

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



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Dear Rotary friends,

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Fifth Report

"Operation Rotary Cares"

The Tsunami Catastrophe in Thailand

In less than a week the first anniversary of the Tsunami Catastrophe which struck Thailand and South and Southeast Asia countries on the 26 December, 2004, will arrive.

I feel that this is an appropriate and opportune time to look back on the past events and the efforts of so many people, Rotarians and non-Rotarians, locally and worldwide, who have not only contributed financially to help rebuild a new life for the Tsunami victims, but also have devoted and sacrificed so much of their time and energy in this undertaking.

1) From the very beginning, actually after a few days after the Tsunami struck, the Thai Rotarians in the four districts in the country raised almost Baht 6 million (about US\$150,000.-). Under the leadership and direct supervision of the then District Governor VORAVUT PONGVITAYAPANU, of district 3330 (the affected Rotary district), and his team of Rotarian Volunteers went into action in the immediate relief effort by loading 15 ten-wheel trucks with food, medicines, drinking water, clothings and coffins, etc. , down to the affected provinces in the south of Thailand.

Clubs along the way played a very significant role in supporting this relief efforts.

The Team completed its mission in three days.

That was the beginning of "Operation Rotary Cares" !

2) The Board of Directors of the ROTARY CENTRE IN THAILAND which comprises of four sitting District Governors and three Past District Governors from each of the four districts in Thailand, met and decided on 8 January, 2005, to build 100-200 low-cost shelters for the homeless at the construction cost of Baht 100,000.- each (about US\$ 2,500.-). PDG.KRISDA ARUNVONGSE of district 3350 who himself is an architect, was assigned to carry out the task of drawing up the design of the house.

This initial estimate cost was gradually raised to Baht 140,000.-, and the last quotation was as high as 160,000.- or a little more. The rising in the construction cost was due to the rising price of oil, construction materials, and the additional cost of sea transport, land filling, wiring, landscaping, construction of roads and drainage systems, etc.

The Board of Directors of the Rotary Centre in Thailand has also decided that, as a long term rehabilitation process, we should also focus on the livelihood of the people who have been receiving aid in various forms, to help them rebuilding their lives and help them to get back on their feet.

In my humble opinion, I think that the most important long term challenge for us in Rotary, and in particular to those villagers affected by the calamity, is the creation of local self-motivation and initiatives through a sense of independence for the simple reason that Rotary and even Government cannot afford to keep on "handing outs" with no end insight. Human dignity has to be uplifted.

3) At its last meeting on 21 November, 2005, under the chairmanship of PDG.CHAISINN MANINAN of district 3360, the Board was briefed of the progress made on "Operation Rotary Cares".

4) The latest developments as at 15 December 2005 are as follows:-

CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES

In Phang-Nga Province

At Baan Nai Rai	65 houses	} 255 houses
At Baan Pru-Teow	80 houses	
At Baan Lam Pee	20 houses	
At Baan Tab Pla	34 houses	
At Baan Nam Khem	56 houses	

In Krabi Province

At Baan Koh Poo	14 houses	} 96 houses
At Baan Taling Chan	30 houses	
At Baan Koh Cham	22 houses	
At Baan Sri Boh-Ya	20 houses	
At Baan Ting Rai	10 houses	

Total 351 houses

Out of these 351 houses, 265 have been handed over to the people. The construction of the remaining 86 houses should be completed by March, 2006.

CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC FACILITIES IN RELATION
TO TSUNAMI DISASTER

In Phang-Nga Province

- Construction of roads, drainage systems, land filling, landscaping, tree planting, installing of signages, etc. (Baan Pru Teow, Baan Nai Rai, etc.)

- Set up a Community Radio Network. (Baan Nai Rai)
- Provide an Ambulance for a Community Emergency Centre. (Baan Nai Rai)
- Construction of five Children Playgrounds. (Amphur Takua-Pa)
- Construction of a Warning System Tower fully equipped with public address and alarm systems. (Koh Pra-Thong)
- Set up Radio Network facilities for fishermen on an island. (Koh Yao Noi)
- Renovation of a Community Centre on an island. (Koh Yao Noi)
- Provide clean water system (Baan Lam Pee)

In Phuket Province

- Construction of two concrete water tanks (120 m³ each) equipped with water treatment facilities and pumping system in a school of 200 students and nearby home for the handicapped children and aged people (Virasatree Anusorn School – Amphur Talang)
- Construction of concrete stage for school students (Virasatree Anusorn School – Amphur Talang)
- Set up water treatment and purification system in a school. (Phuket Vithayalai School – Amphur Muang)
- Construction of water tank and set up water treatment system in another school (Tesabal Baan Bang Neow – Amphur Muang)

