

IPNLF and the Maldives Ministry of Economic Development signed an MoU to drive social improvements in their fisheries.

An important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) Maldives and Ministry of Economic Development (MoED) to collaboratively enhance the protection of migrant workers, through worker voice and empowerment.

The MoU sees both organisations commit to exploring opportunities to collaboratively engage in activities and share information that furthers the promotion of social and economic benefits of Maldives tuna fishing. A key activity of this MoU will be for IPNLF to provide support and assistance in facilitating multi-language translation services to the contents on the online platform and mobile application for expatriate workers being developed by MoED.

IPNLF will facilitate training on handling of grievance mechanisms as specified in the MoU and should provide greater assurance that fair working conditions are in place in the Maldivian tuna fishery, therefore meeting social responsibility requirements of the marketplace.

Pole-and-line fishing was first recorded in the Maldives over 900 years ago and this sustainable fishing method has been practised for centuries. The Maldivian one-by-one tuna fishing fishery (pole-and-line and handline) is now one of the largest coastal fisheries in the Indian Ocean and a key supplier to the global tuna market.

IPNLF was founded out of a recognised need to better represent the one-by-one Maldivian tuna fisheries and has since grown to be a global organisation who are leaders in shifting the global narrative towards responsible seafood which duly considers the local, social and economic impacts as well as human rights issues in fisheries.



In signing the MoU, which is effective for 3 years, both MoED and IPNLF Maldives agree to the following;

- The Ministry of Economic Development to develop an online platform to compile and make information accessible for expatriate workers in Maldives, including development of a mobile application for workers that will store employees' virtual work permit cards. disseminate important information directly to workers and provide workers with access to a grievance mechanism.
- As IPNLF Maldives is working to promote the social and ethical responsibility of Maldives tuna fisheries, IPNLF is keen to engage with the MoED in providing assistance in multi-language translation services to the contents on the online platform and mobile application for a grievance mechanism for expatriate workers in Maldives. Furthermore, IPNLF sees to the creation of videos and audios in multiple languages for the online platform and mobile applications for expatriates as well as providing training of staff for better handling of grievances raised by expatriate workers.

"We are excited to be working with IPNLF- Maldives on migrant workers issues, something we have been discussing for some time now.

We hope to launch our platform with multilingual translations, rules and regulations relating to migrant workers in the Maldives"

Mariyam Nazima -

Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Economic Development, Maldives

"The Maldives pole-and-line fishery is extremely important on a national and international level and it is essential that workers are protected. In the longer term, IPNLF's work collecting social data and implementing social responsibility improvements will help inform fisheries management strategies for a more equitable future."

Dr Shiham Adam -

Director for Science and the Maldives, IPNLF Maldives

ABOUT - MALDIVES MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) was formed with a mandate to oversee all activities and matters related to trade and the economy. The functions of the ministry include the registration of different types of businesses, investments, companies and intellectual properties among other trade related entities