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(1) A Call for Volunteers & Funding:

Dear LAcNET Members,

We are in the process of revising LAcNET website and adding more projects to LAcNET activities and need your help. Please review following projects and see if they are something that you would like to actively participate in. If so, please volunteer by sending an email to one of us.

1. **A Call for Funding**
   We are making a regular call for funding LAcNET Activities. Please send your tax deductible donations to our treasurer.

2. **Website Reorganization**
   We need your skills to design and add a php/MySQL type database and run website with a password protected member area for file-sharing and discussions. Please see if you can find people who like to volunteer to design a new website layout and work in the webmasters list.

3. **LAcNET Academic Publishing Unit**
   Scope is still in discussion and may include
   - Solicit book length manuscripts on studies of Sri Lanka (in all 3 languages) and publish in printed and e-book formats
   - Provide grants to commission people to write and/or translate manuscripts among all 3 languages

4. **LAcNET History Project**
   LAcNET is now in its official 14th year of existence. It is the 15th year if SLNet project is also considered. During this time, there were many projects that we started, completed, discontinued, and still on-going. Some were successful and others failed the test of time. This project is to document all that we did and archive it for the future members.

5. **Gutenberg Project Distributed Proofreaders**
   Add books to Gutenberg Project and participate in distributed proofreading of books on Sri Lanka that are now in public domain

Thanking you!

Sincerely,

Vicumpriya Perera  Emmanuel Teitelbaum  Kavan Ratntaunga
President/LAcNET  Vice President/LAcNET  Secretary
(vicumpriya-lacnet@yahoo.com)  (teitelbaum.lacnet:gmail.com)  (kavan:lakdiva.org)

(2) News and Announcements

1. **TLA and LAcNET split for administrative and accounting purposes**

2. **Tilak Hewagama - Resign as Wired Project Coordinator**
Our long term member and volunteer-par-excellence Tilak has resigned from the Wired project Coordinator position. He thank Tilak for his work in the projects and appreciate his support. We need a volunteer to replace him, please contact us if you are interested.

3. World Bank Computer Project is going forward in full steam

4. LAcNet Emergency Management Page
   LAcNet will maintain a page for emergency management. The page should have basic contact info (hospital #s, tourist board etc) during normal periods. In an emergency the page reverts to that status and displays current links. The primary URL should be obvious; e.g., http://www.lacnet.org/emergency/ or http://www.theacademic.org/emergency/

(3) Meetings and Minutes

Being an online organization, LAcNET is in continuous meeting format through out the year. Members meet and discuss issues in our membership list (lacnet@lacnet.org) and Board of Directors (BOD) meets and discuss issues in the directors list (directors@lacnet.org). To propose an agenda item to any of the lists, please send an email with an appropriate subject heading such as “AGENDA: Descriptive Title.”

(A) Meeting of LAcNET BOD:

(1) LAcNET approved a formal vote of to reject Tilak’s resignation from Wired Project Leader in a symbolic gesture of appreciation of his work.

(2) LAcNET hired Mr Thushara Dharmawickrama as an Interim Project Manager in Sri Lanka to coordinate and oversee LAcNET activities in Sri Lanka such as distribution of computers donated by World Bank. We are finalizing our search for the permanent PM. We have received 18 applications and many inquiries.

(3) (C) Documents & Agenda Items in Review:

(1) Membership Application Criteria:
   To become a member, please send an email to (team@lacnet.org and/or secretary@lacnet.org) with the following information (1) Your Name, (2) Your Email Address, (3) Your Postal Address, (4) Your area of expertise, (5) Why you want to become a member, and (6) What skills you have that will be useful to LAcNET.

(4) Treasurer’s Reports & Financial Reports

LAcNET accounts were audited and the report was circulated among the membership. Treasurer’s monthly report will be provided directly by the Treasurer, as required and outlined in LAcNET by-laws, as soon as they become available.

LAcNET Account Status Report:
Tsunami Fund Update:

(5) Project Reports

(a) Tsunami Relief Effort

LAcNET Tsunami Relief Effort has collected over **US$ 78,598.81 as of March 06, 2005.** $ 19,560.09 of this was collected for our partner organizations leaving a balance of **$ 59,038.72** for LAcNET sponsored projects. Donations are continuing and the Effort is spear-headed by Ransirimal Fernando as the project leader with the help of The Lanka Academic. Details of amount collected, amount of money committed, project approved, detailed reports, graphs, and photos are all available from the website: http://www.theacademic.org/tsunami/

We have committed **US$ xxxxxxx.00 as of July 01, 2005** towards Tsunami Relief Effort as indicated in the section (5) below. We are actively seeking your input, leadership, and project proposals to undertake and carry-out with the remaining funds that are standing at about **US$ 25,000** and counting.

A full Tsunami fund report will be released by Ransirimal and Daya soon.

