

What a brilliant initiative



IT'S ONE thing donating money when we come across the collecting boxes in supermarkets, service stations, banks, etc, but such is the scale of the disaster that has devastated communities stricken by the Indian Ocean tsunami that coins and notes seem so inadequate.

We've seen the pictures and read the stories that have brought the enormity of the disaster into our living rooms, forcing home the comparison with those who have lost everything. If only there was something tangible that we could do to help?

And thanks to an initiative backed by Trent Barton Managing Director Brian King, and others, there is.

This week Brian has announced plans to co-ordinate donations of time-expired buses to help provide the transport that will be so essential in supporting the reconstruction of communities and livelihoods in the areas of Sri Lanka and Indonesia worst affected by the disaster.

Through Asia Bus Response, the UK bus industry can help the redevelopment process by pledging buses and spare parts, which will be shipped and distributed by development agency,

Islamic Relief. As well as providing vital transportation for people and supplies, Islamic Relief will arrange skills training for drivers and engineers in the countries of destination and pay those people a living wage.

The appeal already has significant support from: Trent Barton; Go-Ahead Group; Blazefield Holdings; Thamesdown Transport; Nottingham City Transport; Lancashire County Council; and, Essex County Council.

I can do no better than quote from the Asia Bus Response press release: "The humanitarian need is obvious and undeniable. On an industry-wide basis, the UK bus industry can make a real difference and help rebuild shattered lives and livelihoods."

This appeal deserves the coach and bus industry's whole-hearted support and route**ONE** not only congratulates those who thought-up the idea, but fully endorses the initiative.

It goes without saying that the vehicles donated must be in good condition and fit for a few years' hard work. Robust, high-floor, low-tech vehicles are required, from double-deckers to mini-buses.

Visit www.asia-busresponse.co.uk for full details.

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Editor

