



Press Release

Kuramathi Island Resort's 'Eco Centre' Claims an International Environment Prize

Kuramathi Island Resort has been officially recognised as a major contributor to exercise better environment sustainability methods within its operations and guest experience provided. By winning the prestigious World of TUI International Environmental Award, the Eco Centre on Kuramathi Island Resort becomes the first winner of this renowned acclamation within the Asia Pacific region. A colourful function took place at the Eco Centre of Kuramathi Island Resort, with the President of the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency President Mohamed Nasheed, as Chief Guest. Together with the award, prize money worth 10'000 euros was also granted to the Eco Centre. According to TUI, the financial assistance that accompanies the award is an investment in reliable partnership that benefits the natural environment and the local population in their destinations.

The Eco Centre, headed by Dr. Reinhard Kikinger, has been playing a vital role for more than 10 years to protect the coral reefs in the Maldives. Coral reefs are one of the world's most bio diverse systems, but at the same time is also one of the most sensitive ecosystems.

"The award itself shows that our commitment to this important cause, and we shall enforce stronger tactics to maintain environmental sustainability on this island with the immense cooperation from our team." says General Manager, Abdul Latheef. Indeed, the influential concept of the Kuramathi Eco Centre for integrating nature conservation with tourism is based on research, the sustainable use of resources and the raising of public awareness, which are performed in cooperation with Kuramathi team members and the neighbouring island of Rasdhoo.

Director of Universal Enterprises, Ali Noordeen decided to set up the Eco Centre initially to create awareness about the delicate ecosystem following the El Niño of 1998. His objective was to educate tourists and our team alike of this fragile yet bio diverse ecosystem, and help preserve and protect this natural wonder.

The TUI international environmental prize, awarded for the first time back in 1991, is conferred on environmental and nature protection initiatives that have made a crucial contribution in an exemplary fashion to the protection and conservation of nature and biodiversity in the holiday destinations served by World of TUI.

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Note to Editors:

Kuramathi is one of the first resorts to open in the Maldives and is part of Universal Resorts of Universal Enterprises Private Ltd, a 100% Maldivian owned company, and the pioneers of tourism in the Maldives.

An emerald jewel in the turquoise Maldivian waters, Kuramathi is a stunning island retreat with acres of luxuriant vegetation surrounded by spectacular beaches tapering into an endless sandbank. Villas blend contemporary design and nature, and are set on the beach, amongst lush gardens or over water. Four poster beds, open-air bathrooms, rainfall showers or Jacuzzi, large outdoor decks with inviting daybeds or sun loungers, are just some of the creature-comforts enjoyed by our guests. Dining options are diverse with many restaurants, bars and great-value all inclusive packages, topped off with Maldivian service – welcoming, genuine and friendly.

Note to Picture Editors:

Images of Kuramathi can be viewed via the website www.kuramathi.com

High resolution images are available for download at: www.universalimagesonline.com/kuramathi/

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