



**Media Release for immediate publication**

## **Swiss-Asian Chamber of Commerce launches Task Force to raise funds for relief operations**

- **SACC members have already distributed locally in cash and kind in excess of 300 000 Swiss francs**
- **More than 100 000 Swiss francs cash contributions in Switzerland collected to date**
- **Close cooperation with the Swiss Solidarity Foundation**

**Zurich, 3 October 2009 – The Swiss-Asian Chamber of Commerce (SACC), which joins the Swiss companies active in Asia has set up a Task Force ([www.taskforceasia.ch](http://www.taskforceasia.ch)) to support relief operations in the Philippines and Indonesia. Members of the SACC active in these countries have already committed efforts worth in excess of 300 000 Swiss francs and thousands of their employees are active on the ground. The SACC Task Force Asia is raising funds with the Swiss member companies of the SACC, achieving spontaneous donations of well over 100 000 Swiss Francs with more pouring in. The SACC supports the fundraising activities of Swiss Solidarity.**

The SACC task force is cooperating closely with the Swiss Solidarity Foundation and supports the current fundraising campaign of Swiss Solidarity. All contributions from SACC members will be used according to proven criteria by Swiss Solidarity and its partner organizations in the areas affected.

The SACC aims to provide sustainable long-term relief to the people affected by the tropical storm “Ketsana” in the Philippines (locally known as “Ondoy”) as well as to earthquake victims in Sumatra (Indonesia). Apart from emergency aid, its main objective will be reconstruction, i.e. to support the affected communities to rebuild their homes.

The SACC Task Force Asia was set up by the Philippine Ambassador to Switzerland, H.E. Maria Theresa P. Lazaro, and Martin Kurer, Chairman of the SACC Philippine Chapter, and works in close cooperation with among others the Indonesian Ambassador to Switzerland, H.E. Lucia Helwinda Rustam and the coordinator appointed by the Philippine-Swiss Business Council, Manila, Mr. Reiner Gloor. The task force is supported by SACC members and various other Swiss companies and charities active in the Philippines and Indonesia. KPMG will audit its operations.

Martin Kurer comments: “The Swiss business community is shocked about the devastating effects of the natural disasters which have hit Asia in the last few days, including the tropical storm “Ketsana” which impacted the Philippines and other countries, the tsunami and the earthquakes in Indonesia.

## **Swiss-Asian Chamber of Commerce**



*Brunei · Cambodia · Indonesia · Korea*

*Laos · Malaysia · Myanmar · Pakistan*

*Philippines · Singapore · Thailand · Vietnam*

The next super typhoon is approaching the Philippines already. With the Task Force Asia, the SACC and its members are committed to make an impact. This framework allows us to deploy the full strength of SACC and its members for the relief operations in the Philippines and Indonesia through the network of Swiss Solidarity. And we need it. Believe me: I have seen a lot of disasters in the Philippines in the past 15 years. But the impact of 'Ketsana' is by far the worst I have ever come across."

### **Account for donations**

Swiss-Asian Chamber of Commerce  
Glückskette / Task Force Asia  
Postfinance Account No 87-612054-5  
IBAN CH32 0900 0000 87612054 5

### **For further information about the SACC task force as well as for direct contacts to residents in the area**

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