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BOATING INSIDER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY NBAM

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3RD EDITION OF CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY FORUM 2025
CONCLUDES SUCCESSFULLY

Welcome aboard!

As the voice of the marine industry in the Maldives, the National Boating Association of Maldives proudly presents to you our monthly magazine, manifestly designed to keep you updated on the pulse of the nation's thriving marine field.

As members of this unique fraternity, dive into an ocean of articles featuring our fellow sailors and their marine-related businesses, from Safari boat operations to sellers of top-notch diving equipment and boat supplies.

Immerse yourself in a sea of knowledge and find your safe harbor within our contents.

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World Tourism Day 2025

Renewed Commitment to Sustainable Transformation



The Maldives joined the global community in celebrating World Tourism Day 2025 on 27th September, under the theme “Tourism and Sustainable Transformation.” This year’s theme calls on the world to make tourism a force for good — one that drives inclusion, empowers communities, and protects the planet. It emphasizes the importance of investing in education and skills, especially for women, youth, and marginalized groups; supporting micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises; and taking bold climate action to reduce emissions, conserve biodiversity, and protect fragile ecosystems.

In commemoration of this global occasion, the Maldives reaffirmed its dedication to positioning tourism as a catalyst for sustainability, innovation, and shared prosperity. The celebrations culminated with The Tourism Symposium 2025 – The Futureshapers’ Workshop, organized by Visit Maldives Corporation (VMC), which concluded successfully on 1st October 2025 at Meerumaa Hall in Malé.

Opening the symposium, VMC CEO and MD, Mr. Ibrahim Shiuree, reflected on the nation’s strong tourism performance and urged continued unity toward sustainable growth. Minister of Tourism and Environment, Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim, emphasized that the Maldives must lead by example in responsible tourism, diversifying experiences while protecting its fragile ecosystems.

The Tourism Symposium 2025 underscored the Maldives’ commitment to aligning its tourism vision with sustainability and innovation. The workshop provided a dynamic platform for open dialogue between government officials, private sector representatives, and international partners. Participants exchanged insights on how emerging technologies, climate-conscious policies, and human capital development can collectively drive the nation’s tourism transformation. The event concluded with a shared pledge to strengthen collaboration across all industry segments — ensuring that future growth remains environmentally responsible, economically inclusive, and distinctly Maldivian.

The Maldives tourism industry has maintained its strong upward momentum, building on the solid foundation of its post-pandemic recovery. In 2024, the nation reached a historic milestone by welcoming two million visitors in a single year. This remarkable growth has continued into 2025, with tourist arrivals increasing by 9.7% by September compared to the same period last year. By the end of the third quarter, over 1.55 million tourists had already visited the Maldives, a testament to the dedication and collaboration of tourism professionals, industry partners, and policymakers. The Maldives’ global reputation remains unmatched, earning prestigious accolades such as World’s Leading Destination and World’s Leading Green Destination at the World Travel Awards 2024, alongside multiple honors at the SATA 2025 and World Spa Awards 2025.

As the world reflected on World Tourism Day 2025, the Maldives stood as a living example of how small island nations can lead the way toward sustainable transformation. Through continuous innovation, strategic collaboration, and a deep respect for its natural and cultural heritage, the Maldives continues to inspire the world — proving that tourism, when guided by purpose and responsibility, can indeed transform societies and safeguard our shared future.

9th South Asian Travel Awards 2025

The 9th edition of the South Asian Travel Awards (SATA) 2025 commenced in grand fashion in Colombo, Sri Lanka, marking another milestone in the region’s premier recognition program for tourism and hospitality excellence. The event began with the pre-opening component, *SATA Connect & Conversations (C&C)*, held at Cinnamon Grand Colombo, bringing together influential figures and organizations from across South Asia’s travel and hospitality landscape.

SATA Connect & Conversations served as an interactive platform for industry leaders—including leading hotels, resorts, airlines, and travel agencies—to showcase their latest innovations in an exhibition-style setup. The session fostered meaningful engagement, allowing participants to exchange insights and explore future collaborations within the region’s rapidly evolving tourism ecosystem.

The program commenced with opening remarks by Suraj Khan, Vice President of SATA, followed by a welcome address from Buddhika Hewawasam, Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA). During the session, SATA recognized its Hospitality Partners for their valuable contributions in hosting the jury members during the evaluation phase of the awards.

