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## MALDIVES CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER 2006

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Maldives being a party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, has been celebrating Ozone day since 1995. The purpose of celebrating this day is to create public awareness about the substances that play a significant role in the depletion of the earth's Ozone layer, which in-turn plays a vital role in protecting life on earth from harmful Ultraviolet radiation. Also to highlight the threats faced by all living things due to this process and to make people aware that these threats are caused by man-made chemicals such as Chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs, produced in refrigeration and air-conditioning industries.

The activities linked with Ozone day this year are specially targeted to children who will in the future play an important role in taking steps to create public awareness in preventing the buying and using of ozone depleting substances and to create public awareness about the dangers to life on earth associated with the depletion of the ozone layer.

The activities carried out to celebrate Ozone day are as follows:

## 1-A 'Children's evening'

The Environment Research Centre of Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water, held a 'children's evening' on 16th September 2006 at Children's Park in the capital island, Male'. About five thousand children along with their parents attended this event. The whole park was decorated with colorful banners with interesting and useful ozone related messages and facts.

*Children starting to arrive at the park to participate in the ozone activities*



This evening was a huge success as the children took part in the fun, 'ozone-related' games and activities. These games and activities include;

## An Ozone – Snake and Ladder Game

The snake and ladder game attracted a large amount of children and was played with ten players at a time. The children were much excited to step on to the 20 square feet board with ozone related messages to go down the 'snakes' and up the 'ladders' in order to finish the game. Winners from each batch received gifts.



**Right:** Children queuing for their turn to play the game

**Left:** Children playing 'Snake and Ladder'

## Take a pictures with Ozzy

A number of kids got attracted to this fun spot and stood next to the life-size Ozzy Ozone to a memorable picture of the day.

**Right:** A child pauses to take a picture with Ozzy Ozone



## Drawing posters at 'Ozzy's drawing point'

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Children were asked to draw and color anything that comes in to their mind when we say 'ozone'. Children of all ages took part in this exciting drawing activity. We have selected as much as 40 to 50 outstanding drawings from this event.



*Children drawing at 'Ozzy's drawing point'*

## Lucky draw

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This point too attracted many children as it gave out attractive gifts, ozone badges and sweets.



*Children at the lucky draw point*

## Coloring a 6 ft by 4 ft ozone Mural

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The 6 by 4 feet Mural spread on the table drew the attention of many children. This huge mural was beautifully colored and completed by the end of the evening.

*Coloring the ozone Mural*



## Face painting

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The face painting activity was one of the most popular activities of the day. Children were very excited to get their faces painted with 'ozone' cartoons and other related drawings.



*Face painting*

## Distribution of 'ozone' badges

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Different types of colorful ozone badges containing simple messages on ozone layer were distributed to the children. Children found these badges decorative to stack these on to their clothes.

*A child holds some of the badges distributed at the park*



## 2- Live TV Ozone Quiz

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A live children's phone quiz, lasting one hour in the prime time for children, was broadcast on the evening of September 16th, 2006. Puppet Ozzy was one of the presenters at the show. It conveyed a number of messages to the children. Many children took part in the quiz show, and the children who got the first, second and third places



received valuable prizes from sponsors of the event at a special ceremony held to distribute prizes and certificates for the winners of the day's events.

*children's phone quiz*

## 3 -Media Coverage

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The local Television, Radio and the Dailies covered the day's events and broadcast special reports and interviews regarding the day. A special Ozone report, highlighting the threats of UV radiation with the depletion of the ozone layer by man-made chemicals, was telecast on the national television. A special documentary "Return of the Ozone Layer; Are we there yet?" by UNEP was also telecast on the 16th of Sep 2006, on National television.

## 4- Award Ceremony

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A special ceremony was held at the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water, to distribute prizes and certificates to the winners, sponsors and contributors of the day's events. The Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Honorable Mr. Ahmed Abdullah honored the event. Senior officials of the ministry also participated in the event.



**Top:** Prizes were distributed to winners of 'live TV Ozone quiz'

**Bottom:** Introducing of the Ozone Day 2006 Report.



