

MANGROVES FOR FUTURE (MFF) EIGHT REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

**24-26 OCTOBER, 2011, BANDOS ISLAND
RESORT, MALDIVES**

Muhsina Abdul Rahman

MFF held its eight Regional Steering Committee (RSC-8) meeting in the Maldives. The outcomes will dictate MFF's direction for Regional Initiatives/Projects. MFF institutional partners and country representatives together with special invited experts joined hands to plan and decide on the future of MFF.

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a partnership-based initiative promoting investment in coastal ecosystem for sustainable development. MFF provides a collaborative platform to help countries; sectors and agencies in the MFF region tackle the growing challenges to coastal sustainability.

MFF has adopted mangroves as its flagship ecosystem in recognition of the important role that mangrove forests played in reducing the impacts of 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and severe effect on coastal livelihoods caused by the loss and degradation of mangroves. MFF began in 2006 inaugurated by for US president Bill Clinton. The countries in this initiative include India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The institutional partners of MFF are UNDP, IUCN, CARE, FAO, UNEP, Wetlands International, NORAD and SIDA.

The meeting was opened by H.E Ahmed Naseem, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Ahmed Naseem made a special remark on the challenges faced by Maldives in dealing with waste management issues and concerns over the severe coastal erosions. The 8th Regional Steering Committee was held to share the experienced learnt and success stories between countries in implementation of MFF since RSC-7 (Regional Steering Committee 7). The meeting was concluded after a Learning Seminar held on Sustainable Tourism and Coastal Environment.

