

The Surveyors' Institute of Sri Lanka
Professional Centre
275/75, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha,
Colombo 07.
Tel/Fax : 2580669
E-Mail : surveyors@eureka.lk



Founder Member : Commonwealth Association
of Surveying & Land Economy
(CASLE)
The Organization of
Professional Associations of
Sri Lanka (OPA)

Member: International Federation of
Surveyors (FIG)

THE SURVEYORS' INSTITUTE OF SRI LANKA
(INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT NO. 22 OF 1982)

03rd March 2005

Our Ref: SISL/FIG

Mr. Holger Magel,
President,
International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)

Dear Sir,

TSUNAMI DISASTER

Your letter dated 18-02-2005 refers. We are very thankful to the FIG management for the generosity shown by requesting us to make use of the FIG Subscriptions for 2004, to offer some help to the Surveyors who were very badly affected by the recent Tsunami. We also wish to express our sincere thanks for the publicity given by you by publishing in your news bulletin the request made by us to help our Surveyors who were victims of the Tsunami Disaster.

We hope this will be a good opportunity for the Surveyors in other countries to extend their solidarity to fellow Surveyors in Sri Lanka who are really in need of some assistance. It is heart breaking to imagine the plight they are facing. All their earnings for thirty forty years being washed away in to the sea with in a matter of fifteen to twenty minutes. They were left with only what they were wearing at that time.

There are allegations from some quarters that the funds received as donations are misappropriated. There is no truth in these allegations. When a huge project of this nature is being handled there can be a few instances of weak management. It cannot be helped. The magnitude of the Disaster and the urgency of putting it to right has to be considered.

The latest statistics are that there is a total of 1004 small children who have lost both their parents. Many more children have lost one of the parents. Over hundred thousand families are homeless. A little over one hundred schools are to be rebuilt.


We are thankful for the US Presidents M/s. Bill Clinton and George Bush(Snr) visiting our country mainly to canvass support against Donor Fatigue. Because it may take at least over a year to attain some kind of normalcy in the affected areas.

(Contd. Page 2)

Immediately after the Tsunami Destruction the homeless families were accommodated in relief camps and were given food and necessary medicines. After a few days they were provided with a tent for each family. Now temporary huts are being made available to these families as in tropics tents are not suitable during rainy seasons. The final stage will be to construct Permanent Houses which will take at least an year to complete. About a hundred kilometers of Rail Track from Colombo to Matara was completely destroyed. The rails were twisted along with the concrete sleepers. The whole track was fully repaired within a matter of six weeks. The railway workers worked day and night. All this rehabilitation was possible due to the generous help we received from the World Community, for which we are very grateful.

Hope I am not bothering you too much by giving some of this information. It is only to convey to you the magnitude of the grave plight in which we are in.

Yours faithfully,



M. Kaluthanthri,
President.