



Press release

1.5 million Euro raised to fund the “Aid for Sri Lanka: a future for children” project

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON A VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL IN SRI LANKA FOR 200 YOUNG PEOPLE

The Congregation of Salesians is an educational partner in the project

Bergamo, 18 January 2007 – A vocational center of excellence equipped with the best facilities for providing professional training and accommodation for 200 young people. This is the meaning of the agreement signed today as part of the “Aid for Sri Lanka: a future for Children” project by the Chairman of *Fondazione Italcementi*, Mr. Giovanni Giavazzi, and by the Economer General, *Direzione Generale Opere Don Bosco*, Fr. Gianni Mazzali. As part of the “Aid for Sri Lanka: a future for children” project, promoted by Fondazione Italcementi, construction will soon start on a school with adjacent laboratories, dormitories and canteen, to house 200 youngsters from the communities so severely stricken, materially and socially, by the *tsunami* of December 2004 and the extensive problems it caused to the country. The intention of the project is to make a positive contribution to rebuilding the social, economic and productive fabric of the populations who suffered the tragedy of the tidal wave and to pursue the objective of making an active, long-term commitment to financing post-emergency phases. The process, that has already begun, aims to provide programs and actions for young people in the reconstruction process. The program adopted by Fondazione Italcementi has been generously supported by Italcementi Group, its companies, employees and co-workers, and has succeeded in collecting more than 1.5 million Euro that will be entirely dedicated to carrying out the project. In particular, Italcementi Group, present in Sri Lanka with its own industrial structure, has also provided, through the Foundation, its expertise and human capital advice in the project development & design process. Construction is expected to be completed by late 2008, so that teaching activity can commence as soon as possible.

The place that has been chosen as the site for the vocational center is the town of Matiyagane, in the western region of Sri Lanka, 55 Km north-east of the city of Negombo. The Salesians, who have been in Sri Lanka for more than 50 years in their continued commitment to promoting social and human development of children and young people, will run the new vocational training center. The Salesians are running other social welfare and vocational training programs worldwide and have acquired considerable experience and skills in educating young people. “Aid for Sri Lanka: a future for children” is one of several projects and initiatives promoted by Fondazione Italcementi in the social sphere in Italy and abroad. One of the most recent of these is the “Affacciati sullo stesso mare” (Looking out on the same sea) initiative, which is aimed at encouraging cultural integration

between Italy and Morocco and the “Al Tadamun Microfinance program” in favor of Egyptian business women.

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