Maldives H.E. Keiko Yanai also attended the meeting. The delegation is in Maldives as part of Maldives - Japan Policy Dialogue. In addition to NCTC officials, Brigadier General Wais Waheed, Commander of MNDF Marine Corps and Commanding Officer of College of Defence and Security Studies also participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, officials discussed work done by NCTC in P/CVE and additional avenues of approach for assistance. Officials also discussed contemporary security environment with focus on

tourism sector security and the work done in that area.

NCTC officials presented the roadmap to strengthen capacity of Maldives' National Emergency Response and P/CVE efforts. Officials promised to continue communication to identify key areas of mutual interest. Furthermore, officials also discussed Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, currently provided by MNDF and other government institutions, and how capacity building in the latter sector ties into National Emergency Response in CT.

Before concluding the meeting, DG thanked the Japanese delegation for all their assistance through UNDP Maldives to strengthen P/CVE efforts in the Maldives, as many of NCTC's P/CVE programs in the education sector and the formulation of the NAP on P/CVE has been possible with the generous assistance from the Government of Japan.

NCTC holds a meeting with EU Cyber Security Advisor to identify sectoral needs in the area of cybersecurity

26 August 2019



project is designed to help governments develop and implement national security strategies to protect public and private enterprises, infrastructure and utility services across Asia. Discussions covered capacity building & future collaborations.

During this meeting, officials highlighted the importance of cybersecurity in today's security landscape given the significance of cyber space in Terrorism, Violent Extremism, and Organized Crime.

The fruitful meeting ended with all parties agreeing to identify areas of cooperation and to continue to collaborate closely in the future.

NCTC held a meeting with EU Cyber Security Advisor Mr. Samuel Higgins yesterday to identify sectoral needs in the area of cybersecurity for future EU engagement through "Cyber Resilience for Development Project". This

DG meets with UNODC Consultant to discuss work done by NCTC in P/CVE

21 August 2019



DG met with Mr. Bill Anderson, UNODC consultant working with Ministry of Home Affairs, to discuss work done by NCTC in P/CVE.

During this meeting, officials discussed contemporary security environment, regional & local challenges, and projects undertaken by NCTC. DG also briefed Mr. Anderson about international partners that work with NCTC and the outlook of NCTC to strengthen the P/CVE efforts in the Maldives.

NCTC conducts Workshop on “The Role of Senior Educators in P/CVE” in L. Gan

5 August 2019



NCTC conducted a one-day awareness workshop for Principals, Heads of Schools, and Senior Educators of Laamu atoll. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with Ministry of Education and UNDP Maldives and with assistance from MNDF Central Area and the People of Japan. This iteration of the workshop was held at Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani School in Gan.

The aim of the workshop is to educate and enhance the role of education sector in the national efforts to prevent spread of Violent Extremism through enhancing resilience to address the issue of ideological difference, promotion of peace, respect, and tolerance. The workshop focused on addressing the issue of violence and societal divide emanating from ideological differences.

Minister of State for Education Dr. Abdulla Rasheed officiated the opening session. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the significance of

senior educators in prevention of the spread of extremism through education.

DG of NCTC also spoke at the opening session, calling for peace, tolerance, and societal harmony.

The sessions in this workshop were conducted by officials from NCTC, Maldives Police Service, and Dr. Ibrahim Zakariyya Moosa from the Islamic University of Maldives. During this workshop, discussions focused on identifying indicators of extremist ideologies in school environment, measures taken at school levels for prevention and importance of messages of peace and tolerance.

35 participants from 13 schools in Laamu atoll participated in the workshop. This is the 5th iteration of this workshop, with the previous workshops being held for schools in Greater Male' Area, Addu City, Haa Dhaal atoll, and Gaaf Dhaal atoll respectively.

A delegation from Maldives participates in Workshop on “Whole of Government Participation & Implementation” in London

5-7 August 2019



Commonwealth CVE Unit.

The mutual-learning exchange workshop showcased elements of international good practice for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, drawing on global good practice and the participants’ own expertise. The knowledge gained from this workshop would be greatly beneficial in the formulation of Maldives’ NAP on P/CVE and its subsequent implementation strategies.

The delegation from Maldives included officials from NCTC, Maldives Police Service, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, UNDP Maldives, and Journey, a Civil Society Organization from the Maldives.

A delegation from Maldives participated in Workshop on “Whole of Government Participation and Implementation” conducted by Hedayah P/CVE National Action Plans Task Force in London. The workshop was co-hosted by the

NCTC conducts joint training program on equipment familiarization training with U.S. Embassy and MNDF

26-29 August 2019

NCTC conducted a joint training program on equipment familiarization training with the Embassy of the U.S.A in Sri Lanka and MNDF. This training is part of the aid from the United States’ government to establish NCTC’s Fusion Centre.

This training was conducted by Subject Matter Experts and covered installation procedures and operation of equipment that would be used at the

Fusion Centre. Operatives from stakeholder agencies attended the training.

Once operational, the Fusion Centre will play a key role to synergize information, a vital component of National Emergency Response and P/CVE. The goal of the whole project is to establish a timely information sharing mechanism between partner agencies and minimize duplication of effort and wasting of resources.

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