

National Counter Terrorism Centre



NCTC Newsletter - Volume 57: March 2022

Maldives Hosts The Fifth NSA-level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave

9-10 March 2022



Maldives hosted the fifth NSA-level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave organised by the National Security Advisor's Office of the President's Office and the Ministry of Defence. The two-day conclave was held at the Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa.

Delegations of the founding members of Colombo Security Conclave; Maldives, India and Sri Lanka, and the newest member of the Conclave, Mauritius attended the meeting with delegations from Bangladesh and Seychelles participating as Observers.

Speaking at the inaugural session, chairperson of the fifth NSA Meeting of the CSC, Minister of Defence Uza. Mariya Didi expressed the need to explore collaborative solutions for the shared challenges of the member states. She also reiterated President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's commitment to the peace, security, and stability of the region.

Highlighting the regional security challenges facing the Maldives such as narco-trafficking, human trafficking, piracy, IUU fisheries, counterterrorism and violent extremism, Minister Mariya noted that while there was no recorded case of any Maldivian entering a designated conflict zone as a Foreign Terrorist

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Fighter in the last 3 years, the assassination attempt on the Speaker of People's Majlis last year was a wakeup call for all.

Key areas of cooperation to enhance and strengthen regional security discussed during the meetings were:

1. Maritime safety and security
2. Countering Terrorism and Radicalisation
3. Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organised Crime
4. Cyber Security, Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology
5. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

The meeting concluded with member states agreeing upon a roadmap for further cooperation and collaboration. The roadmap will facilitate robust mechanisms for coordinated responses capacity building and strengthening information flow between member states.

The Colombo Security Conclave was founded as a trilateral security framework between India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives with four pillars of security cooperation, covering marine safety and security, human trafficking, counter-terrorism, and cyber security.

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“Diversity is an aspect of human existence that cannot be eradicated by terrorism or war or self-consuming hatred. It can only be conquered by recognizing and claiming the wealth of values it represents for all..”

Aberjhani

NCTC Discusses Areas of Collaboration with the Newly Appointed Ambassador of Japan to the Maldives

8 March 2022



H.E. Takeuchi Midori, newly appointed Ambassador of Japan to the Maldives met with NCTC officials during a meeting held at the Ministry of Defence.

During the meeting, officials discussed ongoing work by NCTC to build resilience and promote

social cohesion in the Maldives. Ambassador Midori and DG of NCTC Brigadier General (Rtd) Zakariyya Mansoor also discussed areas of collaborations to strengthen PVE in the Maldives.

Japan works closely with NCTC and other stakeholders to strengthen community-based efforts to establish a peaceful, resilient, and tolerant society.



NCTC Co-Hosts “The Fourth High-Level and Technical Meetings on Modalities and Workplan of SAN-PVE, the Regional Network of PVE Practitioners of South Asia” in Association with UNODC

15-16 March 2022



NCTC co-hosted “The Fourth High-Level and Technical Meetings on Modalities and Workplan of SAN-PVE, the Regional Network of PVE Practitioners of South Asia” in association with UNODC.

Speaking at the opening session, Ambassador of Japan to the Maldives H.E. Takeuchi Midori officiated the opening session. In her remarks, the Ambassador highlighted the need to identify challenges in addressing violent extremism and called upon member states to assess key priority areas to strengthen capacity building among practitioners.

DG of NCTC Brigadier General (Rtd) Zakariyya Mansoor also spoke at the opening session, thanking member states for their commitment to continue with SAN-PVE and commended the generous assistance from the government of Japan to strengthen P/CVE efforts in the region.

The 2-day hybrid meetings were attended by delegations from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Participants from Maldives included government stakeholders and CSOs. The first day of was for high-level delegates from member countries to discuss implementation of the Roadmap on SAN-PVE and finalizing the structure

of SAN-PVE in addition to other matters concerning moving forward with the network. The second day of the meeting on implementing SAN-PVE was for thematic working groups and focused on how to conduct the registration process and work done by member states and experience sharing and discussing the roles and responsibilities of the national focal points.

SAN-PVE facilitates networking, knowledge-sharing and learning. The network also connects relevant stakeholders and provides training tools, publications, access to events, as well as aims to produce a compendium of good practices and evidence-based initiatives that could inspire other practitioners, as well as other countries, to develop their own similar measures.

NCTC Conducts an Awareness Session for Immigration Officers

19 March 2022



NCTC conducted an awareness session for Immigration officers in collaboration with Maldives Immigration.

The one-day session covered basics of terrorism and violent extremism, how to prevent terrorism

and violent extremism, and the role of border security officers to prevent transnational terrorism and crime. The session also covered addressing violent extremism and terrorism from a religious perspective and included a group discussion on how to address violent extremism in the community.

This is the first of a series of sessions initiated by Maldives Immigration to increase capacity of their officers and strengthen border security to address challenges and threats in today's comprehensive security environment, especially transnational crimes and terrorism.