(b) Wired Group

The "wired" group was formed to explore methods of introducing computers and the multitude of resources in the global Internet community to rural areas and under-served urban populations. While computer and Internet connectivity costs have significantly decreased, such facilities are still beyond the reach of most Sri Lankans. We believe that exposure to these tools will breed familiarity and eventually, as usage increases, a new model for accessibility will also emerge. More information of this project and current list of volunteer leaders are available from: http://www.lacnet.org/wired/

(6) Projects Approved – Tsunami Relief

The Following Tsunami Relief Projects were approved by the BOD. The LAcNet project liaison and the funds allocated approved thus far are shown in square brackets. More details are available from http://www.theacademic.org/tsunami/

(1) Releif Effort Through University of Moratuwa: LAcNet has dispatched a group of volunteers from the University of Moratuwa, lead by Professor Thishantha Nanayakkara, to the Hambantota area. In the critical days immediately following the disaster, this group provided urgent on-site support to local officials by organizing relief supplies and implementing a database that helped organize relief efforts in the area. LAcNet is also working closely with Sri Lanka Disaster Management Center and Government Agencies. [US$10000, Trishantha Nanayakkara and Sanath Jayasena]

Detailed reports, photos, and diary of work done is available at:
http://www.theacademic.org/tsunami/UM/update.shtml

(2) Well/Outhouse Cleaning: LAcNet has started a project to sanitize, decontaminate and protect wells to control the spread of disease, starting in Tangalle area. LAcNet will also train a group of students from University of Colombo to visit villages frequently and test wells and toilets for coliform bacteria. [US$6600.00, Thilaka Sumanaweera]

Detailed reports, photos, and diary of work done is available at:
http://www.theacademic.org/tsunami/Well/
http://www.theacademic.org/tsunami/Well/update.shtml

Project Coordinator: Professor Tissa Illangasekare of Colorado School of Mines is the US coordinator
Project Team: Retired navy commander Mr. Champaka Paulis, who is a civil engineering graduate of the Sri Lankan Defense Academy and the University of Moratuwa, will lead this effort. Mr. Paulis and ten of his associates will initially train about sixty students from Colombo University to work as volunteers. In addition, boy scouts are also expected to volunteer. LAcNet will only be providing funds for the purchase of equipment, supplies and food for the volunteers. The labor is fully volunteered. LAcNet volunteers in US will assist with technical issues related to groundwater, wells, water testing and training. Some of the LacNet US volunteers will visit Sri Lanka at a later time to work on more long-term issues related to developing water supply when the displaced people return to their homes. The
US team members are in contact with scientists at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) located in Colombo to initiate this effort.

Cost: LacNet has committed US$6600 for this phase of the project. These funds will be used to purchase equipment (pumps and portable generators), supplies (barrel for toilets and accessories), transportation, and food for the volunteers. The labor is fully volunteered.

(3) The North and the East: A group of students belonging to the Tamil Literary Association of University of Moratuwa, lead by Chandrasegaram Jayakumar and his fellow batchmates, has started to collect supplies and send them to affected areas in the north and the east. US$5500, Sanjiva Weerawarana

Detailed reports, photos, and diary of work done is available at:
http://www.theacademic.org/tsunami/NE/ne.shtml
http://www.theacademic.org/tsunami/NE/ne-proposal.shtml

This team includes: C. Jayakumar (BSc Eng from Dept of Computer Science and Engineering), S. Srikailainathan, (BSc Eng from Dept of Electronics and communication), and Gajendran. (BSc Eng from Dept of Civil Engineering).

(4) Medical Supplies Division, Colombo 10: LacNet has received a letter from Dr Beneragama, Medical Supplies Division, requesting medical supplies. A group headed by Harindra Rajapakse in London is securing these medical supplies to be sent to MSD. This project is a collaborative effort between Sri Lanka High Commission in London and Sri Lanka Airways and LacNet. [US$3000, Harindra Rajapakse]

See also:
http://www.theacademic.org/tsunami/medical1.shtml

(5) Donation to St. Mary’s Church, Matara: We received a request from Dimitri Wijesinghe, a 13 year old from Brooklyn. BOD agreed to help her and as an appreciation of Dimitri’s dedication to help Sri Lanka, decided to match the contribution. A total of $1000 will be sent to Matara, St. Mary’s rehabilitation fund. A brief report on this will be put at the site, once we get additional info from Dimitri.

(7) ASSESMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF RECENT TSUNAMI ON LOCAL WATER BODIES ALONG SOUTHERN COASTLINE OF SRI LANKA Project: proposed by academics from University of Ruhuna, Dr. M. S. de Silva, Dr. T. M. N. Wijeratne, Dr. A. L Arunasiri, in collaboration with Dr Jayantha Obeysekera, Director, Office of Modeling, South Florida Water Management, Florida. This project will provide the baseline information for initial assessment of water quality impacts in selected areas of the coastline. The proposed project will be a joint effort between South Florida Water Management District, Colorado School of Mines as well as several government agencies in Sri Lanka. The coordinating agency in Sri Lanka will be the Central Environmental Authority. The monetary commitment of this project for LacNet is $5500.

