

“The Joy of Learning in STEM” (An Ilmy Foavahi Session)

By Dr. Abdul Muhsin Mohamed

An Ilmy Foavahi Session on “The Joy of Learning in STEM” was held on 31 May 2023, 1-2pm, in the B-Block Auditorium of MNU. The panelists were Ms Shuhudha Rizwan (Senior Curriculum Development Analyst, National Institute of Education), Ms Wadheea Thaufeeq (Head of the Department, Department of Environment and Natural Science, FEST) and Dr Abdul Muhsin Mohamed (Senior Lecturer, Department of Environment and Natural Science, FEST).

As the moderator of the panel discussion, Ms Wadheea Thaufeeq introduced STEM Education. In her introduction she stated that STEM Education is educating students in the four specific disciplines of SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. She also mentioned that STEM Education integrates concepts of the four disciplines into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world applications.

Ms. Shuhudha Rizwan stated that the current National Curriculum used in the Maldives is designed to facilitate STEM education through the subject matter content of different subjects and key competencies. She mentioned that the project-based learning approach is currently being used in many schools, particularly in classes from foundation stage to key stage 3, in order to integrate the subject matter across various subjects, which is the standard practice in STEM education. Furthermore, to facilitate STEM education at the school level, several projects are underway, including the development of STEM labs in a number of schools under the Atoll Education Development Project of the World Bank



According to Dr Abdul Muhsin Mohamed, STEM Education is not limited to School Education. He said that there are STEM fields in higher education and STEM jobs that generally pay much more than normal technical jobs.

A STEM field, Dr Muhsin explained, is a field of study that falls under the umbrella of science, technology, engineering or mathematics that emphasizes research, innovation or the development of new technologies. According to Dr Muhsin, a STEM job requires skills in one or more of these STEM subject areas and involves using problem-solving skills to apply knowledge from these areas.

Ms Wadheea further explained that STEM Education is in various stages of development in over 96 countries in the world and that USA and the developed world leads in the area. She referred to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to a projected growth of STEAM-related occupations of 10.8% between 2021 and 2031 compared to 4.9% in non-STEAM-related occupations. She also stated that the median wage in 2021 was also higher in STEAM occupations (\$95,420) compared to non-STEAM occupations (\$40,120) according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Many questions from the audience were answered during the session that continued for an extra 30 minutes.



FEST Kulhudhufushi Campus Trip

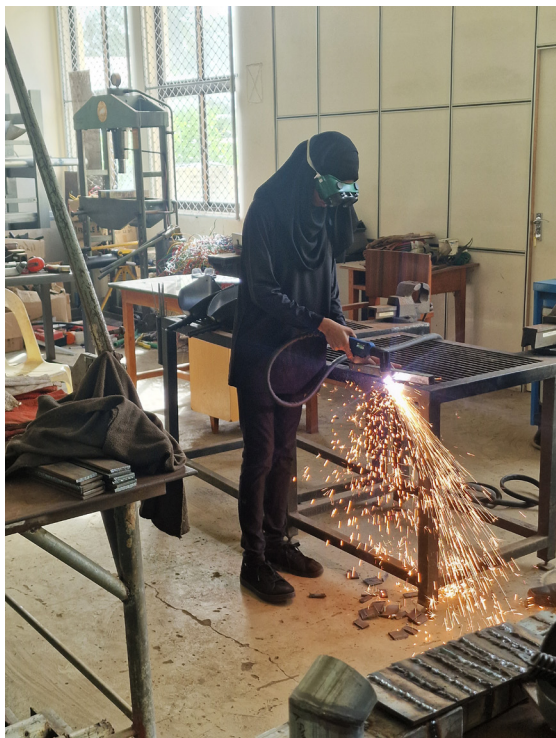
By Hassan Shiraz

A campus visit was made to HDh.Kulhudhuffushi Campus (KC) from 9th to 10th June 2023. This was made by faculty Dean, Adam Khalid, Head of Engineering department, Hassan Shiraz, and Senior Administrative Officer, Saamiya Ali. The purpose of this trip was to evaluate the courses currently conducted by Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology (FEST), and to provide information about the on-going courses and newly developed engineering courses to be offered by FEST in term II 2023. In addition, as part of the course promotion activities an information session was conducted for the students who had completed their O'level education.



