

GOSL Plan should be extended to include the reconstruction of the previously damaged road, rail and power grids in the ethnic conflict areas. Additional national infrastructure work will more than double the demand on the construction industry and cannot be undertaken in a short timeframe.

All infrastructure projects should be subject to environmental assessment (EA) and public participation, in order to identify/evaluate alternatives and select a preferred solution based on minimum (natural and social) environmental impacts and potential mitigations

The projects should be planned and carried out over many years and used as an instrument for economic regeneration in Sri Lanka. Their contribution to the GDP will be in the range of 15-20% and will extend over a long period. Their impact on the pool of unemployed labour will also be quite significant. This challenge offers a unique opportunity to initiate a new style of economic and social development that draws in the efforts of private citizens to supplement government efforts.

In the present international climate, non-governmental groups of citizens have a very good chance of obtaining substantial funds from international agencies, provided they can show competence in the tasks undertaken and the leading members have a

distinguished record of service in the public or private sector. It is also necessary to raise funds locally to show the extent of domestic support; in fact the raising of local funds is necessary before we solicit external funding.

**Postscript:** Just as we completed this discussion paper on 12 February, the Sri Lankan Government announced the forthcoming release of a revised 3-year reconstruction plan valued at \$1.8 billion that will be consistent with preliminary assessment of the Bank Report. A separate plan will be developed to address the main infrastructure needs valued at \$1.4 billion over the next decade. We welcome the proposed phasing of post-tsunami reconstruction work and national infrastructure development. We would also reiterate the critical importance of the reconstruction priorities discussed in this paper: temporary housing; clearing the tsunami debris; clean-up of water and land resources; and community participation in long-term resettlement planning.

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## THE JAPAN COMMITTEE FOR AID TO THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS IN SRI LANKA

**T**he tsunami erupted by the underwater earthquake in Sumatra on the 26th December last year caused a huge damage in seashore areas of several coastal countries in the region. It destroyed the lives of many innocent people and brought hardship to the survivors in Sri Lanka, too. The number of people died and people missing has increased to over 40,000. Especially the people living in the coastal areas suffered the most. It was a severe blow to their fishing industry. Facilities for the tourists have almost all destroyed. Many tourists and workers lost their lives and the survivors have no place to work. This dramatic event took place at a time when people were returning from refugee camps and have started a new life yet uncertain future prospect after a long lived ceasefire in Sri Lanka declared in February 2002. While facing the challenges of rehabilitation from war and ordeal from tsunami, food, medical supplies and clothing were sent to the affected areas. Sri Lanka also received a larger sum of donation from foreign countries. Now the emergency situation has settled and it is now time for all of us to help the tsunami victims to return to their normal life and job.

On the 6th February this year, there was a gathering of people from all walks of life that included citizens, academics, NGO, NPO and several Sri Lankans resident in Japan, where we reported and

discussed about the aid work and its further proposals. It has been a month since the eruption of tsunami, the rehabilitation work is being continued and at the same time, the amount of aid needed has surfaced different level of needs depending on the rate and the place of damages. It has also been reported that provisions were not distributed properly enough to the needs of the people and place. While mental cure of the victims were slow, there were incidents related to the acts of violence toward the victims reported. In addition, it is regrettable to learn that aid and rehabilitation work were used for the benefit of political gains.

In these circumstances and wishing an immediate restoration of normal life of the Sri Lankans, we release the following statement to the attention of governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals involved in rehabilitation work in Sri Lanka.

1. As for the rehabilitation of the disaster victims, their needs and initiative should be respected.
2. Aid should be provided equally without any ethnic, political or regional bias.

3. Violent act on victims should be prevented while women and children must be given priority for safety.
4. It is urgent that action should be taken to restore mental cure of the victims, who have lost everything, immediate and other relations in a long term treatment facility system. Needless to note here of the education of the children.
5. The government of Japan provided a total sum of 50 billion yen for the rehabilitation work. We demand that every NGO and INGO involved including the government of Sri Lanka in distributing aid in cash and kind use the aid appropriately and make their usage transparent.

6. We believe that aid and assistance from Japan for Sri Lanka should be utilized in a way to promote and further strengthen mutual understanding between the two peoples. ■

Japan Committee for Aid to the Tsunami Victims in Sri Lanka.  
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## O! God of Horror!

Hard to believe, immeasurable it is --  
 The love you have for us.

You love to hate us  
 Don't you?

And the power behind you  
 To cause destruction  
 Indeed lies beyond description,  
 Turning all our horoscopes  
 into 'horror' scopes.

Dividing us into parts  
 Once you made us fire at each other  
 And got enough for your hunger.

Now...

Thinking about the annihilation you caused,  
 All that comes to my mind  
 Are the words meaning nothing.

Raising an ugly tongue you came,  
 In the form of a tsunami  
 You devoured the children of our mother

Using the ink of tears  
 On our scarred sky  
 Let me write the end of your fate -  
 The end of your mad love.

*Sajitharan*