

VANNITECH: AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE

Dear Friends,

As we are all well aware, the Tsunami that hit South Asia touched everyone, and the loss of life and property has been truly devastating. Though the Tsunami shattered so many lives and left many of us to pick up the pieces, we cannot let this tragedy drastically alter our hopes and dreams for the future.

In the past two and a half years, VanniTech has blossomed into a well-respected and recognized educational institution in Sri Lanka and beyond. The first batch of students completed their studies and had their convocation ceremony in August 2004. Most of the graduates are already working in their respective fields in the region, contributing to our shared dream of a high-tech workforce.

The classes for the second batch of students are continuing even in these trying times. Some of the students and staff lost their family members due to this horrible tragedy, yet they are back at VanniTech committed to the ultimate goal of bringing the North-East to technologically par with the developed world. The second batch of students is due to complete their studies in May 2005. Volunteers from around the world continue to visit VanniTech and contribute towards course work and projects. Visitors to VanniTech are amazed at the progress made within this short period of time. VanniTech has become a symbol of hope for all. The attached documents recount the progress made so far.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous contributions in the past that made all these achievements possible.

Though we have accomplished a lot in a very short period, we cannot afford to be complacent. Adversity may bring despair, but we should seize the opportunity to turn this adversity into prosperity. We certainly understand that much of your help is already pouring into the tsunami relief efforts. But, while we focus on short-term solutions, we can't afford to ignore our vision for the future. We have to be steadfast in our goals as we rebuild and move forward together.

VanniTech is now a registered NGO in Kilinochchi with a functioning board. They are making every effort to be self sufficient, and are working with several local and international organizations to get a solid footing so that VanniTech can progress to the next phase of the Master Plan. In addition, ITTPO has created International Advisory Council comprised of eminent professionals around the world to help VanniTech achieve this goal. But it takes time. Till then, we need to support this worthy cause so that the hopes and dreams of our distraught brethren may one day be realized.

VanniTech's budget for the third year is about USD \$95,000. I plead with you to give, and give generously. Without your financial help we will never achieve our shared goals.

Let's work together to build a brighter future for our next generation. We shall endeavor to make our homeland economically viable and technically competent, led by a talented core of women and men that we all can be proud of.

We are counting on your support.

Thank you.
Sincerely,



Ratnam Sooriyakumaran
Chairman of the Board