

100-strong Asia Bus Response fleet sets sail



PICTURE PARTNERSHIP

The 100 buses donated by UK operators and local authorities to the Asia Bus Response appeal to help communities hit by the Boxing Day Tsunami were officially handed over to the Islamic Relief charity last week before setting sail for Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Donors of buses included Blazefield Holdings, EYMS Group, First, Go Ahead, Ipswich Buses, Lothian Buses, Southern Vectis, Thamesdown, Translink, Travel West Midlands, Trent Barton and Yorkshire Traction. The fleet was mechanically checked at Solent Blue Line at Eastleigh prior to the official handing over ceremony at Marwell Zoo near Winchester on June 7.

The vehicles will be exclusively used by children in some of the devastated communities, both as school transport and as mobile classrooms.

“The arrival of these buses will be seen by ordinary Sri Lankan people as the most visible and concrete benefit from the international community,” said the Sri Lankan High Commission’s minister of trade Jeyaraj Fernandopulle at the ceremony.

The 100 donated vehicles will see use as school buses and classrooms