

EDITORIAL

Maizan Hassan Maniku

Like every other year, this year too has some important milestones that need to be identified in the development of the Fisheries Industry of the Maldives.

We in the Maldives are marking some very important events in our history; While the country is celebrating twentyfive years as a Republic, we are also marking this year as the Year of Productivity. These two important events, coupled with the Presidential election has had important connotations in laying a better foundation for the turn of the century.

This year, Fisheries has not been doing as well as we have expected, at the beginning of the year, however, we have been able to achieve a great deal in the process of involving the private sector in the decision making process.

Decisions taken at the UNCED meeting are being integrated by the various nations in bringing the reforms needed that would sustain environment and development. In this process, the Convention on Biodiversity is of utmost importance for the Maldives, and we have to be serious about how best we should manage our resources - marine resources for the benefit of the fast growing population.

We hope this issue of Rasain will provide extra input in this process of economic reform the country is trying to implement in the coming years. With this issue we call all those who are using Rasain as a forum for expression to invite their friends to contribute towards a better industry with a much wider participation.

Fisheries is not just catching and exporting tuna or reef fish. There is much more than that. Through this issue we hope you will be able learn more about how fisheries over the years, have shaped our lives and our living.