



ADER NGO Information & Documentation Office

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Due to the number of NGOs present in South India, and the increasing complexity of the post-tsunami humanitarian landscape, ADER and the *Fondation de France* are collaborating to produce a bi-weekly English, French and Tamil NGO Information Bulletin.

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INFORMATION OFFICE UPDATE

The ADER NGO Information Office's activities have expanded to include the running of a simple guesthouse welcoming relief workers and other tsunami-related visitors to Pondicherry. Prospective visitors must call at least a day in advance, specify the duration of their stay and the purpose of their visit.

ADER Guesthouse

4 Ramraja Street 605 001 Pondicherry, India
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BI-WEEKLY NEWS RECAP

General

'Paradigm shift' in disaster management

Disaster management occupies an important place in India's development policy framework as the poor, under-privileged and women are worst affected by calamities and disasters.

Union Minister of Environment and Forests A. Raja said that each State had to prepare a scheme to address various issues covering disaster preparedness, response and mitigation measures. "The new approach proceeds from the conviction that development cannot be sustainable unless disaster mitigation is built into the development process," he said, pointing out that it had to be a multi-disciplinary approach.

To supplement the Government efforts, Disaster Risk Management Programme has been taken up with the assistance of the USAID and European Union in 169 most hazard-prone districts in 17 States, including, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/08/31/stories/2005083103490600.htm>

Police department to form disaster management teams in coastal districts

The Tamil Nadu police department will form disaster management teams in coastal districts to handle emergencies, including natural calamities. The decision to train police personnel in relief operations was taken in the aftermath of the tsunami. Training modules are currently being elaborated, while required infrastructure is being determined.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/09/13/stories/2005091304180600.htm>

Tourist arrivals to India up since the Tsunami

A report published on August 25th by the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) and Visa International illustrates the impact the tsunami has had on international arrivals to tsunami affected countries. Of the major affected countries, India is the only one benefiting from a large upsurge in tourism (+16.7%), though figures for coastal Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry are not available.

The full report is available on :

www.pata.org/patasite/fileadmin/news_pata/VISA_PATA_post-tsunami_update.pdf

Agriculture

▶ **Tamil Nadu**

Summary of NGO coordination meeting on Agriculture in Nagappattinam

A district level Agriculture meeting was held at the Collectorate Conference Hall in Nagappattinam, on August 31st. Numerous NGOs were present at the meeting, as well as agriculture line departments. The NGO Coordination and Resource Centre's agriculture unit asked for a tentative work schedule from NGOs who have not yet begun land reclamation projects in revenue villages. As the monsoon season is fast approaching, NGOs have been asked to accelerate measures for land reclamation.

Source: <http://trinet.in/>. The minutes of the meeting are available at: www.ncrc.in

Environment

▶ **Tamil Nadu**

A Preliminary Assessment of Impact of Tsunami in Selected Coastal Areas of India, commissioned by India's Department of Ocean Development (DoD) is available at www.dod.nic.in. The DOD report indicates that contrary to fears, the impact of the tsunami on corals and on coastal ecosystems was minimal.

Noting that the most seriously affected areas are low-lying and devoid of natural barriers, the report recommends that setback lines for the protection/conservation of coastal resources, beaches, people incorporate the elevation levels during storm surges and tsunamis, rather than being based simply on high tide lines currently used to define the coastal regulation zone (CRZ).

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/2005/09/11/stories/2005091106570400.htm>

Reconstruction

▶ Andaman and Nicobar

Poor rehab for Andaman's tsunami victims:

A survey, conducted by Human Rights Law Network (HRLN), a non-profit organisation, revealed that people are still suffering in temporary tin-sheds as the new housing system is proving to be a bad idea. "The tin-shed shelters become too hot to stay in summer and during monsoon, they are simply unbearable due to mud all around," said Colin Gonsalves, executive director of HRLN.

