

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four Years Later CH2M HILL Builds Back to Ensure Tsunami Torn Sri Lanka and Maldives a Successful, Sustainable Future

DENVER, Nov. 10, 2008 – Nearly four years after a 9.2 earthquake off the Sumatra coastline completely devastated the lives, land and infrastructure of the people of Sri Lanka and the Maldives, great progress and hope is being realized as families and economies are pieced back together.

With funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the work of global engineering, construction, and operations firm, CH2M HILL a healthy and sustainable future is assured for the citizens of Sri Lanka and Maldives.

After nearly 300,000 people in 14 countries were killed or went missing following the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004, USAID and CH2M HILL were two of the many organizations that quickly mobilized to assess the damage and to offer immediate help by providing clean water, basic amenities, and a promise to begin work to rebuild the communities in a way that could be sustained entirely by the local people.

“USAID’s Tsunami Reconstruction Program consists of projects specially targeted to spur economic growth in Sri Lanka and assist local communities to grow their economies and recover from the devastating 2004 tsunami,” says USAID Mission Director Rebecca Cohn. “These projects include construction of a new bridge over Arugam Bay, reconstruction or rehabilitation of nine vocational schools, installation of improved water supply systems, and reconstruction and upgrades of three damaged fishing harbors.”

Three fishing harbors were renovated and expanded to meet the needs of more than 22,000 fishermen who lost their livelihoods after the tsunami. Fisherman committees were established to facilitate internal governance capacity within the harbors and to increase their ability to manage and sustain their rehabilitated and newly built facilities for economy growth opportunities after CH2M HILL and USAID have completed their work. The water treatment plants built during the

effort will supply potable water to 40,000 people – something that didn't exist before.

“Some of the first projects completed involved rebuilding critical bridges and access roads in East Sri Lanka, which made a huge difference to the spirits and lives of those living in the remote eastern area. People can now cross the large Arugam Bay Lagoon safely to be with family, seek out resources, move their rice and agricultural products, and be part of the rebuilding of their country in this previously devastated tsunami and conflict prone area,” says Rick Robertson, CH2M HILL's program manager for the Sri Lanka Tsunami Reconstruction Project.

CH2M HILL's reconstruction efforts in Maldives included designing, constructing, and operations training for two seawater reverse osmosis facilities. The plants provided the first-ever treated water supply for the 8,000 island residents. The company also provided a business plan and instructions for water management, enabling the facility to become a viable business for the citizens of Maldives well into the future. Community awareness and the promotion for health, clean water and sanitation are also a large part of the Maldives program.

“An extension of our work included creating a health network TV system; sustainability, water, sanitation and health workshops; and school health awareness training programs for all community members to participate in,” says Robertson.

Focus on sustainability, safety

Under CH2M HILL's direction, all new construction in both areas were built with high standards of environmental compliance and an emphasis on “green” building practices. Two of the buildings, including the Ahangama Vocational Training Center were the areas first to achieve Silver LEED[®] certification of sustainability under the U.S. Green Build Council.

“All over the world, including in Sri Lanka, there is a growing demand for ‘green’ energy and building services,” says U.S. Ambassador of Sri Lanka and Maldives Robert O. Blake. “The Ahangama center will provide a venue for technology transfer and capacity building in ‘green building’ design and construction for Sri

Lankan architects, engineers, contractors and vendors. I expect that in the coming years, this center will set a precedent for environmentally sound design both in Sri Lanka and beyond.”

Also, after seeing CH2M HILL’s strict standards for making safety a No. 1 priority at all work sites, local people have embraced a strong safety culture for the first time. For example, workers achieved more than 380,000 hours without an accident on the bridge project thanks to extensive training, placing safety officers on each site, pro-active safety planning, and providing hardhats, gloves, safety harnesses and other safety gear to all workers. Over the past six months, with the construction at its peak, more than 1.5 million hours without a lost time accident have been accumulated by the entire program. “It’s satisfying to see how the people of Sri Lanka and Maldives now embrace the importance of safety. Local contractors have even created safety awards to recognize those who promote safety on their job sites,” says Robertson.

Expanding education opportunities

On Oct. 26, 2008 CH2M HILL with USAID successfully launched the seventh of nine Vocational Education Training Centers to be opened in Sri Lanka, which will teach 40 different skill trades for 2,000 students a year, enabling the country to become both completely self-sufficient and successful. Focusing on trades that are in high demand in Sri Lanka – apparel, masonry, plumbing, welding, engine repair, carpentry and IT.

“Of all the initiatives by the United States to help Sri Lanka recover from the tsunami, promoting vocational training is in many ways our most important project,” says Ambassador Blake. “Training young people in vocational trades will help to provide good paying jobs in the near future, and will help boost both family income and the economic health of the districts and of Sri Lanka as a whole.”

Trained instructors and all necessary supplies have been provided, including furniture, industrial equipment, sewing machines and other commodities to make the schools fully functional. Courses have been carefully developed in partnership with the recipient Sri Lanka government agency, the Vocational Training Authority, and CH2M HILL through benchmarking with top manufacturers and

corporations around the world. Several critical public-private partnerships provided advice and funding including from Chevron Corporation, Prudential Foundation, the Mellon & American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and the Sri Lanka Joint Apparel Association Forum. An emphasis on improving the use of the English language and entrepreneurship skills will be a part of every curriculum and integrated within the IT center.

With less than two months of the Sri Lanka Tsunami Reconstruction Project remaining, the work in Maldives already complete, and a work force prepared to make the most out of their new facilities, schools, and businesses, the promise of a secure and sustainable future in Sri Lanka and Maldives has become a reality. Under the program motto "Built back better," the communities are now ready to help people rebuild their personal lives after the tsunami tore them apart.

"As we reflect on the lives lost four years ago due to the natural disaster, all Americans and contributing individuals from around the world can be proud of the gift that they have given Sri Lanka and Maldives, and know that people can overcome any difficulty by simply working together," says Robertson.

Headquartered near Denver, Colo., employee-owned CH2M HILL is a global leader in engineering, procurement, construction, management and operations for government, civil, industrial and energy clients. With \$5.8 billion in revenue and more than 25,000 employees, CH2M HILL is an industry-leading program management, construction management and design firm, as ranked by Engineering News-Record (2008). The firm's work is concentrated in the areas of energy, water, transportation, environmental, nuclear and industrial facilities. The firm has long been recognized as a most-admired company and leading employer, including being named by FORTUNE as one of the 100 Best Companies to Work For and one of America's Most Admired Companies (2008). Visit www.ch2mhill.com.

###