

10th February 2005

Dear Sir,

It is little more than five weeks since Tsunami, that heartless & ruthless wave which took thousands and thousands of innocent people's lives and made millions of people in the Asian Region homeless leaving behind only the clothes they were wearing on that fateful day – 26th December 2004.

It's still saddening and tears come to our eyes when we travel down to Southern, Eastern and the Northern coast of Sri Lanka, the " Pearl of the Indian Ocean" one time famous for its beautiful beaches but now devastated after the fateful Tsunami disaster.

It's really pathetic to see the people who have lost their relations, fathers & mothers who have lost their sons and daughters, children who have lost their parents, brothers and sisters living in make shift plastic tents or temporary wooden or tin sheet sheds instead of their beautiful houses where they were brought up and lived happily until the tidal wave struck their dwellings washing off everything leaving behind only the foundations and debris scattered every where. Gone are the days we hear the innocent sounds of children playing on the beaches in the coastal belt of the affected parts of this Island.

- Its time for us our dear brethren! now to take a little time off to think about the teachings of the great religious leaders like Lord Buddha, Jesus Christ and Prophet Mohamed. Let us think of their golden words, Loving kindness, Compassion, Sympathetic Joy and Equanimity. Like the tortoise, living in a perfect package of nature that puts out its head out of its shell, let us emerge out of our slumber and look at the sufferings of these innocent people and lend our hands to find them shelter- one of the basic needs of a human.

It's time to get some beads of sweat on to our foreheads to think and plan what we could and should do to rebuild the affected families in this part of the world In a bid to achieve this objective, three leading Institutions in the Island of Sri Lanka, viz: The Sri Lanka Institute Of Packaging, the Sri Lanka Association of Printers, INGRIN Institute of Printing & Graphics, have launched a fund raising project to build houses for the homeless in the Southern part of the Island, in a village called dagama, around 85 kilo meters off Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka.

This team is headed by me as the President of the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging. I have also launched a fund raising project to help the Tsunami affected families in the member countries of the Asian Packaging Federation (APF) and have received a sizable collection from the Asian Packaging Federation, World Packaging Organization and some of the member countries and individuals attached to these two Packaging bodies. What is collected for the APF fund will be divided among the affected Asian countries like Indonesia and Sri Lanka?

We have had initial discussions with the Governor of the Southern Province of Sri Lanka, Hon. Kingsley T Wickremaratne who allocated this land, which has 166 houses completely demolished leaving only the foundations. The new houses each consisting of two bed rooms, a sitting room, a kitchen and a toilet will cost of around Rs. 400,000.00 (US \$ 4000.00 approximately) per unit. In order to provide new houses to all these 166 families in this village who have lost their dwellings on this fateful day, a total sum of around US \$ 700,000 has to be raised as early as possible as it is our duty as fellow human beings to see that these innocent people living in tents or sheds are rehabilitated soon.

- It is felt that these three organizations handling the project alone may not be able to undertake this massive project. The team has decided to solicit your contribution to make this a success.

This is a very good opportunity for you/ your organization to come forward to support this worthy cause. You could either take the responsibility of building a number of houses on your own at this site or to make a monetary or a contribution of building materials to the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging to enable the core team to complete the project. We humbly request your contributions early, as we do not want to prolong the agony of helpless innocent families .You could direct your contributions to the account we have opened for this purpose at the Hatton National Bank, City Office, Colombo, Sri Lanka, which is “ **SLIP TSUNAMI DISASTER FUND**” **A/c No. 002 0787 058. Swift No. HBLILKLX.**

, Dharmatilake Ratnayake

President – Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging

President – Asian Packaging Federation

Vice President – World Packaging Organization

Chairman – INGRIN Institute of Printing & Graphics

LET US REBUILD

A HOUSING PROJECT NAMED

“ASURUM PIYASA”

By

The Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging

Sri Lanka Association of Printers

INGRIN Institute of Printing & Graphics

at

Godagama South – Southern Province

Sri Lanka

A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in shades of brown and tan, positioned at the bottom of the slide against a blue gradient background.

