



COUNTRY REPORT



REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

Presented By:

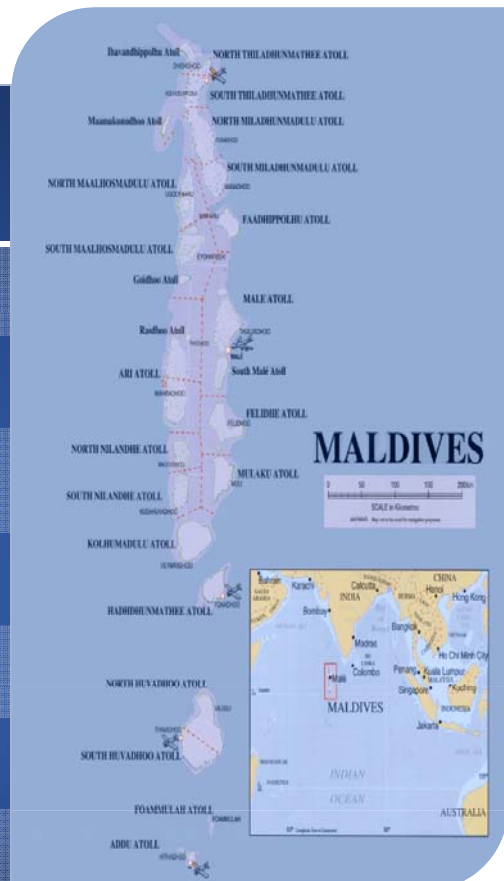
RIZWEEN ALI
 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY UNIT
 MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES



MAP



Name	Republic Of Maldives
Population:	289,480
Language:	Dhivehi
No. of Islands:	1,190
Area:	298 Km ²
Capital:	Male'
Religion:	Islam
Currency:	Ruffiya



MY CURRENT RESPONSIBILITY

- Daily general Administration works of IP
- Organizing events, workshops, seminars etc...
- Coordinating and planning meetings
- Maintaining/managing IP files
- Organizing necessary information for fill Trademark applications
- Handling routine office management, (e.g. faxing, mail distribution, process invoices, order supplies, filing, & expense reporting)

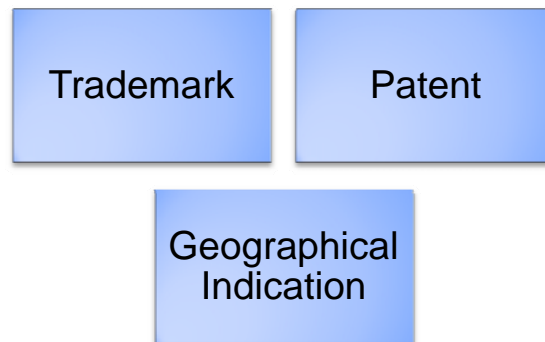
MALDIVES IS CURRENTLY

- Maldives is scheduled to graduate from its LDC statue 2011.

- a WTO Member and Signatory to TRIPS Agreement, since May 1995.

- a Member of WIPO treaties: WIPO Convention, since May 2004.

- There are currently no Intellectual Property laws in Maldives.
- However, the Copyright law is drafted and sent to Parliament and the following laws are in the drafting process.



Goods that can be considered as Geographical Indication in Maldives

- - Traditionally handcraft in the Maldives include :



mat weaving



embroidery



Maldivian dried fish



Dhigarru Rihaakuru



Foamulah Ala



lacquer work



coir making

Handicrafts in the Maldives



CONSTRAINS

- Lack of public awareness
- Lack of trained staff
- No budget and financial mechanism

COPYRIGHT

- No legislation, legislation will be send to MED for comments soon
- Royalty paid to copyright owners
- Collective society need to be organized
- Awareness programs for copyright owners conducted during this year
- Copyright works done by NBC(National Bureau of Classification)

TRADEMARK

- No legislation
- Local logo/trademark registered in the MED
- No international marks registered/ foreign company post ads in newspapers on protection of their marks through agents

GI

- No legislation
- Maldives fish (hikikandumas) need to be protected
- Other possible GI
 - Liyelaajehun
 - Dhigaru rihaakuru



PATENT

- No legislations, WHO have drafted a legislation and the draft is with us
- Study tour Indian government already approved



