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ANNUAL REPORT OF MALDIVES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (MOC)

JANUARY 2023 – DECEMBER 2023

ABOUT MALDIVES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

MOC is a non-profit Olympic Sport Organization established in 1985. It conforms to the Olympic Charter and the Law of the Republic of Maldives. It has supreme and exclusive authority on matters relating to the development of elite athletes for major international competitions including the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games, and Games of the Asia Region and others.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am delighted to present a summary of our achievements and progress in the year 2023. It gives me great pleasure to announce that 2023 has been an incredibly successful year for the Maldives Olympic Committee (MOC). We have made notable strides in various domains, reinforcing our commitment to excellence, sportsmanship, and the promotion of Olympic Values.

One of the highlights of the year was our participation in two major international tournaments, namely the Indian Ocean Island Games and the Asian Games. I am proud to share that our athletes showcased exceptional talent and determination, securing a remarkable total of 28 medals at the Indian Ocean Island Games. Among these, we achieved an impressive tally of 5 gold medals, 9 silver medals, and 14 bronze medals. Furthermore, at the Asian Games, our athletes exhibited outstanding performances by breaking national records and surpassing their personal bests, despite not clinching any medals.

In addition to participation in these prestigious events, MOC has provided athletes with ample training opportunities through scholarships. These scholarships, made possible through collaborations with the Bank of Maldives (BML), have played a crucial role in nurturing their potential and supporting their journey towards excellence. Notably, we have continued the Paris 2024 Olympic Scholarship, providing further aid to our exceptional athletes. Furthermore, we've empowered our coaches with opportunities to expand their knowledge and refine their coaching skills through programs such as ICC, ICECP, and various technical courses. This investment ensures that they are well-equipped to guide and mentor our athletes to success in their respective sports. Moreover, our dedication to management and human resource development persisted throughout 2023. Remarkably, Ms. Aminath Shajan, a former Olympian and national swimmer, achieved a significant milestone by completing her Master's in Sports Ethics and Integrity.

We have actively promoted the core Olympic Values of Friendship, Respect, and Excellence through various initiatives. The vibrant Olympic Day celebrations held across different Maldivian islands have served as a testament to the unifying power of sports. These events have fostered a sense of unity and encouraged the community to embrace the values that lie at the heart of the Olympic Movement.

Additionally, our MOC Talks program has facilitated effective communication with our stakeholders, thanks to the generous sponsorship from esteemed organizations such as Dhiraagu, Eil Mobile, Urbanco and State Trading Organisation (STO).

While we celebrate our remarkable accomplishments, it is important to acknowledge the setbacks we have encountered. The cancellation of the ANOC World Beach Games 2023, due to Indonesia's unexpected withdrawal, was a regrettable event. Furthermore, the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, initially postponed to 2023, faced ongoing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a further postponement to 2024. In addition, Maldives decided to withdraw from the Commonwealth Youth

Games, scheduled from August 4-11 in Trinidad and Tobago. The decision was motivated by a need to prioritize resources and channel efforts towards a more targeted endeavor, the Indian Ocean Island Games.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Ministry of Sports, Fitness and Recreation for their unwavering support and commitment to the development of sports in the Maldives. Furthermore, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the National Sports Associations (NSAs) for their unwavering dedication in partnering with the MOC to promote and uphold the Olympic Values. I would also like to express my utmost admiration and gratitude to our exceptional athletes, whose resilience and indomitable spirit continue to inspire us all. We are also grateful to our sponsors and partners for their generous support. Their contributions have played a vital role in providing the necessary resources and opportunities for our athletes to excel. Together, we will triumph over adversity, driven by the enduring spirit of sportsmanship and the relentless pursuit of excellence. The MOC remains committed to supporting our athletes and promoting the values of the Olympic Movement.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Mission

The mission of the MOC is to ensure that the Olympic Movement is developed, established, expanded, and carried out in the Maldives in accordance with the Olympic Charter.

Vision

It is the vision of the MOC to be an organization that is recognized locally, regionally, continentally, and globally as one which promotes and develops sports.

OBJECTIVES OF MOC

The Objectives of the MOC, as listed in the MOC statutes, have been approved by the IOC under the Olympic Charter which regulates IOC recognition of all National Olympic Committees. Chapter 4 of the Charter explicitly sets out the mission and role of National Olympic Committees as well as their composition and structure. The Objectives are in effect our strategic aims, providing MOC with clarity of role and mission. The challenge and focus for the MOC is to ensure we successfully achieve and improve on this mission year on year.

- To encourage, promote, organize control, and safeguard Olympism in the Republic of Maldives. In addition, to promote the fundamental principles and values of Olympism in the Maldives in the fields of sport and education, by promoting Olympic educational programs in all levels of schools, sports and physical education institutions and universities, as well as by encouraging the creation of institutions dedicated to Olympic education, such as a National Olympic Academy, an Olympic Museum, and other programs, including cultural, related to the Olympic Movement
- To ensure the observance of the Olympic Charter in the Maldives
- To promote the spirit of "Sport for All" and assist, encourage and facilitate the development of elite sports
- To conduct, facilitate and promote training programs for the development of Sport Personnel
- To condemn and eradicate discrimination and racism from the arena of sport and penalize those who break the barrier.
- To eradicate violence from the sport arena and sanction those who fail to adhere to this cause.
- To adopt and implement the World Anti-Doping Code, thereby ensuring that the MOC's anti-doping policies and rules, membership and-or funding requirements and results management procedures conform with the World Anti-Doping Code and respect all the roles and

responsibilities for MOCs that are listed within the World Anti-Doping Code.

- To encourage and support the measures relating to the medical care and health of athletes.
- To assist the associations to promote their sport within the framework of the Olympic Charter.
- To find ways to promote, develop and sustain the traditional sports of the country.

STRUCTURE OF MOC

Introduction

At the pinnacle of the global Olympic Movement stands the International Olympic Committee (IOC), a non-profit organization organized under Swiss Law, enjoying legal recognition within international legal frameworks. The IOC delegates to each country's National Olympic Committee (NOC) the pivotal responsibility of determining the athletes who will proudly represent their respective nations at the prestigious Olympic Games. In this context, the Maldives established its own NOC, the Maldives Olympic Committee (MOC), in 1983.

