



RED CROSS BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE



The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society proudly announces the construction of the National Disaster Management Centre being built with the generous support of the Korean Red Cross at a cost of over Rs. 450 million.

Laying of the foundation stone by the Chief Guest Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs & Tourism, Mr. Anura Bandaranaike (MP of Gampaha District) at 10.33 am, Thursday, November 3, 2005 at Minuwangoda Road, Katunayake.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

- To enhance the disaster preparedness capacity of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society
 - To train staff and volunteers to respond immediately to future disasters
 - To increase public awareness on disaster response and management
 - To be a national and regional training centre with modern conference facilities
- To provide a modern warehouse for storage and distribution of relief items in times of disaster
- To house a tsunami museum to commemorate the disaster and the response of the Red Cross

PROJECT CONSULTANTS: SUCHITH MOHOTTI ASSOCIATES (PVT.) LTD.



Mr. Jagath Abeyasinghe,
Hony. President of the
Sri Lanka Red Cross Society



Mr. S. H. Nimal Kumar,
Hony. National Secretary of the
Sri Lanka Red Cross Society



Sang-Hee Jeong,
Country Coordinator,
Korean Red Cross



Tony Maryon, Head of Delegation
of the International Federation
of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies



Neville Nanayakkara,
Acting Director General of the
Sri Lanka Red Cross Society

On behalf of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and thousands of our volunteers in all our branches throughout the island, it is indeed with tremendous pride and gratitude that I greet you on this historic occasion of laying the foundation stone of the SLRCS' own National Disaster Management Centre. While expressing our heartfelt thanks to the Korean Red Cross for their magnanimous support for this project, I am convinced that this centre will motivate and enable us in providing still better humanitarian services throughout the country.

Developing and applying policies, strategies and practices to minimize vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout society, by prevention, mitigation and preparedness is one of the core areas of emphasis of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. Thanks to the support of the Korean Red Cross, the long felt need of a centre such as this has become a reality. The SLRCS will have a greater opportunity to provide better services to the people of this country, in times of natural disaster.

It is a great pleasure to have the foundation laying ceremony of the National Disaster Management Centre of Sri Lanka Red Cross. As the donor of this project, Korean Red Cross considers this opportunity as a great honor to serve for the benefit of the public of Sri Lanka. With the pledge of Korean Red Cross of its continued support and cooperation with the SLRCS, I believe that the firm relationship between the two societies will extend long beyond the completion of the project.

On behalf of the International Federation, I would like to congratulate the Korean Red Cross and Sri Lanka Red Cross Societies on the construction of the NDMC which will certainly strengthen the capacity of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to play a leading role in preparing for and responding to natural disasters. The International Federation remains committed to supporting the development of the Government's national road map on disaster management which will define the role that the Red Cross can play under the country's disaster management plan.

The frequency and toll of natural disasters is increasing at an alarming rate compared to earlier times. We had the Asian Tsunami in December 2004 and in 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, followed by the Kashmir earthquake in October, causing unprecedented loss of life. Surely, it is time for us to be warned, whenever possible, of impending catastrophe and to be equipped to minimize the damage and loss of human life. And for us as Red Cross workers, having our own Disaster Management & Training Centre is now of crucial importance.

SRI LANKA RED CROSS SOCIETY

307 2/1, T. B. Jayah Mawatha Colombo 10, Sri Lanka. Tel: +94(11) 2691095, 5357000 Fax: +94(11) 2695434 e-mail: nhq@redcross.lk website: www.redcross.lk