The promotional activities were focused in computer science and engineering courses offered by FEST. The students who were interested in computer science field were given the opportunity to learn how to do computer programming and demonstrated how to assemble a computer system. This session was facilitated by Senior Lecturer, Mohamed Hussain.

In addition, students who were interested in Engineering field were given the opportunity to obtain hands-on experience on welding and metal fabrication. This session was facilitated by KC lecturer, Logendran Dhaniskodi.



An interactive session on the operation and maintenance of marine engines was facilitated by KC Senior Tutor, Ibrahim Faisal.

At the end of the promotional events, participants were awarded with certificates.

Exploring New Horizons: My Unforgettable Journey at the Second Commonwealth Chemistry Conference in Trinidad

By Ibrahim Shareef BSc student (Department of Environment and Natural Science)

As someone who grew up surrounded by the serene white sandy beaches and turquoise waters of the Maldives, there are moments when the allure of such beauty becomes boring. I often wished for a change of scenery, mountains to climb, caves to explore, and rocky landscapes to admire. Luckily, I had the incredible chance to experience all of that during my visit to the second Commonwealth Chemistry Congress-Partners for the Goals in Trinidad (23rd May -25th May 2023). It was an opportunity I got from The Maldives National University (MNU) been a third-year Bachelor of Science (Chemistry) student. Three other lecturers from Department of Environment and Natural Science (DENS) also attended the conference. Though science courses are new in Higher Education Institutes of Maldives, different fields of BSc courses are offered by the Faculty of Engineering Science and Technogym (FEST) of MNU. I enrolled to BSc degree at FEST in 2020 January.

The conference in Trinidad and Tobago brought together brilliant minds from all over the globe, fostering connections and sharing groundbreaking research and innovative ideas. I am excited to share my experiences from this prestigious event. The conference provided a unique platform for me to connect with leading experts in the field of chemistry, including professionals from neighboring countries like India and Sri Lanka. Initially, I felt a bit out of place, expecting formal attire and tea parties at such a significant event. However, I quickly found myself at ease, engaging in conversations and exchanging ideas with experts from various fields, searching for individuals with similar interests and expertise.

The conference in Trinidad and Tobago brought together brilliant minds from all over the globe, fostering connections and sharing groundbreaking research and innovative ideas. I am excited to share my experiences from this prestigious event. The conference provided a unique platform for me to connect with leading experts in the field of chemistry, including professionals from neighboring countries like India and Sri Lanka. Initially, I felt a bit out of place, expecting formal attire and tea parties at such a significant event. However, I quickly found myself at ease, engaging in conversations and exchanging ideas with experts from various fields, searching for individuals with similar interests and expertise.

Trinidad and Tobago is well-known for its rich culture diverse population. The conference hosted a social and cultural event to facilitate networking and exchanging cultures. As a participant, I also got the opportunity to explore a bit of local Trinidadian culture, music, and dance. It also provided opportunities for socializing and



building relationships further than academic and professional settings.

Beyond the conference hall, I also embarked on my first mountain hike, ventured into a cave, and observed tiny bats that differed from our fruit bats back home. What fascinated me the most was how the flora and fauna changed as we moved from the coastal areas to the mountainous regions, it felt like entering a whole new world. I encountered impressive rock formations and even climbed some giant boulders, bringing back a few cherished souvenirs. Additionally, I had the opportunity to learn about the rich history of Trinidad and Tobago's people, which I encourage you to explore further on your own.

Attending this event was an unforgettable experience that broadened my horizons and fueled my motivation to pursue scientific research. I am grateful for the chance to participate in such a prestigious gathering and eagerly look forward to applying the knowledge and connections.



