

Emergency Relief for Tsunami-affected Communities in Sri Lanka

My dear Ari:

Our hearts go out to our compatriots and their suffering in the wake of the biggest natural calamity to befall our dear Sri Lanka. My colleagues on the Board of Directors of the Sri Lanka Ass'n of Washington, D.C. and its tax-exempt affiliate, Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. (SLAGW), stand ready once again to work in collaboration with Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement in alleviating the dire plight of the unfortunate victims. Please tell us how we can be helpful in communities of the East and South where Sarvodaya has definite plans for immediate relief and subsequent reconstruction.

Lasantha Dahanaike, President-elect of SLAWDC/SLAGW, is in Sri Lanka till January 4. I would like him to meet you immediately to plan a joint program with Sarvodaya to simultaneously assist communities in the East and the South. We have funds available to get specific activities started with your organization, for which SLAGW will take responsibility under your guidance and supervision. As the incoming President of SLAWDC/SLAGW in March 2005, this will be a great opportunity for Lasantha to take a visible leadership on our behalf. He can be contacted for an early meeting on cell: 077-607-3353 or home:2735914.

Lasantha, please call Dr. Ariyaratne at 2655084 or 0777-899196 to fix an appointment.

SLAGW has launched a broad based appeal for donations to our "Emergency Relief Fund for Sri Lanka". In the first 8 hours since the appeal was made by e-mail Monday morning, we have collected \$2,000. We hope to have more compatriots and friends of Sri Lanka contribute generously over the next 7 - 10 days. Please, work with Lasantha in making our partnership work for the good of our people and communities most affected by this national and regional tragedy.

With sincere regards,
Nihal

Nihal W. Goonewardene
President, SLAWDC/SLAGW