NCTC Officials Participate in Interoperability Training Conducted by the British High Commission in Collaboration with the National Security Advisor's Office of the Maldives

March 2022

Staff of NCTC participated in a series of Interoperability Trainings Conducted by the British High Commission in collaboration with the National Security Advisor's Office.

The training was conducted as part of the effort to operationalize the Joint Interagency Operation Centre established under the National Terrorism Response Plan.

In addition to NCTC, law enforcement agencies and various stakeholders participated in the training.

Interagency training is vital in the national emergency response to familiarize stakeholder agencies on the role and responsibilities to respond to and normalize the situation during

emergencies with proper coordination and minimal damage to life and property.



NCTC Staff Participates in “Visioning Maldives: Leadership Dialogues” Webinar Hosted by the President’s Office in Collaboration with Civil Service

23 March 2022

NCTC staff participated in “Visioning Maldives: Leadership Dialogues” hosted by the President’s Office in collaboration with Civil Service Training Institute and UNDP Maldives.

The webinar conducted under Executives Enhancement and Enrichment Program (EEEP 2021-2023) by UNDP seeks to expose leaders to the latest trends in Public Administration, Development Policy and innovation. Each session will bring together global experts and top political officials to solicit exchange and knowledge sharing on 21st Century Leadership to inspire and support

Government of Maldives in leapfrogging into a ‘future proof’ developed nation.



Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment Conducts “Hafthaa Res” at Sh.Funadhoo in Collaboration with NCTC

23-26 March 2022



Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment in collaboration with NCTC conducted a “Hafthaa Res” program in Sh.Funadhoo.



The four-day program included sessions for teachers, youth, local leaders, students, and CSOs. The objective of these sessions is to foster community cohesion, friendship, and build a harmonious society, as well as to address societal issues and raise awareness among citizens and youths and improve psychosocial wellbeing of the community. In addition to the awareness sessions, refreshments with entertainment events were hosted by the island community.



In addition to Youth Ministry, NCTC partnered with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Islamic Affairs, and Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Maldives Police Service, Islamic University of Maldives, Local Government Authority of Maldives, and UNDP Maldives to conduct a variety of sessions concerning community empowerment. NCTC also conducted awareness sessions for senior educators, teachers, and parents of Sh. Foakaidhoo and Sh.Lhaimagu.



This is the third “Hafthaa Res” program conducted this year and received great support from the community of Sh. Atoll.

Establishing social cohesion through community engagement and outreach is vital for spreading awareness, empowering communities, and developing and maintaining a well-informed, cohesive and resilient society.

NCTC Conducts a Session on “The Role of CSOs in Promoting Peace and Tolerance” for Participants of the CSO Forum

31 March 2022



NCTC officials conducted a session on “The Role of CSOs in Promoting Peace and Tolerance” for participant of the CSO Forum held in Male’ City. This is the fifth iteration of the forum and is held for active CSOs in Male' City, K, V, Th, L & Dh atoll.

The forum is conducted by Ministry of Youth,

Sports and Community Empowerment in collaboration with stakeholders to empower CSOs and foster friendship across local CSOs. The forum also provides a platform for CSOs to strengthen their activities and share concerns with relevant authorities.

Civil society is an integral part in a whole-of-society approach to preventing violent extremism and establishing a peaceful and tolerant society. The government of Maldives places a great emphasis on empowerment and inclusion of CSOs in a variety of national activities conducted across different sectors.

Drug abuse renders youth vulnerable to exploitation by violent extremists!



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Activities of the MNDF Contingent at IMCTC in Saudi Arabia



MNDF delegation attended a presentation organized at IMCTC headquarters in Riyadh on "Introduction to Virtual Assets; Key Risks" delivered by Dr. Salem Bahammam, consultant/trainer in Governance on 3rd of March. The presentation covered virtual assets characteristics, risks as well as means of countering AML associated with such assets.



The Maldivian delegation participated in a 3-day training course on "Counter-Terrorism: Principles and Practices" in collaboration with the Center for Defence Studies, King's College London on 13th March. The training focused on IMCTC's key CT domains.



The Maldivian delegation also attended a workshop titled "Data Analysis and Decision-Making Methodology" on 21st March. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Mohammed Al-Subaihi, Delegate of Saudi Arabia to IMCTC, communications domain, focusing on the concepts and principles of data analysis and its connection to decision-making.



The MNDF delegates attended an event on "Future of Extremism and Terrorism" on 23rd March. The session was conducted by Professor Dr. Zayed Al-Harthi, KSA's delegate to IMCTC on ideology. During the session, he discussed the reality of extremist ideology, terrorism & best strategy to counter that in the future.



The MNDF delegates also participated in an event titled "Irregular Warfare; a Strategy for Countering it Militarily" on 29th March. The presentation was delivered by Maj. Gen. Dhafir Al-Shehri, KSA's Delegate to IMCTC in the military domain, in which he discussed the concept, characteristics of irregular warfare & how to counter it.

2022 ۲۳-۲۶ رجب المرجب

گرسنگی، پیاسه، سردی، گرمی، دُشمنی، دوستی، سیرتِ نیک، سیرتِ بد!

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