High-Level Policy Dialogue on Regional Cooperation and Inclusive Development in South and South-West Asia 18-19 October 2012, Le Meridien Hotel, New Delhi

Energy Security and Disaster Risk Reduction

Introduction

 Maldives consists of total 1192 islands, 194 are inhabited and 105 are self-contained tourist resorts.

• The total estimated population in 2012 is 330,652 with an average annual population growth rate of 1.69%.

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Main source of income is tourism and fisheries.

Disaster Risk Reduction

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 Maldives is one of the lowest lying countries in the world making the country particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to rising in sea levels.

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Extreme weather conditions causes serious damage to islands.

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Waves of heights 2 to 3 m. can have devastating impact on an island.

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Frequency of wave surges are increasing year by year.

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• Early warning systems for tsunamis, earth quakes, hurricanes does not address this issue.

Mitigation Measures

- Building shore protection and wave breakers and replenishing with sand.
- Involves high costs, every year major share of the budget is spent.
- Long term measure is to transfer populations to larger islands.
- In late 1990's under the 'population and development consolidation policy' transferring people from smaller islands which has a population of less than 500 started. Very challenging, lot of resistance from the people.
- So far populations from only six islands have been moved.

Energy Security

- The country is entirely dependent on imported oil as the primary source of energy making it exposed to fluctuations and increases in oil prices.
- Adequate storage facilities not available.
- The Government has formulated and adopted policies to provide affordable and reliable electricity to its citizens while at the same time introduced some necessary interventions to diversify its energy mix by focusing on other alternate sources.
- RE resources will be developed to optimum levels to minimize dependence on fossil fuel.

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