

E-Waste Hackathon 2025: Inspiring Innovation for Sustainable Tech Waste Management

As part of the E-Waste Hackathon 2025, participants had the opportunity to visit the waste disposal site at Thilafushi, in an insightful field trip organized by Waste Management Corporation Limited (WAMCO). This visit offered participants valuable practical exposure to waste management practices, including waste collection, segregation, and disposal processes.



The experience provided a deeper understanding of how waste is handled in the Maldives and highlighted how similar systems and practices can be adapted to manage electronic waste more effectively. Participants were also able to observe the environmental implications of improper waste disposal, reinforcing the importance of responsible and sustainable waste management.



The visit encouraged collaboration among participants and inspired them to think creatively about innovative solutions for improving e-waste management practices. By connecting theory with real-world experience, the trip aimed to empower participants to adopt environmentally responsible habits and contribute to sustainable waste management in their communities.



The E-Waste Hackathon 2025 was a youth-driven initiative launched to address the growing challenge of electronic waste and to promote innovative approaches to sustainable technology waste management in the Maldives. The event was proudly organized by The Maldives National University (MNU) in partnership with Dhiraagu, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, WAMCO, IEEE Maldives Subsection, and the International Conference on Engineering, Science and Technology (ICEST 2025).

Held from 28 September to 7 October 2025, the hackathon brought together students, innovators, and environmental advocates to develop practical and scalable solutions to reduce and manage e-waste in the country.



Under the theme “Innovating for a Circular Economy: Tackling the E-Waste Crisis,” participants worked intensively over ten days, exploring ideas focused on e-waste collection systems, recycling optimization, upcycling initiatives, and sustainable disposal methods.

The hackathon concluded successfully, highlighting the creativity, commitment, and collaborative spirit of young innovators working towards a cleaner and more sustainable future for the Maldives.



Celebrating Teaching Excellence

Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology proudly congratulate our Senior Lecturer Abdulla Afeef from the Department of Architecture, on receiving the Teaching Excellence Award 2025 in recognition of outstanding contributions to teaching and student learning in the Maldives National University.

This prestigious award honors educators who demonstrate excellence in pedagogy, innovation in teaching practice, and a strong commitment to student success. Over 15 years of dedicated service, Afeef has made a significant impact through curriculum development, course leadership, and student mentoring across academic programs.

Afeef's teaching philosophy emphasizes interactive, student-centered learning, fostering critical thinking and the integration of theory with real-world, practice-based application.

He promotes active student engagement through innovative, technology-enhanced strategies—including project-based and collaborative learning, digital tools, seminars, guest lectures, group projects, drawing and modelling workshops, field visits, industry activities, and peer-review exercises—which have significantly enhanced student engagement and learning outcomes.

Beyond the classroom, he has actively contributed to academic advising, curriculum review, and faculty development, fostering a culture of continuous improvement. His experience as a Senior Lecturer and over eight years as Head of the Civil Engineering Department and Architecture Department reflects strong academic leadership and ability to manage diverse academic environments. His contributions to advancing built environment education have been both impactful and nationally significant.

Afeef plays a key role in university governance through service on the Faculty Curriculum Committee, Faculty Advisory Committee, and Academic Senate, contributing to program reviews, policy development, and quality assurance. He is currently serving his fourth term in the University Council as Academic Representative, demonstrating sustained involvement in institutional strategic decision-making.

Reflecting on the achievement, Afeef noted:

“I started my career in the academia as an Associate lecturer in 2011 and since then I have committed to student learning, curriculum enhancement, pedagogical innovation, professional growth, and collaborative academic leadership. This award reflects the collective efforts of my students, colleagues, and the University. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to our students’ academic and professional growth.”

This recognition underscores the MNU’s commitment to excellence in teaching and celebrates educators who inspire and empower future graduates.



FEST Orientation Term 1, 2026

The Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology (FEST) officially welcomed its new intake of students for the semester with an orientation program held on 4 February 2026. Conducted at the start of each academic term, the orientation serves as a vital introduction for students enrolling in certificate and bachelor’s programs, helping them become familiar with the faculty’s academic framework, institutional regulations, student support services, and campus life.



FEST offers a broad selection of undergraduate programs in disciplines such as Computer Science, Information Technology, Architecture, Interior Design, Civil Engineering, Environmental Science, Marine Science, Applied Sciences, and Pure Sciences. Each program combines theoretical foundations with practical training to ensure graduates are well-prepared for professional careers in their respective fields.