In Krabi Province

- Construction of a Day Care Centre and employ 2 staff for one year. (Baan Talingchan)

In Ranong Province

- Construction of a Rehabilitation Centre for the Tsunami victims. (Klong Na Ka Wildlife Sanctuary, Sub-District Sooksamran)
- Construction of a Community Centre for Creating a Culture of Safety and Preparedness. (Tambol Kampuan)

In Trang Province

- Construction of a Community Centre for Creating a Culture of Safety and Preparedness. (Amphur Kantang)

REBUILDING EFFORTS

- Provide "Krachang" (fish cages) for fishermen in Krabi and Ranong.
- Finance the building of 40 fishing boats for fishermen in Krabi.
- Provide Vocational Training for housewives in Krabi, Phuket & Phang-Nga.
- Provide new and legal fishing equipments and fish seeds for shallow water fishermen in Phang-Nga and Ranong.
- Provide small loan for the development of sustainable tourism industry in Krabi.
- Provide small loans to fishermen in Satun.
- Repair a Village Fishing Pier in Satun.
- Build an All Purpose Community Centre in Baan Sri Boh-Ya, Krabi.
- Set up Water Treatment System in Baan Pru-Teow, Phang-Nga.
- Purchase a ten-wheel truck to be used in conjunction with a Mobile Eye Clinic serving in Phuket, Krabi, Phang-Nga and nearby Provinces; MG 57925.

5) Some of the above mentioned projects have yet to be implemented pending a more careful and thorough study on some aspects of some projects; but the funds are already reserved for all the items mentioned above.

6) Summary Report on Income and Expenditure

Total Amount Received through the Thai Rotary Centre	Baht 59.83 million
Total Amount Received through District 3330 RI	Baht 10.90 million
Total Amount Received from Solidarity in South Asia Fund of TRF	Baht 20.00 million

	<u>Baht 90.73 million</u>
Total Expense on Construction of houses	Baht 54.30 million
Total Expense on other projects	Baht 31.83 million
* Reserve for unforeseen emergency expense, auditing fee, staff travel & administration expense	<u>Baht 1.50 million</u>
Balance +	<u>Baht 3.10 million</u>

The above figures are very roughly estimated. The final audited account will, of course be done after the completion of this Operation.

7) Please visit our website (www.rotarythailand.org) to check the list of all Donors from within the country and from abroad.

8) From 28 November till 5 December, 2005 Past District Governor LUCIEN DAMBRIN of district 1680; Past District Governor CHRISTIAN MICHAUD of district 1770; and Past District Governor GWENAEL DE BERGEVIN of district 1650, together with their spouses from France, spent a very busy week with us in Thailand.

With more than 20 Past District Governors and Rotarians from the four districts in Thailand including 2 French journalists, they spent 4 days visiting projects and handing over 265 houses to the Tsunami victims in Phang-Nga, Krabi and Phuket Provinces.

Enclosed is their program of activities while in Thailand. The French Rotarians have donated more than Baht 30 million towards this Operation.

9) Please visit our website (www.rotarythailand.org) to see pictures of activities and developments of the whole Operation to date. Also you will find a map focusing on the locations in Phuket, Phang-Nga and Krabi, where the various projects are being carried out.

10) During 14 - 18 January, 2006, 12 Past District Governors for the year 2002-2003 from Japan with their spouses will be visiting me in Bangkok. I am arranging for them to visit Phuket and Phang-Nga with me also. They also have donated for the construction of houses in Phang-Nga.

11) Like the Tsunami, the recent Katrina Hurricane which struck New Orleans, has caused so much hardship and damages to so many people in Louisiana and Mississippi, USA.

In our small way, the Thai Rotarians have collected US\$ 27,211.08 and have sent this sum to the account of "Hurricane Katrina Fund" in late November, 2005 for whatever was needed to help those people who have been stricken with the dreadful natural disaster.

In this respect, I wish to put on record my deepest gratitude for the kind gesture my fellow Rotarians in Thailand have displayed in helping those who needed so much help. Our small contribution will go a long way to help relief some of the hardship they are still facing.

12) You will recall that I mentioned in my previous Reports that I want to wrap up this Operation in December, 2005, or even earlier; but it seems that we will be able to conclude this Operation and have the account audited only by the end of June, 2006.

I will continue to keep you posted with further developments.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you once again for your generosity in helping us fulfilling this task without which we would never be able to achieve what we have been able to do so far.

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!



(Bhichai Rattakul)

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