The 2004 Boxing Day tsunami took hundreds of thousands of lives and affected millions of people across Asia. In the aftermath, people around the world wanted to make a contribution to the recovery, reconstruction and community rehabilitation problems confronting the affected countries.

This desire was the driving force of the Planning Institute of Australia’s partnership with the Institute of Town Planners, Sri Lanka in devising the Post Tsunami Reconstruction Planning Support Project. The project has been running since 2005 and has made a significant contribution to Sri Lanka’s continuing post-tsunami recovery and rebuilding efforts in the planning and urban design sphere.

The project is seeking partnerships with organisations interested in taking part in its activities which make exciting and productive contributions to Sri Lanka’s post tsunami reconstruction and planning.

Project Background

The 2004 Boxing Day tsunami took hundreds of thousands of lives and affected millions of people across Asia. In the aftermath, people around the world wanted to make a contribution to the recovery, reconstruction and community rehabilitation problems confronting the affected countries.

This desire was the driving force of the Planning Institute of Australia’s partnership with the Institute of Town Planners, Sri Lanka in devising the Post Tsunami Reconstruction Planning Support Project. The project has been running since 2005 and has made a significant contribution to Sri Lanka’s continuing post-tsunami recovery and rebuilding efforts in the planning and urban design sphere.

The project is seeking partnerships with organisations interested in taking part in its activities which make exciting and productive contributions to Sri Lanka’s post tsunami reconstruction and planning.

Key Project Statistics

- Sri Lanka has a population of over 20 Million and is approximately the size of Tasmania
- Over 100,000 homes were destroyed by the tsunami in Sri Lanka
- Two thirds of the Sri Lankan coastal belt was devastated
- 90% of the nation’s fishing production was affected
- The project has been operating in partnership with the Institute of Town Planners Sri Lanka, AusAID, Australian Red Cross and Australian Volunteers International since 2005
- 23 volunteer Australians have been deployed to Sri Lanka
- The total number of volunteer months to date in Sri Lanka has reached 73 which equates to 2263 days
- The project has conducted 4 formal training courses for planners in Sri Lanka as well as extensive informal capacity building via volunteer placements

Partnerships Opportunities

The project has devised three packages of support of varying amounts to help individuals and organisations interested in partnering the project discover what suits them best. The packages of support are as follows:

1. Australian Planners in Sri Lanka

This partnership option involves sending an Australian volunteer to Sri Lanka to assist in various ways, including producing national and regional plans, local development and precinct plans, and urban design frameworks, as well as building the capacity, skills and experience of their Sri Lankan colleagues.

Sponsorship of a volunteer Australian planner travelling to Sri Lanka involves contribution to the volunteer’s pre-departure training, airfares, living allowance, insurance and related costs while in Sri Lanka for at least three months.

PIA manages all volunteer administration and support in partnership with Australian Volunteers International (AVI).

$15,500 will send an Australian planner to Sri Lanka for 3 months
The project’s training component is proving extremely successful, with four formal and numerous informal training programs having been run in Colombo for Sri Lankan planners and related professionals from regional, tsunami and war affected areas, where training opportunities are rarely available.

Courses are run by professionals to the highest standards of education and have been proven to be greatly valued by those undertaking the courses. The package includes accommodation, meals, travel costs and living allowances for attendees, running costs of the course and airfares and accommodation for trainers.

PIA’s National Congress
PIA’s state and division based publications
Providing the official PIA Tsunami Project supporter logo for partners to display
Australian Planner, with a national circulation of over 5,000
Enews, the national member newsletter, distributed at least four times annually

Being a part of a project such as this is a great benefit to every partner. Contributing to the future of communities which have been devastated by the tsunami, taking an active interest in the international planning situation and empowering individuals within the planning sector in Sri Lanka are just some of the excellent outcomes for project participants.

Alternatively, if your organisation would be interested in funding an employee to take part in the project or if you would like to nominate yourself as a volunteer please complete an Expression of Interest form.

For more information on becoming a project partner or a volunteer, please contact the Tsunami Project Director, Ms Stephanie Knox LFPIA, on telephone: (03) 9347 1900 or at email: sknox@planning.org.au

An Australian trainer with planners under taking an Urban Design course in Colombo
Sri Lankan delegates with PIA President Sue Holliday and Project Director Steph Knox at the PIA 2007 National Congress
Unawatuna Beach on Sri Lanka’s tsunami affected south coast
A traditional Sri Lankan flower stall