

Building the Future

Civil Engineering Insights from IBM's Factory



Students from the Civil Engineering Department of the Faculty of Engineering Science and Technology (FEST), Maldives National University (MNU), recently visited Island Beverages Maldives (IBM) at FEN building, Male' for an industrial exposure trip. During the visit, they received an insightful overview of IBM's journey, particularly the development of its flagship brand, TaZa bottled water,

since its launch in 2004. The students gained firsthand knowledge of the company's history, daily operations, and manufacturing processes, including TaZa's rigorous quality control and same-day delivery system. The guided factory tour provided a live demonstration of the water purification and bottling process, highlighting IBM's commitment to delivering a pure and pristine product to consumers across the Maldives.

Before the start of the tour, students were given an introductory briefing about the company and were instructed on the essential safety protocols to be followed throughout the visit. During the visit students focused more on observing key structural elements of the IBM facility. These included the type of foundation system used, planning considerations for industrial buildings, and the building configuration—primarily an RCC framed structure. Students examined how natural lighting and ventilation were incorporated through windows, ventilators and other systems to maintain internal comfort and energy efficiency. Observations also covered wall cladding materials, flooring systems, and roof construction, with





attention to properties like durability, fire resistance, sound/thermal insulation, and maintenance needs.

Furthermore, students reviewed the facility's safety features, including firefighting systems such as extinguishers, fire hydrants, hose reels, and automatic sprinklers.

Emergency lighting, exit signage, smoke-stop doors, and escape routes ensured full compliance with safety standards. The visit also included a study of key building services like water treatment systems, ventilation mechanisms, and waste disposal planning. Overall, the visit offered

valuable real-world insight into both industrial operations and structural design, enhancing the students' practical understanding of civil engineering applications in the context of a functioning industrial facility.

Ministry-Sponsored EnDheri Project Empowers Future Climate Leaders in the Maldives

The EnDheri Project, under the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, is providing full sponsorship to 12 students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Climate Change program at the Laamu Gan Campus of Maldives National University (MNU). This initiative, aimed at building capacity in Laamu Atoll, underscores the government's commitment to strengthening climate resilience and sustainable development in the Maldives.

Open to students across the nation, the sponsorship required recipients to pursue their studies at the Laamu Gan Campus. This targeted support reflects a strategic partnership between the Ministry and MNU, designed to cultivate local

expertise in climate-related fields. It follows previous sponsorships under the EnDheri Project, including support for students in the Advanced Certificate in Environment Management program at the same campus.

The Bachelor of Science in Climate Change program is being delivered in a flexible, blended mode—marking a first for MNU in its science course offerings. The format includes synchronous online classes, asynchronous digital activities, and block-based face-to-face sessions held at Laamu Gan Campus three times each semester. This structure allows students to remain on their home islands while benefiting from periodic in-person

engagement and hands-on learning.

The three-year full sponsorship covers tuition fees, monthly stipends, food and accommodation during on-campus blocks, transport to the Male' campus, field trip allowances, and book expenses. This comprehensive support ensures that students can focus entirely on their education without financial burden.

Developed under the CHILDREN Project—an Erasmus+ funded initiative coordinated by the Hugo Observatory at the University of Liège—the Climate Change degree program seeks to equip students and professionals with the tools to confront climate challenges effectively. The curriculum emphasizes climate diplomacy, leadership, and resilience, and was co-created through international collaboration with the University of Paris, the University of Economics in Bratislava, and the Hugo Observatory.



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