

# The Maldives Independence Day Special

## Strong commitment on climate issues

**HASSAN SOBIR**

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES TO JAPAN



On behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Maldives in Japan, I wish to extend my most heartfelt greetings to all fellow Maldivians and friends, in particular to fellow nationals

living in Japan as they celebrate our 57th anniversary of Independence.

On behalf of the government of the Republic of Maldives, and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to express my sincere and deepest respect to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress and to the distinguished members of the imperial family, and wish them excellent health and happiness.

I wish also to convey my warm greetings to H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and to the friendly and brotherly people

of Japan. On behalf of the government and people of the Maldives, I express my sincere appreciation to the government of Japan for the invaluable support and cooperation extended to us in our efforts in combating the COVID-19 pandemic and reiterate our commitment to deepening our long-standing bilateral friendship in the coming years.

Maldives gained its independence on July 26, 1965, and ever since then the republic has been committed to building upon its accomplishments, including our transition from one of the poorest countries in the world to a middle-income country. As a small island state, Maldives has been extremely vulnerable to environmental challenges. Nevertheless, under the leadership of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and his renewed commitment to sustainable development under the “blue economy” policy, Maldives has prioritized human rights issues and implemented institutional reforms for democratic governance, women’s empowerment and advancing the climate agenda. Maldives is also re-engaging with our international partners and making significant progress in

the U.N.’s Human Development Index.

Today I am very proud to highlight that despite all the developmental challenges and being one of the smallest countries in the world, last year Maldives set an example by winning the election for the presidency of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly by our Foreign Minister H.E. Abdulla Shahid, on its first attempt. The victory means Shahid will be only the sixth president from a small island developing state to preside over the General Assembly in the history of the U.N.

Despite the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy, the timely and vigilant steps taken by the president have allowed the government to sustain the tourism sector while ensuring precautions against infection. Today, the government is accelerating efforts to recover, rebuild and restore tourism as the pandemic wanes. As part of this effort to reassure world markets, Maldives remains open with one of the most accommodative border policies in the world and remains one of the safest destinations for tourists to enjoy.



**Then-Prime Minister Ibrahim Nasir (third from left) attends the ceremony for the signing of independence documents on July 26, 1965.**

EMBASSY OF MALDIVES

To support the government’s continued initiatives to strengthen the tourism sector, the embassy hopes to continue engagements with close partners to increase closer investment, trade and tourism exchanges between Japan and Maldives.

This year, we are celebrating the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Japan. I am certain that this will be a remarkable year for the Japan-Maldives relationship, and that there will be close cooperation between both countries.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*

## Congratulations on the Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Maldives

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