and stay in one of the spectacular accommodations consisting of 50 luxurious water villas, 79 exotic beach villas and 21 fabulous spa water villas with private treatment rooms, all just steps away from the beach. They can dine in the world's first all-glass, undersea restaurant and indulge in luxurious spa therapies.

Hussain Afeef, managing director of the Crown Company Pvt. Ltd. says: "The luxury market is taken care of. Opening the three- and four-star markets has always been in our interest. When we brought Hilton, we knew it would build investors' confidence for other people to come."

Edward Alsford, managing director of Trans Maldivian Airways (TMA), another jewel in Crown's portfolio, spoke about his company's operations. "With a fleet of 24, twin otter aircraft, we had transported 290,000 one-way resort passengers up to the end of September 2011. During high season, we had more than 600 flights per week from Ibrahim Nasir International Airport.

"TMA has grown significantly over recent years and this has only been possible due to the fact that the Board of Directors have been implicitly involved and focused a tremendous amount of time and attention to ensure that TMA has the best facilities and aircraft for its valued customers.

"Our chairman Lars Peter has a very hands-on approach and his passion and flair and enthusiasm for growth has been instrumental in our success. While many other airlines around the world have reduced in size, TMA has experienced passenger growth over the last three years of approximately 28 per cent year on year. This in turn has meant that TMA has had to expand its fleet and facilities since 2009.

"We expanded the fleet by seven aircraft, three of which are brand-new 400 series twin otters which have come direct from the manufacturer.

"In addition to the fleet expansion, we've opened a purpose-built modern and fully air-conditioned terminal that benefits from 13 resort lounges, each with a private balcony, that gives clients a resort experience before they even reach the resort. The seaplane gives a real 'X Factor' to the holiday that is not available in many other destinations."

In the meantime, "making paradise work" is the tagline of MVK Maldives Pvt. Ltd., a multi-service company with interests in travel, marine services, industry and aviation, that has been attracting investment to the islands since 1989.

As dynamic CEO Ibrahim Shafeeg says: "I started by importing goods for the resorts, which is how the company grew, but these days we are more involved with infrastructure development. I acquired 50 concessions from the government to develop a transport system in the southern province, which has the second highest population after Malé, and transports around 2,000 people a day by bus and by sea.

"Now I am in the situation where I need help with technology. Maldives is aiming to be carbon neutral by 2020, so I would be happy to talk to any investor that can help with that."



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