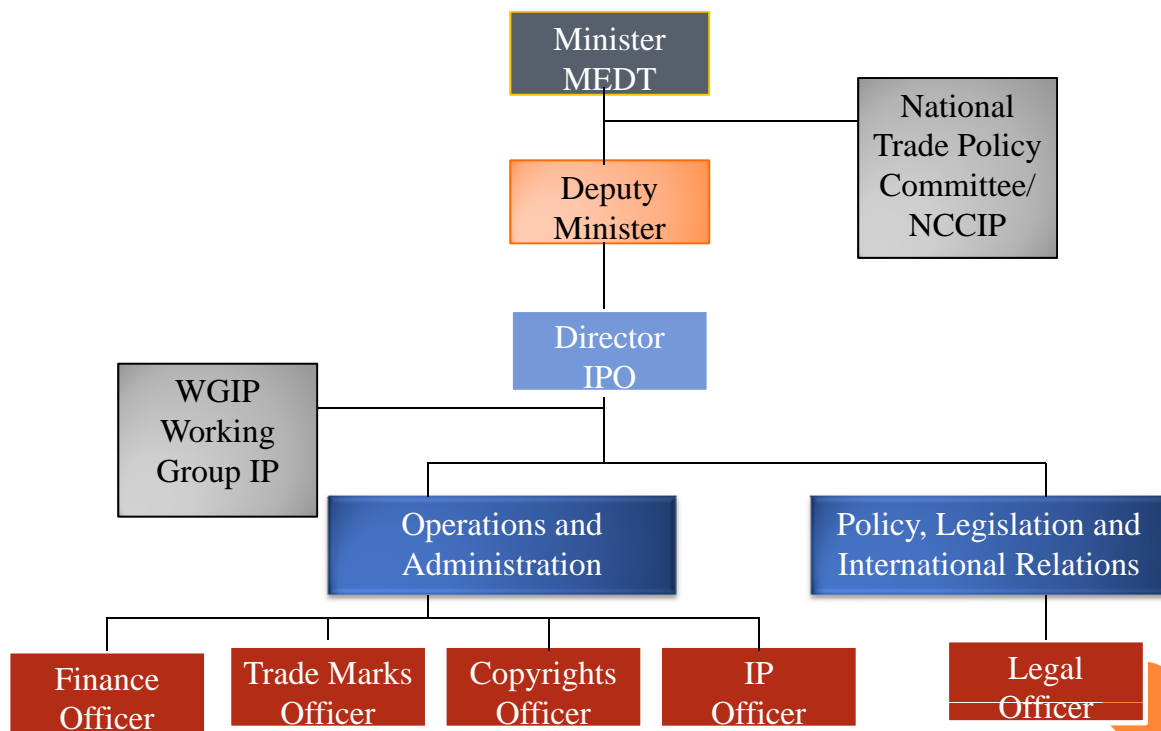
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- No legislation
- NLHR is looking after that work partially

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE OF IPU



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF IPU



OUR PRIORITIES

- Protect and improve the quality of IP rights
- Increase understanding and awareness of IP within the Maldivian community.
- Coordinate with other government agencies and private sectors to formulate and implement plans to strengthen the protection of IP rights
- Work collectively and foster an attainment culture

