

## **Tsunami Rehabilitation Initiative (TRI) formed for better coordination in the rehabilitation and reconstruction work**

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A body to coordinate and network the important social service organisations [NGOs] engaged in Tsunami disaster relief and rehabilitation work has been formed at Chennai. The coordinating body has been named as Tsunami Rehabilitation Initiative [TRI]. The decision to form TRI was taken at a meeting held in Chennai on Saturday, January 8, 2005 in which Swami Dayananda Saraswathi, Swami Gautamananda, and Satguru Jaggi Vasudev guided the deliberations.

The leading NGOs who have become the first members of the coordinating body are: Sewa Bharati, Vivekananda Kendra, Sri Ramakrishna Mission, AIM for Seva, Mata Amritanandamayi Math, Chinmaya Mission, Art of Living Foundation, ISKCON, Isha Foundation and Swaminarayan Sampradaya. The coordinating body will have as patrons Swami Gautamananda, President, Ramakrishna Mission, Chennai, Swami Dayananda Saraswathi of Arsha Vidhya Gurukulam, Mata Amritanandamayi, the head of the Amritanandamayi Math, Satguru Jaggi Vasudev, the head of Isha Foundation and Sri Sri Ravishankar the head of Art of Living foundation. More than 10,000 volunteers of the member organizations, many of them qualified doctors, psychiatrists, trauma therapists and other specialists, are involved in the relief and rehabilitation work in all the affected places in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Andaman and Sri Lanka.

The purpose of this co-ordinating and networking effort is to ensure proper distribution and co-ordination of the delivery of rehabilitation work among different NGOs which have become the first members and such other organizations as would net work with the TRI in future. TRI will contact different NGOs, which have no sectarian or sectional motive or extra territorial interests, for networking with them. TRI will also integrate the work of the different service organizations so that the collective and coordinated work of all the service organizations ensures most effective and unduplicated delivery of the rehabilitation work. By networking and coordinating the different NGOs, it will be possible to use their resources to the optimum level and partly unburden the government, the tough task of coordinating the voluntary work.

TRI will interface with the government and also the media so as to expedite the rehabilitation work. TRI believes that this kind of coordination among the NGOs will also assist the authorities in ensuring proper planning and expedite the delivery of rehabilitation work. The rehabilitation work planned for the future will also include trauma relief, psychiatric care and other counselling work, besides housing and provision of fishing infrastructure. TRI will persuade the different NGOs to adopt all affected villages and assist the authorities in choosing the most genuine NGOs as agencies for delivery of the rehabilitation. The office of TRI will issue periodic reports on the work done by the member organizations and other organizations which network with TRI for the information of the public.

The TRI appeals to all NGOs and other service organizations engaged in Tsunami Rehabilitation work to network with TRI so that the collective and integrated position of the NGOs through TRI leads to efficient and expedited rehabilitation services.

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