International tourist arrivals were down 83% in the first quarter of 2021 as widespread travel restrictions remained in place. However, the UNWTO Confidence Index shows signs of a slow uptick in confidence.

- UNWTO News Release, 2nd June 2021
EDITORIAL

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DID YOU KNOW?

Maximum Depth limit for diving in the Maldives is 30 meters.

"The maximum depth for all-recreational diving in the Maldives is 30 meters. This applies to divers training in Deep Diving Techniques who participate in recreational diving activities within the Maldives, tourists, Dive Centre Staff, Instructors on or off duty and all instructors and students involved in Advanced and Deep Diving Training. This maximum depth limitation also applies without exception to diving activities on live-aboard and safari boats."

- Maldives Recreational Diving Regulation, Section 3, Points (1) & (2)
July is a Reward Points Bonanza for the Border Miles members

By Mithah Mohamed, Immigration officer, Maldives Immigration

Members of the Maldives Border Miles could earn bonus 30 points by visiting Maldives on or after 19th July 2021, till the end of the month. There is no better period in the year for the members to visit Maldives, in terms of accumulating more points, as two special occasions unite during this period. Members will be rewarded with 10 points for visiting on the local occasion (Eid Festival) and another 20 points as a sessional bonus (visiting Maldives between 1st June and 31st August of each year). On the other hand, it is a great opportunity for visitors who are keen to explore more about the Maldivian culture.

One of the main purposes of this unique loyalty program is to promote and enable greater opportunities for visitors to explore the Maldivian culture. On that regard, as Eid celebrations are festival times in the Maldives, Border Miles members could earn additional points by visiting Maldives during these occasions. There are two different Eid festivals celebrated during each Islamic year, Eid ul-Fitr and Eid ul-Adha.

Eid ul-Adha celebration is the biggest festival time in Maldives. Cultural events, festivals, and the gathering of local communities make Eid a memorable occasion. There are numerous folklores that provide fascinating insights into Maldivian history, culture, and beliefs. Magic, spirits, devils, monsters, and sorcerers abound in these traditional stories, which are frequently depicted in books, movies, and cultural events.

It is also the time for the locals living in capital Male’ City to escape from the heat and travel to their island homes, and others to visit friends and family in local islands. Eid prayer is the biggest gathering and the beginning of the festival. After the prayer, everyone visits family and friends to greet, and then teenagers and youths gather in groups for ‘Fenkulhi’, another unique tradition where men and women splash colored water on each other and run around hiding within the island. Each household prepares tasty food, inviting neighbors, family, and friends to dine at their homes. The afternoon and the evening are filled with traditional games, and stage shows as well.

Among all, ‘Bodu Mas’ (or big fish) game is an interesting event and an anticipated celebration of the occasion, where a fisherman attempts to catch a giant fish made of braided coconut palm leaves. This celebration is followed by the traditional form of dance known as ‘Maali Neshun’, in which a group of individuals dressed as evil spirits and ghosts performs. This tradition is based on an old folk tale where a Bodu Mas (a large fish) and Maali (ghosts) emerged from the water and a battle followed to catch this fish. The people are claimed to have succeeded with the help of a holy man after a hard fight.

Bodu Mas is celebrated in combination with ‘Koadi Kendun’ (the cutting down of a wooden pole). Men from the island gather to decorate the ‘Koadi’, a wooden stick made from a coconut palm and adorned with coconut palm leaves. The Koadi is brought out in the evening and a cultural dance is performed around it, wearing costumes made of coconut palm leaves and paint. Women will snatch the Koadi from there and will hide it from men somewhere in the top of a tree, with the help of a man whose identity will be hidden from the rest of the men in the island. Men are then tasked to find it and if they couldn’t do so by the next day morning, the man who helped in hiding the Koadi is rewarded with a sea bath and a magnificent feast by all women of the island. As such, it will be a great idea to visit Maldives and explore the culture during Eid Festival. Though the visitors will have the best experience of the festival by staying at a local island, resorts also celebrate the
festivals mostly with Bodu Mas, Bodu Beru and some cultural games. Border Miles members will also have the opportunity to earn extra points by staying with the partners of the program.

