CHAPTER 8.10

Humanitarian Group of the Malaysian Orthopaedic Association

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The Beginning

The humanitarian group of the Malaysian Orthopaedic Association (MOA) was proposed by Prof Dato' Dr Tunku Sara Tunku Ahmad Yahaya during the June 2004 MOA Annual General Meeting in Penang in an effort to coordinate and encourage members of MOA to volunteer their services within the country and abroad.

The massive Aceh tsunami of 24th December 2004 prompted the group into action. Prof Dr Sharaf Ibrahim was appointed as the coordinator with Dr Hizan Mohd Yusof, Dr Suryasmi Duski, Prof Dr Saw Aik, Dr Kamariah Nor Mohd Daud and Dr Nor Azlin Zainal Abidin heading to Banda Aceh. Dato' Dr K.S. Sivananthan, Dr T. Kumar and Dato' Dr Vasan Sinnadurai went to Sri Lanka to treat and operate on tsunami victims in Poonambalam Memorial Hospital project. The team was in collaboration with the NGO Global Peace Mission and MERCY Malaysia. China Orthopaedic Association (COA), Philippines Orthopaedic Association (POA), and Chiba Children Hospital donated the Orthopaedic equipment with an estimated cost of about MYR 1.2 million flown by Malaysian Airlines and Royal Malaysian Air Force. Subsequently in April of 2005, Prof Dr Saw Aik and Dr Yong Su-Mei participated in the Tzu Chi Medical Association (TIMA) medical camp to provide free medical and dental treatment to 3000 patients from Batam and the surrounding islands.

Through collaboration with international Orthopaedic...