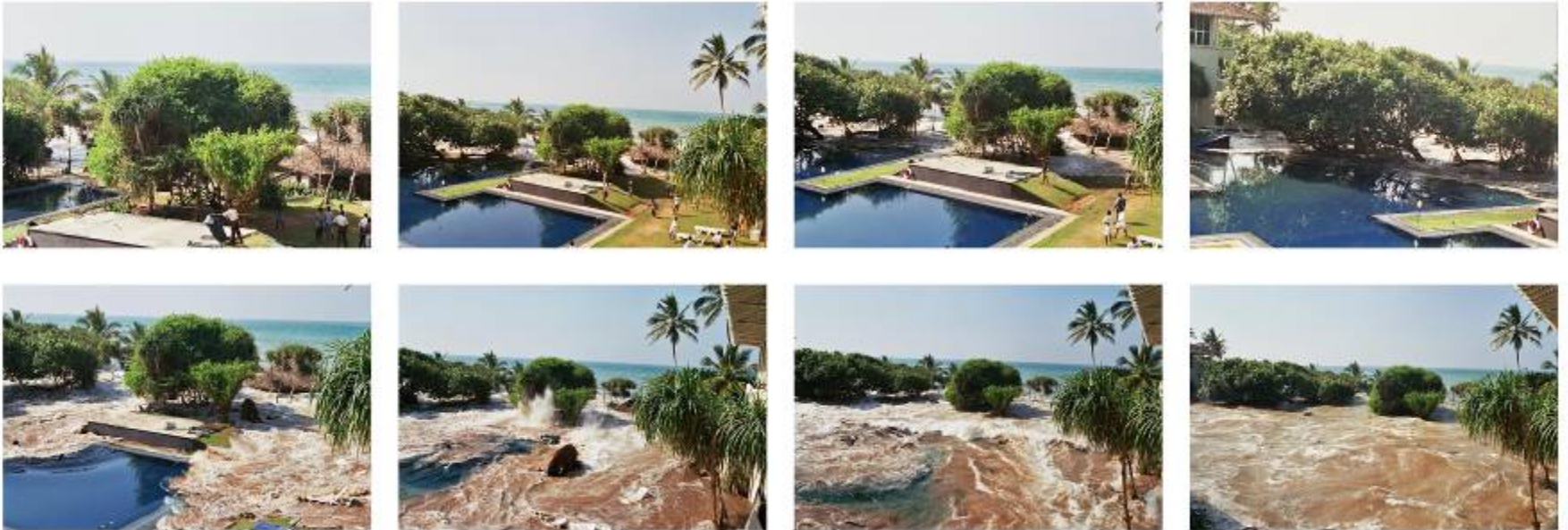


presentation



**TSUNAMI PHOTO MUSEUM
TELWATTA SRI LANKA**

On the 26th of December 2004



the TSUNAMI hit different countries

In Sri Lanka many lives were lost and the damage was huge.

Many people on the coast lost nearly everything they had.



It is impossible to tell all the Tsunami stories, as there are too many. But by telling some of them we think people will get a general idea about what happened.

The museum is about the Tsunami and the first years after, as so much changed every day. Here we see local people build up their lives from scratch.



Here you can see the situation of the museum a few months after and the situation a few years after the Tsunami. The museum was build on the old foundation, which was the only thing left after the disaster.

The museum is situated on Telwatta junction on Galle Road (this is the main road from north to south on the westcoast of Sri Lanka) between Ambalangoda and Hikkaduwa. About 2 hrs drive south of Colombo and about 20 minutes drive north of Galle.





The project is run by Mrs. Kamani Girly de Silva (Sri Lanka) and by Mrs. Jacky van Oostveen (The Netherlands). Mrs. Kamani and her family take care and maintain the museum in Sri Lanka, they were Tsunami victims themselves and also lost everything. Mrs. Jacky is responsible for the exhibition, collecting material, raising the funds and the further development of the museum. All the work is done on a voluntary basis.

“From my experiences, working as an after Tsunami volunteer, and my own background as a visual artist and an art teacher I decided to start this museum”



Mrs. Jacky has been up and down to Sri Lanka since the Tsunami. The first years after the Tsunami I had taken lots of photographs. I also found out how important photo's are for the Sri Lankans themselves. Not only because they like them and put the photo frames on a central place in their house. Very much because, through the Tsunami, the affected people lost 98% of their photographs and they didn't have any camera's themselves to photograph their own situation. It where the aid workers, volunteers and journalists that had the camera's. They took all the pictures, but most of these photos where never seen by the local affected people.

Main reasons to start the museum where:

- To visualize the stories of the local people who were affected by the Tsunami. A place where big and small stories can come together and can be shared. Not only the stories of the local people, but also about the people who came to help.
- To try and collect international photo material and bring it back to Sri Lanka and the affected villages, like Telwatta and Parelyia.
- To create a place where the Tsunami affected people can see and remember what has happened, because their experiences and the disaster that followed has had such a big impact on the lives of so many people and will stay with them all their lives. The museum can help the victims to deal with their memories and emotions.
 - The Tsunami story has become a major subject of Sri Lankan history and it is important to save these images to show to the upcoming generations.
- By showing non affected people what has happened, the museum hopes to create more understanding for the Tsunami victims, what happened on the Tsunami day and everything that happened afterwards.
- The Tsunami brought people from all over the world to Sri Lanka. Many villages had not met people from other cultures before. I hope the museum will be a place where cultures can come together in the future as well.



Tsunami Photo Museum



Some extra museum information

The museum is a individual institution and is dependend on donations of other people.

The museum opened its doors in March 2007 and it is open every day.

The visitors come from all over Sri Lanka and from all over the world.

We do not ask any entrance fee to the visitors, because we want everybody to be able to visit the Museum.

Main museum items are photo's, but we also exhibit some objects and we have a special section where one can see childrens drawings.

We have a donation box inside the museum where people can put a donation. This money is used for the museum and mainly for its maintenance.

To develop the museum and for the building and construction we try to find specific donors and sponsors. Slowly the museum is growing. Still a lot of work needs to be done and we keep on developping the museum. Also the search for new photo material is an ongoing proces.

Main advertising is the signboard on the main road and through people who have visited the museum and tell others about it or take other people to see the museum. Besides this we have printed a flyer which can be taken by the visitors.



Inside the Museum





Reactions of the visitors



" Very good work - time will heal xxx"



" Your pictures help other visitors to touch reality of that day. Very humbling. Thank you. "



" The photos show to us, just what happened - it's hard to imagine. Good Luck. "

" The never seen of photo Sri Lanka "

" Heart rending commitment "

" An extremely commendable task. Future generations would know what Tsunami did. "

" Ich habe alle fast noch einmal erlebt "

" These images remind us the work is not done "

" A really important establishment both as a document of the Tsunami
and a memorial to those who lost their lives. "

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