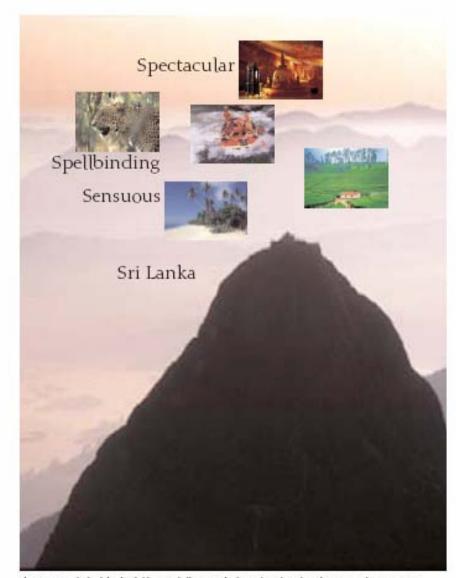


ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update - April 6, 2005



There is a cropted island that has held a special alliese since the daym of travel. A place where mentre's brainy remains abundant and unspecie. Where ancient dries and mystical monuments do: the landscape. Where gently rolling we plantations reflect the colonial past that lives on in cool hill-country retreats. Where vars, exode wildlife parks awate.

And where ayurveda – the fabled examine of body, mind and soul - is a living an.

There's never been a bener time to discover the special beauty of Srt Lanka. Vist us at half 5.2, stand 112 and receive a special memorino. — www.BountsBackSrtLanka.org



Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA

USAID supports "Bounce Back" tourism campaign

This week, USAID disbursed \$3.4 million to a new "bounce back" tourism campaign for Sri Lanka. Initially kicked off at a trade show in Berlin, the campaign continues with a multi-media show for tour operators and potential tourists. The campaign covers newspapers, magazines (see ad at left), radio, and TV air time in key European markets. In 2004, a record 500,000 tourists visited Sri Lanka. However, numbers dropped drastically after the tsunami, even in noncoastal areas. compounding its effects.





Photo: USNS Mercy

INDONESIA

USNS Mercy provides humanitarian assistance off the coast of Nias
On April 5, 2005 the U.S. Navy
hospital ship USNS Mercy arrived off the coast of Nias to provide
humanitarian assistance to victims of the March 28 earthquake. This response reflects the continued U.S. commitment to humanitarian

its San Diego homeport Jan. 5 as part of Operation Unified Assistance, following the devastating earthquake

assistance, regional cooperation and security in the region. Mercy departed

and tsunami that struck the region on December 26. Since February 6, the Mercy has treated more than 17,500 patients.

INDIA

USAID funds youth skills training and sports events

Thanks to USAID, youth in tsunami affected areas are participating in newly organized activities ranging from skills training to sports events. The activities are aimed at helping young persons heal from the trauma of the tsunami and include volleyball, chess and musical chairs. Young men in Chinavinampattinam, Pondicherry have organized volleyball teams. USAID staff recently attended the volleyball finals and awarded trophies to the winning team.



Photo: USAID/Nina Minka

FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF APRIL 6, 2005

Total USG Humanitarian and Recovery Assistance Pledged: \$350,000,000
Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed: \$80,749,325
Total USAID/FFP Humanitarian Assistance Committed: \$22,466,900
Total USAID/ANE Humanitarian Assistance Committed: \$5,372,944

For more information on the tsunami and USAID's work, please see "Tsunami Relief" at www.usaid.gov.