

# Project Newsletter

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## First Aid

**F**irst Aid session took place, in partnership with St. John Ambulance, a British-based NGO, at four ongoing project sites in Matara District in April. Mr. Lalith, the director of St. John Ambulance in Matara Branch, demonstrated how to treat burns, cuts, broken bones, and snake bites to the young children who responded with great excitement and curiosity. At the end of the session, Mr. Lalith took all the children out to the neighborhood for an ambulance ride, making the children even more excited!



First Aid in Thalalla



Children during a tour in General Hospital

## Hospital & Army Visit

**H**ospital and army personnel are among the first to respond in case of disasters. Following the week conducting First Aid, children visited the General Hospital and the army camp in Matara, where they took an adventurous tour deep into places they had never had a chance to see. At the General Hospital, the director himself gave a 15-minute presentation about the multifaceted roles played by the General Hospital in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami. The army commander discussed his daily duties, as well as roles played in emergency situations. For most of the children, this was the first time to see the bridge from "the other side." Special thanks to the hospital and army personnel who volunteered their precious time with the future doctors and commanders!

## Be the Big Change!

*"Be the change you wish to see in the world."* — Gandhi



**I**n partnership with IOM (International Organization for Migration), our two volunteer members conducted a half-day program on April 28th, for children living in the transitional shelter located next to the

Solis Hotel in Matara. This program consists of three major components: *OHASHIMO* song, *Inamura* story, and arts & crafts. Ms. Champa and Ms. Nilmini, who conduct this program, are living in Thotamuna and are themselves the victims of the tsunami. They strongly believe in community capabilities and people who together make a big difference in children's lives. For more details about the half-day program, please contact our Matara office.

## Staff Portrait

HiroYuki Takita  
(UNV Field Project Coordinator)

Originally from Japan, Hiro spent the last 10 years in New York and Alaska, where he was working as a social worker in the field of child protection and developmental disabilities. He came to Sri Lanka in November, 2006, for the first time in his life. He has completed a bachelor's degree in social work at University of Alaska and a master's in social work at Columbia University.

Hiro loves baseball, pizza, sub-zero temperatures, Kanye West, and fountain pens. He is a big fan of the New York Mets and loathes anything Yankees, of course. His most favorite place in the world is the second tier seats of the Shea Stadium.