

CONCEPT NOTE

3R AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY FORUM

17-19 April 2025
Meemu Atoll, Republic of Maldives
Mulak School



BACKGROUND

For a number of reasons, including limited freshwater sources and hesitancy towards treated water, PET bottles of drinking water are shipped to inhabited islands regularly. One study, that looked at Magoodhoo, an island within the Faafu Atoll with a population of nearly 7000, found that over 6,000 1.5 liter PET bottles are brought from the capital Malé to the island monthly, totaling nearly 75,000 bottles annually. The import of these bottles also contributes to carbon emissions from shipping, and costs the average household nearly \$200 USD per year.

At local level there has been many initiatives to promote 3R concepts among the island communities, one such initiative is the “The Heavenly Mulah” initiative from the M.Mulah Council supported by the Community Empower Linkage (CEL) which is a local NGO established in M.Mulah.

One of the main objectives of “The Heavenly Mulah” initiative is to make M.Mulah a plastic free island, though this sounds a bit optimistic both the island council and CEL have been able to successfully execute few projects to reduce single use plastic in M.Mulah. One such project executed by CEL was the UNDP heavenly Mulah "No Plastic Island" this was a pilot project of reducing plastic water bottles within the household level in M. Mulah, 50 water filters provided to the household and as a continuation and in order to achieve 100 percent coverage of household water filters under the PLEASE project 200 additional water filters were provided. At the end of the project M.Mulah will be one of the few islands that have phased out single used plastic bottles at household level in the Maldives

The SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) encourages companies and business entities to adopt sustainable practices, SDG 17 calls for strengthening the means of implementation and effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships to achieve all Sustainable Development Goals in all countries under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this regard, CEL is organizing the 1st Atoll level 3R Forum in M.Mulah. This forum will provide a unique opportunity to have a public-private roundtable dialogue to advance 3R both at island and atoll level. This interactive event will uniquely feature public-private partnership dialogues and exchanges in order to explore various partnerships and sustainable business opportunities in 3R and Resource efficiency conceptual models. While the government and private representatives will have opportunities to share their specific issues, needs and requirements, including possible investment and PPP opportunities, the private sector representatives will be able to showcase their experience, expertise and technical knowledge in various areas of 3R and waste management.

1st Atoll level 3R Forum in M.Mulah will be organized under the overall theme “*3R and Resource Efficiency models for M,Atoll*” to gain policy and scientific insights to how resource efficiency and 3R could be advanced in achieving SDGs, including discussions on the role of 3R and resource efficiency in realizing smart, resilient, inclusive and livable local islands. The Forum also seeks to actively engage the private and business sectors not only to demonstrate their expertise, technical knowledge on how and range of services through the exhibitions, but also to explore various collaborative models and partnership options towards effective implementation of the “The Heavenly Mulah” initiative.

2.OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the first 3R Forum in M. Mulah are to:

- Provide policy and scientific insights to the contribution of 3R and resource efficiency in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Discuss to accelerate integration of 3R and circular economy in the development plans of Meemu Atoll
- Address to the challenges in implementing 3R at island levels
- Discuss Gender inclusivity and participation in promoting 3R concepts in Meemu Atoll
- Discuss the evolution of 3R technologies and practices and private sector initiatives;
- Discuss various policy options, institutional measures, partnership mechanisms and technological interventions on achieving “The Heavenly Mulah” initiative.

3.EXPECTED OUTCOME

To provide innovative and smart solutions in terms of policy, institution, technology, infrastructure, financing and partnerships towards effective implementation of “The Heavenly Mulah” initiative as well as to gain policy and scientific insights to achieve SDGs under 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

4.CO- ORGANIZERS

1st Atoll level 3R Forum in M.Mulah will be organized by the Community Empowerment Linkages (CEL) in partnership with Meemu Atoll council under the assistance of the PLEASE project.

5. SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

1st Atoll level 3R Forum in M.Mulah Forum is expected to be supported by various government offices, international organizations, donor agencies and private companies. Government offices include MOCCE, EPA, LGA, Min of Cities Atoll council and island council, WDC and Mulak school and environment club. International organization include World Bank and Private companies include Cinamon Hakuras Hura Resort, Bank of Maldives Muli branch, Maldives Inland Revenue Authority Muli branch

6.GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The geographic coverage of the Forum is from all the islands in Meemu Atoll. all the schools and the environment clubs of the representative schools.

