



Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Sunethra Bandaranaike, Chairperson of the Sunera Foundation paid a courtesy call to the Colombo office of the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization on Thursday 12 January 2006. She met with senior staff TRO Project Development and Management staff, and discussed the work of the Sunera Foundation. Particular emphasis was placed on the Sunera Foundation's Tsunami Theatre Outreach Project, which works with tsunami and war affected "differently abled" populations. Ms. Bandaranaike explored the possibilities for the Foundation to work with TRO in the NorthEast.

TRO welcomed Ms. Bandaranaike's interest TRO's work with the physically and mentally disabled persons was outlined, in particular the running of the Children's home, Inniya Valvu Illam in Puthukudiyiruppu, Mullaitivu District. Inniya Valvu Illam specializes in providing a loving, safe home and an education for children with visual and/or hearing impairments and autistic children.

TRO's expressed interest in forming a partnership with the Sunera Foundation to train TRO personnel to work with the disabled via the performing arts: theatre, music, art, etc. TRO has dedicated, hard working, intelligent personnel but does not always have access to staff development programs and seminars due to the isolation imposed on the NorthEast as a result of the war.

The meeting ended with the promise to further explore the possibilities of a partnership in the near future.