

A Journey with Our Community...

Concern, Effort & Results...



As I sat to write this report, on what we have achieved up to now on the Humanitarian front, I went down memory lane with pleasant feelings.

I will begin with Sri Lanka first, my first assignment, which was given to me by FOMSO Deputy President Mr A Gnanarajah just two months after I joined FOMSO. He called me up one evening and inquired if I would be interested to go on a fact finding mission to Sri Lanka. I went silent for a moment, and then told him that I agreed in principle but I was not prepared to go alone

and that we needed to discuss the mission further. This occurred when the war had just ended in Sri Lanka and many versions of stories were being told about the aftermath.

Subsequently, Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, he called me to mention that he had found me a partner for the fact-finding mission to Sri Lanka; none other than our current Special Projects Chairman Ms Geetha Rubasundram. I agreed and we both left for the assignment.

Soon after we returned from our fact-finding mission, FOMSO President Dato S Kulasegaran formally inducted her into FOMSO.

Ever since then, I have notched up seven Humanitarian missions to Sri Lanka to provide aid to the needy. We will be going again on December 18th 2011. This will be our eighth mission and FOMSO President Dato S Kulasegaran will head it. The primary aim being, to complete the mission to set up a vocational training centre in Vavuniya.

Initiated by FOMSO in mid 2010, this is a multimillion-ringgit project and we had to obtain the necessary resources and funds accordingly. By God's Grace, we have matters in place now and the courses will commence in a couple of months time. Our project partners are DTET (Department of Technical Education & Training) in Sri Lanka, The Rotary Club of Capital City-Colombo, Mr Sailanathan - CEO of Megatech, and Vocational Visions Sdn. Bhd.

FOMSO would like to extend its sincere appreciation to Dato J. Jegathesan - Former Deputy Director General, Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) for his enormous support towards this noble project and all our project partners mentioned above for graciously coming forward to help carry out this endeavor in cooperation with FOMSO.

In Malaysia, Mr Logarajah - FOMSO Vice President cum Task Force Chairman, was the liaison between FOMSO and UNHCR, to assist the displaced people in various aspects. He was also instrumental in obtaining consent and assistance from UNHCR to set up a school in Jalan Ipoh for the displaced people's children of Sri Lankans in Malaysia. Madam Sarojini - Women's Welfare Chairman, Mr. Nadarajah - Honorary Secretary and I assisted him.

I take my hat off to Mr Logarajah who is also the - President of Ceylon Tamil's Kalavirthy Sangam, he not only provided food, clothing and education, but also provided immediate shelter in his Sangam's premises. He tirelessly attended to their medical needs, even paid from his own pocket for pregnant women that had no money to pay for the hospital bills !.

Madam Sarojini, publicity shy as usual, is still carrying out the good work of attending to bread and butter issues of the displaced people. She single handedly raises funds, purchases goods and distributes these to them fortnightly. I truly admire her commitment & passion, without seeking for assistance and driving on her own in her golden age, phew!

The greatest contentment of all in carrying out all this Humanitarian work is seeing the glow and smiles of relief on the faces of the helpless. It is priceless and yet so gratifying.

I produced seven reports on "FOMSO's visits to affiliates in Malaysia" and a "Summary of Aid provided to IDP'S in Sri Lanka", which you can read on this website.

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