

## Tsunami Education Project (TEP) in Sri Lanka NEWSLETTER No. 7

### Tsunami Education Project in Sri Lanka completed

The Tsunami Education Project (TEP) in Sri Lanka will be completed end of March 2007. The teacher training project was running since March 2006 and was focused on the explanation of earthquakes and tsunamis mainly for teachers from schools of the Tsunami affected coastal areas.



**The TEP Team 2007 in the Ampara District (from left to right):**  
Mr. J. Anas (Project Driver), Mr. T. Klose (Project Manager), Ms. S. Laskowski (Project Manager), Mr. S. Ibrahim (Translator), Mr. I. Ahamed (Translator), Mr. M. Rislan (Local Expert East Coast), Mr. M. Ashar (Project Driver), Mr. Yames (Security Guard)

As a unique education project the TEP brought a detailed and scientific explanation of the Tsunami disaster in 2004 to the schools in Sri Lanka by carrying out special geography workshops.

After the scientific explanation the TEP Team also discussed different rumours about new tsunamis with the workshop participants which was one important step to decrease superstitious fear about the ocean.

Furthermore, the TEP Team distributed new geography educational material to schools in Sri Lanka, especially for the Social Study and Geography teachers to use.

#### **TEP Sri Lanka**

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**Sandra Laskowski (TEP Team) handing over new geography material to a school in Ampara District**

In total the TEP Team carried out **148 workshops** in the past year for all Junior, O-Level and A-Level schools in all Tsunami affected divisions of the Galle District and Ampara District. **3.956 participants** (mostly teachers) have been trained and more than **350 geography educational sets** have been distributed to schools in those districts.

Throughout the project the TEP Team worked together very closely and successfully with the different Zonal Education and Divisional Education Offices in its project areas. A fruitful cooperation with the University of Ruhuna (Matara District) and the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (Ampara District) was established as well.



During the school vacations the TEP Team also trained local and international staff of different NGOs in the Ampara District, like the staff of HELP from Germany and the Social Welfare Organization for Ampara District (SWOAD).

**TEP Local Expert Mr. Vasantharajah with the staff of the local NGO ABRO in Pottuvil in December 2006**

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To ensure highly effective workshops and a sustainable training different local experts have been trained by the TEP Team at the South and East Coast. After the training they were carrying out workshops on their own in their local language.



**TEP Local Expert South Coast  
Ms. Nadeesha in August 2006**



**TEP Local Expert East Coast Mr.  
Rislán in January 2007**

In 2007 the TEP Team finally evaluated how the schools in the Ampara District which have been reached by the project already in 2006 are now using the new educational material. It became clear that most of the schools included the gained knowledge and the material into their Geography and Social Study lessons and they are giving on the scientific reasons of earthquakes and tsunamis to their students.

### **TEP completed workshops in Kalmunai Divisions**

Mid of March 2007 the Team of the Tsunami Education Project in Sri Lanka successfully completed its last trainings for teachers in the Kalmunai Muslim and Tamil Divisions (Ampara District).



In total 20 workshops were held, reaching 550 teachers from all Junior, O-Level and A-Level schools in that two Tsunami affected divisions in Kalmunai. Beside the workshop also 40 sets of new geography educational material were distributed to the schools.

**TEP Workshop in Kalmunai**

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### TEP trained future teachers

After the completion of workshops in the Kalmunai Divisions the TEP also trained future teachers which are still studying at the Governmental Teachers College and the National College of Education in Addalachenai (Ampara District).



The Governmental Teachers College in Addalachenai



Mr. Rislan (Local Expert TEP) with students in the Teachers College



The National College of Education in Addalachenai



TEP workshop for students in the National College

Those two teachers training centers are preparing hundreds of students from the North and East of Sri Lanka for their future job as a teacher in these parts of the country. The TEP joined the two centers for one week and trained 288 students and lecturers in seven workshops about the scientific reasons of earthquakes and tsunamis.

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### **General Information**

The Tsunami Education Project (TEP) in Sri Lanka is financed by the German NGO HELP from Germany. HELP from Germany is a member of "Aktion Deutschland Hilft – United Help From Germany".

The TEP is a teachers training project and is running from March 2006 till March 2007. The TEP wants to increase the basic knowledge about the reasons of earthquakes and the Tsunami on December 26th, 2004. With the distribution of new educational material, the TEP also wants to improve the geography education in tsunami affected schools in Sri Lanka.

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