Partnered Guesthouses:

Araamu Holidays: Situated on Dhiffushi, a local island just 45 minutes by speedboat from Velana International Airport, Araamu Holidays & Spa is a charming boutique hotel surrounded by pure white sand beaches, and sun-kissed turquoise lagoons. Unwind in your spacious room, or energise with some water sports before treating yourself to a soothing massage at Dhiffushi Island’s only spa. If you are after a bit of culture, explore the island, meet some locals and experience the genuine warmth and hospitality of Maldivian island life.

Veli Beach Inn: Located on the island of Mathiveri in the Ari Atoll region, approximately 90 minutes by speedboat from Velana International Airport. Veli Beach Inn is one minute from the beach where you can relax on our complimentary beach loungers, hammocks and swing seats, taking in the views, enjoy a romantic candlelit dinner or simply let the smooth warm waves break over your feet as you take in one of the Indian Oceans most majestic panoramic views. You can also enjoy affordable accommodation, allowing you to experience the dream Maldives holiday on a budget.

Partnered Resorts:

The Marina @ Crossroads Maldives: The first and largest integrated destination of Retail and Hotels, with varieties of leisure, retail, food & beverage offerings, exciting new experiences for all visitors. Discover the incredible range of exclusive entertainment, leisure and wellness experiences. Seamlessly blending the elegant chic of a European Riviera town with the magical, tropical ambiance of the Indian Ocean, The Marina @ CROSSROADS creates a remarkable lifestyle destination bursting with unique experiences.

Dusit Thani Maldives: In a tropical island paradise, gracious Thai hospitality meets unparalleled luxury and natural beauty. On Mudhdhoo Island in Baa Atoll – Maldives’ first UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, Dusit Thani Maldives is just 35 minutes by seaplane from the capital city, Malé or a 25-minute domestic flight and 10 minutes by speedboat from Dharavelldhoo Airport. Luxurious Maldives hotel on the beach and over-water villas and residences await guests seeking island adventure, fine dining and relaxation.

Diamonds Athuruga Beach & Water Villas: Boasting elegant beach bungalows, Junior Suite and beautiful over water villas, Diamonds Athuruga is a paradise located at just a 20 minutes’ scenic flight away from Malé International Airport. Athuruga is the ideal resort to discover the Maldives from a center of excellence, where attention to detail will make your journey unforgettable. Let yourself be charmed by one of the most unique, enchanting well known coral reefs in the Maldives and discover its secrets thanks to the marine biologists on the island.

Sandies Bathala: Sandies Bathala is a 4-star and an all-inclusive hotel located along the northeastern rim of the Ari Atoll and about 15 minutes by seaplane from Velana International Airport. The lovely island is popular mostly among the divers from all over the world. The house reef surrounding the island is stunning, with colorful marine life; reef sharks and turtles are regularly spotted. You can venture out with one of the daily snorkeling guided tours.

You & Me by Cocoon Maldives: An idyllic and naturally chic resort, it is your ultimate private romantic getaway destination. Adults only island, targeting couples, honeymooners and friends, the resort is a quiet, relaxing retreat, far away from other hotels. Located in Raa Atoll, northern Maldives, the resort is just 20 minutes by speedboat from Ifuru domestic airport, or a 45-minute, scenic seaplane ride from Velana international airport. A first of its kind, You & Me Maldives’ stand out feature is a fully submerged, underwater restaurant that gives diners a view of the Maldives’ breathtaking marine environment, as they enjoy a delicious meal. You & Me is also the first Bubbles Island in the Maldives with partnership with the world-renowned Champagne House “Veuve Clicquot”. Activate your 5 senses of taste all the flavors of the best champagne in the world in a unique natural setting.

