

Short Courses: “Oceans and Global Changes” & “The making of the Maldives Archipelago in the last 60 million years”

By: Dr. André W. Droxler



Since I became Professor Emeritus at Rice three years ago, it gave my career a second wind. Freed from duties to my own department, I became available to offer my services, knowledge, and enthusiasm to other institutions, in particular the ones which are not as fortunate and in need to be helped growing and succeed. The Fulbright scholarship I was awarded in April 2023 and my teaching experience of many years offered me a unique opportunity to share my extensive knowledge on the long and short terms geological evolutions of the Maldives reefal carbonate systems to the students and faculty members at the Maldives National University. Since August 2023, I taught two different courses at MNU, highly relevant to the people of the Maldives. Because the islands of the Maldives Archipelago average in elevation less than 2 m

above sea level, their own existence are threatened by future sea level rise linked to global warming. and engage in robust discussions concerning the dynamic trends in engineering, science, and technology geared towards sustainable development.

My first course “Oceans and Global Changes” was an introductory course which I have taught for many years at Rice University, modified according to our increasing understanding of the current issues related to climate change and global warming, resulting in sea level rise and ocean acidification. These topics are highly relevant to the well-being of the Maldives population and the environmental conditions of their coral reefs. Such a course surprisingly was not currently taught at MNU.





The second course “The making of the Maldives Archipelago in the last 60 million year” was built on a compilation of the main scientific results, gathered in the past thirty years. During that time, a vast new knowledge has been gained in our understanding of the overall making, through millions of years, of the Maldives Archipelago which consists only of the exposed tip of a large, hundreds of kilometers in size, and 2-3 km-thick carbonate (limestone) edifice, also referred as platform. Understanding the complex evolution of the Maldives Archipelago own foundations is highly relevant to bring, in the overall regional and geological context, the challenging future of the Maldives. The course was created as a knowledge transfer to the people of the Maldives in a comprehensible fashion for non-earth scientists.



Site visit to 'The Creek view'

By: Lidiya - Department of Engineering



As a part of our curriculum, a site visit was organized to a mixed use residential complex at Hulhumale 'The Creek View' on 28th October, 2023. A group of 20 Students from civil engineering, interior designing & Arts in architecture design was engaged in the visit along with the module leader. The Creek View at Hulhumale Phase-1 is a pristine, spacious condominium project brought by the company SASE Glut Joint-venture Private Limited. The development is located at Lot 11445, Kuredhimaa Hingun overseeing the creek separating phase I and phase II of Hulhumale'.



The building comprises of G+13 floors with 114 apartments having two, three & four room units. Ground and the first floor is allocated for commercial purposes with parking arranged at the basement, ground and first floor. Amenities such as the pool and playgrounds are included in the plan. In addition, the entrance lobby is designed with a waiting & meeting area. Works were commenced during April 2022 and so far they have done with the structural frame works and ongoing with block works, plastering and MEP works.

General Manager Mr. Abdulla Sadiq welcomed us to the site. Administration Officer provided PPE kit and portable drinking water, followingly Safety Engineer detailed the site safety (HSE) induction to the students. Project Manager Mr.Sayed Taimoor briefed the ongoing construction works.



Project engineer Mr. Arasu kumarasamy accompanied and explained wall partitions, floor roof systems, utility services, fire fighting system and rain water disposal. Construction practices and Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) used, work processes, work force, Quality & safety (QHSE) standards followed were discussed during the visit.



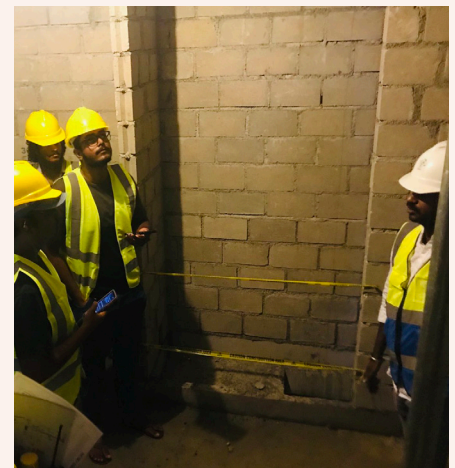
Site Engineer Mr.Annadhurai sellamuthu explained local acts and regulations practiced. Students were divided into groups and each group was followed by site supervisors, draftsman and safety officer till the end of the visit.



Along the visit students asked pre-set questions and onsite quires to the staffs. With the permission of project manager they collected photographs, building plans and services drawing for preparation of site visit report.



We express our gratitude to Mr. Ahemd Shiyam, Managing Director & Team Glut Investments Pvt. Ltd for such a great opportunity to the students of FEST, MNU.



South Ari MPA Expedition: Marine Students joined the Whale Shark research in South Ari Atoll

By: Ahmed Aslam Waheed - Department of Environment and Natural Science

The South Ari Marine Protected Area (MPA) is one of the Maldives' most recognized marine protected areas and is known primarily for its diverse marine life, including large pelagic species such as whale sharks. This is a very popular MPA is a among divers and snorkelers

The primary reason for the establishment of this MPA is the conservation of its resident whale shark populations in Maldives. While these creatures are known to be nomadic, the region of the South Ari Atoll sees a consistent presence of whale sharks, making it one of the few places globally where these magnificent animals can be observed year-round.

The protected status helps ensure that tourism and interactions with these animals are conducted in a sustainable and non-harmful manner. Regulations and guidelines are in place to prevent overcrowding and to ensure that marine life is not disturbed or harmed by human activities. However, as with many marine protected areas, maintaining a balance between conservation and tourism is a continuous challenge.

This month, our Bachelor of Marine Science students, predominantly young women, are participating in a 10-day maritime adventure in collaboration with the Maldives Whaleshark Research Project, South Ari Marine Protected Area. They will remain onboard a sea vessel, while they experience hands-on marine research and here's a peek into their itinerary:

Up Close with Whale Sharks: Under expert supervision, students will snorkel alongside whale sharks, observing these marvels in their pristine habitat.

Photo ID, the Marine Way: Students will photograph the distinct spot patterns behind the gills of whale sharks, contributing to a global database. Much like a human fingerprint, these patterns offer insights into the life and travels of individual sharks.

Diving into Data: Beyond snapping photos, students will engage in a myriad of data collection activities, broadening their understanding of marine life and conservation.