Historical Context

In its nascent phase, the MOC functioned primarily as a membership organization, lacking a structured hierarchy of authority or a clearly defined coordinating role. However, under the present legal framework outlined in the Maldives Sports Act 30/2015, the MOC has undergone a transformation into an independent non-governmental organization, securing eligibility for government funding. A significant proportion of the MOC's financial sustenance is derived from affiliations with esteemed international bodies, including Olympic Solidarity, the Olympic Council of Asia, and the Commonwealth Games Federation.

Legal Framework

The MOC is strictly precluded from engaging in profit-driven commercial activities, issuing stocks, or participating in any form of political endeavors. Instead, it is vested with the authority to engage in various activities essential for the fulfilment of its mission, such as contract formation, property acquisition and transfer, borrowing of funds, publication issuance, membership approval and revocation, and any other actions necessary to advance the Committee's objectives.

Role in the Olympic Games

Specifically concerning the Olympic Games, the MOC assumes a vital national coordinating role. It serves as the official representative of the Maldives in interactions with the IOC, effectively resolves disputes concerning athlete participation, and extends financial support to National Sport Associations in furtherance of the MOC's overarching mission.

Annual Reporting Obligation

The MOC is committed to transparency and accountability and, as such, is obliged to submit a comprehensive annual report of its operations during the preceding year to the Annual General Assembly. This report encompasses a thorough statement of financial receipts and expenditures, as well as a detailed description of the accomplishments and activities undertaken throughout the year.

Election and Appointment of the Executive Committee

In the dynamic course of time, the composition of the executive committee experiences shifts, often prompted by the resignation of certain members from their positions following their departure from their respective National Sports Associations. Considering these developments, the Executive Committee

underwent recent changes, wherein:

- Mohamed Raneysh's position was succeeded by Ali Ashraf,
- Mohamed Ameen's role was assumed by Yousuf Riza, and
- Ali Ahsan's responsibilities were transferred to Mohamed Sobah.

Organizational Modernization

In addition to these structural alterations, the MOC modernized its organizational hierarchy by establishing specialized departments, each headed by an Executive. These departments, namely the International Operations Department, the Administration and Financial Department, and the Local Operations Department, play pivotal roles in supporting the Secretary General in fulfilling their responsibilities. This structural transformation and organizational modernization signify a significant step forward for the MOC, bringing it into closer alignment with international standards while enhancing its capacity to promote and support sports and athletes in the Maldives.

MEMBER SPORT ASSOCIATIONS

Olympic Sport Associations

- Athletics Association of Maldives
- Badminton Association of Maldives
- Football Association of Maldives
- Handball Maldives
- Maldives Basketball Association
- Maldives Surfing Association
- Shooting Association of Maldives
- Swimming Association of Maldives
- Table Tennis Association of Maldives
- Tennis Association of Maldives
- Volleyball Association of Maldives

Non-Olympic Sport Associations

- Bodybuilding Association of Maldives
- Cricket Board of Maldives
- Maldives Chess Association
- Maldives Pool Billiard Association
- Netball Association of Maldives

Non-Voting Member Association

- Carrom Association of Maldives

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

The report provides a comprehensive overview of the activities undertaken by the MOC during the year 2023. It highlights the diligent efforts made to effectively implement strategies that align with the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan.

The report also acknowledges the high expectations held by members of the sporting community. As an organization within the Olympic Movement, the MOC is expected to uphold the highest standards of ethics and transparency. There is a collective anticipation from members and the sporting community that the MOC will demonstrate ethical conduct, judicious use of resources, and fulfil its responsibilities in the best interests of the public and the sporting fraternity, both locally and internationally.

The primary mandate of the MOC is to promote the fundamental principles of Olympism in the Maldives, in accordance with the Olympic Charter. This encompasses various aspects of sports activities and involves contributing to the diffusion of Olympism through the inclusion of Olympic Values in the curriculum of physical education and sports in schools and other educational institutions. The MOC adheres to the IOC Basic Principles of Good Governance, which advocate for the highest levels of competence, integrity, and ethical practices.

In line with the ongoing implementation of its Strategic Plan, the Executive Committee of the MOC has made a strategic decision to invest efforts in supporting the NSAs. However, it remains steadfast in upholding clear regulations to ensure transparency and accountability. This approach seeks to strike a balance between promoting solidarity among the NSAs and maintaining a commitment to transparent governance.

As a result of these concerted efforts, a notable achievement in 2023 is that the MOC successfully executed all major activities calendared, marking a significant departure from previous years where consistent accomplishment of such magnitude was not realized.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

International Coaching Enrichment Certificate Program (ICECP) 2021-2022

In the year 2023, Mr. Ibrahim Moosa, national level coach affiliated with the Swimming Association of Maldives, successfully completed the final presentation of the ICECP course in Lausanne, Switzerland. The course took place from 20 to 26 April 2023. During the final presentation in Lausanne, Mr. Moosa had the opportunity to showcase his acquired knowledge, skills, and practical applications gained through the ICECP program. This presentation served as a culmination of his efforts and marked a significant milestone in his coaching journey.

In addition to Mr. Ibrahim Moosa's successful completion of the ICECP course in 2023, another promising coach named Mr. Hussain Haleem, affiliated with the Athletics Association of Maldives, had the opportunity to participate in the ICECP 2023-2024 session. By December 2023, Mr. Haleem had already completed the first three modules of the ICECP course. These modules provided him with a strong foundation in essential coaching principles and practices, focusing on areas such as coaching leadership, sport sciences, talent identification, and athlete development. Through interactive workshops, lectures, and hands-on experiences, Mr. Haleem gained valuable insights and practical knowledge that he could apply directly to his coaching role within the Athletics Association of Maldives.