Cocoon Maldives: Cocoon blends the best of Italian design with the Maldives’ stunning natural beauty, all set against the backdrop of the azure Indian Ocean. Just a short 30-minute seaplane ride away from Velana International Airport, Cocoon Maldives is the actualization of a dream to create a unique “designer” resort that mixes luxury, design aesthetics and hospitality in one exceptionally beautiful island. This 5-star, family-friendly, stylish resort, based on the principle of ‘affordable luxury’, is the perfect destination from which to discover the Maldives, whether you are honeymooning, scuba diving, or just looking for a place to unwind and relax.

Hulhule Island Hotel: Hulhule Island Hotel, located on the International airport island, is a modern and exotic hotel catering to the diversified needs of guests. This is an airport hotel perfect for the guests on leisure as well as on business. The hotel boasts of a range of luxury accommodation and facilities designed to suit the taste of avid guests.
As the industry looks towards recovery, it must realign around a strong set of principles in order to bring about long-term sustainable and equitable growth.

- Dr. Mario Hardy, former CEO, PATA
11th May 2021
## CRUNCHING NUMBERS

### TOURIST ARRIVALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Arrivals</th>
<th>Growth (%)</th>
<th>Daily Average 2021</th>
<th>Duration of Stay 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>151,552</td>
<td>173,347</td>
<td>92,103 -39.2 -46.9</td>
<td>2,971 9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>168,583</td>
<td>149,785</td>
<td>96,882 -42.5 -35.3</td>
<td>3,460 8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>162,843</td>
<td>59,630</td>
<td>109,585 -32.7 +83.8</td>
<td>3,355 8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>163,114</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>91,200 -44.1 N/A</td>
<td>3,040 9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>103,022</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>64,613 -37.3 N/A</td>
<td>2,084 9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>113,475</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>56,166 -50.5 N/A</td>
<td>1,872 9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>862,589</strong></td>
<td><strong>382,817</strong></td>
<td><strong>510,549 -40.8 +33.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,821 9.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### REGIONAL TRENDS

(Arrivals and Growth Rate Year-on-Year)

**AMERICAS**
- **2019**: 84,794 (+23.3%)
- **2020**: 32,060 (-62.2%)
- **2021**: 30,299 (+61.8%)

**EUROPE**
- **2019**: 833,939 (+14.8%)
- **2020**: 348,349 (-58.2%)
- **2021**: 336,707 (+40.8%)

**AFRICA**
- **2019**: 18,695 (+21.8%)
- **2020**: 6,458 (-65.5%)
- **2021**: 9,074 (+174.0%)

**MIDDLE EAST**
- **2019**: 60,003 (+15.1%)
- **2020**: 26,288 (-56.2%)
- **2021**: 28,132 (+109.4%)

**ASIA & THE PACIFIC**
- **2019**: 705,140 (+13.5%)
- **2020**: 142,243 (-79.8%)
- **2021**: 106,188 (-1.8%)
### TOP 10 MARKETS by Nationality
(as at end June 2021)

1. **Russia**  
   - 124,651 Arrivals  
   - 24.4% Shares  
   - +330.6% over 2020

2. **India**  
   - 89,675 Arrivals  
   - 17.6% Shares  
   - +157.2% over 2020

3. **Germany**  
   - 27,838 Arrivals  
   - 5.5% Shares  
   - -1.4% over 2020

4. **Ukraine**  
   - 24,458 Arrivals  
   - 4.8% Shares  
   - +436.9% over 2020

5. **U.S.A**  
   - 19,540 Arrivals  
   - 3.8% Shares  
   - +71.2% over 2020

6. **Kazakhstan**  
   - 16,876 Arrivals  
   - 3.3% Shares  
   - +509.0% over 2020

7. **U.K**  
   - 13,631 Arrivals  
   - 2.7% Shares  
   - -58.5% over 2020

8. **Romania**  
   - 11,729 Arrivals  
   - 2.3% Shares  
   - +192.0% over 2020

9. **France**  
   - 10,954 Arrivals  
   - 2.1% Shares  
   - -49.7% over 2020

10. **Czech Republic**  
    - 10,411 Arrivals  
    - 2.0% Shares  
    - +138.0% over 2020