Two dynamic panel discussions highlighted the day’s proceedings. The first session delved into *“The Future of Hospitality”*, focusing on emerging trends in guest experience, technology, and revenue management. Esteemed panelists included Ugyen Tenzin (President, Hotels & Restaurants Association of Bhutan), Dinesh Hettiarachchi (Group General Manager, Mandarin Colombo & Marine Bay Colombo), Hawwa Fareesha (Hotel Manager, Hulhule Island Hotel, Maldives), Tek Mahat Bahadur (Board Member, Hotel Association of Nepal), and Nazoomi Azhar (General Manager, Cinnamon Grand Colombo).

The second discussion addressed *“Regional Collaboration in Tourism”*, featuring key stakeholders such as Shiuree Ibrahim (Managing Director, Visit Maldives Corporation), Nalin Jayasundera (President, Sri Lanka Association of In-bound Tour Operators), Amal Goonetilleke (CEO, The Hotel Association of Sri

Lanka), Nandini Lahe-Thapa (Retired Senior Director, Nepal Tourism Board), and Sanjeev Kumar (President, Voyages Kerala / Confederation of Accredited Tours Operators). The speakers shared valuable perspectives on strengthening inter-country cooperation and fostering sustainable tourism growth across South Asia.

Complementing the panel sessions were insightful presentations from Iuliana Rusei, Chief Underwriting Officer of Allied Insurance Company of the Maldives, and Ikram Hassan, CEO of FI-ES Systems, who offered forward-looking perspectives on risk management and digital transformation in travel and hospitality.

The SATA 2025 Gala Ceremony, held on 20th September 2025 at Cinnamon Grand Colombo, marked one of the region’s most anticipated events celebrating tourism and hospitality excellence. The occasion honored top performers across multiple categories, recognizing outstanding contributions from destinations, brands, and professionals in the industry.

Among the notable winners from the Maldives, *Voyages Maldives* secured the Gold Award for *Leading Liveaboard Brand*, while *Maldives Legend* earned Gold for *Leading Liveaboard*. The nation also triumphed in the *Visitors’ Choice Awards*, winning Gold for *Leading Adventure Destination*. *Ocean Group Pvt Ltd* received Silver for *Leading Adventure Sports Tour Operator*, and *Maldives Holiday Collections* earned Silver in the *Leading Cruise Travel Agent* category.

The South Asian Travel Awards continues to serve as a prestigious platform recognizing excellence and innovation across the region’s tourism and hospitality sectors, uniting nations under the shared vision of sustainable growth, collaboration, and world-class service.



*Celebrating the Best of
South Asian Hospitality*



The Grand Associates Joins NBAM

A Visionary Force in Tourism and Sustainability



The National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) is delighted to welcome The Grand Associates Pvt. Ltd., a distinguished consultancy specializing in tourism and sustainability, as its newest member.

The Grand Associates builds upon the strong foundation of The Grand Holidays Pvt. Ltd., a pioneering travel company established in 2005 with a vision to expand Maldivian tourism beyond borders. Over the years, The Grand Holidays became a trusted name among international tour operators and travel agents across Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia, contributing significantly to the promotion of the Maldives as a premier global destination.

Building on this legacy of success and international partnerships, The Grand Associates Pvt. Ltd. was formally registered in both the Maldives and Sri Lanka in 2020. Under the leadership of Mr. Ibrahim Nizam, the company was established to meet the growing need for specialized expertise in tourism consultancy, sustainability, and strategic development within the region.

Mr. Nizam brings with him over thirty-five years of experience in the tourism industry, having begun his career in 1982 when the sector was still in its formative stages. Over the decades, he has played an instrumental role in advancing the Maldivian tourism landscape through his leadership, foresight, and commitment to excellence. Notably, Mr. Nizam also served as a member of the first Executive Board of NBAM, contributing to the association's foundational work in advocating for the interests of the boating and marine tourism sectors. His longstanding association with the industry and continued dedication to its growth exemplify the collaborative spirit that NBAM strives to promote among its members.

