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PRESS RELEASE



DECEMBER SHIPPING DATE FOR SECOND BUS CARGO TO AID CHILDREN IN POST-TSUNAMI SRI LANKA

The second shipment of buses donated by the UK bus and coach industry to the children of post-tsunami Sri Lanka is planned to depart mid-December.

Mitch de Faria, Asia Bus Response (ABR) coordinator, said that following successful delivery of the organisation's first bus cargo to Indonesia and Sri Lanka in July, details of a further 63 vehicles have been passed for final approval to the Sri Lanka Transport Ministry in Colombo.

"Thousands of vehicles were lost in the tsunami," said Mitch. "Eleven months after the disaster, families are still living in camps and some children remain unable to return to school. ABR buses are making a huge difference to the children worst affected and our second shipment will add to the practical aid the bus industry has been able to contribute."

Bus donors to Asia Bus Response 2 (ABR2) include Translink, with 35 vehicles, First Manchester (21 vehicles), Wilts and Dorset Bus Company, Ipswich Buses, Lune Valley Transport Enterprise and Kane's Travel of Co. Longford, Eire.

By the time the voluntary Asia Bus Response initiative closes at the end of the year, Mitch would like 200 vehicles in total to have been sent to Asia. She explained, "A lot more vehicles were promised to ABR2 but are not now available until well into 2006. So we're asking more donors and more buses to come forward in the next fortnight before details of ABR's final shipment must be confirmed.

"Operators across the UK have already been so generous. They've set aside their own goals to help people in need half a world away. The governments of Indonesia and Sri Lanka have welcomed our efforts but this project wasn't about governments, it was about helping people in dire need.

"There is no industry more caring, and I'm enormously proud of what's been achieved," said Mitch.

To donate robust, mid-life buses fit for a few years' work, email info@asiabusresponse.co.uk or call Mitch de Faria on 01664 561711. To contribute spare parts, phone Roger Heard OBE on Mbl 07831 233510. For full information visit www.asiabusresponse.co.uk.

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Further information:

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