



REPUBLIC OF CHILE  
CONSULATE-GENERAL IN MELBOURNE  
for South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia  
Melbourne, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010

### Chile Earthquakes 2010 (update 5)

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010, Chile was hit by an almost 3-minute long devastating earthquake of 8.8 Richter intensity -the 5<sup>th</sup> strongest in recorded history- followed by a number of tsunamis in a disaster of such magnitude that has all but obliterated nearly 1,000 km. a stretch of the territory, representing some 25% of the continental coastline and inner countryside. Since then, the country has been hit by a series of nearly 300 tremors, including some 20 major quakes up to 7.0 intensity, until the latest on 26<sup>th</sup> March that reached a 6.2 in the Richter scale. The scale of the devastation has been evaluated at US\$ 30 billion losses and estimated to take 4 years of reconstruction.

The relatively low fatality toll if compared to similar or less severe catastrophes worldwide, is due to Chileans are more familiar for this type of disasters, quickly moving to safer and higher grounds to avoid landslides and tsunamis. However, this positive element in tragedy increases the urgency of caring for the 2 million people left homeless as some 500.000 homes were destroyed or unusable in the face of winter; as well, hundreds of schools collapsed and some 70 medical centers including 6 major hospitals lie inoperative or in ruins.

Campaigns have flourished in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Perth and Hobart to collect funds both from the Chilean community as well as from other ethnic and national communities. Many institutions such as hospitals, faith-related groupings, universities, industries and services sector enterprises are pledging help and support. The overall effort of the Australian Community to help in the reconstruction of Schools and Policlinics in Chile has been targeted at matching the initial A\$ 5 million pledged by the Australian Federal Government. Besides donations in kind ranging from clothing to medical equipment and supplies, cash donations are being collected in 3 Official Westpac Accounts opened by the Embassy in Canberra, the Consulate General in Sydney and the Consulate General of Chile in Melbourne, the latter of which has the following details:

Bank WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION  
Account name CONSULATE GENERAL OF CHILE  
Branch Nr. 033 165  
Account Nr. 175301  
Contact numbers of Consulate General: Tel: 61-3-98664041; E-mail: [cgmelbourne1@chile.com.au](mailto:cgmelbourne1@chile.com.au)  
Mob. Consul-General: 04-30300351 (if busy, please leave text message or e-mail).

Chilean communities in Melbourne and Adelaide have expressed their will to channel all efforts through the Chilean Consulate-General in Melbourne, in order to make sure that the funds will be spent in specific projects of to reconstruct either schools or policlinics in the devastated area. The main idea is not only to raise means for immediate use, but to support the chosen project in the future, so Australians will have a special tangible link with the affected communities in Chile, an everlasting bond related to their good health and their learning for a brighter future.

The Consulate General has been in permanent support of the endeavors of the Chilean and other communities ever since the very day of the first major earthquake. Working at the maximum of its official capacity and framed within the document "Guidelines of the Consulate General for events of solidarity with Chile on the Earthquake" of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010, is also cooperating closely with the authorities and corporate institutions willing to help.





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The overall work is set in the following fronts:

- a) Fund-raising events along the year 2010 to collect cash for rebuilding. The funds are being deposited in the Consulate-General in Melbourne specially set account, waiting to be sent to Chile when a project has been identified. The account holds donations from the 4 States under the Consulate's Jurisdiction, namely South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and Victoria. Accountability of funds received in the account is to be provided in due time through its publishing in the Consulate-General's webpage. Main donations and fund raising events are being listed in the attachment, with their destiny accounts.
- b) Collection of equipment and Item donation in warehouses in Melbourne and shipping to furnish medical facilities and schools. At the moment, one full 40 footer container of emergency aid is being shipped and there are some 4 other containers of medical equipment being stored.
- c) Review of needs of reconstruction (evaluation being currently done by the Government of Chile) to identify potential recipient communities from the Regions VI, VII or VIII in Chile. There is an expressed community preference for remote coastal affected areas and for rebuilding facilities for the use of the entire recipient community.
- d) Support the establishment of a long term joint-initiative from the Victorian academic, corporate and community-related sectors, to help in Chile's reconstruction. This, in lieu of the enormity of the devastation and the fact that Victoria is the largest Australian player in the growing links with Chile.

At this point, the Consulate-General of Chile in Melbourne would like to highlight the immense solidarity spirit so patent during the "Melbourne Helps Chile" community-led Mega event of Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 which was both Government and Consulate-General sponsored. In this opportunity that marked exactly 1 month since the tragedy begun, Chilean organizations were supported by the hearts and arts of the Chinese, Croatian, Filipino, Greek, Indonesian, Italian, Latin-American, Malaysian and Thai communities, to whom we are eternally grateful.

And, in what was of deep meaning to the Chilean community, we would like to thank the words of The Governor of Victoria Prof. David de Kretser and the support and concurrence of the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. John Brumby. We would like to recognize also the presence of the Honorable MPs. Mr. Telmo Languiller, Mr. Nick Kotsiras and Mr. Carlo Carli, as well as the Consul General of Croatia Mr. Antun Babic, the Representative of The Consul General of Indonesia and the Former Commissioner of Victoria to the Americas, Mr. Andrew Dyer, during the Mega Event.

Their participation attest to the will of supporting these meaningful efforts by Chilean and other communities of Victoria in what Premier Brumby himself acknowledged as a symbol of what working united is all about.

With deep gratitude and respect

*Diego Velasco-von Pilgrim*  
Cónsul-General de Chile in Melbourne



Encl: - "Guidelines of the Consulate General for events of solidarity with Chile on the Earthquake"  
Encl: - "Chile Earthquakes Support Milestones and Fund Raising Events Earthquake" (8.April.2010)