Inbound Tourism Statistics
The Maldives

Statistics Capacity Building Program on Tourism Statistics for Asia and the Pacific 2010-2011
Workshop 1, Bangkok, 22-26 November 2010

Flow of Inbound Visitors

- Inbound visitors
  - Arrivals to the country by air only
  - Excluding temporary immigrants for employment and cruise passengers
  - Data available by country of nationality only
  - Purpose of visit not available
Flow of Inbound Visitors

- **Data Source**
  - Department of Immigration & Emigration

- **Time Series**
  - Monthly
  - Annually

Flow of Inbound Visitors

Tourist arrivals, 1972 – 2009
Flow of Inbound Visitors

Tourist Arrivals by Month, 2005 – 2010

Flow of Inbound Visitors

Market share of visitors by Region, 2005-2009
Flow of Inbound Visitors
Market shares of visitors by Region, end September 2010

Improving the data
- Improving the existing data management system at Department of Immigration & Emigration
  - Purpose of visit
  - Country of residence
  - Gender
  - Age group
  - Length of stay
Improving the data

- Conduct annual visitor surveys
  - High season
  - Low season

Inbound Visitor Expenditure

- Tourism Receipts
  - Estimations done by the Maldives Monetary Authority (central bank) for the purpose of Balance of Payments
  - Includes tax returns and expenditure made by tourists in the resorts, souvenir shops, local transport, etc...
  - Calculations are mainly based on a small scale survey
Inbound Visitor Expenditure

Tourism Receipts, 1981 - 2009

Restrictions / Limitations
- No data collected
- No proper reporting system
- Lack of cooperation from the tourism industry
  - Confidentiality issue

Way forward
- Implementation of Tourism Goods and Services Tax (TGST) Act from 2011
- A data collection regulation is being drafted
Thank you