(8) Galle Housing Project: We have collected $3,836.00 on behalf of Galle Housing Project and the LacNet BOD approved committing extra $1,164.00 and sending them $5,000 towards this project.

(9) ‘Sudheera Daruvo’ Trust Established by the Employees of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka

The aims and objects of the Trust are to assist children who in the opinion of the Trustees were affected by the Tsunami disaster (Sudheera Daruvo) on the 26th of December 2004 and who require financial assistance in order to return to their schools/educational institutions. The Trust intends to ensure that selected Sudheera Daruvo will continue their education despite the fact that they have lost both or one parent and family members. The Trust aims to: (a) provide educational facilities to Sudheera Daruvo; (b) assist the Government or any other party in restoring any infrastructure related to education, health or any other utilities or services which benefit the Sudheera Daruvo; (c) provide financial strength to the Sudheera Daruvo to instill confidence and a sense of stability and certainty in their minds; (d) help eradicate misery of the Sudheera Daruvo and to develop and implement benevolent schemes, such as foster parent schemes to safeguard the future and well-being of the Sudheera Daruvo; and (e) provide assistance to deserving Sudheera Daruvo who have completed their secondary education satisfactorily, to enable them to complete their academic, industrial or technical education at a University or technical or higher educational institute, as the case may be. The total cost over a 17-year period is $639,217 (for 30 children) of which most funds are coming from donations of employee's of Central Bank. The shortfall of $43,434 (over 17 year period) is to come from other donors. If all funds were to be given by LacNet, our commitment will be $5051 for the first year, $2020 (for 2nd thru 11th), and $3030 (12th to 17th). The funding is approved and disbursed to Sudheera Daruvo, we are receiving continuous updates on the projects’ success and current status. We are proud to be a part of this excellent project.

(10) Ohio Group Project Proposal

We have collected money on behalf of Ohio Sri Lankans located in Columbus, Ohio. They have collected about $6500 and requested additional funding to their project titled “Rehabilitation and Long term educational care of Children effected by Tsunami,” for a total funding of $12,500. BODs approved the additional funding to provide long term education to 12 children who lost one parent in Tsunami disaster.
(7) Projects Pending Approved

(1) Lama Puraya Project of NJ Vihara

A Tsunami Relief Project that planned by the three Temples in the Tri-State area (New York Vihara, Staten Island Viharaya, NJ Viharaya) is to build a “Lama Puraya” using a land of 24 acres donated by the government. It will house about 50-100 children along with displaced parents (who have lost children, family etc). They have collected about $300,000-400,000 and plans to build houses, school, library, medical center, play ground in the land. It will be a long-term project and with our limited budgets may be LAcNET can support few small things instead of something big. For example, we can buy some books or computers (or provide cost to ship donated computers from here via wired). If LAcNET can fund building the library and may be named it after LAcNET, so we have something significant to show that we achieved via Tsunami Relief Funds. We are waiting to receive their master plan for the project and to pick an item (if approved by LAcNET BOD) that we can do within our budget and objectives.

(2) Lunama Project

Graduates of University of Moratuwa initiated a Tsunami Relief project in Lunama, Sri Lanka and requesting a grant from LAcNET to support. We are evaluating the project for possible funding.

(8) Who to Contact?

Board of Directors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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Project Coordinators

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<td>Sanath Jayasena</td>
<td>sanath.cse.mrt.ac.lk</td>
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A complete list of past, current, and future projects of the organization is available from the webpage:
http://www.lacnet.org/projects/

Membership Coordinator

Tilak Hewagama   tilak.cuco.gsfc.nasa.gov
To become a member, please send an email to (team@lacnet.org and/or secretary@lacnet.org) with the following information (1) Your Name, (2) Your Email Address, (3) Your Postal Address, (4) Your area of expertise, (5) Why you want to become a member, and (6) What skills you have that will be useful to LAcNET.

**SLNet**

You can subscribe to SLNet and receive our daily news-stream and notices; SLNet subscription information is available at http://www.lacnet.org/slnet/subscribe.html. You can post messages to SLNet by sending mail to slnet@slnet.org. SLNet is strictly moderated and guidelines for posting articles are in http://www.lacnet.org/slnet/guidelines.html.

**Organization Information**

Articles of Association, Bylaws, and their amendments and a brief history of the organization is available from the webpage: http://www.lacnet.org/lacnet/

Note: Personal email addresses are modified by replacing @ with a space to discourage spamming.