



INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND KENYON INTERNATIONAL HANDS OVER TSUNAMI VICTIMS IDENTIFICATION EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY TO THAILAND; TRAINING CONTINUES

Bangkok, Thailand, August 22, 2005 - The Australian Government and Kenyon International Emergency Services Co., Ltd., an emergency rescue and service company under contract by the Australian government, today handed over a range of valuable equipment to the Thailand Tsunami Victim Identification – Information Management Center (TTVI-IMC), under the Royal Thai National Police, to help the TTVI-IMC continue its work in tsunami victim identification and repatriation. The Australian Government's contribution will continue in the form of training and capacity-building for the Royal Thai National Police.

Australian Ambassador to Thailand H.E. William Patterson said, "Australia has made a significant contribution to the tsunami efforts, including identifying and repatriating victims of the December 26 tsunami in Thailand. Close to 2,000 victims of this tragic event have now been positively identified and returned to their families. Australia's commitment to the identification process is continuing, including the significant and ongoing forensics contribution by the Australian Federal Police to the TTVI in Phuket."

Today, Australia handed over a range of valuable equipment, including computers, administrative supplies, hospital and mortuary equipment, information technology, crucial software employed in the identification of victims and other key assets to the TTVI-IMC and to the Phuket provincial administration.

Pol. Gen. Nopadol Somboonsub, Deputy Commissioner-General of the Royal Thai National Police, said, "The tsunami victim identification and repatriation has achieved more than satisfactory progress thanks to the contribution and cooperation of several nations from all over the world, especially Australia. Now the crisis has moved beyond the emergency phase. We believe that with the supplies and equipment contributed by Australia today, it will help us continue and ensure efficient victim identification and boost the country's own capacity in victim identification in the long-run."

Robert Jensen, Kenyon President and CEO, praised the work that the Thai government had done in identifying victims and returning them to their home countries, as well as in rehabilitating the devastated areas. "As for Kenyon," he said, "this was one of the most difficult deployments that Kenyon had made in its 75-year history. In addition to the scope of the disaster and the incredible loss of life, there was the challenge of dealing with more than 30 nations who lost citizens and the need for standardization in the victim identification process. I am very proud of the more than 150 Kenyon people who served in Thailand, and served with distinction, from the first day of the disaster until recently."

At the very early stage in the crisis, the Australian Government engaged a commercial partner, Kenyon International Emergency Services, to assist with the handling and management of emergency services for the disaster victim identification (DVI) operations in Phuket. This support was critical in meeting the operational requirements of forensic experts from a range of countries engaged in identifying tsunami victims. Australia has jointly chaired the TTVI-IMC under the Royal Thai National Police command, in cooperation with experts from other nations.

At one point, Kenyon had more than 150 staff in Phuket and was instrumental in laying the groundwork in several key areas including victim identification and repatriation of victims to their home countries. Kenyon also built a “wall of remembrance” at the repatriation center for families of the victims to gather and remember their loved ones.

About Kenyon International

Kenyon is an international leader in worldwide disaster management, providing pre-incident crisis planning and post-emergency response services on behalf of the world’s foremost companies. Privately owned, Kenyon remains the only firm in its business with a hundred year history, comprehensive resources, and experience in every type of mass fatality accident including aviation disasters, natural disaster, war and terror attacks. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, it has offices and facilities in Sydney, Australia, London, UK, and Hong Kong.

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