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Digital Maldives for
Adaptation, Decentralization
and Diversification





Navigating New Horizons

The DMADD team carries out monthly workshops named 'ThursdayTraining'. These short trainings aim to facilitate knowledge sharing among its members. The sessions are planned to be conducted on the last Thursday of every month.

The primary objective of these workshops is to enhance mutual understanding and upskilling among team members, ultimately contributing to the achievement of the project's overarching goals. The D'MADD team will share insights related to their work as well as have the chance to impart valuable experiences and life lessons that could benefit the entire team.

This initiative not only promotes professional growth but also strengthens the bonds within the DMADD team, setting a positive tone for collaborations and teamwork.



Dr. Ibrahim Waheed
Project Manager



Ahmed Haleem
Communications Specialist



Ahlam Abdul Sattar
Finance Management Specialist



Shama Ahmed Rasheed
Procurement Specialist



Fathimath Shafa Hussain
Project Officer



Muaz Adnan
Environmental Specialist



Mariyam Meefau Faisal
Consultant

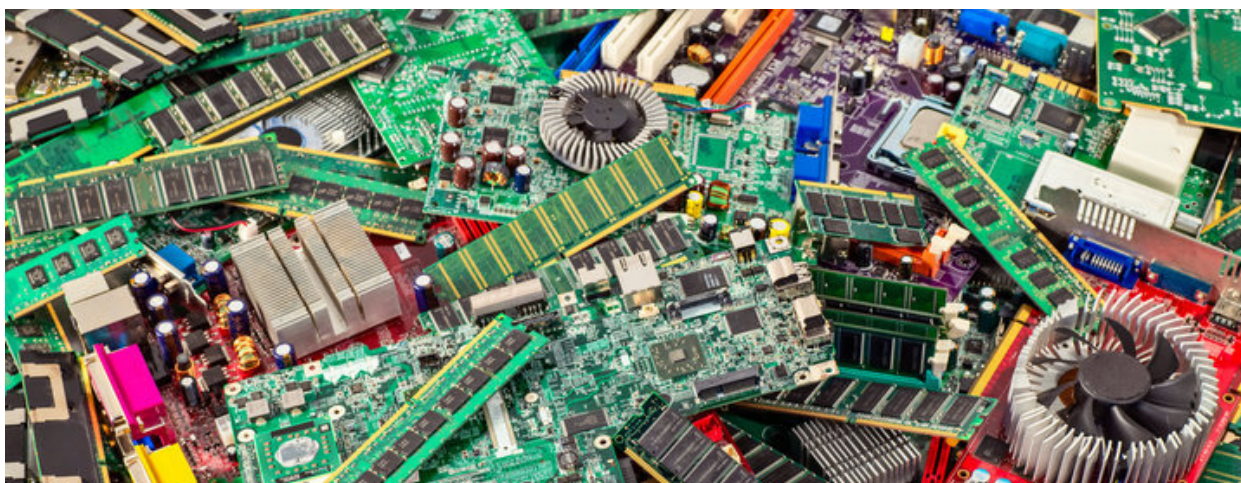
E-Waste Management Guidelines

27 November 2025



On Thursday, during our November 2025 training session, Mr. Muaz Adnan, the Environmental Specialist, delivered an insightful presentation on E-Waste Management Guidelines as part of the Digital Maldives for Adaptation, Decentralization and Diversification (DMADD) Project. The session aimed to raise awareness among participants about the growing challenges of electronic waste (e-waste) and to introduce practical strategies for its responsible management. Mr. Muaz emphasized the urgent need for sustainable practices in handling e-waste, especially in the context of increasing digitalization in the Maldives. This review essay summarizes the key points from the presentation and reflects on their significance for both environmental protection and public health.

The presentation on E-Waste Management Guidelines for the DMADD Project provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges and solutions related to electronic waste (e-waste) in the Maldives. The guidelines are timely and relevant, given the increasing reliance on digital technologies and the associated environmental and health risks of improper e-waste disposal.



Understanding E-Waste

E-waste refers to discarded electrical and electronic equipment, including items like servers, smart cards, computers, and printers. These devices often contain hazardous substances such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and lithium, which can be extremely harmful to both the environment and human health if not managed properly.

The DMADD Project Context

The DMADD Project is a major source of IT procurement, which means it will generate significant amounts of e-waste over time. The Project Management Unit (PMU) is responsible for coordinating e-waste management across all implementing partners, ensuring that the lifecycle of key equipment is tracked and managed responsibly.

Global and Local Challenges

Globally, e-waste is a growing problem. In 2022, the world produced 62 million tonnes of e-waste, but only 22.3% was formally collected and recycled. Many devices have short lifespans and are not designed for repair or reuse, leading to increased waste and pollution. In the Maldives, the lack of a comprehensive national facility for hazardous e-waste processing means that temporary storage and export to certified facilities abroad are necessary.

Environmental and Health Impacts

Improper e-waste disposal affects air, soil, and water. Burning e-waste releases toxic particles into the air, while heavy metals can leach into soil and water, causing long-term damage to ecosystems. Human health is also at risk, with exposure to toxic components potentially causing damage to vital organs and systems, as well as chronic diseases and birth defects. Benefits of Proper E-Waste Management Effective e-waste management can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve land, and support circular economy approaches such as repair, reuse, and recycling. It also creates local employment opportunities

in sorting and processing e-waste. Legal and Institutional Framework The Maldives has regulations in place to control hazardous waste, including the Environment Protection and Preservation Act and the Waste Management Regulation. The Basel Convention governs the export of hazardous waste, and an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulation is under development.

Practical Guidelines and Recommendations

The guidelines emphasize sustainable procurement, reliable collection, safe storage, and environmentally sound treatment of e-waste. Users are encouraged to prioritize durable, repairable devices, maintain accurate inventories, and segregate hazardous from non-hazardous waste. Storage requirements include using closed, labeled containers and limiting access to trained staff. Reuse, repair, and recycling are promoted through internal pathways and agreements with certified recyclers. The guidelines also stress the importance of secure transport, proper documentation, and compliance with international standards for hazardous waste export.

Training and Monitoring

Ongoing training for staff and regular monitoring of storage and handling practices are essential. The PMU is responsible for ensuring compliance, maintaining records, and reporting to stakeholders such as the World Bank.

Conclusion

Overall, the E-Waste Management Guidelines for the DMADD Project provide a solid foundation for addressing the e-waste challenge in the Maldives. By following these guidelines, the project can minimize environmental harm, protect human health, and contribute to a more sustainable digital future.



Muaz Adnan
Environmental Specialist



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