

## **PRESS RELEASE**

-For Immediate Release-

### **Press launch of the new book, titled “Paradise Drowning”, by President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives**

*Male’, (Friday) 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008* – The President of the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom is scheduled to launch his new book, titled “Paradise Drowning”, during the Business for the Environment Global Summit 2008 in Singapore. The press launch of the book will be held from 1010 hrs to 1040 hrs, on Tuesday, 22 April 2008, at the Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Guest of Honour of B4E 2008, Singapore’s Minister for National Development, Mr. Mah Bow Tan, His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of UNGC, Mr. Georg Kell, and the Co-Founder of the David Suzuki Foundation, Mr. David Suzuki are expected to attend the press conference.

“Paradise Drowning” is a collection of speeches by President Gayoom, on global environmental challenges and the security of Small Island Developing States. The book commemorates 20 years of environmental diplomacy by President Gayoom, who is widely accredited to have placed sea-level rise on the global agenda. The book also includes excerpts from his many interviews, as well as a catalogue of photographs on his environmental work.

In his Foreword to Paradise Drowning, the Chairman of the IPCC, Dr. R. K. Pachauri noted:

“President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has been a visionary who has consistently highlighted the dangers of climate change for the world as a whole and its dire implications for the islands that constitute the Republic of Maldives. There is no other world leader who has either been so eloquent in voicing concerns that all of humanity should be taking seriously and nor is there another world leader whose nation is so directly affected by the threat of climate change and sea level rise as President Gayoom.”

Commenting on the launch of new book, Presidential Spokesperson Mohamed Hussain Shareef (Mundhu) said:

“Paradise Drowning is a celebration of the President Gayoom’s tireless efforts to raise global awareness on the perils of climate change, particularly to his people. Many of the speeches have been widely-quoted in academic literature on the subject.

The book highlights the evolution of the debate in the international arena on the need for a pragmatic solution to climate change. It also touches on the Asian Tsunami of December 2004 and its devastating effects on the tiny low-lying islands of the Maldives.”

Members of the press corp. are invited to attend the launch, during which President Gayoom will field questions on the book and his Keynote Address at B4E 2008.

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