7.PARTICIPANTS

Participation in the Forum is by invitation only. It is expected that approximately 100 participants, including high-level government representatives from Island and Atoll council representatives, international experts, research institutes and resource persons. Invitation will be officially sent by CEL

Participation in the Forum is free of charge. A limited number of travel supports will be available on a priority basis for nominated government representatives from the ministry of environment, ministry of cities, environment protection agency, ministry of education.

8. OFFICIAL PRE AND PARALLEL EVENTS

The 1st Atoll level 3R Forum in M.Mulah will have several pre and parallel events as follows:

1.Pre-Event: M.Atoll 3R Exhibition for Schools

Co-organizers: CEL

Supported by: PLEASE project – World Bank

Start Date: 18th April 2025

Exhibition Date: 19th April 2025

Time: 08:00 – 16:00

Location: Mulak School hall

Purpose and Objectives: M.Atoll 3R Exhibition for Schools is a 3R Exhibition open for all schools in M.Atoll. The objectives of the Exhibition are below:

- To explore options on reusing plastic at island level
- Increase awareness among island communities on 3R concepts

2.Parallel Event: 3R Partners and participants Network event

Co-organizers: Community Empowerment Linkage (CEL)

Date: 17th-19th April 2025

Time: 0900 to 2200

Location: Mulak School hall

Purpose and Objectives: This event will take place as the second side event of The 1st Atoll level 3R Forum in M.Mulah. The purpose of the event is to:

- (1) Share good and sustainable practices to solve environmental issues at community level.
- (2) Discuss how we can create and strengthen citizens' networks and make use of the network to achieve the goals.
- (4) Discuss and address specific objectives we can work together and collaborate to achieve.

10. CONTACT

Community Empowerment Linkage (CEL)

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Annex 1- SIDE EVENT 1

SAAFU MEEM 3R SCHOOL EXHIBITION



ABOUT THE PROGRAMME:

The "Saafu Meem 3R School Exhibition" is a program that is intended to foster a more environmentally friendly mindset and encourage the adoption of 3R practices among school management, teachers, non-teaching personnel, students, and their families.

OBJECTIVE:

The Exhibition is designed to increase environmental awareness, and promote 3R practices in schools. Additionally, it is intended to encourage schools to establish environment friendly and 3R policies.

HOW IT WORKS:

The 3R exhibition will be open to all schools of Meemu Atoll . Each school can submit their exhibits under 3 age categories. Age category under 10, under 15 and under 21. The best 10 exhibits will be evaluated and displayed on the 3R forum side event.

All schools interested should first Register for the exhibition. The link below is the registration form.

(Please insert the link)

Upon registration for the competition each school will be provided with details on the competition requirements

EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

- Should be a 3R exhibit
- Should be made of 60% plastic and the rest should be from recyclable material
- Each participating school must exhibit a total of 10 items
- Should not be bigger than a normal school desk table size of 2 feet by 2 feet

JUDGING:

The exhibits from the schools will be judged by an independent panel of judges appointed by CEL.

- **JUDGING PANEL:**

A member from Meem atoll council

A member from Ministry of Environment and Energy

A member from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

A member from PLEASE project team

A member from a selected NGO

- **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

- This award will be judged accordingly;

Innovation: (15%) This criteria would be judged based on whether the project demonstrates a new idea, method or device to achieve the purpose of the competition.

Creativity: (20%) This criteria is assessed by how much the project demonstrates creative use of waste in making the new idea into a reality.

Usability: (25%) This criteria is assessed on how the Final Product could be utilized in daily life? Or how much the useful life of the waste is extended by utilization of the product by the general public

Plastic Minimization: (25%) This criteria is judged on how the project idea contributes to minimization of waste within the community

Quality and workmanship: (15%) This criteria is judged based on the amount of effort has been put into the quality and finishing of the Product.

DEADLINE

- . exhibition registration opens from 23rd Feb 2025 to 26th Feb 2025
- . exhibitors item preparations is open from 27th Feb 2025 to 8th April 2025
- . each participating school will collect the items to school on 10th April 2025
- . all the collected items from schools has to send their items to hosting place on 16th April 2025
- . exhibited items will be judged by panel on 18th April 2025

PRIZES

- The 1st place prize – MVR: 3000
- The 2nd place prize – MVR: 2000
- The 3rd place prize - MVR: 1500
- Best 3R school – awarded by trophy and price money of MVR 3500
- 4th to 10th place prize – certificates