



BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE SOCIETY

IIT Kharagpur Chapter

Report of the Aila relief work by BSS, IIT Kharagpur Chapter

Following the recent devastating cyclone Aila in many areas of the West Bengal, the effort of the Breakthrough Science Society (IIT Kharagpur Chapter) for the collection of flood relief materials received a very warm response from the IIT community. An amount of Rs. 62237/- was collected. After exploring the need of the villagers by our local science clubs, the BSS members decided to distribute baby food and mosquito nets (as a possible preventive measure against malaria in near future in the area). On Sunday, 13 June, four faculty members [Dr. D. K. Maiti (Aerospace Engg.), Dr. D. Chakravarty, Dr. B. Samanta (Mining Engg.) and Dr. D. Maity (Civil Engg.)] and six research scholars along with a central team of BSS went to the remote village of *Kaikahali*, one of the worst affected areas on the bank of river *Matla* in *Kultali* block of South 24-Parganas. The team members from IIT started at 4.30 AM from the campus, collected the mosquito nets at Mecheda (the Tamluk Science Society had purchased these from *Dimari* near *Mecheda* one day before on our request), reached Kaikahali at 2.00 PM, personally distributed the Mosquito nets (487 nos.) and baby food in five adjoining villages (Kaikahali I, II, III and IV, and Dhonrabagra) and came back to the IIT campus at 11.30 PM.

Two people had died in this area during the cyclone. The BSS members handed over cash of Rs. 2,500/- each to the family members of the bereaved. After distributing the relief materials, the team also visited the damaged embankment of river *Matla*. From the signs left there, it was evident that the surge of water reached a height of at least 15 feet during the fateful event. Most of the mud-houses here had collapsed, and personal belongings of the villagers had been washed away. A large number of people are still living on the roadside without a shade over their head.

The team expressed deep concern about the condition of drinking water after unpotable saline water inundated the whole region, and the possibility of an outbreak of enteric diseases. The team expressed support to the peoples' demand of permanent rehabilitation packages from the government to build houses, buy fish nets, boats and other means of livelihood all of which had been washed away. A permanent solution to the problem of embankment and related matters is also urgently needed.

We convey our heartfelt thanks to the IIT community for contributing generously to the cyclone relief fund. A few photographs of the devastated area and the relief distribution are posted in the web: http://picasaweb.google.com/rkkoner/Aila_2009?authkey=Gv1sRgCNyK59KrqIPc4AE#5348875784067677170

Balance Sheet

A. Collection	
Previous Balance	872
Collection	62237
Total (in Rupees)	63109
B. Expenditure	
Mosquito net (487 nos. @ Rs. 92/-)	44804
Biscuits (700 packets @ Rs. 4.5/-)	3150
Amul Spray (48 dozen @ Rs. 114/-)	5472
Cash to the bereaved families (2 @2500/-)	5000
Motor Van and Auto rickshaw fare	521
Chocolate	316
Tata Sumo (528 km @ 6.5/-)	3432
Total (in Rupees)	62695
Remaining Balance (in Rupees) (A-B)	414



Breakthrough team in relief operation

(Radhakanta Koner, RS, Mining Engg Dept.)
(On behalf of BSS, IIT Kharagpur Chapter)