

## FRANCO-INDIAN PROJECT OF RECONSTRUCTION AFTER THE TSUNAMI



TAKE THE "TS" OUT OF TSUNAMI  
AND BECOME A FRIEND TO SOMONE WHO HAS SUFFERED

### DOSSIER : PROJECT UN-AMI

**JUNE 2005**

#### ABSTRACT

The Franco-Indian project for reconstruction or Project Un-Ami was initiated in Grenoble, France in January 2005. Its primary objective is to contribute to the rehabilitation of two villages in the Tsunami affected areas of Tamil Nadu, through the initiation of projects in an Indo-French network involving Indian and French NGOs, Indian and French families, Indian and French students. The secondary objective of project Un-Ami is to create awareness of village economies and village social structures; build social capital and social trust through the initiation of academic-social-cultural exchanges between our donators in France and in India and the villagers, around the themes of the project.

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**\*\*\*\*IF YOU WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROJECT UN-AMI PLEASE GO TO « PLEDGE FORM FOR PROJECT UN-AMI », FILL IT OUT AND SEND IT TO [shyama\\_ramani@yahoo.com](mailto:shyama_ramani@yahoo.com)**

# PROJECT UN-AMI

## 1. Context and Origins

Moved by the extreme devastation caused by the Tsunami, people in India, as well as those from other parts of the world, came forward to help the afflicted regions in reconstruction. The residents of Grenoble and its suburbs in France, wanted to participate in this world-wide effort. In this context, this project was initiated by Mrs. (Dr.) Shyama V. Ramani, the President of the Franco-Indian Association of Grenoble, France (Ganga-Isere) in January 2005.

Disaster handling in India has been good and has provided basic amenities to the people affected by the Tsunami. However, it will be difficult to fund the reconstruction of all the villages which were affected by the tidal waves. This is where the project wants to help. We intend to initiate rehabilitation projects in 2 villages, which have been significantly touched by the tsunami. The objective of the project is to work toward ensuring economic and social security for the villagers, through implementing a series of developmental projects in an Indo-French collaboration.

Why do we want to initiate a **Indo-French project** of reconstruction?

There are two reasons.

First, many of us feel that to be successful, we must initiate a real collaboration between French and Indian organizations and we must have the support of both French and Indian families. We feel that while undertaking developmental and humanitarian projects, foreign NGOs and funds from foreign countries, must be canalized in collaboration with Indian actors and with the participation of Indian families.

Second, we want it to use this as opportunity to create awareness of village economies and village social structures; build social capital and social trust through the initiation of academic-social-cultural exchanges between French donators, Indian donators in the cities and the villagers.

Furthermore:

- The project will be funded by both Indian and French families. We ask for a small amount of Rs100 (and 10 Euros in France) per family per year. They can also give more if they want to. After all its little drops of water that make an ocean!
- The project seeks to be open and transparent to all its donators and inform them of the efforts and progress made.
- The project is organized entirely by volunteers (without payment).

## 2. Objectives and Their Realisation

**The primary objective of project Un-Ami is to contribute to the rehabilitation of two villages** in the Tsunami affected areas of India, through the initiation of projects that promote one or more of the following: *income generation, environmental sustainability, support for the education of children to prevent them from having to work and the empowerment of women.*

The project will be implemented by both a French NGO and an Indian NGO, which would collaborate with each other and share information and ideas.

This main objective will be financed through funds from individuals and families. The minimum pledge amount requested is 100 rupees per year for 3 years from the Indian side and 10 euros or 10 dollars per year for 3 years from the Western side. Our objective is to get 4000,00 Rupees and 40,000 euros per year for 3 years for project Un-Ami.

**What makes project Un-Ami different from the usual humanitarian project is that it has a secondary objective also.**

**The secondary objective of project Un-Ami is to create awareness of village economies and village social structures; build social capital and social trust through the initiation of academic-social-cultural exchanges between our donators in France and in India and the villagers around the themes of the project.**

These will be realized through five types of actions.

