

Tsunami Relief to Sri Lanka in Cooperation with APOA-MOA

ASIAM in cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA) - Malaysia Orthopaedic Association (MOA) raised \$21,000 to buy surgical supplies for the volunteer team of surgeons (see below) to help the unfortunate victims of the Tsunami.

- 1) Dato Dr K.S. Sivananthan (Orthopaedic Surgeon)
- 2) Dr T. Kumar (Orthopaedic Surgeon)
- 3) Dr Vasan Sinnadurai (Orthopaedic Surgeon)
- 4) Dr Raymond Ramesh Sinnadurai (Anaesthetist)

These doctors paid for their own travel expenses.

The coordinating orthopaedic surgeons in Sri Lanka were :-

- 1) Dr S. Sritharan, Past President of the Sri Lanka Orthopaedic Association
- 2) Dr K. Umaphy, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, General Hospital (Teaching) Jaffna

Here is their heart warming report:-

We had an official heart warming invitation from Dr K. Umaphy of General Hospital (Teaching) Jaffna to help in the relief work in North Sri Lanka.

We were also told that there is an acute shortage of orthopaedic surgeons in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has 25 orthopaedic surgeons for a population of 21 million. Only 2 orthopaedic surgeons are working in the North and East of Sri Lanka which had a population of almost 6 million. One is posted in Jaffna General Hospital and the other is posted in Batticolo General Hospital – a distance of over 350 km.

As requested by Dr Umaphy, we had taken a number of equipments and implants namely external fixators, intra-medullary nails and other equipment for our relief work. The donors of these equipments and implants were :-

- 1) Malaysian Orthopaedic Association – bought RM5,000.00 worth of external fixators
- 2) Osteomed Medical
- 3) Schmidt Biomed Tech
- 4) Hospital Fatimah, Ipoh
- 5) Aesculup

The weight of the equipments and implants was about 150 kgs.

The Malaysian Orthopaedic Association (MOA) had obtained letters of approval for our trip from the High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Malaysia and the Prime Ministers Department, Malaysia.

We left Kuala Lumpur, KLIA Sepang on 4th February 2005 at 1.30 pm and arrived in Colombo, Bandaranaike International Airport at 5.15 pm. Dr S. Sritharan had made all the necessary arrangements to facilitate speedy departure from the airport.

On 4th February 2005 night we stayed at the Renuka City Hotel, Colombo. Dr Sritharan treated us to a very delicious Sri Lankan dinner.