



**MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Policies and Strategies of the Ministry of Construction and
Public Infrastructure**

November 2006

Final Draft

Introduction

Ministry of Construction and Public Infrastructure is the government ministry responsible for the development and regulation of the construction sector of the country. It is also the agency which oversees the development of public infrastructure of the country. And is committed to take all necessary initiative to improve and regulate the sector.

The Ministry's vision is to develop the construction industry to an internationally acceptable standard which is most appropriate to the country

The Ministry's mission is to develop policies, strategies, standards and guidelines to benefit all participants and to develop human resources to meet the growing demand of the industry.

Construction Sector Development

Current Situation and Issues:

It is estimated that the construction industry is the 4th largest industry in the country. However, the recent past has seen this industry going through a lot of dynamic changes. These changes reflect the aspirations of the private sector to promote the construction industry as a properly regulated industry, and the government's efforts, to promote and regulate the growth of the construction industry.

The private sector, with the support of the construction ministry, has come together in a joint effort to create the Maldives Association of Construction Industry (MACI), aimed towards creating a structured industry.

The government authority in charge of the construction industry is the Ministry of Construction and Public Infrastructure (MCPI). MCPI within the past 1 year has been going through a transition, from being project implementation oriented to regulating and development oriented, where MCPI is now geared toward the development, and promotion of the country's construction industry.

Policies and Strategies:

Policy 1: Increase private sector participation in promoting the construction industry.

Strategies

1.1: Setup a "Construction Industry Development Board": Setup a board which informs and advises the Minister on all construction related issues in order to further develop the industry.

1.2: Promote Private Sector: Work to increase role and involvement of MACI in promoting the industry while working to help increase private participation in the body. Work to increase the role building material suppliers.

1.3: Assist Professional Associations: Work to help setup, increase role and involvement of professional associations in promoting the industry, including financial assistance to such recognized associations. (Architects' Association of Maldives and Association of Engineers)

Policy 2: Prepare and implement regulations lacking in the construction industry.

Strategies

2.1: Building code: Draw up and implement the building code of the Maldives.

2.2: Building control regulations: Draw up building control regulations to implement the building code and licensing regulations of professionals.

2.3: Building designers registration: Draw up and implement updated guidelines to regulate the authority and conduct of professionals practicing design and maintain a register of such persons.

2.4: Building practitioners Registration: Restructure existing guidelines to regulate the authority and conduct of professionals working in the construction industry in general and maintain a register of such persons.

2.5: Contractors registration and categorization: Strengthen existing guidelines in order to categorize contractors and regulate their conduct while maintaining public registers of the parties.

2.6: Procurement guidelines: Assist in drawing up procurement guidelines for construction related projects.

2.7: Health and safety regulations: Assist in drawing construction industry related health and safety regulations and database of health and safety issues.

2.8: Arbitration guidelines: Assist in drawing up regulations and setting up a system of arbitration for construction related issues.

2.9: Acts of parliament: Prepare and present to parliament bills to regulate professionals, contractors and other issues in the construction industry.

2.10: Construction industry policy paper: Prepare and review annually a government white paper on policies and direction of the construction industry.

Policy 3: Improve quality and standard of construction.

Strategies

3.1: Codes of good practice: Introduce and promote codes of good practice and recognized standards in construction.

3.2: Standardization: Work to standardize documents and procedures used in the

construction industry such as forms of contracts and project management guidelines, etc.

3.3: Controlled materials: Introduce regulations and mechanisms to regulate the import and production of materials used in the construction industry to maintain safety standards.

3.4: Industry statistics: Collect, collate and disseminate statistics vital to project trends in the construction industry.

Policy 4: Increase capacity in the construction sector.

Strategies

4.1: Government training: Work to seek new annual government financing for a construction related training program.

4.2: Management and short term technical training: Introduce short term training programs for managerial and technical staff of both public and private sector through collaboration with national and international training institutes and government agencies.

4.3: Skills training and recognition: Work with the related agencies to introduce basic standards of skills certification in the construction industry and means of training.

4.4: Assistance to college: Where possible, participate as lecturers in the academic programs related to construction and assist in improving course curricula, structure and level of courses conducted. Also assist college to research and testing lab.

Policy 5: Introduce and adhere to international standards for construction.

Strategies

5.1: Intergovernmental organizations: Work to join relevant intergovernmental organizations and treaties.

5.2: Affiliations and networking: Affiliate with foreign national bodies, training institutes and funding agencies to do with construction in order to regulate, improve and standardize the construction sector and seek opportunities abroad.

5.3: Attend international seminars and workshops: Attend relevant seminars and workshops to gain latest trends in the regulation, improvement and standardization in the global construction industry with a view to introducing such in the Maldives.

Public Infrastructure Development

Current situation and issues:

Development, management and maintenance of Public Infrastructure, has always been carried out by different line ministries. Since the creation of the Ministry of Construction and Public Infrastructure, in 14 July 2005, the government as a whole and Public Infrastructure development sector in particular, has been undergoing a transition in its way of thinking, especially after the Tsunami of December 2004, when a huge number of existing public infrastructure, has been either destroyed or damaged.

MCPI will be guiding the development, management and maintenance of Public Infrastructure and taking up the role of doing it for some critical public infrastructure.

Policies and Strategies:

Policy 1: Formulate and enforce standards for reclamation development and maintenance of roads, drainage and coastal infrastructure.

Strategies:

1.1: Create and maintain a national registry of all coastal infrastructures.

1.2: Create and maintain a national registry of roads, bridges and drainage systems

1.3: Prepare guidelines and standards for roads, drainage and coastal infrastructure development and maintenance, across the nation.

Policy 2: Ensure sufficient and more equitable office space allocation for the different government offices.

Strategies:

2.1: Develop and maintain a national registry of all government buildings

2.2: Create and implement a space allocation policy

2.3: Prepare maintenance procedures and guidelines for public buildings

Policy 3: Streamline government spending on building and infrastructure development projects through a structured monitoring system (PSIP monitoring)

Strategies:

3.1: Prepare guidelines for public sector project fund allocation for Ministry of Planning and Development.

3.2: Prepare and strengthen monitoring capacity for fund disbursement during the project management phase

3.3: Create and maintain a data base relating to building and other civil works construction and material rates

3.4: Prepare guidelines for the design, constructions and maintenance of infrastructure development projects.

Policy 4: Prepare guidelines and regulations for physical surveying

4.1: Maintain the physical survey of all inhabited islands of the country.

Policy 5: Implement Critical Government Infrastructure programs

Strategies:

5.1: National Harbour program including reclamation.

5.2: Access Harbour program.

5.3: Repair of Harbour program including tsunami rehabilitation.