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Creating a Better World

World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

The King of Sweden visits Scouts engaged in support to typhoon victims in the Philippines

World Scouting provides financial support to support recovery

26th January 2014, Manila/Geneva: For the past two days, a World Scout team led by His Majesty the King of Sweden, the Honorary Chairperson of the World Scout Foundation, and Scott Teare, Secretary General of World Scouting, visited several initiatives undertaken by Scouts in the Philippines, in particular those supporting rehabilitation for typhoon Haiyan victims.

Typhoon Haiyan occurred on 9th November 2013, devastating many communities across central Philippines. Tens of thousands have died and millions have been displaced from their homes. The World Scouting team visited Scout Groups supporting rehabilitation work in Tacloban. With over 1.5 million Scouts, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, led by the Honourable Jejomar Binay, the Vice President of the Philippines, is one of the largest members of the World Scouting family. Scouts from all over the country had reacted within hours of the disaster to provide support to multiple relief organisations.

During the visit to Tacloban, Scott Teare said: "The Scouts here are doing some amazing work to help those affected to quickly get back to normal lives. What is important for us is how Scouts in Philippines were prepared for such disaster. While we are not a disaster relief agency, there are Scouts all over the world, like the Scouts in Philippines, ready and willing to help when disaster strikes. We have seen this great work pan out recently in support of the Syrian refugee crisis, in Haiti and Nicaragua."

During the visit, The King of Sweden presented a cheque for USD 100,000 from the World Scout Foundation to support the disaster work being done by Scouts. In post-disaster circumstances, Scouting is one of the few local groups organised to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in their communities.

The high level World Scouting team also visited the Ticket To Life program, a Messengers of Peace program which extends Scouting to street children in Manila and other parts of the Philippines, handing over a further cheque for USD 100,000 as part of its ongoing support to this project. Scott Teare, Secretary General of World Scouting added: "We are very proud of the world that our Scouts in Philippines are doing with these vulnerable children. And the Ticket To Life programme is running in many other countries around the globe. The task is daunting but the need to serve these children is so great."

Messengers of Peace is the flagship initiative of World Scouting, supported by the Royal Family of Saudi Arabia. Thanks to the funding from Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah and other donors, extra resources have been made available to help Scouts across the world serve their communities better.

For media enquiries, please contact:

John Geoghegan, World Scout Foundation – jgeoghegan@worldscoutfoundation.org
(+41-79-639-25-01)
Srinath Tirumale, World Scout Bureau – srinath@scout.org
(+41-79-321-68-49)

About Scouting

Scouting, founded by Lord Robert Baden-Powell in 1907, is a grassroots level educational youth movement engaging young people from all over the world. World Scouting today is a confederation of 162 National Scout Organizations in a network of over 40 million members. Some 7 million volunteer adults support local activities. Each of the 1 million local Scout Groups follows a similar system of non-formal education suited to the unique aspects of their local community. The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is an independent, worldwide, non-profit and non-partisan organization which serves the Scout Movement. Its purpose is to promote unity and the understanding of Scouting's purpose and principles, while facilitating its expansion and development. The organs of the World Organization are the World Scout Conference, the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau.