

Construction material boom due to Maldivian demand

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by Zacki Jabbar

Maldivian purchases of construction related goods and services from Sri Lanka, have increased by about ten per cent since the Maldives Construction Fair was launched in 2006, South Asia Exhibition Services, Managing Director Arjun Dharmadasa said yesterday.

He, told "The Island" that with the new Maldivian government's policy of attracting maximum foreign participation in its development programmes, this year's MCF, the fourth in its series scheduled to commence in Male on April 20, would be an ideal opportunity for Sri Lankan suppliers and service providers to increase their export volumes, thereby bringing in valuable foreign exchange to their country.

"Maldives has thanked Sri Lanka for all the support it has extended in various fields. This means our entrepreneurs would be more than welcome in their country. In such an environment the 30 Sri Lankan companies and organizations participating in MCF 2009, are bound to reap the rewards. The Maldives imports almost everything from nails to cement."

Dharmadasa, pointed out that it was not just Sri Lanka which benefits, because most participants usually engage Maldivian agents to market and promote sales of their products. "So it's a win win situation for both our business communities."

Considerable international aid has flowed into the Maldives for implementation of its ambitious projects in a fully privatized environment. This would naturally increase its demand for construction related materials and services, he observed.

Organized by the Maldives Exhibition and Conference Services, in association with the Maldives Association of



Construction Industry (MACI), this year's Fair, Dharmadasa said will showcase the latest products and services in the market. Over 4000 trade and business visitors



are expected to participate, surpassing the 2008 figure of 3127. "They include building and construction industry personnel, agents, distributors, contractors, state and private sector manufacturers, engineers, architects, interior designers and the general public. The Council Pavilion, will be used as the venue for one to one business meetings, in addition to showcasing promotional material and samples of the participants."

He, said that in addition to meetings with the Maldivian business community, which would be arranged by the Maldives National Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Sri Lanka High Commission in Maldives, arrangements have been made for networking sessions with several ministries and departments including the

Economic Development and Trade Ministry, Foreign Investment Services Bureau and also MACI.

The Sri Lankan companies and organizations that would be participating in MCF 2009,

include True Value Products Private Limited, Alpha Industries, Bluescope Lysaght Lanka, Buddhika Marketing, Chevron Lubricants Lanka, Enviromec International, Delmege Interior Décor, Development Interplan (Ceylon), Eco Homes Lanka, Elcardo Industries, Euro Tiles Specialized Marble & Granite Contractor, Fairway Condominiums, Foster and Reed, GTA Refrigeration (Pvt) Ltd, H.E. Engineering, Iceman Technologies, International Construction Consortium, Isuru Engineering, Lafarge Cement, Lanka Corrugated Industries, Mazda Plastic Lanka, Novel Investments, R.M.I. Steel Building Systems, True Value Products, Trittech Engineers, V.V.K. Alucon Industries, the Sri Lanka - Maldives Bilateral Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Australian Trade Commission.