International Coaching Course

Mr. Ibrahim Haisham Abdulla, representing Handball Maldives, was given the opportunity to partake in the spring session of the International Coaching Course (ICC), which took place in Budapest, Hungary from April 3 to June 2, 2023. The International Coaching Course (ICC), a 3-month full-time program conducted in English, is organized by the Hungarian University of Sports Science (HUSS) in collaboration with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and supported by Olympic Solidarity (OS). The course aims to train and educate coaches from around the world, promoting excellence in coaching through systematic improvements in theoretical, technical, and practical aspects of coaching. Mr. Haisham's enrollment in this course holds the promise of significantly enhancing the stature of Handball in the Maldives. The Maldivian Handball community stands to gain substantial benefits from this valuable opportunity.

ATHLETE TRAINING

The MOC is dedicated to comprehensive training programs for national athletes, enhancing their skills and enabling them to compete globally. MOC emphasizes athlete training's importance, fortifying their abilities and fostering mental resilience. Through investment in training development, MOC aims to cultivate exceptional athletes who bring honor to the nation. MOC takes pride in athletes' remarkable progress, recognizing their dedication and relentless pursuit of excellence.

BML / MOC Sports Scholarship Awarded 22 January 2023

Bank of Maldives (BML) granted sports scholarships to seven talented athletes in partnership with the MOC. The collaboration between BML and MOC aims to provide financial support and encouragement to athletes who have shown dedication and promise in their respective sports. The sports scholarships were awarded to Mariyam Ru-ya Ali and Mohamed Minhal Shamin from Athletics, Mohamed Salim Abdul Samad and Shuba Mohamed Shareef from Badminton, Fathimath Jumana Nimal and Moosa Munsif Ahmed from Table Tennis, and Layan Mohamed Shamin from Tennis. The selection process for the scholarship recipients was rigorous and based on merit, with each athlete being evaluated based on their sporting achievements, potential, and dedication to their respective sport.

Paris 2024 Olympic Scholarship

Paris 2024 Olympic Scholarships were awarded in 2021 to athletes to assist in their preparation and qualification for the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad, Paris 2024, with a particular focus on athletes and NOCs with the greatest needs. From the 7 applications MOC received, Himna Hassan from Athletics, Nibal Ahmed from Badminton, Ziyau Ziyau from Shooting, Ismail Rasheed from Surfing and Fathimath Dheema Ali from Table Tennis were chosen for the Scholarship. The scholarship has been helping these athletes in their journey to prepare and qualify for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Under the program, each athlete has been receiving a fixed monthly grant for their trainings that has provided access to training facilities, specialized coaching services, medical and scientific assistance as well as travel costs to participate in competitions, including Olympic qualification events.

PROMOTION OF OLYMPIC VALUES

Olympic Day

Olympic Day, a globally recognized event celebrated annually on June 23, is organized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) with the purpose of promoting the core Olympic Values of Friendship, Respect, and Excellence. The IOC underscores the importance of Olympic Day celebrations for all National Olympic Committees (NOCs), with the IOC President delivering a special message to mark the occasion.

In the year 2023, the MOC undertook the task of orchestrating Olympic Day celebrations across three distinct islands in the Maldives: N. Velidhoo, M. Muli, and R. Ungoofaaruu. The overarching goal of this endeavor was to extend the Olympic spirit and its enduring principles to diverse communities within the Maldives, fostering unity and encouraging active participation in sports.

The activities organized by these islands were as diverse as they were engaging. Participants and spectators revelled in 3x3 Basketball tournament, Beach Volleyball championship and an obstacle race, and the Olympic Day Run. In a tribute to the rich cultural heritage of the Maldives, traditional sports took center stage during the celebrations. These activities underscored the historical significance of the nation in the realm of sports, emphasizing the enduring connection to Maldivian heritage. Art and crafts workshops further enriched the Olympic Day festivities, seamlessly integrating artistic expression with physical activities. These pursuits harmoniously aligned with the theme of the 2023 Olympic Day, titled "Let's Move," encouraging participants to embrace an active and multifaceted lifestyle.

MOC Talks

MOC Talks was an innovative sports program, unparalleled in its scope and ambition. Designed to be a primesource of insight into the dynamic activities of MOC, it stood out as a multifaceted communication initiative set to reach a diverse and engaged audience. This program was designed for broadcasting across the national network and leverages the extensive reach of MOC and the social media platforms of the 17-member associations affiliated with MOC, ensuring its message resonates far and wide.

This engaging series comprised a total of 42 episodes, that was aired twice-a-week. Each episode was meticulously crafted to deliver a comprehensive snapshot of MOC's contributions to the development of sports in the Maldives. With a fixed duration of 30 minutes per episode, it stroke a balance between comprehensive coverage and audience engagement.

The primary objective of MOC Talks was to bridge the gap between MOC and the public by providing a window into MOC's pivotal role in nurturing and advancing sports in the Maldives. It seeks to illuminate the diverse opportunities that MOC offers to its stakeholders, ranging from athletes and coaches to sports enthusiasts and the broader public. Through a blend of informative segments and insightful interviews, MOC Talks fostered a deep understanding of MOC's mission, vision, and ongoing efforts.

Moreover, the program was designed to serve as a platform for NSAs to showcase their endeavors and accomplishments. By giving NSAs a voice and space for discussion, it aimed to create a vital bridge of communication between these associations and the public. This two-way dialogue encouraged greater transparency and mutual understanding, enabling the public to appreciate the hard work and dedication of NSAs while offering NSAs the opportunity to highlight their achievements and needs.

MOC Talks therefore was not merely a program; rather it was a dynamic conduit of information and interaction that seeks to strengthen the bonds between MOC, NSAs, athletes, and the public. Through its engaging and informative content, it aims to create a more informed, involved, and supportive sports community in the Maldives.

MOC Talks Sponsorship

MOC successfully secured prominent sponsorships for "MOC Talks." The sponsorship signing ceremony, held at MOC's headquarters, marked the official collaboration between MOC and four esteemed organizations: Dhiraagu, Eil Mobile, Urbanco and STO.

As the "MOC Talks" program continues to flourish, the partnerships with Dhiraagu, Eil Mobile, Urbanco and STO are poised to further enhance its reach and impact, delivering quality sports content, and fostering a vibrant sports community in the Maldives.