The Grand Associates is driven by a dynamic, multi-national team whose diverse expertise strengthens the company's holistic approach to consultancy and sustainability. Among its key team members is Mr. Uzair Hassan, an accomplished Investment Consultant with an extensive background in banking, management consultancy, and entrepreneurship. Complementing this expertise is Mr. Paul Bergin, an Environmental Innovator from the United Kingdom, recognized for his pioneering work in strategic marketing, eco-tourism, and environmental sustainability projects. Together, they form a team that combines business insight, global perspective, and environmental consciousness.

With a focus on delivering comprehensive consultancy and sustainable business solutions for the tourism and hospitality industries, The Grand Associates has positioned itself as a forward-thinking leader in fostering responsible development. Their approach aligns closely with NBAM's vision of promoting innovation, collaboration, and sustainability across the Maldivian boating and tourism sectors.

NBAM extends its warmest welcome to The Grand Associates Pvt. Ltd. and looks forward to working closely with the team under the leadership of Mr. Nizam. The association is confident that this partnership will further strengthen collective efforts to enhance industry standards, encourage sustainable practices, and support the continued growth and global recognition of the Maldivian boating and marine tourism sectors.



- 1 REFERRALS TO POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS
- 2 FREE CONSULTATION ABOUT INDUSTRY
- 3 INVITATION TO NBAM EVENTS AND GATHERINGS
- 4 FREE WEBSITE LISTING FOR LIVEABOARDS
- 5 SPECIAL TERMS AND PRICES ON FUEL SUPPLIERS

- 6 FREE WEBSITE LISTING FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS AND MARINE EQUIPMENT SELLERS
- 7 SPECIAL MEMBER PACKAGES ON INSURANCE PREMIUMS FROM ALLIED INSURANCE COMPANY (EXCLUSIVE FOR NBAM)
- 8 SPECIAL ASSISTANCE ON REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES
- 9 SAFETY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREW MEMBERS
- 10 SPECIAL RATES FOR MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN MALDIVES MARINE EXPO

- 11 MEMBER TO MEMBER NETWORKING
- 12 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM DISCOUNTS
- 13 FREE LISTINGS FOR MEMBER BOATS ON LIVEABOARDS OF MALDIVES MAGAZINE
- 14 LOGO ON BROCHURES AND ADDRESS CARDS / PROMOTIONS
- 15 SPECIAL DISCOUNTS FROM BOATING PRIVILEGE PARTNER BUSINESSES

- 16 EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS IN NOMINATING TO MALDIVES NATIONAL BOATING AWARDS
- 17 OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH GOVERNMENT AND AUTHORITIES AS A TEAM AND COMMENT ON REGULATIONS

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Allied Takaful Wins Takaful Unit of the Decade



Allied Takaful has been recognized with the prestigious title of Takaful Window/Unit of the Decade (2016–2025) at the IFFSA Awards Night, held on 25th September 2025 at Shangri-La Colombo. This remarkable achievement marks a significant milestone for the company, celebrating a decade of excellence, innovation, and trust in Islamic finance.

The IFFSA Awards, which commemorate ten years of acknowledging and rewarding excellence in Islamic finance across South Asia, serve as one of the most respected platforms in the region. The recognition bestowed upon Allied Takaful highlights the organization’s consistent commitment to upholding Shariah principles while delivering customer-centric solutions that have strengthened its position in the industry.

This honor is a testament to the visionary leadership of the Management, the strategic guidance of the Board, and the dedication and perseverance of the Allied Takaful team. Together, their collective efforts have shaped the success of the organization over the past decade, driving continuous growth and innovation in the field of Islamic finance.

As Allied Takaful celebrates this achievement, it remains steadfast in its mission to promote ethical and sustainable financial solutions, reinforcing its role as a trusted name in the Takaful sector. The accolade stands as both a reflection of past excellence and an inspiration for continued advancement in the years to come.



Takaful Plans

Takaful is also known as Islamic Insurance wherein members contribute money in to a pool system to guarantee each other for specified financial risks. Takaful or Islamic insurance is based on sharia or Islamic religious law and covers health, life and general insurance needs. Any claims made by the participants are paid out of the pool or takaful fund.



Coastal Cleanup 2025

A Collective Commitment to a Cleaner Future

The *Coastal Cleanup 2025* took place on 3rd October 2025, marking a significant environmental initiative aimed at protecting the nation’s shores and preserving the beauty of its coastline. In alignment with National Tourism Day, the event reinforced the importance of sustainable practices in maintaining the Maldives’ reputation as a pristine and environmentally responsible destination.

