



Zurich, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

## **Impact of the tropical storm "Ketsana"**

Dear Members

The Board of the SACC is very much concerned about the impact of the tropical storm "Ketsana" (locally known as "Ondoy") in the Philippines, mainly Metro Manila, and other countries in the region. Based on the information that we received from our regular contacts with the Philippine Ambassador in Switzerland, Madame Maria Theresa P. Lazaro, our counterparts of the Philippine Swiss Business Council and various Swiss companies and charities active in the Philippines, we understand that the effects are truly devastating. The storm was the most ruinous since 1967.

Imagine: more than half of the population of the Canton of Zurich loose their homes within hours! Such is the reality in the Metro Manila area, and the toll is rising. Moreover, another storm is brewing in the Pacific that is expected to make landfall shortly, increasing the devastation and hardship. Unfortunately, many Swiss media have not been able to catch the full impact of the situation in the Philippines. For comprehensive coverage, please consult [www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net) or [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com).

We are very grateful that a number of our Swiss member companies active in the Philippines have already started substantial relief operations. What is needed above all is clean water, food, candles and medicines. We want to contribute to these aid operations and are currently exploring ways to deploy the full strength of SACC and its members. As soon as we have set up a framework for action, we will revert to you, and we will not be shy to ask for your help. We want to create an impact.

We count on your generous support and thank you very much in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Künzler  
President

Dr. Martin Kurer LL.M  
Chairman Philippine Committee