

NET's April 21 Coffee and Conversation Film Is 'The Island President'

"The Island President," a film about the environmental catastrophe looming for the island nation of Maldives, is the "Coffee and Conversation in the Community" film April 21.

The film screens at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 21, at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center at 13th and Q streets on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. A discussion in UNL's Van Brunt Visitors Center follows each screening. Panelists will be Qi "Steve" Hu, professor at the School of Natural Resources and the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at UNL; Matan Gill, founder and chair of the Student Government Environmental Sustainability Committee at UNL; Lisa Lee, member of Citizens Climate Lobby; Rev. Kim Morrow, minister of sustainability, First-Plymouth Church; and Cathy Beecham, Lincoln Electric System board member.

"The Island President" looks at the career of Mohamed Nasheed, president of the Maldives. After leading a 20-year pro-democracy movement against the brutal regime of Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, and surviving repeated imprisonments and torture, Nasheed, became president of the Maldives at 41, only to take on the enormous challenge of preserving his homeland. Considered the lowest-lying country in the world, a rise of a few meters in sea level would flood the 1,200 islands of the Maldives, rendering the country practically unlivable. Unless dramatic changes are made by the larger countries of the world, the Maldives will disappear under the ocean. Filmmakers Jon Shenk, Bonni Cohen and Richard Berge present a compelling look at Nasheed, a man confronting a problem greater than any other world leader has ever faced -- the literal survival of his country and everyone in it. For more on the film, go to <http://www.itvs.org/films/higher-ground>.

"Coffee and Conversation" is free and open to the public and is presented by NET Learning Services/NET Community Engagement and Educational Outreach. The films are shown in partnership with ITVS Community Cinema, Lincoln community radio station KZUM (89.3 FM), Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and Southeast Community College.

For more information on the series and NET Community Engagement and Educational Outreach, check the NET website at <http://netNebraska.org/engage>

CONTACT: NET Community Outreach director Marthaelen Florence, 402-470-6603 or mflorence@netNebraska.org
RELEASE WRITTEN BY: Kim Hachiya, 402-470-6694, or khachiya@netNebraska.org