

# Gateway to the Maldives

## INTERVIEW WITH ADIL MOOSA

MANAGING DIRECTOR, MALDIVES AIRPORTS COMPANY LTD



**ADIL MOOSA** is a Master's graduate in accounting and finance from the University of Macquarie in Australia. He began his career as a project officer with MACL and over 22 years worked in numerous areas including as head of finance and investments before being appointed MD. He is also a board member of Maldives Inflight Catering which is a joint venture between Singapore Airports Terminal Services (SATS) and MACL.

**The transportation sector is closely integrated with trade and tourism as well as contributing greatly to the socio-economic development of the Maldives. How does MACL contribute towards the development of the country's aviation and transportation sector?**

Given our country's geography, we need a good transport system. Maldives Airports Company Ltd (MACL) is an independent company that runs Ibrahim Nasir International Airport (INIA). As tourism grows, so does the airport. Right now we at maximum capacity and so we intend to build a new terminal, runway, cargo and fuel facilities. INIA is strategically located in the middle of the country, making it a hub for domestic sea and air transportation.

**Please explain the ambitious extension plans taking place at INIA.**

After extension work is completed, the airport will be able to cater for seven million passengers a year, while our new runway will be long enough to receive the Airbus A380. We currently fuel manually, but once our new fuel infrastructure is completed we will have a hydrant system, which is safer and more efficient. Our old cargo terminal will be transformed into a modern facility and the duty free section will be expanded threefold. Work on the apron extension will be completed in a few months' time, which will provide more parking space for aircraft. The domestic terminal will also be extended, providing much space for services.

**As MACL's new MD, what are your strategic priorities and what do you hope to accomplish during your tenure?**

Along with the new projects and developments which will be completed in the next three years, there are other areas I would like to focus on. We currently have a lot of constraints with our existing facilities and as well as services. To make our services more efficient we have introduced enterprise resource planning and an airport operation data base (AODB). Work has already begun on a new cargo system, and also to establish ISAGO for the safety audit of ground operations. At present the airlines audit themselves, but after we establish ISAGO it will be much easier for the airlines, as there will be a uniform audit system. We are focused on trying to improve our service and the training and development of personnel. In short, my aim is to improve the overall performance of the whole airport.

**What are your personal aspirations for the development of the Maldives over the coming years?**

My goal is to see these projects through. Once they are completed, you will see a whole new airport which will be the gateway to the Maldives. Already the government has started working on a new bridge project connecting Malé and Hulhumalé. Imagine the new airport connected to the city by a bridge; my aim is to make all these to a reality. After the completion of the airport Mega Project, the face of Maldives will look stunningly beautiful. E



INIA, one of the world's most picturesque airports