

# Construction of Sixth Primary School



Project Sites Male

## 1. Background of Project

The Government of Maldives settled on the Primary Education Plan in 1980, and is proceeding with the expansion of elementary education and literacy education. In 1996, an enrollment ratio of 134% for elementary school and an illiteracy rate of 7% were achieved. The improvement of elementary education still continues to be placed as one of the most important issues. The improvement of the quality of elementary school education was aimed for in the 5th National Development Plan in 1997 – 1999, and in the education master plan in 1996 – 2005, with the target being to extend the elementary school system from a five-year system to a seven-year system. Due to the extension of the elementary education period and the increase in the population, there were concerns over a shortage in the number of classrooms. Because of these situations, the Government of Maldives requested Japanese Grant Aid for constructing the Sixth Primary School in Male and the supply of educational equipment.

## 2. Project Overview

### (1) Period of Cooperation

FY1997

### (2) Type of Cooperation

Grant Aid

### (3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Ministry of Education

### (4) Narrative Summary

#### 1) Overall Goal

The quality of education is improved and elementary education is extended to seven years.

#### 2) Project Purpose

In order to cope with the increase in population and the extension of the elementary education

period, and to secure the necessary classrooms, an elementary school is constructed in the capital city Male, and educational equipment is supplied to improve the quality of education.

### 3) Outputs

- The Sixth Primary School is constructed.
- Facilities such as a special classroom, science classroom, and gymnasium are installed.
- Educational materials are supplied.

### 4) Inputs

#### Japanese Side

Grant	752 million yen (E/N amount)
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#### Maldivan Side

Land	
Local cost	

## 3. Members of Evaluation Team

### Team Leader, Investigation on Management:

Tomoyuki NAITO, Project Monitoring and Coordination Division, Grant Aid Management Department, JICA

### Investigation on Procurement:

Reiko HAYASHI, Japan International Cooperation System

## 4. Period of Evaluation

16 July 2000 – 22 July 2000

## 5. Results of Evaluation

### (1) Relevance

The population concentration in Male was very much eased by the capital's functions being moved to the surrounding islands. However, the relevance for construc-

ting a new elementary school is still high when the shortage of classrooms due to the extension of the elementary education period is taken into consideration. In addition, the installment of special classrooms such as the science room made it possible to put in place a new curriculum, which would be necessary in the upper grades because of the expansion of the years of schooling for the elementary school.

## (2) Effectiveness

Discussion and cooperation between the Japan side and the Maldives side proceeded smoothly, and acquisition and leveling of the land were implemented without any problems. The construction was also completed in an extremely good condition and on schedule.

The special classrooms contribute to the improvement in the education quality. Use of some these classrooms were changed from the original plan however; the science room is made use of as it is, but due to the necessity to install a computer room, the music room is used as a computer room, and the art room is also used as a music room.

## (3) Efficiency

The construction work was completed in nine months, which was shorter than the planned 11 months. Therefore, it was possible to partly start to utilize classrooms from February 1999, which was before the planned handover date of March 1999. The construction can be said that was carried out efficiently.

## (4) Impact

The Sixth Primary School accepted 1,828 students in FY 2000, which was 12.3% of the total number of students in Male. The School accepted 1,306 upper grade elementary school students (6th and 7th grade), who were especially in shortage of classrooms, and this is equivalent to 20% of the total. Therefore, it has contributed to the elementary education policy of shifting to a seven-year system.

## (5) Sustainability

Since primary education is the highest priority issue of the Maldives Government, the budget for school management is fully secured and executed. At the time of the basic design study the necessary budget was calculated to be 5,679,805 Maldives rufiya (59 million yen); however, the budget for FY2000 is 8,880,814 Maldives rufiya (92 million yen). The school is independently carrying out activities to secure the management budget and collecting donations from parents as well. It can be concluded that the project has full sustainability.



Bird's-eye view of Male Island

## 6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

### (1) Lessons Learned

At the beginning, although procurement of computers were also requested, this was excluded from the plan as there was no concrete plan to use computers in education on the Maldives Government side at that time. Also, the availability of management and maintenance technology and costs was not clear at the time of request. After the completion, the Maldives Government has implemented computer education for the students by using one classroom, and by placing the selecting of computer equipment, education and management in the charge of a private company.

This sharing method, preparing a classroom that is available for computer education within the Japanese Grant Aid, and making the equipment and maintenance be the responsibility of the recipient country, can also be applied to other projects.

### (2) Recommendations

In Male, the number of students who want to be transferred from other islands is expected to increase. However, it is reasonable to regard that the quantitative improvement for reform of the school system from five years to seven years has been completed. In the future, it will be more important to shift to qualitative improvement of primary education and higher education.

## 7. Follow-up Situation

All budget, personnel, maintenance and administration issues are generally carried out without any problems, and there is no need for follow-up.