LET US REBUILD

- **The Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging plays its role in Tsunami Relief Operations by launching an ambitious housing project for displaced persons**

The Tsunami Disaster of December 26, 2004 was by far the greatest natural disaster that struck the Asian region in terms of both loss of life and property. The furious waves originating from an underwater earthquake off the seas of Indonesia unleashed a wave of destruction across a good part of the South and South East Asian region. Sri Lanka was among the countries that suffered most as a result of the disaster. Many thousands of Sri Lankans, especially those living near the coastal areas lost their lives while hundreds of thousands were displaced and dispossessed as a result of the disaster. Many have yet to be accounted for and the total cost of the destruction unleashed by the furious waves has yet to be estimated.

SOME OF THE AFFECTED HOUSES



The Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging, Sri Lanka Association of Printers & the INGRIN Institute of Printing & Graphics, have done all within its means to help affected persons; especially those involved in the Packaging & Printing industry get back on their feet. Much of the assistance provided so far however has been in the form of short-term relief, taking into consideration the immediate needs such as food and clothing. However their long-term needs also have to be looked into, and needless to say this includes housing, a basic requirement for those affected persons to begin life anew.

It is with a view to affording a long-term solution to the crisis that the Governing Body of the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging decided to launch a fund-raising campaign for a housing project in the Southern region of the country where more than 10,000 people have died and several hundred thousands displaced and rendered homeless.



WHAT WE INTEND DOING

- We intend naming this project “Asurum Piyasa” which in the vernacular means ‘Packaging Village’. The houses that will be built at the sites where there were permanent houses before the Tsunami disaster but only parts of the foundations are left now, would be donated to those deserving families who have lost every thing except their plot of land where the new houses have been built. Besides the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging that took the initiative in the project, the Sri Lanka Association of Printers and the INGRIN Institute of Printing and Graphics have also pledged their support for the project and have agreed to join as co-partners.

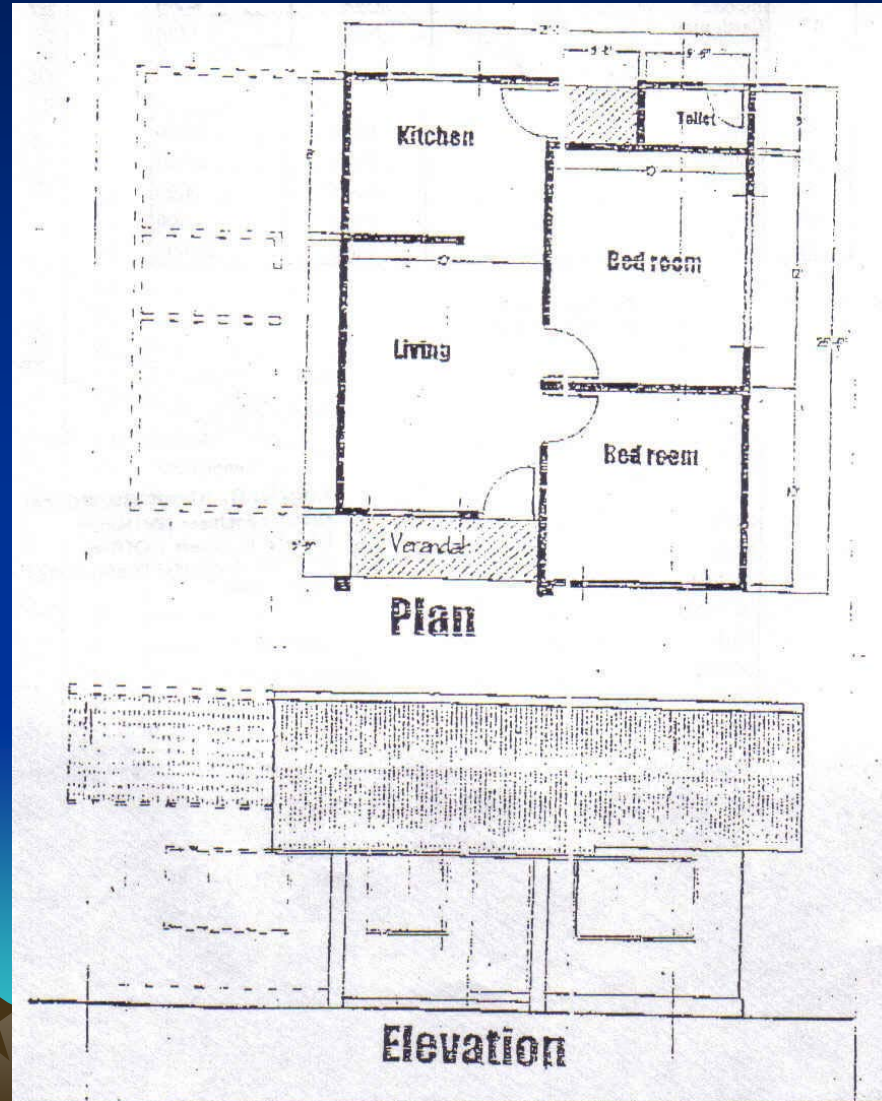
- Much of the groundwork for the project has already been laid. The Governor of the Southern Province Mr. Kingsley T. Wickremeratne who is one of the founder members and an honorary member of the Institute has already pledged to provide suitable land in the South for the purpose. Preliminary investigations have revealed that among the most affected areas is Godagama South where a total of 251 houses have been damaged as a result of the Tsunami. Out of this number, 66 houses situated within the recently established 100-metre barrier (where any sort of construction is prohibited) have been totally destroyed. The rest of the houses are situated out of the 100-metre barrier in