GAMES

The Maldives Olympic Committee (MOC) plays a pivotal role in coordinating the Maldivian delegation for a range of multisport events, including the Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, and the Indian Ocean Island Games, among others. The MOC meticulously develops specific plans for each of these competitions to create optimal conditions for the athletes and national teams to deliver exceptional performances.

Despite the initial calendar including plans for five multisport Games in 2023, only three games, namely the Indian Ocean Island Games (Madagascar), the Asian Games (Hangzhou), and the Commonwealth Youth Games (Trinidad and Tobago) were ultimately held as scheduled. This was due to unforeseen circumstances and challenges faced globally, impacting the organization and execution of the other planned games. Although three games were scheduled, in light of logistical and financial constraints,

MOC made the strategic decision to withdraw from participation in the Commonwealth Youth Games. This considered choice aimed to redirect resources more efficiently towards the Indian Ocean Island Games, providing the athletes with a focused platform where their competitive capabilities can be optimally harnessed to secure medals.

Understanding the importance of these two major sporting events, the MOC recognized the significance of adequately preparing athletes and officials to represent the nation at the highest level. To ensure optimal performance and to maximize the chances of success, the MOC strongly urged NSAs to conduct comprehensive training and performance enhancement activities prior to the commencement of these Games.

The MOC, in collaboration with the NSAs, emphasized the need for rigorous training programs tailored to the specific requirements of each sport. This included focused physical conditioning, skill development, and strategic planning. The objective was to equip athletes with the necessary tools and techniques to compete at their best and achieve their full potential on the international stage.

In addition to individual sport-specific training, the MOC encouraged collaborative efforts among NSAs to facilitate cross-training opportunities and foster a supportive and unified team environment. This approach aimed to enhance teamwork, build solidarity, and create a cohesive contingent representing the Maldives at the Indian Ocean Island Games and the Asian Games. Furthermore, the MOC facilitated the provision of expert coaching and technical support to the NSAs, ensuring that athletes and officials had access to the guidance and resources necessary for their preparation.

The MOC's commitment to the athletes extended beyond training and preparation. The Committee also provided guidance on logistics, travel arrangements, and accreditation processes to ensure a smooth and efficient participation experience for all athletes and officials representing the Maldives at the Indian Ocean Island Games and the Asian Games.

As the MOC, we remain steadfast in our mission to support and empower athletes, promoting the values of sportsmanship, excellence, and fair play. We stand united with our athletes and officials, celebrating their achievements and providing ongoing support as they continue to inspire the nation through their sporting endeavours.

Indian Ocean Island Games

The Indian Ocean Island Games (IOIG) 2023, held in Madagascar, witnessed participation from 7 island nations across the Indian Ocean region. These which include Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mayotte, Réunion, and Seychelles, came together to compete in a diverse range of sports. These nations engaged in competitions across 17 sports, fostering unity, cultural exchange, and a celebration of sportsmanship in Madagascar.

Maldives at the Indian Ocean Island Games

The Maldivian delegation comprising 238 athletes and officials, took part in an array of sports encompassing Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Handball, Swimming, Taekwondo, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball, and Para Athletics. Their presence in these varied events symbolized a broad representation of the nation's sporting excellence.

Flagbearers at the Opening Ceremony

Opening ceremony of the Games was marked by the presence of flagbearers who embodied the essence of sportsmanship. Fathimath Dheema Ali, representing Table Tennis, and Faaih Fazeel, representing Tennis, had the distinguished honor of leading the Maldivian delegation during the Parade of Nations.

Leadership

The Head Of Delegation for Team Maldives was Mr. Ahmed Fasseh, who provided vital guidance and support to the athletes and officials throughout the Games. Serving as the Chef de Mission of the Maldivian contingent was Mr. Abdul Nafiu Thaufeeq, under whose stewardship the team found direction and motivation. Assisting him in this crucial role were the Deputy Chef de Missions, Ms. Aminath Ali and Mr. Mohamed Jaushan Shareef, whose dedication and leadership were pivotal to the delegation's success.

Accomplishments

The accomplishments of the Maldivian athletes at the IOIG 2023 in Madagascar serve as a testament to their dedication and the nation's commitment to the principles of sportsmanship, competition, and excellence. The Maldivian athletes demonstrated their exceptional skills and unwavering spirit throughout the Games, contributing to the nation's impressive medal haul of 28 medals. Mention that this is the best result that Maldives has ever got at an international Games. These medals were distributed across a range of sports as follows:

	Sport/Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1	Table Tennis			
	Women's Team Event	1		
	Women's Singles	1		
	Mixed Doubles	1		
	Women's Doubles	1		
	Women's Singles		1	
	Men's Singles		1	
	Men's Team Event		1	
	Men's Doubles		1	

	Mixed Doubles			1
2	Athletics			
	Men's 4x400m Relay			1
	Women's 4x100m Relay			1
	Women's 4x400m Relay			1
3	Basketball			
	Men's 3x3			1
	Women's 3x3			1
4	Para Athletics			
	Men's 100m blind category			1
	Women's 100m blind category			1
5	Badminton			
	Women's Doubles	1		
	Men's Team Event		1	
	Women's Team Event		1	
	Women's Singles		1	
	Women's Singles			1
	Men's Singles			1
	Mixed Doubles			1
6	Taekwondo			
	Women's - 53kg		1	
	Women's - 62kg			1
	Men's - 87kg		1	
	Women's - 46kg			1

	Women's - 40kg			1
	Total	5	9	14

These achievements underscore the dedication and hard work of the athletes and the unwavering support of their officials, coaches, and the entire Maldivian community. The outstanding performance of Maldives at the Indian Ocean Island Games not only showcases the country's sporting potential but also serves as an inspiration for future generations of athletes. The nation can take pride in the remarkable achievements of its athletes and look forward to more successes in the world of sports.

Indian Ocean Island Games Youth Camp

In alignment with the rich tradition observed in previous editions, the 11th Indian Ocean Island Games (IOIG) proudly organized a youth camp tailored for young athletes. The primary aim of this youth camp was twofold: to cultivate lasting friendships among participants and to provide a dynamic platform for young athletes to engage in networking, sharing experiences, and immersing themselves in diverse cultures. This unique initiative further sought to instill the Olympic values of friendship, solidarity, and respect, contributing significantly to the holistic development of the participants.