CORE FUNCTIONS

Building capacity

Incorporating IP management

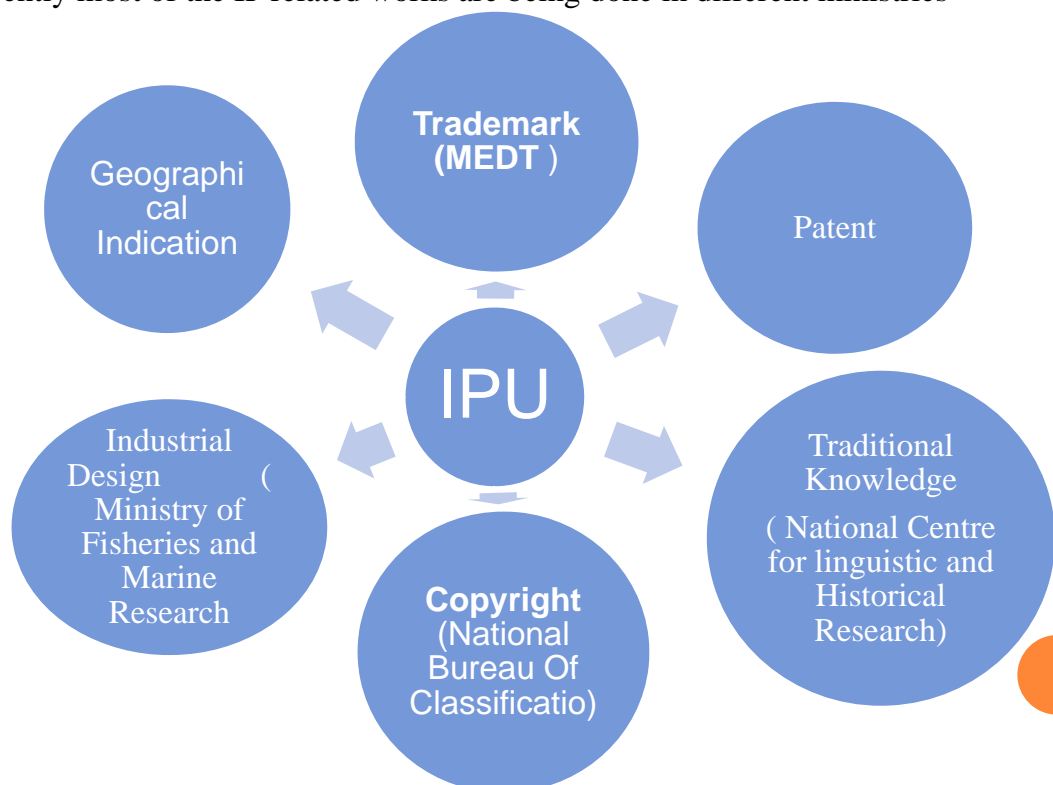
Enhancing Public Awareness

Enhancing greater creativity

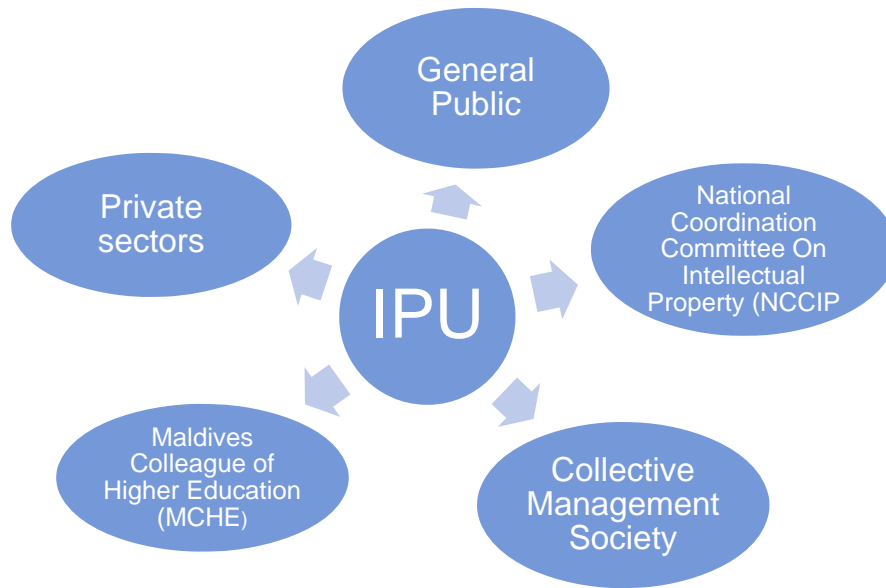
Coordinating enforcement

IP REGIME

Currently most of the IP related works are being done in different ministries



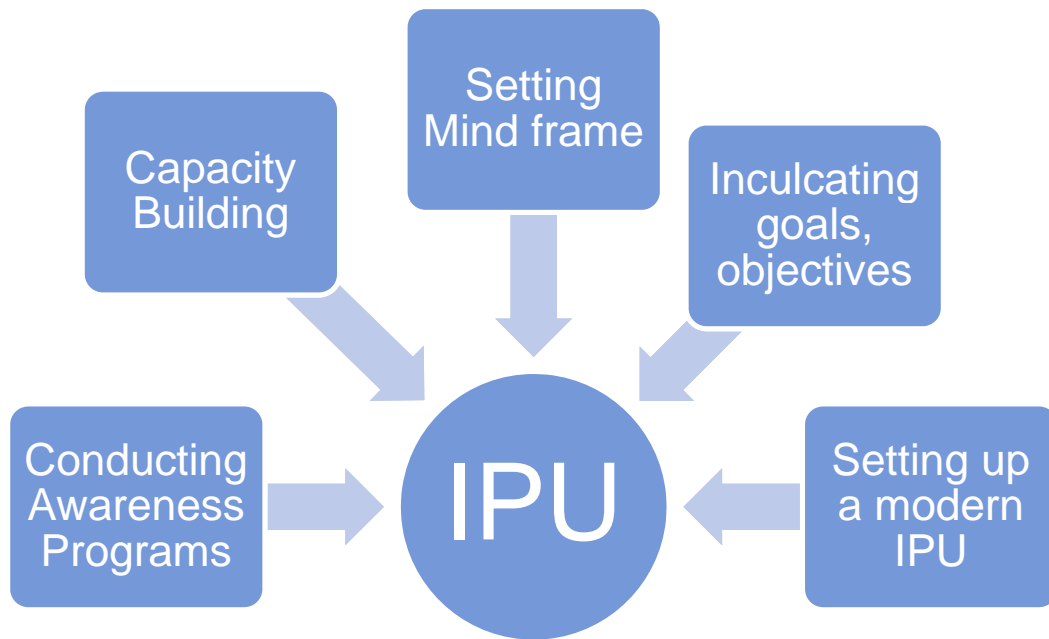
LINKAGES



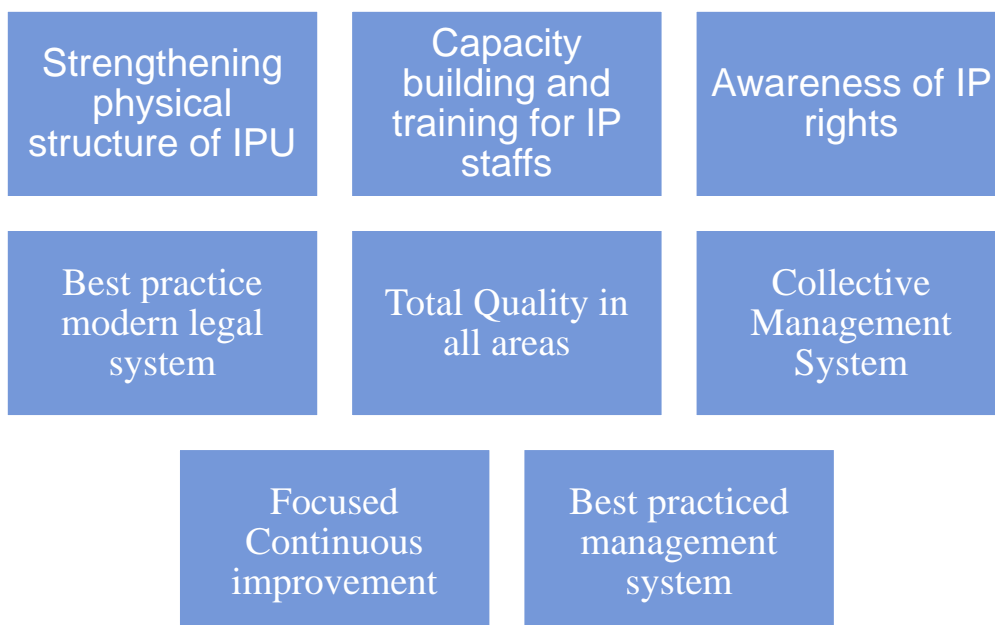
AGENCIES IN THE ENFORCEMENT CHAIN



AT PRESENT ...



FUTURE PLANS



Towards Modern IPO

- Study Visits - Experience, knowledge, practices
- Awareness of IP throughout the country
- Seminars and workshop on IP
- International meeting/workshops experiences
- Modern IP website



Modern intellectual property Office



- Best practiced management system
- IP Agents
- Well trained staff
- Customer Relations
- Focused Continuous improvement
- Best practice modern legal system
- Total Quality in all areas
- Collective Management System
- Database



QUESTIONS



THANK YOU!

Rizween Ali
Administrative officer
Intellectual Property Unit
Ministry of Economic Development
Email: rizween.ali@trade.gov.mv

