

BEAP Project The Batticaloa Teaching Hospital Emergency and Accident Project

Despite advancement in certain aspects of life in Sri Lanka, it is still a developing nation with insufficient public funds to provide appropriate medical and hospital facilities in rural areas. Batticaloa is one such area, located nearly 350 kilometers from Colombo on the far eastern coast of the country. Even though it has the largest tertiary care institution in the Eastern Province it has pressing needs for modern facilities and more operating theatres to provide adequate and appropriate care to the nearly two million citizens who live in that area as it serves the population from Trincomalee in the north, Polonnaruwa in the west and as far as Ampara in the south.

The plan is to have a National trauma service in Sri Lanka that links the regional hospitals.

Karapitiya near Galle received a lot of attention after the tsunami, as the Galle hospital was inundated and there were huge demands for help to cope with the massive influx of patients at Karapitiya. This being a teaching hospital, like Batticaloa, also deserved the support. The Emergency, Accident, and Orthopedic, facilities at Karapitiya needed upgrading and this has been achieved with aid from the State Government of Victoria in Australia, and Sri Lankan governments, as well as international medical suppliers, such as Stryker. The United Nations supervised and project-managed the facility, that cost nearly \$5.5 million US Dollars. The facility was opened by Professor, David de Kretser then Governor of Victoria. Professor de Kretser has graciously agreed to be the patron of BEAP (Batticaloa Emergency & Accident Project).

Our vision is to help make Batticaloa the next link in the chain so that people badly injured from farming, industrial, recreational and road accidents, as well as those suffering from congenital deformities, can be treated there, rather than having to be transported or air-lifted to Kandy, Colombo, Galle, and other more distant locations. Dr. David Young, a leading Orthopedic Surgeon from Melbourne, is one of the leading proponents for the project.

A meeting of interested people was held on Tuesday 4th December 2012, to investigate the formation of a partnership of Rotary and the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital Emergency and Accident Project (Project BEAP).

Rotary Club of Strathmore will become the Sponsor Donor Club, and the Rotary Club of Colombo East will become the Sponsor Recipient Club, and will apply for registration of the project, with RAWCS so that donations to the project are tax deductible. This is a \$5 Million dollar enterprise!