The organizing committee of the games extended this enriching opportunity to 7 males and 7 females, demonstrating a commitment to inclusivity and gender balance. The participants, hailing from the fields of Athletics, Badminton, Carrom, Table Tennis, Tennis, Handball, Volleyball, and Swimming, were meticulously selected by the Maldives Olympic Committee from the received nominations.

This initiative not only embodies the spirit of the IOIG but also underscores the commitment to nurturing well-rounded athletes who embody the values that transcend the sporting arena.

Asian Games

The 19th Asian Games was held in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China, from 23 September to 8 October 2023. Officially known as the 2022 Asian Games, having been postponed by a year due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, featured 61 disciplines across 40 sports. More than 12,000 athletes from all 45 members of the Olympic Council of Asia competed in the 19th Asian Games.

The 2023 Asian Games served as an arena for Maldives to demonstrate its sporting prowess and values of sportsmanship. The dedication and hard work of the athletes and their support from officials and the nation made this participation a memorable chapter in the country's sporting history. The Games provided a platform for cultural exchange, international friendship, and the pursuit of excellence in athletics, symbolizing the best of Maldives on the continental stage.

Maldives at the Asian Games

The Maldivian delegation, consisting of 209 athletes and officials, took part in this sporting event, competing across a diverse range of sports and disciplines. These included Athletics, Badminton, Basketball 3x3, Cricket, E-sports, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, and Beach Volleyball.

Leadership and Representation

Under the astute leadership of Chef de Mission Hamid Abdul Gafoor, the Maldivian contingent showcased their talents and determination, vying for success and national pride. Mr. Gafoor's guidance and leadership played a crucial role in preparing the athletes for this prestigious multi-sport event.

Flag Bearers at the Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the 2023 Asian Games was marked by the dignified presence of flag bearers who embodied the spirit of the Games. Ziyau Ziyau, representing the Shooting, and Fathmath Eehau Shameem, a representative of Basketball, had the honor of leading the Maldivian delegation during the Parade of Nations.

Asian Games Fun Run

Hangzhou Fun Run took place in Hulhumalé on February 4, 2023, at 6:00 am. The gathering occurred at the Hulhumalé Synthetic Athletics Track. The event brought together 700 athletes representing 22 schools and 8 NSAs.

Distinguished guests in attendance included Mohamed Abdul Sattar, the President of the MOC, Wang Lixin, who served as China's Ambassador to the Maldives, Zhou Jian, the Director of the Olympic Council of Asia's Media and Broadcasting, Thamooah Ahmed Saeed, the Secretary General of MOC, Ahmed Latheef, who held the position of Maldives' Foreign Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Song Jianbo, Director of Co-host Cities Department.

The Fun Run covered 3 kilometers and concluded at 7:45 am, after a joyful and energetic run by the participants. Notably, a Hangzhou Asian Games commemorative medal was presented to each participating entity at the event as a token of appreciation.

MEETINGS/SEMINARS

Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee meets MOC Executive Committee 2 February 2023

Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and Hangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee (HAGOC) delegation met the Executive Committee of MOC on February 2, 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to explore opportunities for collaboration and support in the development of sports in the Maldives. During the meeting, all three parties engaged in productive discussions, emphasizing the importance of mutual assistance and cooperation to promote sports in the Maldives.

The HAGOC members' visit to the Maldives also highlighted the importance of collaboration and cooperation between different sporting organizations and countries. It demonstrated the willingness of the HAGOC to support and assist the Maldives in their preparations for the Asian Games, and it also underscored the Maldives' commitment to promoting sports and fostering international relationships through sports.

Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee members visits some Maldivian National Teams in practice / training

Members of the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee (HAGOC) visited some of the Maldivian national teams including Athletics, Badminton, and Cricket teams during their practice and training sessions. During their visits, the HAGOC members interacted with the athletes and coaches, offering words of encouragement, and sharing their experiences and insights on training and preparation for major sporting events.

FINA President Dr. Hussain Al Mussallam visit 5 February 2023

MOC welcomed Dr. Husain A H Z Al-Musallam, the President of World Aquatics (formerly known as FINA), on a courtesy visit to the MOC headquarters. During the meeting, Dr. Musallam conveyed his

appreciation to the Maldives Olympic Committee (MOC) and extended congratulations on their successful collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Community Empowerment, now recognized as the Ministry of Sports, Fitness, and Recreation. He also emphasized the importance of supporting and encouraging young athletes in their pursuit of excellence in sports. The meeting was a significant opportunity for the MOC to engage with a prominent figure in the world of sports and to explore ways in which they can work together to enhance the development of aquatic sports in the Maldives. Dr. Musallam's visit also demonstrated the commitment of World Aquatics to supporting and promoting sports in the region.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) visits MOC

On February 5, a courtesy visit was conducted by WADA delegates, Kenny (Kyu Hwan) Lee and Ms. Ying Cui, alongside SARADO Manager Hussain Mohamed to MOC headquarters. The visit was part of their involvement in the SARADO Member Country Representative meeting held on 4 February 2023, which took place in the Maldives. During the visit, MOC Secretary General Thamooh Ahmed Saeed expressed his gratitude for the courtesy visit and emphasized the critical importance of providing athletes and officials participating in multi-sport Games with education that meets WADA's approved standards. He stressed the need for Maldivian athletes, officials, and parents to have access to comprehensive anti-doping education. WADA Officials acknowledged the significance of this need and expressed their willingness to provide assistance through SARADO to facilitate education for Maldivian athletes. The meeting also explored potential collaboration to assist NSAs in delivering essential anti-doping information to athletes and officials participating in international Games.

Game Changers grant - Promotion of Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyle

Under the Game Changers Grant, the Commonwealth Games Association (CGA) Maldives organized the "Physical Activity on Healthy Lifestyle" program in three different islands across the country. The program, which aimed to promote physical activity and healthy living among the Maldivian population, was a collaboration between CGA Maldives and the respective island councils, and was held in Shaviyani Funadhoo, Alif Dhaalu Mahibadhoo, and Gaafu Alifu Kolamaafushi from 23 to 26 February 2023.