Within the Computer Science discipline, students gain hands-on experience with emerging technologies and engage in innovative initiatives, including the development of intelligent systems. Networking courses are aligned with international standards, including frameworks established by Cisco, enabling students to pursue globally recognized industry certifications.

The faculty remains committed to delivering high-quality education within a supportive learning environment. Its graduates are equipped with the competencies needed to enter the workforce confidently, and many alumni have progressed into leadership positions, contributing significantly to the development of their industries.

FEST holds the distinction of being the first faculty in the Maldives to introduce a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. The Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Honours) program aims to produce skilled and industry-ready professionals with up-to-date knowledge and practical expertise. Graduates are prepared to pursue careers as project engineers, project managers, design engineers, draftsmen, technicians, site supervisors, and other related roles.



This year also marks the commencement of the third intake of the Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (Hons). The program provides diverse career pathways in areas such as electrical system design, control system maintenance, machinery and equipment management, computer engineering, and communications. With specializations including power and renewable energy engineering, the program supports national initiatives focused on green and sustainable energy, helping to strengthen the country's skilled workforce.

Students in this program can work with a wide range of electronic technologies and choose elective specializations from their third year in fields such as telecommunications, computer engineering, and the power sector. The inclusion of approved industrial training further ensures that graduates gain valuable real-world experience before entering the job market.



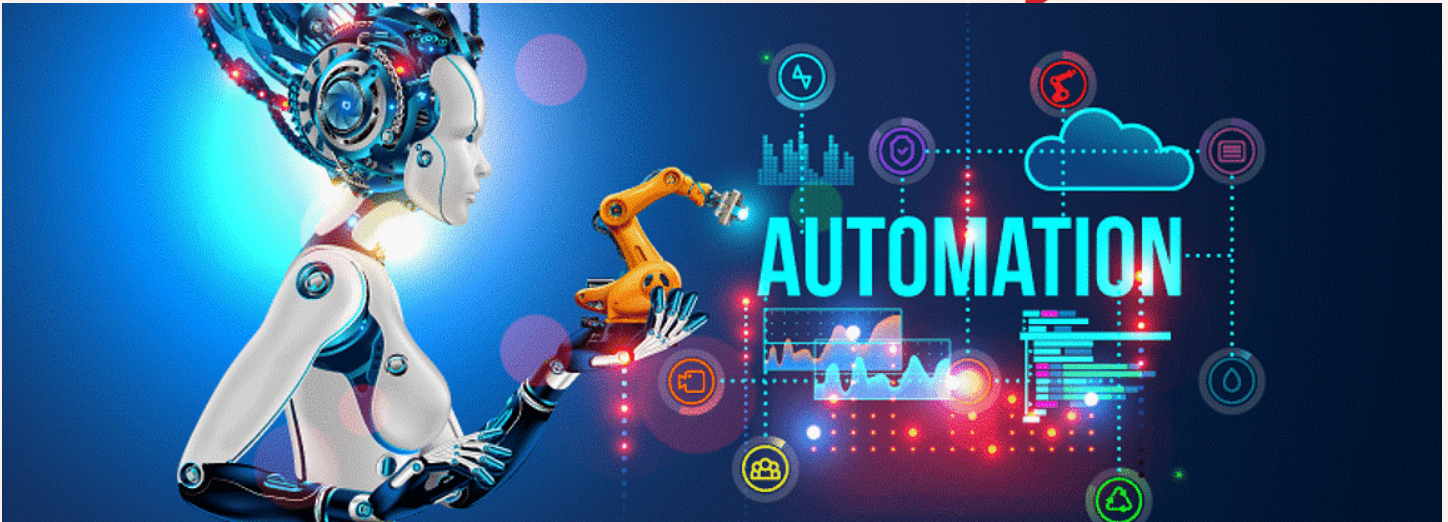
At the postgraduate level, FEST offers a Master of Engineering in Electronics and Telecommunications. This advanced program is tailored to develop specialized expertise in telecommunications and electronic systems. In the Maldivian context where dependable communication infrastructure is essential across dispersed islands the program contributes to national development priorities. It enhances local capacity, reduces reliance on expatriate professionals, and promotes innovation in key sectors such as infrastructure, defense, environmental management, and digital services.

Expanding its academic portfolio, FEST also offers a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Applied Science and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Engineering. The PhD in Applied Science includes eight concentrations: Environmental Science, Material Science, Applied Mathematics, Data Science, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, and Biology. The PhD in Engineering provides five concentrations: Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Computer Engineering, and Chemical Engineering.

Through its diverse academic offerings and commitment to excellence, the Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology continues to play a leading role in advancing engineering, science, and technology education in the Maldives, equipping graduates to address both national priorities and global challenges.



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