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NGO Information Bulletin

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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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NEWS RECAP

Report on the First meeting of the Task Force on Accountability and Audit of Disaster-Related Aid

The first meeting of the Task Force on Accountability and Audit of Disaster-Related Aid took place in The Hague. The President of the Netherlands Court of Audit, Mrs. Stuiveling, chairs the Task Force, the Supreme Auditing Institutions of Indonesia and Korea will act as vice-chairs.

The meeting discussed the set up and future activities of the Task Force, which will consist of two branches: the first branch, chaired by Indonesia, will focus on the Tsunami-related issues, while the second, chaired by Korea, will focus on more structural issues such as the development of guidelines for the audit of disaster related aid.

Other issues discussed concerned the establishment of contacts with other relevant organizations such as the UN, OECD, and (federations of) NGOs and international accounting firms. It was also agreed to install a website to inform all INTOSAI-members and other interested parties about the activities of the Task Force by February.

It is envisaged that the first meeting of the complete Task Force on Accountability and Audit of Disaster-Related Aid will be held in March 2006, presumably in Geneva.

Source: http://www.intosai.org/Level6/Tsunami_Initiative/6_TsunNewsLet0106.html

▶ **Tamil Nadu**

Clash: Three fishermen hurt

Three fishermen sustained injuries in a clash between two groups at Akkaraipettai fishing hamlet near Nagapattinam.

According to police sources, at Akkaraipettai village, new office bearers have taken charge for the village fishermen panchayat recently. The new office bearers had demanded the outgoing team to submit panchayat accounts.

The outgoing office bearers did not submit the accounts. As a result, a tense situation had prevailed in the village. In this situation, a clash had taken place between the old and new panchayat office bearers.

Source:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20060202034154&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+%2D+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0&>

**Disaster
Management**

▶ **Andaman & Nicobar**

Indian foreign boat ban hampers tsunami research:

The Indian government is hampering efforts to understand the earthquake that caused the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and prepare for future disasters. India's ban on foreign boats in its territorial waters for 'reasons of national security' means that research vessels are unable to survey the northern section of the 1,300-kilometre-long rupture zone created by the earthquake. Scientists say other countries usually grant access for such research missions. But after decades of refusals, researchers have stopped asking India for permission. Instead, foreign scientists depend on rare collaborations with Indian researchers to share the limited data they are able to obtain.

Source:

<http://www.scidev.net/gateways/index.cfm?fuseaction=readitem&rgwid=3&item=News&itemid=2618&language=1>

Education

▶ **Tamil Nadu**

Tsunami-affected students at a loss

Some Chennai students are being forced to pay the school fees in violation of the Government's order. Soon after the tsunami, the State had instructed the Government, aided and unaided educational institutions, including colleges, not to collect tuition and special fees from the affected students for the January 2005 academic year.

However, it has been noted that several schools violated the order and extracted money from students for 'Miscellaneous Fees', which include fees for sports and computing. Over 3000 students have referring the issue to the courts.

Holding a certificate issued by the tahsildar, which entitles the students for exemption from paying the fees, Latha, a college student, said: "In spite of showing this, they collected fees and refused to give the receipt."

Source:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IE920060125222504&Page=9&Title=Chennai&Topic=0&>

Environment

▶ **Tamil Nadu**

Tamil Nadu to promote use of solar devices

As part of the tsunami reconstruction programme and energy conservation measures, the Tamil Nadu Government has decided to promote use of solar devices in coastal areas.

Having realised the significance of solar power, MLAs are apportioning the Constituency Development Funds for installation of solar devices. It is envisaged that these devices will help meet the increasing power demand, while cutting the power bills.

Panchayat presidents are already finding it difficult to foot the power bills, and once the affected people move to the new colonies, they expect additional electricity consumption, and therefore less funds for development works.

Some panchayats have appealed to the Government to relieve them of the additional financial burden on this score. As a result the Government is encouraging NGOs to incorporate solar devices, including streetlights, in their housing projects.

C.V. Sankar, Tamil Nadu Officer on Special Duty (tsunami relief), said the tsunami reconstruction had provided an opportunity for profitable use of solar devices, and that the Government would like NGOs to put in place as many options as possible in regard to solar devices.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2006/01/29/stories/2006012907020300.htm>

Fishing

Tsunami takes toll on India's seafood exports

Seafood exports from India were badly hit by the December 2004 tsunami, which ruined many shrimp and aquaculture farms along the country's southern coast. Figures released by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for the first eight months of the current fiscal (2005-06) indicate that India exported 287,984 tonnes of seafood against 298,339 tonnes in the same period in the last fiscal year.

Source: http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1604214,00020008.htm

▶ **Andaman & Nicobar**

Andamans zero in on fisheries to attract investment:

As a major chunk of island's marine resources remain unused, Andaman and Nicobar will now try to utilise its "huge" untapped fisheries sector for capping more foreign exchange and generating employment opportunities for youth. The islands, which have a coast line of 1912 km, have 1.5 lakh tonne exportable marine products, but only 28,000 tonnes are exploited currently. As the Andaman administration is looking beyond post-tsunami tourism sector for island's development, it has zeroed in on fisheries to attract investment and foreign exchange apart from creating employment opportunities.