The program was conducted by experienced trainers, including Mr. Azim Abdul Azeez and Mr. Azleef Khaleel at Shaviyani Funadhoo, Ms. Maryam Shafa Shareef and Ms. Hawwa Ula Ismail at Gaafu Alifu Kolamaafushi, and Ms. Manhal Mohamed and Ms. Lubana Shah at Alif Dhaalu Mahibadhoo. The initiative aimed to establish the Commonwealth Movement as progressive leaders in social change, transforming lives and unleashing human potential.

Overall, the "Physical Activity on Healthy Lifestyle" program was an important initiative aimed at promoting physical activity and healthy living among the Maldivian population. The collaboration between CGA Maldives and the respective island councils underscores the importance of partnerships and community engagement in promoting healthy lifestyles and well-being.

Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation Extraordinary General Assembly 13 March 2023

Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF) Extraordinary General Assembly was held on 13 March 2023 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and it was attended by President Mohamed Abdul Sattar and Secretary General Thamooh Ahmed Saeed. During the meeting, report of the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games, which was held in Konya, Türkiye, in 2021 was presented along with the new strategic plan. The 5th Islamic Solidarity Games were considered a success, and the delegates praised the efforts of the organizers and the athletes who took part in the event.

The Assembly also discussed the financial reports for the period of 2018 - 2021, which included the budget and auditor's report, as well as the estimated budget for the next two years. Another important item on

the agenda was the approval of the amendments to the ISSF Statute, which is a critical document that outlined the organization's governance structure, objectives, and policies. The assembly also approved the appointment of the ISSF Secretary-General. Finally, updates were provided on the 2025 6th Islamic Solidarity Games, which are scheduled to take place in a yet-to-be-determined location.

OCA Athletes Forum 18-19, March 2023

OCA Athletes Forum was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 18-19 March 2023. Secretary General Thamooch Ahmed Saeed and Athlete Commission member Nashfa Amira represented Maldives at the Forum. The Forum featured presentations and discussions from the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The primary purpose of the meeting was to focus on supporting Athletes Commissions in Asia and to work together to help and assist athletes on and off the field of play. The forum emphasized the important role of athletes in building better societies and the role and responsibilities of Athletes Commissions in achieving the OCA's goals and objectives.

MOC Annual General Assembly 4 March 2023

The MOC held its Annual General Assembly on March 4, 2023. The event was attended by esteemed members of the Executive Committee as well as representatives from various NSAs. Additionally, the Commissioner of Sport, National Sports Council, and Sports Corporation participated in the meeting as observers. The AGA served as a crucial platform for MOC members to reflect on the Committee's performance and strategize for the future.

During the AGA, the members reviewed and subsequently approved the Annual Report of the MOC, along with the Financial Report. This approval not only signifies the meticulousness of the Committee's operations but also highlights its commitment to transparency and accountability.

In a show of deep appreciation and recognition, the MOC took the opportunity to present awards to the Chef De Missions of the 2022 Games, who played an instrumental role in the successful organization of the event. Their dedication and contributions were acknowledged, emphasizing the significant impact they had on the overall success of the games.

Furthermore, the MOC presented a special recognition award to media personnel whose invaluable support in disseminating information about the committee's activities greatly contributed to raising awareness and promoting the Olympic Movement. This acknowledgement underscores the vital role played by the media in showcasing and amplifying the importance of sports in the Maldives.

The MOC Annual General Assembly served as an invaluable opportunity for members to come together, engage in productive discussions, and shape the future of sports development and promotion in the Maldives. Through continued collaboration, strategic planning, and the unwavering support of its stakeholders, the committee endeavors to propel Maldivian athletes to new heights of achievement on both national and international platforms.

CGA Regional Meeting 22-24 April 2023

The CGA Regional Meeting held in Brisbane, Australia from April 22-24, 2023, was a significant event that covered various important topics relevant to the Commonwealth Games movement. It was attended by Secretary General Thamooch Ahmed Saeed.

One of the key highlights of the meeting was the presentation of the new CGF (Commonwealth Games Federation) Strategic Plan, which provided a comprehensive overview of CGF's commitment to promoting the Commonwealth values of humanity, equality, and destiny through sport, and its goal to ensure that the Commonwealth Games remain relevant and impactful in the global sporting landscape.

Another important topic discussed at the meeting was an update on Victoria 2026, which briefed on the preparations for the event and the progress made so far, including the construction of venues and facilities and the organization of the various sporting events. The CGA Regional Meeting also provided an update on other important CGF initiatives, including the process for selecting the host city for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, which is currently underway. The meeting also discussed the planning and elections for the General Assembly scheduled to take place in Singapore in November 2023, as well as the ongoing CGF Constitutional Review and the engagement update on sport and athlete allocation.

19th Asian Games Chef-de-Mission Seminar 25-26, April 2023

The seminar served as a platform for the Chef-de-Missions to discuss and exchange information about the 19th Asian Games, which took place in Hangzhou in September 2023. The participants discussed various aspects of the Games, including logistics, accommodation, transportation, security, and other important operational matters. The seminar also provided an opportunity to review the progress of the preparations for the Games, including the construction of venues and facilities, as well as the organization of the various sporting events. The OCA officials were able to assess the readiness of the host city and offer their valuable insights and guidance to ensure the success of the Games. MOC President Mohamed Abdul Sattar and MOC Operations Executive Ibrahim Shifaz attended the meeting which was held from 25-26 April in Hangzhou, China.

Indian Ocean Island Games Chef de Mission Seminar 18-22, May 2023

Indian Ocean Island Games (IOIG) Chef de Mission Seminar was held in Antananarivo, Madagascar between May 18-22, 2023. The Maldives was represented by Secretary General, Mr. Thamooh Ahmed Saeed and the assigned Chef De Mission for IOIG 2023, Mr. Abdul Nafiu Thaufeeq. The main purpose of the seminar was to evaluate the venues that will host the IOIG 2023 and ensure that they meet the necessary requirements. Alongside the venue assessment, the seminar also deliberated on the selection of sports for the Games. The meeting covered an extensive discussion on the sports to be included in IOIG 2023, including the rules and regulations for each sport, as well as the required equipment and facilities for each event. Based on the discussion, the Executive Committee of IOIG confirmed and finalized the sports to be included in the IOIG 2023.

