



# DIAMOND EXCHANGE OF SINGAPORE

(Member : World Federation of Diamond Bourses)

545 Orchard Road #11-02, Far East Shopping Centre, Singapore 238882  
Tel: 6738 6162 Fax: 6737 0993

4 January 2005

Mr. Shmuel Schnitzer - President  
World Federation of Diamond Bourses  
3 Jabotinsky Road, P.O.B. 3222  
Ramat Gan 52130  
Israel

Dear Mr. Schnitzer,

## **WFDB Humanitarian Fund for Tsunami Victims – An Appeal**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December's devastating tidal waves, unleashed by the strongest earthquake in the world in 40 years have caused massive destruction and claimed tens of thousands of lives in 8 countries in South and South-East Asia.

The death toll has quickly escalated to horrific numbers. 50,000 in the first 2 days, 125,000 last weekend, touching 155,000 today. The devastation is enormous and the full extent of the damage is not fully known. We fear that casualties will continue to rise. The immediate need is to save those who survived and not prolong their agony any further. The majority of the survivors who are poor will need to rebuild their lives and their livelihood. This is a huge task and may take months, maybe even years to accomplish.

We in Singapore are blessed in having been spared the fury of the sea and this has made us all the more aware of the destruction caused. Many of us in Singapore are moved to doing something to help our neighbours, something that will make a difference, some way of expressing solidarity with our fellow human beings.

Thousands in Singapore have come forward to contribute money and manpower. Aid is pouring in from the international community to help with the rehabilitation and reconstruction process. We at the DES feel that the diamond industry is able and should do its part to help financially. **Our committee met last week and has decided to set up a "humanitarian fund" and will contribute US\$ 10,000 to get this fund started.**





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This letter is a request to you, Mr. President to use your good offices to convey this message to the Presidents of all our sister bourses to help us raise funds for this cause. I am sure that our industry members will rise to this occasion and help make a difference.

The DES will ensure that the contributions we receive will be channelled only to the most legitimate and efficient relief agencies that come under the umbrella of organisations such as the Red Cross, WHO and other organizations with a similar reputation. *( I personally know the Chairman of the Tsunami Relief Fund at the Singapore Red Cross and he has assured me that 100% of all contributions received will be channeled directly to the relief efforts and priority will be given to the most needy areas)*

We have set up a special bank account for this purpose and will prepare a periodic statement of activity to be sent to all sister bourses. We will no doubt have this fund properly managed and finally audited by a public accountant (at no charge) to ensure that your monies have been disbursed correctly. **All disbursements from this fund will be made in the name of the WFDB.**

I urge all WFDB members to be generous with their contributions. Please send your contributions in US Dollars to the: -

“Diamond Exchange of Singapore – WFDB Relief Fund”  
US\$ Current Account No: 0065-002761-01-2  
At DBS Bank, Liat Towers Branch, Singapore.  
*(Correspondent: Bank of New York, 48 Wall Street, NY 10286)*

If any of the Presidents or members has any questions, please feel free to email me at [des@worldfed.com](mailto:des@worldfed.com). My committee and I are grateful for your assistance and support for this urgent humanitarian undertaking.

Yours sincerely  
Diamond Exchange of Singapore

Suresh Hathiramani  
President