### TOP 10 ARRIVALS by Country of Residence
(as at end June 2021)

1. **117,604 arrivals from Russia**  
   - 98.6% of arrivals were Russians

2. **80,329 arrivals from India**  
   - 97.5% of arrivals were Indians

3. **29,689 arrivals from U.A.E**  
   - 19.1% of arrivals were Emiratis

4. **25,733 arrivals from Germany**  
   - 88.5% of arrivals were Germans

5. **22,269 arrivals from Ukraine**  
   - 97.5% of arrivals were Ukrainians

6. **16,982 arrivals from U.S.A**  
   - 88.2% of arrivals were Americans

7. **16,202 arrivals from Kazakhstan**  
   - 95.3% of arrivals were Kazakhs

8. **11,946 arrivals from Switzerland**  
   - 70.6% of arrivals were Swiss

9. **10,785 arrivals from Romania**  
   - 96.4% of arrivals were Romanians

10. **10,721 arrivals from Saudi Arabia**  
    - 70.4% of arrivals were Saudis
# AIRLINES OPERATING TO THE MALDIVES

(as at end June 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheduled</th>
<th>29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charter</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## EUROPE
- Aeroflot
- Air France
- Austrian Airlines
- Azur Air Russia
- British Airways
- Blue Panorama
- Condor
- Edelweiss
- Lufthansa
- Turkish Airlines

## MIDDLE EAST
- Emirates
- Etihad Airways
- Fly Dubai
- Gulf Air
- Qatar Airways
- Saudia Arabian Airlines

## OTHERS
- Singapore Airlines
- SriLankan Airlines
- SilkAir
- Air Seychelles

## INDIA
- Air India
- GoAir
- Indigo
- Air Vistara

- Blue Air
- Gulliair
- Scat Airlines
- Uzbekistan Airways
- Ukraine Intl Airlines
- LOT Polish Airlines
TOURIST FACILITIES
(In Operation as at end June 2021)

Accommodation Facilities
(at end June 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No.s</th>
<th>Beds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resorts / Marinas</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>35,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guesthouses</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>7,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safari Vessels</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>2,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>728</td>
<td>47,452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

H.A. ATOLL
- 2 Resorts: 394 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 9 Guesthouses: 10,400 Beds

H.D.H. ATOLL
- 1 Resort: 118 Beds
- 1 Hotels: 104 Beds
- 3 Guesthouses: 50 Beds

SH. ATOLL
- 2 Resorts: 457 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 1 Guesthouses: 8 Beds

R. ATOLL
- 12 Resorts: 3,088 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 0 Guesthouses: 0 Beds

B. ATOLL
- 16 Resorts: 2,953 Beds
- 1 Hotels: 150 Beds
- 25 Guesthouses: 478 Beds

A.A. ATOLL
- 10 Resorts: 2,074 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 94 Guesthouses: 1,232 Beds

A.DH. ATOLL
- 16 Resorts: 4,200 Beds
- 1 Hotels: 56 Beds
- 47 Guesthouses: 708 Beds

M. ATOLL
- 2 Resorts: 400 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 1 Guesthouse: 12 Beds

F. ATOLL
- 1 Resort: 250 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 1 Guesthouse: 14 Beds

TH. ATOLL
- 1 Resort: 152 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 1 Guesthouse: 12 Beds

G.DH. ATOLL
- 3 Resorts: 550 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 3 Guesthouses: 48 Beds

S. ATOLL
- 1 Resorts: 100 Beds
- 1 Hotels: 156 Beds
- 8 Guesthouses: 164 Beds

N. ATOLL
- 7 Resorts: 1,389 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 3 Guesthouses: 44 Beds

LH. ATOLL
- 9 Resorts: 2,250 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 2 Guesthouses: 28 Beds

