

26<sup>th</sup> January 2005

Dear Member

It has been about one month after the tsunami strikes the shore of several countries lining the Indian ocean. Although millions of dollars have been pledged by international communities, the relief work in certain areas especially north Sumatra is still very poor. The Malaysian Orthopaedic Association has been in close contact with some of the international humanitarian organizations as well as Indonesian Orthopaedic Association to identify areas that we can be of service. We have circulated a few messages on this matter.

Bandar Aceh is very close to us in Malaysia. Many organizations are providing humanitarian aid at the place but they are mostly focussed at rebuilding the basic infrastructure. Medical services are still very poor, and many injured or sick people did not receive any treatment. We have the communication network, transport facilities and more importantly caring people who are very willing to help our neighbors who are in need. Based on the information provided by some of our members who visited the area, we have decided to form a tsunami medical relief committee and cooperate with the Global Peace Mission (GPM) in their effort to restore the Rumah Sakit Umum Zainal Abidin. The committee has initiated communications with other national orthopaedic associations to source for donation of medical supplies, surgical instruments and basic implants. We are also contacting the orthopaedic heads of our major hospitals to collect implants like K-nails and plates of old design for the same purpose. Furthermore, we planned to send our volunteers very soon to start voluntary medical service at the Zainal Abidin Hospital. In an earlier message our coordinator of MOA humanitarian service, Assoc Prof Sharaf Ibrahim, has informed that we might need medical volunteers soon. The time is coming up and the first two persons are expected to go next week since the hospital is expected to be cleared from mud and dead bodies by then. Each trip will be for 7 to 10 day duration and we are still gathering a list of those interested to participate. Please feel free to contact Assoc Prof Sharaf or the MOA secretariat to find out more information.

The committee has decided to concentrate our effort in the month of February where some basic facilities would have been restored. Hopefully by March, the local authorities will be able to organize all relief activities for Bandar Aceh itself and we will then reduce our role to a more supportive nature.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



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