

NOTE: This email appeal from **RI Director Ashok Majahan** from **Mumbai, India** was sent to **Rotary leaders throughout India and beyond.**

Date: May 8, 2008 11:57:52 PM CDT
From: Ashok M. Majahan <nayan729@yahoo.com>
Subject: Let Rotary Rush to Myanmar's Aid

9th May, 2008

Dear Rotary Leaders,

The cyclone that has battered our neighbour Myanmar has left behind a trail of destruction. The daily reports about the devastation being received from news agencies are alarming. The official figures of people dead and missing has crossed 50,000. The area is flooded. Many towns and villages have been washed away and millions are homeless and hungry. Survivors of the cyclone are storming into the few shops that are open and are desperate to get even a morsel of food. Corpses are still floating in the salty floodwaters and we have been informed that people are still struggling to reach dry ground.

Aid agencies have been asked to rush food and water which can at least prevent more deaths due to hunger. Some of the agencies that have been able to reach the country are trying to distribute sheets, cooking utensils, chlorine tablets, rice and life saving drugs.

It is true that the military regime has restricted aid agencies in the past from working in Myanmar. But the cyclone seems to have changed the mindset of the government. The Myanmar officials have appealed for International humanitarian assistance. They have asked for roofing materials, tents, temporary shelter, blankets, mosquito nets and medical aid.

As you may know, Rotary is not present in Myanmar. But this resistance will change if you act now. Myanmar needs help, now. The country has experienced several decades of conflict. The people do not know that Rotarians are there, nearer to them, in India, who can help.

Countries such as India, which have a cordial relationship with Myanmar, are stepping in to help the people who have lost hope. But you can make a difference. Please let me know how you can rush aid to the hapless victims. They are people who are eager to foster a better relationship with the outside world. This is our time to stand by them and show them that all hope is not lost.

UN has a fear that ad hoc and uncoordinated relief may do more harm. **This is where Rotary comes in.** We have shown the world that we can face Challenges of natural disasters such as tsunami and earthquakes. The people of the world came to our aid. It is now our turn to show that we care for our neighbours. This is our chance of showing that Rotary spans all geographical and political borders. We simply cannot delay providing assistance. The human costs for the people will be too high.

Let us show Rotary Shares and Cares for everyone in the world. **Please contact me with your views for putting into place a relief package.** Rotary's long arm of help is needed in Myanmar.

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