which construction of houses is permitted. Out of a total of 166 houses here, 95 houses have been totally destroyed.

It has therefore been decided to focus the initial relief efforts on the residents of Godagama South and resettle them as early as possible. It has been decided to build the houses in several stages, each phase consisting of ten houses. It has been estimated that a single house with two bedrooms, living room, kitchen and toilet could be built at around Rs.400, 000.00



PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED HOUSE



A Fund for the Project known as the 'SLIP Tsunami Disaster fund' has already been established for the purpose and members, suppliers and well-wishers are requested to contribute to this worthy cause. Those who are in contact with donor agencies overseas who are willing to contribute are also requested to direct them to send their donations to the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging.



Monies donated to the Fund will be managed properly and will be utilized solely for the housing project. You may channel your contributions to our fund to the following account or draw the cheques in favour of the **'SLIP Tsunami Disaster Fund'** and post all contributions to our institute.



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO

The President,

**Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging,
290, D.R.Wijewardena Mawatha,
Colombo 10**

**Tel / Fax. 0094 11 2386519 and 0094 11 4734351
or 0094 777555008**

E Mail: slip@slt.net.lk

“SLIP Tsunami Disaster Fund”

**A/C No. 002 0787 058 – Hatton National
Bank, City Office, Colombo 01,
Sri Lanka.**

Swift No. HBLILKLX



Meanwhile the President of the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging, Mr.Dharmatilake Ratnayake in his capacity as the President of the Asian Packaging Federation and a Vice-President of the World Packaging Organization has launched another fund-raising project to obtain funds to support those displaced families in affected member countries of the Asian Packaging Federation in the Asian region. The monies so collected will be distributed proportionately among APF member organizations to be used for rebuilding activities in their respective countries.



This Fund known as the APF Tsunami Disaster Fund has already received contributions from APF and WPO members to the sum of USD 46,000 out of which nearly a half will be allocated to Sri Lanka for the Asurum Gama Project, with the rest of the monies going to the other badly affected member country of the APF - Indonesia.

Even though the APF Tsunami fund was launched with the idea of dividing the collection among all four affected member countries of the Asian Packaging Federation; the Indian Institute of Packaging and the Thai Packaging Association requested the President of the APF not to allocate any funds from this collection to their Institutes but instead divide the money among the two Packaging Institutes in the badly affected member countries – Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