The initiative was led by the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Environment, and several stakeholder associations and Non-Governmental Organizations. The National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) participated as an event partner, reflecting the boating industry’s continued dedication to environmental conservation and the protection of marine ecosystems.

The event commenced with an opening ceremony, followed by a series of activities designed to engage participants in meaningful environmental action. Throughout the day, volunteers and representatives from various sectors worked collectively to remove waste from the coastline, contributing to cleaner and healthier marine environments. The program concluded in the evening with knowledge-sharing sessions and discussions focused on marine pollution, community engagement, and long-term sustainability.

The *Coastal Cleanup 2025* served as a reminder that every action—no matter how small—contributes to a greater cause. Each bag of waste collected represented a tangible step toward safeguarding the ocean and ensuring a cleaner, more sustainable future for generations to come.



SOLEIL 2



Sail into pure indulgence aboard *The Soleil 2*, where Maldivian beauty meets world-class comfort. Designed to host up to 28 guests in 14 elegantly appointed cabins, each featuring air-conditioning and en-suite bathrooms with hot showers, this luxurious liveaboard offers the perfect retreat after a day beneath the waves. Between dives, unwind in the bubbling hot tub or bask on the expansive sun deck as the turquoise horizon stretches endlessly before you. The onboard experience is elevated with Nitrox for enriched dives, an air-conditioned indoor dining area, and an open-air top deck where guests can dine beneath a canopy of stars. Diving adventures unfold from a dedicated Dhoni, thoughtfully equipped with compressors and gear storage, ensuring a peaceful atmosphere on board. Whether you're chasing manta rays or Maldivian sunsets, *The Soleil 2* promises a journey as unforgettable as the ocean itself.

Strengthening Collaboration

in the Boating Industry



High Commissioner-Designate Mr. M. Rizvi Hassen held a productive meeting with the President of the National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM), Mr. Amir Mansoor, to discuss potential avenues for collaboration within the Maldivian boating industry.

The discussion covered a wide range of topics, including opportunities to enhance the industry’s capacity, promote sustainable growth, and attract international partnerships. Both parties explored ways to advance the Maldives’ reputation as a leading destination for boating and marine innovation, focusing on initiatives that could benefit local operators, manufacturers, and service providers.

Mr. Amir Mansoor highlighted the key role NBAM plays in representing and supporting the boating community, while emphasizing the importance of collaboration in driving industry development. Mr. Rizvi Hassen expressed enthusiasm for fostering stronger ties and supporting efforts that align with the Maldives’ economic and maritime growth ambitions.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, reaffirming a shared commitment to developing strategic partnerships that would contribute to the continued progress and global recognition of the Maldivian boating industry.



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Construction Industry Forum 2025



The Construction Industry Forum 2025 (CIF'25) concluded its third successful edition today at JEN Maldives Malé by Shangri-La, marking another key achievement for the nation's growing construction sector. The event brought together senior decision-makers, policymakers, and prominent stakeholders from across the industry, reinforcing its reputation as one of the leading platforms for collaboration and strategic dialogue within the Maldivian construction community.

CIF'25 featured four engaging panel discussions that explored some of the most pressing issues shaping the future of construction in the Maldives. The first panel, "Building Financial Integrity and Resilience," focused on enhancing financial governance and fostering resilience to ensure long-term sector stability. Experts shared valuable perspectives on improving accountability, optimizing financial structures, and navigating economic fluctuations that impact the industry.

The second discussion, "Workforce Management and Policy Barriers," addressed critical challenges in labor management and regulatory frameworks. Speakers analyzed the barriers faced by contractors and developers while proposing actionable strategies to streamline workforce operations and strengthen institutional support for the sector's sustainable growth.

The third session, "Women in Construction," spotlighted the growing contribution of women in the field and emphasized the need for increased inclusivity and empowerment of female professionals. Participants highlighted success stories, discussed ongoing challenges, and proposed measures to ensure equal opportunities across all levels of the industry.

