

A MESSAGE OF LOVE AND HOPE

12 November 2013

Thru

**The National Secretariat for Social Action – Justice & Peace
of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines**
(CBCP-NASSA-Caritas Philippines)
470 General Luna Street, Intramuros
Manila, Philippines

To our dear brothers and sisters in the Philippines,

Greetings of hope and solidarity!

The 23 Caritas member organizations in Asia, along with other Caritas members from other regions that are present in Asia, are one in conveying to you our deepest sympathy and concern for the loss of your loved ones who perished from the wrath of the Super Typhoon Haiyan. We are deeply saddened by the widespread devastation and loss of lives caused by the typhoon. We hope that in the midst of the great sorrow and pain, you will find comfort in the fact that millions of people, including our Caritas family, are in solidarity with you.

On behalf of the Caritas confederation in Asia, Caritas Asia brings you our message of love and hope, as well as, our prayers and our commitment to lend a helping hand in rebuilding the shattered lives of the typhoon victims.

In our capacity as a Caritas confederation in Asia, we hope and pray that the indomitable spirit that resides within you as a Filipino people, together with your deep faith in God, will continue to be as strong as ever to help you rise above this great tragedy. May you find courage in God and always be reminded that our strength emanates from Him.

We join you in your prayers for the speedy recovery of our brothers and sisters who were battered by the typhoon. May the passage in the scripture that says, *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me," [Psalm 23:4]* resonate in our prayers, so that we may find courage and hope in these times of sorrow.

As Caritas, we also join the other members of our confederation across the globe in sharing with you our resources, and in exerting our best efforts to bring humanitarian aid to the communities that have suffered the brunt of the typhoon.

Our Caritas family will work side by side with NASSA-Caritas Philippines in delivering timely and appropriate aid to the victims. In close coordination with the affected communities, we will do what best we can to help in alleviating the suffering of the afflicted families; rebuild their lives; and bring back the bright future that awaits them.

Caritas will be with you in these difficult times.

Yours in Christ,



+Most Rev. Isao Yama Kikuchi
Regional President
Caritas Asia



and the Caritas Asia Regional Commission Members:

Rev. Fr. George Sigamoney
Executive Director
Caritas Sri Lanka

Rev. Fr. Adrianus Suyadi
Executive Director
Karina KWI

Rev. Fr. Michael Yeung
Executive Director
Caritas Hong Kong

Mr. Aloysius John
Asia Liaison Officer
Caritas Internationalis

Mr. Eleazar Gomez
Asia Regional Coordinator
Caritas Asia

On behalf of the following members of the Caritas confederation in Asia:

Caritas Bangladesh
Caritas Cambodia
Caritas East Timor
Caritas Hong Kong
Caritas India
Karina KWI (Indonesia)
Caritas Japan
Caritas Kazhakstan

Caritas Korea
Caritas Macau
Caritas Malaysia
Caritas Mongolia
Karuna Myanmar
Caritas Nepal
Caritas Pakistan

NASSA-Caritas Philippines
Caritas/CHARIS - Singapore
SEDEC-Caritas Sri Lanka
Caritas Taiwan
Caritas Tajikistan
Caritas Thailand
Caritas Uzbekistan
Caritas Vietnam

And the other Caritas member organizations from other regions that are present in Asia