MOC President meets with Asian Surfing Federation and Maldives Surfing Association, July 6, 2023.

On July 6, President of MOC met with the representatives from the Asian Surfing Federation (ASF) and the Maldives Surfing Association (MSA). The meeting focused on the Asian Surfing Championship Maldives 2023, which took place in K. Thulusdhoo, Maldives. During the meeting, the Asia Surfing Federation extended a warm invitation to the MOC, urging their attendance at the championship. The event showcased the remarkable talent and growing popularity of surfing in Asia, while promoting the Maldives as a premier surfing destination. The Asian Surfing Championship, organized by the Asia Surfing Federation, attracted talented surfers from across the continent.

Olympic Council of Asia General Assembly 8, July 2023

The President and Secretary General of the Maldives Olympic Committee (MOC) participated in the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) General Assembly held in Bangkok, Thailand. The event took place on 8 July and brought together leaders and representatives from National Olympic Committees across Asia. During the assembly, the President and Secretary General contributed to the discussions shaping the future of sports in the region and seized the opportunity to foster collaborations and strengthen relationships with other National Olympic Committees. These efforts aimed to pave the way for joint initiatives, cross-cultural exchange programs, and shared knowledge that will enhance the sporting landscape in the Maldives and beyond.

Furthermore, the assembly played host to the crucial OCA elections, culminating in the election of Sheikh Talal Fahad Al-Sabah as the esteemed President. As Sheikh Talal assumes his pivotal role, the Olympic Council of Asia enters an auspicious new phase, poised to unite the vast continent, champion cultural exchange initiatives, and ardently foster the development of the next generation of athletes. With Sheikh Talal's leadership, the OCA is set to embark on a transformative journey, propelling the organization towards a future defined by unity, cultural enrichment, and the empowerment of emerging sporting talent.

Seminar on clean sport

On August 18, an event was held at the Malé Social Center, with approximately 200 athletes and officials attending the Indian Ocean Island Games (IOIG). The event was a pivotal moment in ensuring fair and clean competition for the IOIG.

Games briefing- Chef de Mission Abdul Nafiu Thaufeeq

The event kicked off with a welcome address by Mr. Abdul Nafiu Thaufeeq, the Chef de Mission for the Indian Ocean Island Games. He provided participants with important insights into the Games, emphasizing the importance of sportsmanship, solidarity, and fair play. He encouraged athletes to give their best and maintain the spirit of healthy competition.

Anti-Doping Seminar Conducted by Doping Control Officers and MANADA Antidoping program officer

The second part of the event was dedicated to an Anti-Doping Seminar, conducted by Doping Control Officers (DCO) Mr. Abdul Nafiu, Mr. Ahmed Inash and Antidoping program officer of MANADA, Ms. Rishma Faazooq. The seminar aimed to raise awareness among athletes and officials about the critical importance of doping control in sports. Mr. Inash highlighted the detrimental effects of performance-enhancing drugs not only on the athletes' health but also on the integrity of the games. He provided comprehensive information on the prohibited substances and methods, the process of sample collection, and the responsibilities of athletes and officials in maintaining a doping-free competition.

Furthermore, Ms. Rishma urged all participants to adhere to the principles of clean and fair play, as any violation of anti-doping rules could result in disqualification and tarnish the reputation of the games. The seminar was interactive, with athletes and officials actively participating in discussions and asking questions, showcasing their commitment to maintaining the highest standards of integrity in sports.

IOC Athletes Forum 1-2, October 2023

The IOC Athletes' Forum was held from October 1 - 2 at the IOC Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland. The chairperson of MOC's Athletes Commission, Mr. Ahmed Zabeer, represented Maldives at the IOC Athletes' Forum. The Forum served as a platform for athletes to voice their opinions, share experiences, and contribute to the ongoing discussions on various important matters related to the Olympic Movement. The agenda included topics such as athlete representation, athlete welfare, anti-doping, and the promotion of gender equality in sports. These discussions aimed to address the challenges faced by athletes and find innovative solutions that enhance the overall athlete experience. It is through these forums that athletes play an influential role in shaping the future of sports, ensuring that their perspectives are considered in decision-making processes.

The participation of Mr. Zabeer provided a valuable opportunity for Maldives to contribute to the development of policies and initiatives that prioritize the well-being, rights, and interests of athletes. MOC remains committed to supporting athletes and ensuring their voices are heard at all levels. It will continue to provide platforms and opportunities for athletes to engage, contribute, and thrive both within the Maldives and on the global stage.

Chinese Olympic Committee Youth Camp 22-27 October

MS. Nasha Nizar, athlete/coach from the Athletics Association of Maldives, and Mr. Mujahid Yazeed, athlete from the Maldives Chess Association, departed to Beijing on October 21, to participate in the Youth Camp organized by the Chinese Olympic Committee. The Youth Camp was an extraordinary initiative aimed at fostering international sports exchanges and nurturing young talent. The primary objective of the camp was to provide a platform for young athletes to learn, grow, and build lasting friendships, thereby contributing to the overall promotion of sportsmanship and camaraderie.

During the Youth Camp, young athletes from diverse backgrounds came together to engage in a range of sports activities, workshops, and interactive sessions. The camp offered a unique opportunity for participants to develop their athletic skills, enhance their understanding of various sports disciplines, and acquire valuable insights from experienced coaches and mentors. Beyond the physical aspects of sports, the Youth Camp emphasized the importance of character development, teamwork, and fair play. Through team-building exercises, leadership workshops, and cultural exchanges, participants were encouraged to embrace the values of integrity, respect, and inclusivity.

