



Philippine Relief Operations Update, Nov. 21, 2013

Dear fellow-members of the TS and TOS around the world,

Heartfelt thanks for your outpouring of concern for the thousands of people killed and the millions left homeless in the wake of this month's typhoon in the Philippines.

Donations on their way from you all to the TS/TOS team in Manila are unprecedented since those received by our international TS HQ in Adyar following the tsunami of December 2004. The Philippines team is doing a sterling job in the relief effort. It is noteworthy that every penny received goes to those in need since it is our own TS/TOS members doing the relief work on a volunteer basis.

We are happy to bring you this update on operations from Vic Hao Chin on behalf of Rosel Doval Santos, President of the TS and Chairman of the TOS in the Philippines, and Rekha Nahar, President of TOS Philippines.



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The Philippine TS and TOS have mobilized its lodges and study groups to help those stricken by the super typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).



Speedily raising funds in the Philippines, the lodges purchased, packed and distributed food, water and construction materials within two or three days to Ormoc in Leyte and Sara in Iloilo. This was done in coordination with local public officials known to members of the Theosophical Society. Reports and photos of the distribution were posted on the Facebook page of the Theosophical Society in the Philippines.

Numerous TS and TOS groups around the world, including individual members, have spontaneously raised funds and sent donations through the TOS in the Philippines. As of this writing, the TS/TOS in the Philippines is again shipping about 10,000 plyboards and other construction materials such as tarpaulins, mats, nails as well as clothing to Samar, Leyte, Cebu and Panay – a total of five 20-foot (38.5 sq.metre) containers – so that families whose houses were completely demolished by the storm can start reconstructing their houses. The plyboards which cost more than P1 million (US\$25,000) were donated by a private construction company. For Iloilo, with the assistance of Dr Josephine Bundoc, the shipping and land transport of the boards for free have been arranged through the office of Senator Franklin Drilon. The local distribution is being coordinated by Victor Lo, President of the Iloilo Lodge of the TS, and Jeneda Salcedo-Orendain, a provincial board member of Iloilo. In Cebu City, the distribution is being handled by the Satsang Study Group members led by Silvia Ludo and Letty Lim. For Cebu and Samar, the shipping arrangement is currently being negotiated with cargo shipping companies and truckers with the help of Victor Penaranda, Vice-President of the TS in the Philippines. The TS/TOS intends to pursue longer term assistance to the affected communities by assisting in the education and youth development of selected towns after their emergency needs have been met.

Most TS members in these areas have been spared by the storm, but a number of members in Western Leyte have houses that have been destroyed or severely damaged by the storm. No casualty among TS members has been reported.

We wish to express our deep gratitude to you for the spontaneous support, donations and messages of many theosophists, TOS groups around the world and within the Philippines. Your donations have enabled the TS/TOS in the Philippines to help quickly and on a wider scale.

For all correspondence on this subject, please write to Diana at tosinternational@wanadoo.fr.

Below are some photos of the distribution of goods.