The final panel, "Market Adaptation of Real Estate and Retail Construction," examined evolving market dynamics and explored adaptive strategies in response to economic and consumer shifts. The discussion offered insights into innovation, diversification, and sustainability within the real estate and retail construction domains.

Adding further depth to the event, keynote presentations were delivered by Foresight Surveyors, Ooredoo Maldives, and Allied Insurance Company, each sharing forward-looking perspectives on innovation, connectivity, and emerging sector trends. Their contributions fostered meaningful conversations that inspired collaboration, strengthened professional networks, and underscored the industry's commitment to continuous progress.

The Construction Industry Forum 2025 once again demonstrated the sector's dedication to collective growth and innovation. Through the exchange of ideas and expertise, CIF'25 reaffirmed its vital role in shaping the future of construction in the Maldives—driving the industry toward greater efficiency, inclusivity, and resilience.



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Hawks Group Takes Flight

with New London and Istanbul Offices



**BRIDGING CONTINENTS.
HAWKS GROUP OPENS IN ISTANBUL**

THE HAWKS DIŞ TİCARET
LİMİTED ŞİRKETİ

Hawks Group proudly announces the expansion of its international footprint with the opening of two new offices — in London, United Kingdom, and Istanbul, Türkiye. These strategic developments mark another milestone in the Group's continuous growth and commitment to providing seamless global bunkering services.

The newly established Hawks London office stands as the latest addition to the Group's expanding global network. Strengthening its presence in Europe, this office enhances Hawks' capability to serve a wider range of clients across key maritime hubs. Mr. Mehmet Özgür Yaycıoğlu has joined Hawks as a Bunker Trader at the London office and is fully prepared to meet diverse bunkering requirements with professionalism and expertise.

In addition, Hawks Group is pleased to announce the launch of Hawks Dış Ticaret Ltd Şirketi, the Group's new trading office based in Istanbul, Türkiye. This expansion reflects Hawks' dedication to building a strong operational base within one of the world's most dynamic maritime regions. The Istanbul office will be led by an experienced team of Bunker Traders, including Mr. Cemil Ünsal and Mr. Göksu Mete, who are ready to provide tailored bunkering solutions and responsive customer service to clients operating across the region.

These new establishments reinforce Hawks Group's position as a trusted global partner in the bunkering industry, underscoring its vision to deliver excellence through strategic growth and operational expertise.



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**HAWKS GROUP ANNOUNCES THE
OPENING OF IT'S OFFICE IN LONDON**

THE HAWKS GROUP (UK) LTD

Insights from 20_2023-2025

BOARD MEETING

The 20th Executive Board Meeting of the National Boating Association of Maldives for the term 2023–2025 was held on 01st September 2025. The meeting brought together board members to deliberate on ongoing initiatives, address industry-related matters, and plan forthcoming activities with a shared vision for the continued growth and representation of the boating sector.

One of the key highlights was the progress update on the NBAM Calendar 2026. The project is moving ahead smoothly, with all feature pages and footer sections now confirmed following strong participation from the Board. The printing and distribution phases are scheduled for completion by the end of November 2025, ensuring timely delivery of this signature annual publication that continues to promote the Maldivian boating industry in a creative and engaging manner.

Discussions also touched upon ongoing harbor-related challenges, with positive engagement noted from relevant authorities. Constructive dialogue is expected to continue in the coming weeks, paving the way for a more collaborative and solution-oriented approach that supports industry operations and development.

Further discussions addressed venue rental concerns raised by event partners regarding the use of Central Park. Encouragingly, it was noted that the matter is under active review by the concerned management authorities, offering hope for a practical and mutually beneficial resolution that ensures the continued success of industry events.

While acknowledging that financial limitations had impacted participation in promotional events this year, members expressed renewed interest in exploring alternative means of collective representation at future expos and trade shows. The discussion reflected a shared determination to maintain NBAM’s visibility and engagement within both local and international platforms.

Preparations for the upcoming Annual General Meeting, scheduled for December 2025, were also highlighted. Informal nominations and discussions have already begun, setting a positive tone for a transparent and forward-looking election period.

Overall, the meeting reflected a productive exchange of ideas and a spirit of collaboration, as the Board continues to advance its mission of strengthening the boating industry and promoting the Maldives as a world-class maritime destination.





NOAH



ELCOME



MEDIUM EVENTS



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DAMAS