Commonwealth Games Federation General Assembly 14-15 November

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) General Assembly was held from 14-15 November in Singapore. It was attended by the President and Secretary General of the MOC. The CGF General Assembly serves as a crucial platform for leaders in the Commonwealth sports community to convene, exchange ideas, and discuss matters of utmost importance to the future of sports within the region. The Assembly concluded with the election of new leadership where, Mr. Chris Jenkins OBE, was elected as the new president of the CGF, by winning 86% of the votes. Additionally, Ms. Sandra Osborne, Dr. Donald Rukare, Mr. Hugh Graham were elected as the three Vice Presidents. Mr. Chris Chan was re-elected to be the Regional Vice President for Asia.

The CGF General Assembly serves as a platform for member countries to discuss and make decisions regarding the Commonwealth Games. The assembly concluded with a renewed commitment to upholding the values of the Commonwealth and promoting inclusivity and excellence in sports.

Athlete Forum 24-25, November 2023

The first-ever Athletes Forum conducted by the MOC was held from 24-25 November 2023 marking a historic milestone for the sports community of the Maldives. Over 60 athletes from various sports gathered to exchange ideas, voice concerns, and shape the future of sports in the nation. The Forum, was attended by key dignitaries, including Minister of Sports, Fitness and Recreation Honorable Abdulla Rafiu, Commissioner of Sports Honorable Mohamed Tholal, top management of the Maldives Olympic Committee, and the Athlete Commission Chair along with some of its members.

It was a two-day event that was held in collaboration with the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Council of Asia. The forum provided a platform for athletes to discuss a wide range of topics, including athlete welfare, training facilities, funding opportunities, and sports development initiatives. By bringing together athletes, sports administrators, and government officials, the Athletes Forum preceded for inclusive decision-making and highlights the commitment of the MOC to prioritize the growth and development of sports in the nation. The constructive discussions and valuable insights shared during the forum paved the way for positive changes and enhanced support for athletes in the Maldives.

MANAGEMENT & HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Management & Human Resource Development programs play a vital role in nurturing the skills and expertise of sports administrators. These programs offer a wide range of training opportunities that are specifically tailored to meet the needs of sports administrators, while also facilitating the exchange of valuable information and experiences. One prominent aspect of these programs is the provision of Diplomas to staff members from the MOC and NSAs. Over the past years, the MOC and NSAs have benefitted from this initiative, which has enabled MOC and NSA staff members to acquire Diplomas in various relevant fields. Acquiring Diplomas through these programs not only enhances the individual capabilities of the MOC and NSA staff members but also strengthens the overall capacity of the organizations. The knowledge and skills gained through these programs enable the staff members to effectively contribute to the development and growth of sports in the Maldives.

Master in Sports Ethics and Integrity

As part of the Management & Human Resource Development program, Ms. Aminath Shajan, a former Olympian and national swimmer, was selected to pursue a Master's degree in Sports Ethics and Integrity (MAiSI). She received a fully funded scholarship from the Olympic Solidarity and was offered a placement at the esteemed KU Leuven University in Belgium in 2022. The MAiSI program is a two-year, full-time postgraduate program delivered by six prestigious European universities. Ms. Shajan successfully completed her studies and graduated from the program in September 2023.

POSTPONED GAMES

ANOC World Beach Games

2023 World Beach Games, originally to be held in Bali in August, was abruptly canceled due to the unexpected withdrawal of host country Indonesia. The ANOC World Beach Games is a prominent international sporting event that showcases various beach-centered sports and activities. The tournament was set to gather approximately 1,500 athletes from 100 countries. The event was specifically designed to engage and celebrate the talent of young athletes, featuring disciplines such as beach soccer, surfing, sailing, and beach volleyball.

Asian Indoor and Martial Art Games

The 2021 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, initially planned as a grand pan-Asian multi-sport event showcasing a wide range of indoor and martial arts sports, was scheduled to take place from 21 to 30 May 2021. The event was set to be held in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, as well as in the province of Chonburi. Unfortunately, due to the unprecedented global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizing committee made the difficult decision to postpone the Games to November 2023.

However, as circumstances continued to evolve, the organizers faced ongoing challenges related to the pandemic, including travel restrictions, health and safety concerns, and logistical complexities. Consequently, after careful deliberation and consultation with relevant stakeholders, the decision was made to further postpone the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games to 2024.

The Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games hold great significance for the participating nations, as they provide a platform for athletes to showcase their skills and compete at the highest level. The event fosters cultural exchange, unity, and friendly competition among diverse Asian nations, reinforcing the values of sportsmanship and camaraderie.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The year 2023 has been a remarkable chapter in the history of Maldivian sports, marked by significant achievements, inspiring moments, and valuable lessons. The completion of the International Coaching Enrichment Certificate Program (ICECP) and the participation in the International Coaching Course (ICC) have contributed to raising the standard of coaching in the Maldives, promising a brighter future for various sports.

Collaboration between the Bank of Maldives (BML) and the Maldives Olympic Committee (MOC) in providing sports scholarships has recognized and nurtured talent, empowering athletes to excel on national and international platforms. The promotion of Olympic values through vibrant celebrations through innovative programs such as the MOC Talks has spread the spirit of friendship, respect, and excellence across the Maldivian islands.

Outstanding performances at the Indian Ocean Island Games 2023 and the Asian Games 2023 have showcased the diversity of talent in Maldivian sports, reaffirming the commitment to excellence on both regional and continental stages. Additionally, the successful completion of a Master's in Sports Ethics and Integrity exemplifies the dedication and expertise that contribute to leadership in Maldivian sports.

Despite the challenges faced, such as the withdrawal from the Commonwealth Youth Games to prioritize resources for the Indian Ocean Island Games, and the cancellation of the ANOC World Beach Games 2023 along with the postponement of the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games to 2024, we draw inspiration from the resilience and spirit of our athletes. United by the enduring values of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and the relentless pursuit of excellence, the year 2023 serves as a foundation for the continued growth of sports in the Maldives.

With unwavering support, we look forward to achieving even greater heights in the years to come, building upon the successes of 2023. We extend our gratitude to the athletes, coaches, sponsors, and the entire Maldivian community for their dedication and passion for sports. May the spirit of sports continue to thrive in the Maldives, inspiring future generations to pursue their athletic dreams.