Source: http://www.infochangeindia.org/Disasters/Top.jsp?section_idv=12

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 6 months later. Report published in *Combat Law: the human rights magazine*

Though much has been written about the situation in Tamilnadu and Pondicherry, the conditions of tsunami survivors in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are little known. The Human Rights Law Network team was on the Islands immediately after the tsunami and has maintained a presence there to this day. Their report published in *Combat Law: the human rights magazine* is available at <http://www.indiatogether.org/combatalaw/vol4/issue3/tsunami.htm>

▶ Pondicherry

Reconstruction of permanent shelters in Pondicherry and Karaikal

To date, the government of Pondicherry has signed 8 MoU with NGOs. These regard the construction of 2 530 houses for the tsunami affected people of 11 fishermen hamlets, according to Pondicherry relief and rehabilitation commissioner B. V. Selvaraj.

Source : *New Indian Express* Print version, 11-09-05

▶ Tamil Nadu

Status of Nagappattinam Housing Projects

Nearly 2,700 permanent houses for tsunami-affected people are under various stages of construction in 15 places in Nagappattinam, according to Collector J. Radhakrishnan. These houses should be ready for occupation in two months, while the construction of another 2,000 houses will begin shortly in other areas.

The designs of the houses will differ from place to place, according to soil condition and the desires of the beneficiaries. Each house, with a plinth area of 324 sq.ft, will be built at a cost of Rs.1.50 lakhs, Mr. Radhakrishnan said. The Collector said a total of 303 hectares was required for construction of these houses; 177.50 hectares had been acquired so far, including 84 hectares of Government land for in-situ construction.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/2005/09/10/stories/2005091003700300.htm>

Summary of seminar on “Appropriate Building Material and Technology in Tsunami Reconstruction”

The workshop was organised on September 6th by the Tamil Nadu Government, with the participation of the World Bank's Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project, the Asian Development Bank's Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project, the United Nations Development Programme, the Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre and the U.N. Recovery Team.

Experts from Auroville Earth Institute, Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute and National Bamboo Mission spoke on the use of materials such as compressed stabilised earth blocks, rat-trap bond walls and filler slabs in constructing tsunami shelters.

Other participants included government officials, NGOs, members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and donor agencies.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/2005/09/07/stories/2005090706130500.htm>

Note: minutes not yet available.

First permanent housing project completed in Cuddalore

The completion of a permanent housing project in Cuddalore district by the Mata Amritandamayi Math Ashram has received generous coverage in the local media. The housing project — with roads, electricity and water supply — is the first to be completed by any non-government agency in any of Tamil Nadu's tsunami-hit villages.

The houses have a plinth area of 325 sq.ft. and are identical in design : each house has a hall, one bedroom, a kitchen, a staircase leading to an open terrace, and a bathroom. The houses were completed within 3 months of the acquisition of the land.

Sources:

<http://www.amritapuri.org/tsunami/sunami49.php>

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1050905/asp/nation/story_5198243.asp#

<http://www.hindu.com/2005/09/05/stories/2005090506560300.htm>

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20050901014847&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+%2D+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0&aDate=9%2F1%2F2005>

Fire destroys temporary shelters

The fishermen community of Mudaliarkuppam in Vilepuram district suffered a fire on September 8th in which all 84 temporary shelters erected since the tsunami were destroyed. There were no reported casualties.

The temporary shelters had originally been built with tin sheet partitions and roofs, but the roofs were replaced with thatch due to complaints the tin roofing was too hot.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/09/09/stories/2005090904440300.htm>

Social Issues

Summary of the Hearing on discrimination against Dalits in tsunami relief and rehabilitation

Amid large-scale allegations of discrimination against Dalits in tsunami relief and rehabilitation, a consolidation of Dalit organisations has mounted a plan to approach the court. At a daylong public hearing organised in Chennai on August 30th, 22 Dalits from the 13 affected districts alleged they had been left out of most of the relief works executed by the Government and non-governmental organisations. They emotionally recounted the discrimination they faced for the past eight months, as a seven-member jury listened sympathetically. A survey conducted by the Human Rights Forum for Dalit Liberation listed 28 villages at Nagappattinam and Karaikal as the most affected by tsunami. The organisers of the public hearing said they received no information about the number of Dalit families affected from official sources, despite many petitions.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/2005/08/31/stories/2005083112841000.htm>

Post-tsunami Human Rights Report Published

According to a report by the Housing and Land Rights Network entitled *Post-tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation: A Violation of Human Rights*, despite the huge outpouring of aid, benefits have not always reached those who need them the most. Furthermore, relief efforts have not always been based on a comprehensive needs assessment.

