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PRESS RELEASE



SECOND SHIPMENT 'LIKELY' AS DONATED UK BUSES ARRIVE IN TSUNAMI-STRICKEN AREAS

A second shipment of buses donated by the UK bus and coach industry is now on the cards as the organisers of Asia Bus Response (ABR) announced the arrival of their first cargo of 100 vehicles to the tsunami-affected areas of Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Eagerly received by both countries, the donated buses will shortly be distributed for use by children in the worst-affected areas – to reinstate school bus services in outlying districts of Galle in Sri Lanka, and as mobile classrooms in the Banda Aceh area of Indonesia.

Asia Bus Response coordinator, Mitch de Faria, said today, "The UK bus and coach industry's gift is very obviously welcome and much needed, with Sri Lanka alone having lost some 340 buses to the tsunami. Now that our first shipment has arrived safely, it's no surprise that the Government of Sri Lanka has asked if further vehicles might be available."

A second shipment to Asia depends on the availability of suitable buses, continued waiving of import taxes by the receiving governments, and the ability of partner charity, Islamic Relief, to facilitate shipping and distribution. The charity contributed around £500,000 to ship the first ABR cargo.

In a message circulated earlier this week, Mitch de Faria asked ABR supporters if they'd be willing to donate further vehicles, and has been surprised by the enthusiastic response:

"The generosity of the UK bus industry is amazing. I've already been contacted by many bus operators who want to donate further vehicles. So if the other requirements can be met, it's looking increasingly likely that **Asia Bus Response 2** will take place toward the end of the year."

Visit www.asiabusresponse.co.uk or call Asia Bus Response on Tel 01664 561711.

ENDS

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