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PRESS RELEASE



RELUCTANT WITHDRAWAL OF ASIA BUS RESPONSE 2

Asia Bus Response (ABR) has exchanged lengthy dialogue with the Sri Lanka Government (SLG) over a number of weeks in respect of the proposed second shipment of buses to that country. Some of that organisation's requests have been able to be met, but last week ABR was presented with new vehicle specifications which we find impractical at best.

The new specifications from SLG were for modifications to the donated vehicles, the cost of which would not be borne by the Sri Lanka Government. Also specified was the undertaking to supply, free of charge and for the complete range of buses donated, 3 years-worth of spare parts for each vehicle, including service, fast moving and major parts.

These new demands from SLG were considered beyond that which was reasonable. In the circumstances we felt it was timely to withdraw from the project. Accordingly Asia Bus Response has notified SLG of this decision and has wished it every success with the vehicles provided through ABR's June shipment.

In its response to the tsunami disaster, the UK bus and coach industry has proved itself to be unstinting in its generosity. Our thanks go to all those who have supported the ABR project since January; the kindness of the UK bus and coach industry enabled the people of Indonesia and Sri Lanka to benefit through the gift of ABR vehicles. The fact that we have been unable to send more has not been for want of trying.

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ENDS

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Editor's Notes:

The voluntary Asia Bus Response initiative has sent 100+ buses, from double-deckers to minibuses, for use by children in the areas worst affected by the tsunami. At Banda Ache in Indonesia the buses are used as mobile classrooms and in Galle, Sri Lanka, ABR buses transport children to school away from the coastal plateau. For full details visit www.asiabusresponse.co.uk.

Asia Bus Response was conceived and coordinated by Mitch de Faria at The Event Makers Ltd.
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