K. ATOLL
- 52 Resorts: 12,582 Beds
- 5 Hotels: 758 Beds
- 183 Guesthouses: 4,229 Beds

V. ATOLL
- 3 Resorts: 614 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 35 Guesthouses: 418 Beds

DH. ATOLL
- 8 Resorts: 2,763 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 0 Guesthouses: 0 Beds

L. ATOLL
- 2 Resorts: 242 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 2 Guesthouses: 78 Beds

G.A. ATOLL
- 6 Resorts: 1,036 Beds
- 1 Hotels: 136 Beds
- 1 Guesthouse: 12 Beds

GN. ATOLL
- 0 Resorts: 0 Beds
- 0 Hotels: 0 Beds
- 15 Guesthouses: 196 Beds
The restart of tourism will need new ideas and the best talent. We need to support innovators and entrepreneurs who can transform our sector.

- Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary General, UNWTO, 1st June 2021
IN CONVERSATION WITH

ALI NIHAD
MARKET DIRECTOR,
SALES AND MARKETING
MALDIVES
MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL

“Maldivians by nature are very welcoming people, and seeing how appreciative the world is of the Maldives and what it has to offer, always makes me proud.”
With over 18 years of hospitality experience, Ali Nihad most recently held the commercial responsibility for Mandapa, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve prior to returning to the Maldives to lead the formation of the Maldives Sales & Marketing team. Ali started his career with AAA resorts in the Maldives, where over nine years, he held roles in Sales and Marketing team. Ali was part of the pre-opening team for Zitahli – AAA’s luxury property. In 2011, Ali joined Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa & W Maldives as Cluster Senior Sales Manager before moving to Anantara Maldives where he held the Director of Sales position for their four resorts. Ali then joined the pre-opening team at The St. Regis Maldives in 2016 where he held the role of Assistant Director, Sales & Marketing before transferring to his current role in Bali. Ali is a Manchester United fan, enjoys playing cricket and travelling.

Above all, Ali’s greatest pleasure is spending time with his wife and two children.

When and where did you start your career from? Why did you choose hospitality Industry?

The late 1990’s was an exciting time overall and more so for the tourism industry, which saw rapid growth and expansion in these years. Naturally hospitality as a career option, especially in the Maldives, became an interesting choice. Being a service industry, and given my passion for interacting and working with people, I was keen to explore and jump into it at the time. Maldivians by nature are very welcoming people, and seeing how appreciative the world is of the Maldives and what it has to offer always makes me proud. These were the key reasons that I wanted to get into the tourism industry. I pursued my education from the Faculty of Hotel Management, Maldives and started off as a Marketing Trainee at The Coca-Cola Company for a year before moving to a Travel Agency which was my first official stepping stone into the tourism and hospitality industry.

When did you join Marriott? Tell us about your role at the resort?

I joined W Maldives & Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa in 2011, back then under Starwood Hotels & Resorts. After a stint at Anantara 2011 I then returned to the company in 2017 for the pre-opening of The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort and have been with Marriott International since then.

In my current role I lead the Maldives Market Sales & Marketing Team in the capacity of Market Director, Sales and Marketing – Maldives. The team provides dedicated support to the company’s thriving destination portfolio and is responsible for driving top line revenue, ensuring the Sales and Marketing strategy leverages the interest and demand for the destination and is aligned with the company’s vision and priorities. The team supports JW Marriott Maldives Resort & Spa, W Maldives, Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa and The Westin Maldives Miriandhoo Resort.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

For me personally, I think the biggest challenge of my job is being away from my family. Having worked in Bali prior to this where I had the luxury of coming back home to my wife and kids after a day of work, being based at the resorts on islands away from home is challenging. No doubt, I’m extremely grateful for where I am, and I am aware that I’m far luckier than others with my family just a short boat ride away.

What are your thoughts and views on the Maldives tourism industry?