The actions associated with the secondary objective will be entirely financed through government subventions and corporate sponsorship. The actions will be initiated and organized by volunteers among the donators.

**The five types of actions are as follows:**

1. **Regular letters to our donators** (1 or 2 a month) on progress, problems faced and life in the villages (past, present and future possibilities).
2. **Voluntary work of French and Indian students at the university level with the NGOs** financed by internships with firms. We hope to find Indian firms to provide internships to French students working on the project. French firms will be found to provide internships to Indian students working on the project.
3. **Participation of school children** Art or Writing projects involving school children will be undertaken in a triangular structure: one school in France, one school in an Indian city and one school in the village. Exchange of art work, exchange of compositions and stories.
4. **Exchange of Artistes** We will help musicians and dancers from the two countries France and India get financing to perform in the other country. Again, these artistes *will perform for free* in the other country. The revenue from ticketing will go to the villages.
5. **Academic Projects** Initiation of Masters, Ph.D. and Post doctoral fellowships on topics around the reconstruction of villages and role of NGOs.

### 3. Structure of Project and Progress made so far on Primary Objective

**Coordinator of project and representative in France:** Mrs. Shyama V. Ramani ([shyama\\_ramani@yahoo.com](mailto:shyama_ramani@yahoo.com)).

**French NGO :** INDES based in Paris with a subsidiary FEED in Pondicherry. Contact: Mr. Nicolas Druesne [druesne@yahoo.com](mailto:druesne@yahoo.com)

**Indian NGO:** SCOPE based in Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu in collaboration with AuroAnnam in Pondicherry and Mythri in Bangalore.

Contact: Mr. Subburaman of Scope : [scopeagency86@rediffmail.com](mailto:scopeagency86@rediffmail.com) <http://www.scopetrichy.org>

Collaborators: Auro Annam : <http://www.auroville.com/auroannam/auroannam.htm>

Mythri : [www.wastewisetrust.org](http://www.wastewisetrust.org)

#### The villages chosen:

- The village to be helped by the French NGO, INDES is called Chinamudaliarchavady (CMC) in the Pondicherry district. The adjacent Dalit zone Periyamudaliarchavady (PMC) will also be included.
- The village to be helped by the Indian NGO, SCOPE, is called Kameshwaram in Nagapattinam district.

**The pledge amount collected in France:** 5000 Euros from French for each year during 3 years. About 3900 Euros have already been paid by the donors. [Target is 40,000 Euros].

**The pledge amount collected in India:** Rs 2,4650 from Indians all over the world as on June 1, 2005 for each year during 3 years. [Target is 4, 00,000 Rs ]

We have not started collecting money yet because we are still making arrangements for funds management. We are only collecting promises for contribution. Money collection is expected to start in July/August.

#### PROGRAM FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF PROJECT FIR

**The first objective of the NGOs is win the trust of the villagers through informal interaction.** This is crucial for the success of the project. Informal social activities will be initiated to anchor the NGOs to the village.

Alongside, Interviews will be conducted to assess the needs and decide on the project to implement.

**French NGO: INDES/FEED** will initiate an "Educational Support Program for Children". This will consist of a group for a boys and a group for girls from the CMC and PMC village zones. In the evenings and part of the weekend they will alternate between helping children with homework and organizing games, art work, plays for children.

Interviews will be conducted to assess needs and preference for one or more of the following projects:

- Kitchen gardens to increase economic security.
- Painting, writing and composition activities by children and contests for children in PMC school to identify talent and promote interaction between the fishermen community and the dalits.
- Contributing in part to a larger program of private toilets construction and use.

**Indian NGO: SCOPE** will hold a series of “Awareness building programs”. This will include films, street plays and discussions in groups.

Interviews will be conducted to assess needs and preference for one or more of the following projects:

- Building of toilets and communal bathing facilities that will be maintained by the community.
- Garbage collection and solid waste management with use of appropriate micro-organisms.
- Training programs to increase agricultural productivity in collaboration with partner agricultural government research institutions.
- Diversification of fish based processed seafood.

**This first phase is being financed with what we have gathered in France now.** We expect to complete our donator base by December 2005.

