Oil and Gas Exploration in Maldives

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Maldives

- In the Indian Ocean.
- There are about 2000 islands in total.
- Only 200 are inhabited.
- World's most geographically dispersed country.
- Population: 366,972
Maldives

* Ethnic Groups: 100% Maldivians
* Religion: 100% Islam
* Language: Dhivehi
* Water: 99%
* Currency: Maldivian Rufiyaa (1USD=15.42MVR)
* Literacy percent: 99%
Economy

* Ancient times Maldives were renowned for cowries, coir rope, dried tuna fish, ambergris
* Principal Activities: Tourism and Fishing
* Tourism industry is responsible 90% of the government’s Tax revenue
* As of 2014, 100 resorts in the Maldives offered over 31,000 beds and hosted over 1,000,000 tourists annually.
* Fishing is the second largest industry. Famous for sustainable fishing (Pole and Line)
The GDP in Maldives was worth 3.14 billion US dollars in 2015. The GDP value of Maldives represents 0.01 percent of the world economy.
Capital City

- Fourth most densely populated island in the world.
- Size: 5.798km²
- More than 103,000 people live in Male’
Challenges

* Dispersed population makes it very hard for the government to provide services.
* Densely populated capital city creates many social issues.
* Highest land is 1m above the sea-level.
* Climate change will have some serious effect to the eco-system of the Maldives jeopardizing the survival.
Each habited islands require separate power house.

Some islands have low population, hence less demand (100kW)
Power Production

- Power is produced using diesel.
- Part of the power is produced from solar energy.
- Maximum demand in Male’ is 55MW.
- Solar power produced is 1MW in Male’.
- Daily Fuel Consumption: 239,000 Liters (1195 drums)
- 1 liter costs MVR 9.0 = MVR2151000 (139494 USD)
Government have plans to incorporate renewable energy for power production in each island.

Under Poised project electricity production of each island will be from 30% renewable energy sources.

Due to lack of space it is not feasible to install solar panels to cater to high demand in Male’
Oil and Gas exploration

* Government searching for other resources
* Studies have been conducted in exploration for gas and oil in different parts in Maldives by private researchers.
* Preliminary results have shown that there is a high percentage of finding oil in Maldives.
8 sites cored, maximum penetration: 1003 m
Numerous pockmarks were observed in the inner ocean.

Oil producing source rock have been found in areas near Goidhoo Atoll.

Seismic analysis have shown that Maldives is on a transitional or continental crust, previously have been believed to be on an oceanic crust.
Chemical analysis of an organic rich layer have shown substances from volcanic activity leading to believe that the soil is made up of continental fragments.

Geological studies have shown that the pockmarks are releasing hot gases consisting of methane and ethane.

The government is very much interested to conduct further studies in this area.