Maldives is a unique destination and will always be so. The country’s unique geography mesmerizes every soul that comes across it. Colorful reefs, islands rimmed with white sand surrounded by clear water that one can only imagine of. The beauty of the Maldives is not only above the water. The Maldives is home to a diverse variety of exotic Marine life as well and as such offers once-in-a-lifetime experiences for visitors. I strongly believe that as long as we maintain the beauty of The Maldives, as people perceive it, the future of the tourism industry is going to be bright. There will continue to be growth and career opportunities for the locals as well as women in the workforce as more resorts open doors and more tourists express their desire to explore the beauty of the Maldives.

In your opinion what are the major concerns that need to be addressed in this industry?

Given the nature of the destination, I think the biggest concern that we need to be wary and mindful of is the environmental precautions and procedures that we undertake as we move forward and continue with development across our islands. It is important that we take care of what has been provided to us, and to preserve it at its best for the future generations to come. As a nation the focus on good environmental practices is not an alien idea to us, however somewhere along the way we seem to have drifted away from this. We need to regain the focus on sustainability and environment friendly practices, to protect our reefs and lagoons that make the Maldives the unique and beautiful destination that it is.

How are you adapting to the new normal travel patterns? What are the biggest challenges you are facing as a result of the Covid-19 crisis?

At Marriott International the health and safety of our guests and associates are of the utmost importance. As we still continue to fight this pandemic, we are all very aware of the shift in priorities and changing nature of travelers and travel patterns. In April 2020, Marriott established the Marriott Global Cleanliness Council to tackle the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic at the hotel level and further advance the company’s efforts in this area. The council focused on developing the next level of global hospitality cleanliness standards, norms, and behaviors designed to minimize risk and enhance safety for consumers and Marriott associates alike.

As we understand the complexity of the situation and continue to address what we can as a company, adapting to the ever-changing patterns and procedures, I feel the biggest challenge that we face is not knowing when there will be an
end to this crisis and its after-effects, the multiple waves and the uncertainty that comes with it.

Were there any expectations you had about this industry which you found differed from reality, in both a good or bad way?

Knowing that Maldives is a tourism oriented destination I was under the impression that from the rapid growth and excitement in the late 90’s there would be a massive influx of youth entering this industry. However, on the contrary talent development back then was quite low. On the positive side, for me personally, I did not expect to achieve milestones at such a young age and have seen my career grow much faster than I expected. My hard work was recognized and fruits of the efforts came in the form of fast tracked growth and development that I am thankful for.

In your opinion, what qualities are lacking among today’s leaders?

I have been blessed to work with some great leaders who have influenced and inspired me to become not just a better professional but also a better person and my ideas of leadership also stem from there. Marriott International also emphasizes on putting people first as a key core value and it surely conveys a lot about the role of leadership in the company. Key performance indicators being based around factors like associate engagement as well as learning and development hours, and practices of associate appreciation and recognition I think illustrates the true meaning of leadership.

What’s the biggest factor that has helped you to be successful in this industry?

The biggest factor that has helped me to be successful in this industry is the support that I have had from my wife Afsey and my two children who have stood by side through it all without a complaint. It can be tough to be away from family and I’m thankful for their unconditional love and understanding always.

My passion to succeed, the determination that I’ve had from day one, being a local and trying to make a mark in this industry is what’s helped get me to where I am along with a very strong support system consisting of my family, friends and co-workers as well as some amazing teams that I have been blessed to work with through the years.

How can employers ensure that younger professionals are attracted to the hotel industry?

To motivate and encourage younger professionals to pursue hospitality as a career option, it is key that we educate them about the various opportunities the industry provides. The industry is such where one grows and develops not just professionally but also personally. The learning, grooming and development as well as growth opportunities offered in the hospitality industry are immense and the world is literally your oyster. It is important that youngsters look at the bigger picture of where they can be few years down the line in this industry by observing and researching on various leaders in the industry and their career journeys.

What advice would you offer to those locals who are inspired to become successful in the hotel industry?

Being a proud Maldivian, my advice to fellow locals who want to be successful in the industry would be to set clear goals and be passionate about those goals and targets. And as you move forth on the path to achieve those goals and targets, be true to yourself and your values, respect the ones around you and don’t be afraid to ask for help and listen along the way.