#### **DELIVERABLES FOR JUNE 2006**

- **Report 1-indices:** Needs and Priority areas of residents of Chinamudaliarchavady and Periyamudaliarchavady. Recommendations for which of the project possibilities should in launched in Jan 2006.
- **Report 2-indices:** Evaluation of progress and problems faced in launching of Children’s Educational Support Program.
- **Report 1-scope:** Needs and Priority areas of residents of Kameshwaram. Recommendations for which of the project possibilities should in launched in Jan 2006.
- **Report 2-scope:** Impact of “awareness programs” on revealing the social groups, potential leaders, problems, potential for success of projects.

#### **4. Progress on Secondary Objectives**

1. **Newsletters:** There are regular newsletters which have been sent to both the Indian side and the French side.
2. **Voluntary Work :**
  - a. **of French Students:** The students of Association “S.O.S. “ of the “Ecole Superieure de Commerce de Grenoble” or the Grenoble School of Management are managing the funds in France.
  - b. **of Indian Students:** on the lookout. Approaching my alma-mater “Lady Shri Ram College” in New Delhi.
3. **Participation of school children:** Under discussion on French side. No Indian school approached yet.
4. **Exchange of Artistes:** Three groups of artistes have volunteered: 1 jazz group; 1 pop/rock music chorus; 1 classical music chorus group. Dossier under preparation.
5. **Academic Projects:**

- a. 1 Project on the process of Tsunami Reconstruction is being supported by the Region of Rhone-Alps.
- b. 1 post-doc project has been submitted under the program HERMES organized by French Government for an Indian researcher.

## 5. Pledge form for Project Un-Ami

- Donors from India can consider contributions of 100 Rs (or more) per family, per year, during 3 years.
- Donors from Europe can consider contributions of 10 Euros (or more) per family, per year, during 3 years.
- Donors from the USA can consider contributions of 10 \$ (or more) per family, per year, during 3 years.
- All donors will receive a newsletter 1 or 2 a month and are welcome to participate in discussions through internet or volunteer actively. **See form for volunteering on next page.**

*PLEDGE UN AMI September 2004- September 2005*

Mail this to [shyama\\_ramani@yahoo.com](mailto:shyama_ramani@yahoo.com)

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ City located: \_\_\_\_\_

**I, undersigned \_\_\_\_\_ commit to donate \_\_\_\_\_ (Rs 100 or more) per year during 3 years for the Indo-French Reconstruction Project on obtaining full details of the project.**

**Comments/Suggestions/any other way you would like to help??**

## 6. Volunteer form for Project Un-Ami

We suggest you try volunteering for 1 month first to see if you like it.

**Remember voluntary work is by definition freely given.** But it can bring you non-monetary benefits and an indescribable good feeling of made this world a better place. It might also bring you closer to realizing a professional objective or make you discover your own talents.

<b>Fill this form and send it to <a href="mailto:shyama_ramani@yahoo.com">shyama_ramani@yahoo.com</a></b>
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FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ City located: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your availability of time? \_\_\_\_\_ hours per week.

*\*\*\*\*Even 1 hour a week is great. After all it is little drops that make up a ocean!!*

Brief biography: What are you done so far?

Are any of the following in your line of interest?

- Writing articles on this project.
- Reading and analysis of documents to help coordination.
- Contacting people and setting up appointments for meeting.
- Making oral presentations of this project.
- Writing articles on this project.
- Taking pictures or films.
- Website creation and website management.
- Doing voluntary work with the NGOs.
- Initiating and managing an exchange at the level of schools.
- Initiating and managing an exchange at the level of universities.
- Contacting firms for firm sponsorship.
- Contacting and preparing dossiers for government subventions.
- Doing plays or writing stories around this project.
- Translating French to English or English to French in writing or speaking.
- Translating Tamil to English or French for foreign visitors.
- Helping or being host family to a French visitor 1 or a married couple (student or artiste).  
In return the French family will be a host to an Indian or a married Indian couple.
- Contacting the French organizations in your area.
- Any other?