



ACEH TSUNAMI DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF KUCHING CENTRAL

20 January 2005

PRESS RELEASE

CONTRIBUTIONS BY MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF HARWOOD TIMBER TO THE TSUNAMI CASUALTIES IN ACEH PROVINCE, INDONESIA

The management and staff of Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd donated RM2,760 to the Aceh Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund of the Rotary Club of Kuching Central. The donation was handed over by Mr. James Chan, the General Manager of Harwood Timber, to President Aw Tai Hui of the Rotary Club of Kuching Central.

In the simple handover ceremony, James said, 'The company has donated a substantial sum of money for the same purpose but this particular donation is different because it has been contributed by the individual staff and the management of the company'.

'The continuing news of this tragedy has compelled each one of us to want to do something personally. We decided that the best way to respond is to allocate some of our earnings to help those who are in need of help', James added.

Also present in the handover ceremony were some managers of Harwood Timber as well as some members of the Aceh Tsunami Disaster Relief Effort Committee which is headed by Past President Andre Suharto.

In his message of thanks, President Aw Tai Hui conveyed the appreciation of the Rotary Club of Kuching Central to the management & staff of Harwood Timber for having identified the club as the trusted NGO to help channel the donated fund to help the casualties in Aceh. 'Every cent of donation will mean so much if everyone were to do their part in contributing. What may seem to be insignificant to some of us may mean so much more valuable to those who are in need of help', said Aw Tai Hui.

The Aceh Province in Indonesia is the worst affected area with the highest death toll that is increasing by the day.

The Rotary Club of Kuching Central was overwhelmed by the tremendous support and immediate response given by individuals and corporations including MAS (Malaysian Airlines). To date, nearly 3,000kg of medical aids have been flown out of Kuching to Medan via Kuala Lumpur courtesy of MAS. Medan is the main city nearest to the Aceh Province in North Sumatera that is served by MAS twice daily from KLIA and once a day from Penang.



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The Rotary Club of Kuching Central, one of the four Rotary Clubs located in Kuching city, has taken up the lead to raise funds and to provide coordination and logistics to would-be donors for the benefit of the Tsunami victims in Aceh specifically. The club is partnering with the Rotary Club of Langkat which is located 80km North of Medan between Banda Aceh and Medan. It is the nearest Rotary Club to the affected areas.

'Donation is still pouring in albeit at a slower pace. As of 19 January 2005, the club has collected nearly RM166,000 of cash', said Andre Suharto.

There are other Rotary Clubs in District 3310 which are focusing their relief efforts in Sri Lanka while there are also other Rotary Clubs outside of District 3310 that are providing relief efforts in other disaster areas.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MONETARY DONATIONS:

Monetary contributions can be done with a crossed cheque made payable to '***Rotary Club of Kuching Central***' with the contact person, address and the following words written at the back of the cheque '***Aceh Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund***'. Receipts will be issued.

About Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd:

Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC). As a well organized, dedicated and disciplined to its tasks, Harwood has achieved its ISO 9001:2000 accreditation in a record time of three and a half months only. The company was entrusted by the State Government as a third and independent party to inspect and monitor the movement of logs throughout the State. This is to ensure that the State's timber industry is heading towards the right direction for a proper, organized and disciplined industry which go for the best in terms of the environment aspect balancing with the creation of values from the timber resources and to develop them into stronger revenue earner to ensure a prosperous Sarawak for the future generation.

About Rotary Club of Kuching Central (for more details please visit the club's website at www.kuchingcentralrotary.org):

The Rotary Club of Kuching Central was established in December 1986 and currently has 36 members comprising of business people and professionals. The club is under the grouping of Rotary International District 3310 which comprises of Johor, Melaka, Sabah, Sarawak, Labuan F.T, Brunei and Singapore. There are 65 Rotary Clubs in Rotary International District 3310. For the past 11 consecutive years, the club has bagged the Rotary International Presidential Citation Awards for its fine achievements and fine performances as well as having received several Rotary International District 3310 recognitions.

About Rotary International (www.rotary.org):

Rotary International is the first non-profit making organization in the world where ***business*** and ***professional people*** are united worldwide to provide ***humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations***



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and *promote peace and goodwill in the world*. It was established in 1905. In 1985, Rotary International initiated the PolioPlus Campaign, a major worldwide project to eradicate Polio from the face of the earth by 2005, the Rotary Centennial Year. One of the partners in this project is the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, founded by Bill Gates, the Chief Software Architect of Microsoft. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation committed to match dollar to dollar for every dollar committed to PolioPlus campaign up to a maximum of US\$25 million.



James Chan (5th from right) presenting the cash donation to President Aw Tai Hui witnessed by Chairman of the Relief Effort Committee Andre Suharto (center). Also present were the management team of Harwood (right to left) Ho Khoon Chiew, Zamhari Hashim, Hj Abdul Hadi Datuk Hj Abdul Kadir and Ong Lip Kheng. From Kuching Central were (from left to right) Kho Ping, Chieng Lee Ching, Wee Chun Ken & Frankie Ong.

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