



## **MALDIVES**

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### **Key Challenges and Opportunities**

- Provision of broadband internet to outer island schools is expensive.
- Unavailability of needed hardware to expand ICT in education.
- Lack of learning materials and the capacity to plan and develop content for the use of ICT based education.

### **Status of ODE in Maldives**

- Maldives has been offering DE courses since 1999 with the establishment of the Centre for Open Learning. However, DE courses are offered in a more systematic way since 2010.
- Centre for Open Learning of the Maldives National University conducts many of the face-to-face courses offered by the University in the blended mode where more than 80% of the learning is conducted online; in addition, some subjects in some face-to-face courses of the University are also conducted online as per the requirements of those subjects.
- Most of the private colleges are developing and trialing e-learning.
- There is a cyber-learning campus being trialed by one of the private colleges, where the students who wish can take up distance learning courses by attending the cyber learning campus instead of attending their Central Campus in the capital city.
- The National Institute of Education (NIE) conducts blended learning courses for in-service teachers. In these courses, more than 80% of the learning is conducted online.
- Some public and private schools are using open source course management systems such as Moodle and Canvas in support of e-learning in their schools, and many of the homework and other independent learning activities are conducted online.
- Currently, NIE is working with Commonwealth of Learning to develop learning materials for three different courses for upgrading in-service teachers.

**Top Priorities for 2012 – 2015**

- Finalizing an ICT Policy in Education.
- Strengthening the ICT online infrastructure.
- Monitoring and attaining expertise in the field of quality assurance in all study programs accepted and accredited by Maldives Qualification Authority (MQA).
- Conducting training courses and capacity building workshops for integrating ICT in classroom teaching.
- Expanding the use of ICT facilities in work processes and communication at all levels of administrations to create a management system which is more responsive and flexible.

*Asia Regional Focal Points Meeting  
Penang, Malaysia  
September 2014*