

**NOTIFICATION CONCERNING THE DECISION UNDER PARAGRAPH 1  
OF ANNEX III OF THE AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION  
OF ARTICLE VII OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE 1994**

**MALDIVES**

The following communication, dated 27 February 2002, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives.

To successfully adopt and apply the World Trade Organization (WTO) valuation rules by May 2002, the Maldives Customs Service obtained Technical Assistance from the Asian Development Bank. To this end, a capacity-building project to create the infrastructure needed to strengthen the valuation capacity, enhance transparency and accountability has been implemented.

The project comprised three components:

- Improve customs administration and operational functions
- Develop a supportive legal framework
- Establish a valuation database and price analysis tool

The project commenced in March 2001

Current Status

- The drafted Customs Act has been translated into Dhivehi (Maldivian language) and submitted to the Law Commission. This is the first practical step for its passage through Parliament.
- The drafted Regulations and Handbook have been translated similarly. After the Draft Act has been passed, the Regulation and the Handbook will be finalized and implemented accordingly.
- Customs have provided overall valuation training to 246 officers, in-depth training to 45 officers and Audit and Investigation training to 41 officers.
- A series of public awareness programmes have been conducted, as well 149 participated from the trading community.
- A price valuation database has been created and this data source is being used for analysis and reference purposes.
- Post-clearance audit procedures are already in place.

Considering the progress achieved thus far by the Maldives Customs Service in completing the prerequisite activities as stated in WTO Committee on Customs Valuation's Circular reference G/VAL/W/69 dated 26 May 2000 (00-2141), the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation would be implemented in Maldives as soon as the legislation is enacted by Parliament.

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