

ILO Country Director pays courtesy call on Maldivian President Dr. Mohamed Waheed

ILO Country Director for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Mr. Donglin Li, paid a courtesy call on Maldivian President Dr. Mohamed Waheed on 19th May at the President's office in the capital Male.

Mr. Li congratulated the President on the ratification of all 8 ILO Core Conventions. He said it is a major achievement for the Republic of Maldives since it joined the ILO in 2009, and also an important indicator of the government's commitment to labour rights and social justice.

He highlighted the importance of application and implementation of the 8 ILO Core Conventions and briefed the President on the ILO's 3-year on-going project in the Maldives which promotes labour rights and strengthens the labour market governance. He mentioned that ILO is supporting the reviewing of the labour law, capacity building of the government, workers and employers organisations, drafting the first Industrial Relations Act, developing labour inspection policy and employment policy, and providing assistance with Occupational Health and Safety Law and National Census.

President Waheed thanked ILO for the support and said Maldives needs more assistance related to the ratifications of the core conventions. He emphasized the need to figure out what national laws needs to be developed and pointed out that Maldives is facing problems of migrant labour and associated problems of human trafficking.

Mr. Li applauded the government of Maldives for its endeavours in promoting and protecting the labour rights and stated that ILO will start to develop the first Decent Work Country Programme for Maldives later this year which will include the provision of technical support to the Maldives on migrant workers' and human trafficking issues. He also proposed the establishing of the National Tripartite Labour Advisory Committee (NTLAC) in the Maldives, which would bring together the three parties to discuss on all labour related issues.

President Waheed expressed that he is happy that ILO is supporting the Government to address some of the emerging issues and hopes to continue to obtain assistance from the ILO to address the additional problems that the country is facing.

The meeting was attended by the Vice President, Minister of Gender, Family and Human Rights, His Excellency's Political Advisor, and Ambassador at-large from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.