Source: [http://www.ptinews.com/pti/ptisite.nsf/\\$all/D1BDD42F1B8461FF65257101001F0C06](http://www.ptinews.com/pti/ptisite.nsf/$all/D1BDD42F1B8461FF65257101001F0C06)

▶ **Pondicherry**

Dwindling catch hits fishermen in Pondicherry

The dwindling catch of fish after the December 26, 2004, tsunami is affecting the livelihood of fishermen in Pondicherry. “Despite this being the fishing season, we have caught nothing worth mentioning,” said a fisherman. “Even after sailing 50 to 60 km off the coast, we do not get a good catch,” says T Ethiraj, a member of Fishery Harbour Committee. On certain days, the fishermen come home empty handed. Despite their use of new fibre reinforced plastic boats and gill nets, Ethiraj said. Before the tsunami, fishermen could get around Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000 a trip during the fishing season but now they consider themselves lucky if they get Rs 1,000 a day. The quality of the catch has also deteriorated.

Source:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20060117001352&Topic=0&Title=Southern%20News%20-%20Tamil%20Nadu&Page=T>

Reconstruction

▶ **Tamil Nadu**

All tsunami-hit fishermen to get permanent houses

All tsunami-affected fishermen in the coastal areas of Kanyakumari district will be provided with permanent houses and village level infrastructure facilities by the end of April according to the collector. Works on constructing 3400 houses are in full swing and non-governmental organisations, engaged in constructing permanent houses, have agreed to hand over the keys to fishermen before then, said Collector Sunil Paliwal.

Besides constructing 2,500 houses for tsunami-affected people, it was also decided to shift 900 houses situated 40 feet from the high tide line. Fishermen’s families, residing in this area, agreed to shift their houses to a safer place.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2006/01/22/stories/2006012204210300.htm>

Relief & Rehabilitation

▶ **Andaman&Nicobar**

Boost for Andaman tsunami rehabilitation:

The Indian authorities have decided to speed up the rehabilitation of victims of the 2004 tsunami in India's eastern Andaman and Nicobar islands. The federal government has taken some decisions to speed up the rehabilitation process:

- To speed up the construction of permanent housing for the 10,000 affected families and to retain the traditional structural design for houses
- To offer housing to 1,000 affected families who were originally found to be ineligible for permanent housing

- To allow family members of missing victims to access their bank accounts.
- To speed up the construction of roads and jetties.
- To implement a phased plan for development of tourism and open up 10 islands for tourists.
- To prepare a list of islands or parts of islands that cannot be opened up for security reasons.
- To ease restrictions to encourage more tourists, especially foreigners, to visit the islands

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4627684.stm

► **Tamil Nadu**

18 shelters for tsunami-hit gutted in Kumari

As many as 18 temporary shelters for the tsunami-affected at Pallam in Kanyakumari were gutted in a fire that broke out following a short circuit in one of the shelters. Sources said that the blaze destroyed an estimated Rs 4 lakh worth of property. The 18 families consisting of 75 members have been sheltered in the middle school at Pallam.

Each family has also been given relief of five litres of kerosene, rice, dhoti and saree and relief doles amounting INR 1,000. Stoves and utensils will also be distributed to each family.

The additional collector said that the temporary shelters would be set up again in the same locality shortly.

Source:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20060129234922&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+%2D+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0&>

Patients flood de-addiction centre post-tsunami

A de-addiction centre was set up at Naduvoorkarai, a tiny village in Kanniyakunari District, to provide counselling to fisherfolk. Ever since tsunami struck the coast a large number of fisherfolk have started visiting the centre.

Initially it was very difficult to convince the fishermen about the evils of alcohol. But these days the fishermen come to the centre on their own to get treatment. However, since the tsunami, as many as 3,000 alcoholics have obtained free treatment through the centre by way of individual and family counselling. The patients are given medical and psychological support, as well as group therapy, so that the counsellors can understand their problems.

The all-women police in the district also refers drug addicts to the centre, before their wives apply for a divorce.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2006/01/27/stories/2006012704540200.htm>

NEW ONLINE RESOURCES

- A note circulated during the Prime Minister's meeting on 4 Jan 2006 provides an overview of relief and rehabilitation in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands:
<http://www.and.nic.in/post-tsunami.pdf>
- A discussion on the Tata Institute of Social Science report entitled *The State and Civil Society in Disaster Response: An Analysis of the Tamil Nadu Tsunami Experience* is available on TRINet's website:
www.trinet.in/downloads/21decsdrep.doc
- An update on Tsunami related activities in Tamil Nadu as of January 15th 2006 is available at <http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/tsunami-relief.htm>
- The Government of Tamil Nadu brought out a booklet called *Tiding Over Tsunami* on the anniversary of the tsunami tragedy. It is now available for download in English at http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/tiding_over_tsunami.htm
- A report released by Action Aid entitled *Tsunami response a Human Right Assessment* has been published on.
<http://www.actionaid.org/wps/content/documents/TSUNAMI%20REPORT%20-%20for%20screen%20viewing.pdf>
- The newly approved *International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions* tsunami auditing proposal is available on:
http://www.intosai.org/Level6/Tsunami_Initiative/6_TsunamiProposal.pdf

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Organiser	Date/ Time	Place
Workshop Governance in traditional fishing communities	TRINet Ahana Lakshmi 98487 40404	15-02-06	Image Conference Hall, MRC Nagar, RA Puram, Chennai
Workshop Effective Micro organism Technology, sanitation and hygiene	Auroville Knowledge Resource Centre, Auroville Tsunami Rehab Project, Email: cnussele@gmail.com	18-02-06	Auroville, Tamil Nadu
Workshop Eco-restoration	Auroville Knowledge Resource Centre, Auroville Tsunami Rehab Project, Email: cnussele@gmail.com	20-02-06	Auroville, Tamil Nadu

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Pondicherry

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Paris

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