

GATS Asia Earthquake Fund (amended)

Introduction: The world witnessed natural disasters of unprecedented proportions (Tsunami in Southeast Asia, Katrina in the Gulf Coast, USA, and Earthquake in South Asia) in the past 12 months, which claimed an untold number of lives and rendered millions homeless. In spite of these disasters occurring in quick succession, people around the world rushed to help the most needy, the poorest of the poor, at the time of great peril in their lives with utmost kindness and generosity.

Charity Funds established by the GATS in 2005: The Atlanta Tamil community, organized under the banner of the Greater Atlanta Tamil Sangam (GATS, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, Federal Tax ID: 56-2305795), is no exception and has done its noble share toward the enormous international efforts needed to alleviate the sufferings of shattered lives due to Tsunami and Katrina.

Purpose of the GATS Asia Earthquake Fund (AEF): We realize that making a difference even in very small ways in the face of unspeakable calamities is worth our effort, and in this effort, some of us have decided to donate money toward the establishment of an Asia Earthquake Fund (AEF) in the GATS. We set the initial goal of \$2,000 to establish this fund in our Sangam, which we have achieved. Currently, we have \$2,601.02 in the proposed fund, collected from the donors identified in page 2.

The breadth and enormity of the October, 2005 earthquake in South Asia (Pakistan, India and parts of Afghanistan) is still unfolding, and the road to recovery of those affected in the rugged, bitterly cold mountains of Kashmir is going to be long and tortuous. We would like to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than us through the GATS AEF, and therefore propose that this fund is used to support the Asia Earthquake recovery programs of Save the Children (<http://www.savethechildren.org>).

“Save the Children is the leading independent organization creating real and lasting change for children in need in the United States and around the world. It is a member of the International Save the Children Alliance, comprising 27 national Save the Children organizations working in more than 100 countries to ensure the well-being of children”.-Mission and Strategy, Save the Children.

Specific Action, and Fund Decisions by the GATS: Our specific proposal calls for making contributions to the Save the Children Hospital project for Asia Earthquake recovery in one payment (entire proceeds of the AEF at this time) from the GATS AEF. Whenever a payment is made to a Save the Children project or projects, the GATS Treasurer can communicate that to the GATS Charity Committee-CC, which can be Ccied to one of us (Abdul Jabbar, amjabbar@yahoo.com) about this transaction.

We hope that this fund could go beyond this initial one-year period, by more contributions coming in to the AEF during the course of the year 2006. It is only our wish and not a prerequisite or condition that the GATS has to abide by for the establishment and operation of the AEF. **We request the GATS CC to review the proposal and make recommendations to Executive Committee (EC) 2006, which we hope will be able to approve it in consultation with the Board of Trustees (BOT) at the earliest possible time.**

Once approved, we request that EC2006 announce the establishment of this fund by the GATS to the General Body via GATS e-letter and website by way of informing the GATS community about this fund for review and participation, if it so desires. Donor names should not be used in these announcements, and should only remain on the GATS record (CC, EC and BOT). Any clarification or questions about this proposal can be directed to amjabbar@yahoo.com. Thank you very much.