The report points out that relief and rehabilitation policies have largely been gender-neutral, while ignoring the special needs of vulnerable populations including women, children, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, minorities, and disabled people.

Livelihoods have not yet been restored, while hunger, health problems, insecurity and depression are on the rise amongst survivors.

Source: http://www.hic-sarp.org/news_show_user.php?id=39

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Organiser	Date/ Time	Place
Seminar on Tsunami Rehabilitation	National Institute of Technology and UNESCO arunparwate@yahoo.co.in	23-09-05 to 25-09-05	National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra
Workshop : <i>Setting Up a Low Cost Information Centre</i>	Centre for Education & Documentation Phone: (080) 25353397 cedban@doccentre.org	25-09-05 to 27-09-05	CED Bangalore #7, 8th Main , 3rd phase Domlur 2nd Stage Bangalore - 560071
Madurai Symposium: <i>Advancing Development</i>	DHAN Foundation 18, Pillaiyar Koil Street, S.S.Colony, Madurai 625 010 dhan@md3.vsnl.net.in	26-09-05 to 29-09-05	Madurai; Exact location to be confirmed
Training session: <i>Environmental Health in Emergencies</i>	RedR India info@redrindia.org	17-10-05 to 23-10-05	Pune, Maharashtra
Workshop: <i>Understanding the Sphere Project</i>	RedR India info@redrindia.org	16-11-05 to 19-11-05	Trivandrum, Kerala.

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Pondicherry

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Paris

ADER : Association pour le Développement Economique Régional Gionata Simioni, Programme Manager 31 Rue de Reuilly, 75012 Paris - France Tel. +33 1 40 24 03 03 Fax: +33 1 40 24 09 77 Email: contact@ader-france.org	Fondation de France Martin Spitz, Programme Manager : Email: martin.spitz@fdf.org Estelle Hédouin, Programme Information Manager: Email: estelle.hedouin@fdf.org
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APPENDIX : USEFUL WEBSITES

Description	Link
Government and Administration websites	
Government of India National Disaster Management website	www.ndmindia.nic.in
Government of Tamil Nadu Tsunami website	www.tn.gov.in/tsunami
Government of Pondicherry Tsunami website (follow links to tsunami website)	www.pondicherry.nic.in
France in India	www.france-in-india.org
UNDP Tsunami Disaster Information and Documents	www.undp.org.in/dmweb/Tsunami/default.htm
National Institute for Disaster Management	www.nidm.net
Links to Tamil Nadu District web sites	www.tn.gov.in/misc/collectors.htm
Information and Coordination Sites	
Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network (ADRRN)	www.adrrn.net
Kanyakumari Rehabilitation Resource Centre	www.krrc.in
Nagapattinam Coordination and Resource Centre	www.ncrc.in
Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre (UNDP)	www.tntrc.org
Tsunami Information site (run by the South Indian Federation of Fishermen societies - SIFFS)	www.tsunami2004-india.org
Tsunami Rehabilitation Information Network (TRINet)	http://trinet.in/
Tsunami Relief and Rehab Coordination (Cuddalore)	www.trrcindia.org
Organisations supported by the <i>Fondation de France</i>	
ACTED	www.acted.org
ADER	www.ader-france.org
Architecture et Développement	www.archidev.org
CCFD	www.ccfid.asso.fr
DEMAINS	www.demains.org
Ecole de l'Art Rue	www.ecoledelartrue.liocand.com/
Emmaüs International	www.emmaus-international.org
Enfants de Tous Pays	www.enfantsdetouspays.com
Fédération Peuples Solidaires	www.peuples-solidaires.org
SithaDairy	www.sithadairy.eu.org
Solidarité	www.solidarite.asso.fr
Volontariat Inde	http://perso.wanadoo.fr/volontariat.inde/
Fondation de France	www.fdf.org

Selected Indian Organisations	
Auroville Tsunami Relief website	www.auroville.org/tsunami/tsunami.htm
BLESS	www.bless.org.in
Development Technocrats' Forum	www.geocities.com/dffindia
Dhan Foundation	www.dhan.org
M.S. Swamy Nathan Foundation	www.mssrf.org
National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR)	www.dalits.org
South Indian Federation of Fisherman Societies (SIFFS)	www.siffs.org