

19 May 2010

**Invitation to Workshop: Dialogue on Post-war Relief and Development
in the North and East of Sri Lanka - Oslo, 9 June 2010**

The Norwegian Peace Building Centre (Noref) is pleased to invite you to a one-day workshop on ***Post-war Relief and Development in the North and East of Sri Lanka***. The session will take place at Thon Hotel Vika Atrium in Oslo on **Wednesday 9 June from 09:00 to 17:00**.

Available information and reports alarm humanitarian agencies and diaspora communities on the large and complex challenges of relief and development the North and East of Sri Lanka after the end of the war in May 2009. State intervention and support is inadequate to address local needs and priorities, making relief and development dependent on inter-governmental, non-governmental and diaspora support. This workshop is designed to assess the situation in the war-affected areas and identify modes of engagement that facilitate post-war local relief and development processes.


The post-war situation in Sri Lanka raises a number of issues regarding the roles and relations between aid donors such as Norway, international non-governmental organizations and the diaspora. The workshop will facilitate dialogue among the diaspora community in Norway, Norwegian authorities and Norwegian humanitarian and development organizations to strengthen co-operation and partnership and explore the best options for resource identification, allocation, channelling and delivery in support of local relief and development processes.

The purpose of the dialogue is to exchange views on the possible roles of Norway, the Tamil diaspora and INGOs and reach a consensus on possible future actions. The workshop will consist of three sessions where the first one will focus on the role of Norway in Sri Lanka and include a keynote presentation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The second will address the role of non-governmental organizations and include presentations by Norwegian humanitarian and development organizations involved in Sri Lanka. The third session will be a group discussion on the role of the Tamil diaspora, aiming at identifying common concerns and possible modes of engagement in local relief and development. The first two sessions will be conducted in English, while the third one will be in Tamil.

The workshop is designed as a focused discussion among key actors in the field. In order to facilitate goal-oriented dialogue the number of participants is kept at a relatively small number. Noref will invite around 40 Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora members, who are actively engaged in various capacities that are relevant for this workshop with the aim of identifying roles and modes of engagement towards their home communities. Noref will also invite representatives from Norwegian authorities and non-governmental organizations. Please note that participation in the workshop is by invitation only.

We hope that you are able to accept our invitation. Noref will cover the travel to Oslo from any other Norwegian cities. Further logistical details will be communicated to you upon confirmation of participation. **Please confirm your attendance by e-mail: info@peacebuilding.no, as soon as possible and not later than Friday 28 May 2010.**

Yours sincerely,



**Mariano Aguirre
Managing Director**

Enclosure: Provisional programme

Workshop: *Dialogue on Post-war Relief and Development in the North and East of Sri Lanka*
Oslo, 9 June 2010 (09:00 – 17:00)

Provisional programme

Session 1:

The position and role of Norway in Sri Lanka.

Keynote presentation by *Mr. Erik Solheim, Minister for International Development and Minister for Environment*, followed by questions and answers.

Session 2:

The roles, strategies and experiences of Norwegian NGOs in Sri Lanka.

Keynote presentations by invited Norwegian humanitarian and development organizations followed by questions and answers.

Session 3:

The roles and modes of engagement of the Tamil diaspora.

Introductory panel discussion on aims of engagement followed by group discussions on modalities of engagement and summing up in plenary.