



**Foundation Supporting a National Trauma Service in Sri Lanka Inc.
(Project BEAP)**

The Batticaloa Teaching Hospital Emergency & Accident Project

CHRISTMAS 2014- NEWS UPDATE

WE WISH OUR PROJECT TEAM, INTERESTED MEMBERS, DONORS AND SPONSORS, COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON, A BLESSED CHRISTMAS, A HAPPY HOLIDAY AND A BRIGHT & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. IT IS OUR WISH THAT YOU STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE DURING THIS BUSY TIME OF THE YEAR AND FIND TIME TO ENJOY THE COMPANY OF YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Many of our readers must be wondering where we have got to with our project. We provide below a brief overview:-

- **The building was costed after the drawings were done and submitted to the Quantity Surveyors. The cost had escalated well beyond our expectations.**
- **Meanwhile, unbeknown to us, the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka had a team of people conducting a study on having Accident & Emergency Hospitals built throughout Regional Sri Lanka, along the lines of the Vision that David Young has been advocating for some considerable time; hence the title to our Foundation's name "a National Trauma Service in Sri Lanka".**
- **The team at the Ministry of Health doing this survey identified fifteen cities in Regional Sri Lanka to have A&E facilities similar to that which we have planned for Batticaloa. They then issued a set of guidelines as to the shape and size of the facilities for each hospital. Teaching Hospitals such as Batticaloa would be provided with three operating theatres, 86 ward beds and attendant rooms and service facilities. District hospitals that were not teaching hospitals would have two operating theatres and smaller hospitals and just one theatre.**
- **The funding for these 15 future A&E facilities would be obtained through a World Bank loan to commence in 2018.**
- **The Teaching Hospital at Batticaloa, which we have chosen to be a model, is not one of the fifteen on the master plan. It is instead to be the standard to be followed and will be funded by Ministry of Health funds provided by the Government Budget and supported by our Foundations and the private sector.**
- **Our building was designed for four theatres in stage one, two wards of 50 beds each, male and female and provision for four more theatres on the vacant fifth floor for four more theatres to be constructed in the future.**
- **Subsequently and simultaneously to the study that was being done, behind the scenes, at the MOH, decisions were made to decentralise the faculties, by having standalone cardiac surgery, neurosurgery, general (elective) surgery and oncological surgical facilities. They**

will be separate, free standing buildings for each of these specialities with funding provided by the Government and other charitable sources.

- This has reduced the dependency on the building that we are planning, to such an extent, that ours will only be used as an Accident & Emergency facility; to deal with severe injuries and Trauma cases.
 - This change in direction enabled us to reduce the size of the building we are planning from five storeys to three, cut down the number of operating theatres to three and to consolidate the 86 beds for male and female patients onto one floor rather than two.
 - Architectural plans have been re-drawn and submitted for costing. We are now confident that the building will come within our budget estimates.
 - Meanwhile, we are in the process of appointing Consulting Engineers to handle the Civil, Structural, Electrical, Mechanical, Fire and Water/Sanitation specifications and drawings.
 - There was another change to the leadership of the Ministry of Health with the appointment of Mrs Sudharma Karunaratne replacing Dr Nihal Jayathilaka as Secretary. We welcome Mrs Karunaratne to this office.
 - Mr Sumane Keeragla , a Senior Additional Secretary was appointed to take particular interest and control of our project. We were fortunate to have Mr Keeragala in Melbourne on a scholarship program at the Monash University for a period of seven weeks between September and November. During that time we have had several meetings and useful discussions about the project and he is taking a passionate interest in the matter.
 - Meanwhile, our funding pledges still lack another USD500, 000 to meet the USD2 million targets that were set. We continue to work hard on getting this money donated and in this regard, David Young and I visited Sri Lanka in August with Dav Whatmore and Ralph D'Silva.
- David Young visited Sri Lanka again from 7th to 12th December. His report is awaited at the time of writing.
- Impending Presidential elections in Sri Lanka, on 8th January, has slowed down the pace of commercial and government activity in Sri Lanka and with Christmas nearing there is no hope of getting foundations laid earlier than March 2015.
 - Our project has been delayed by at least one year due to all these changes and difficulties but the vision is the same, the objective has not changed and the need is even greater.

WE MAKE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA TO ALL OUR READERS TO WORK HARDER IN 2015 TO GAIN THE BALANCE OF THE FUNDING NEEDED TO START WORK ON THE BUILDING AND SEE IT COMPLETED WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT ONCE THE BUILDING IS COMPLETED WE WILL RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS TO EQUIP THE OPERATING THEATRES AND THE SERVICE FACILITIES.

IF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US COULD MAKE A REASONABLE DONATION, WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR GOAL. SEVERAL HAVE DONE THIS ALREADY. HAVE YOU?

HAVE YOU ASKED FOR SUPPORT FROM YOUR CONTACTS WHO RUN CORPORATIONS AND HAVE MONEY TO DONATE?

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,

DAVID YOUNG (PRESIDENT)

NIHAL DE RUN (CEO)