

Companies providing expertise in addition to donations for Nepal

HSL Constructor and DHL, for example, have sent disaster-response teams; airlines sending aid supplies

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WITH the death toll from the Nepal earthquake rising, local and international companies are chipping in to provide relief for the victims, not just in cash, but also in kind – in the form of their professional expertise.

Local engineering firm HSL Constructor, working under the Corporate Citizen Foundation's Swift Emergency Evaluation Deployment (SEED) platform, sent five trained humanitarian workers and media personnel to Nepal on Monday, along with supplies such as body bags, stretchers and water filtration systems.

The team is also working with Nepal's Rotary Club and Armed Police Force to assess the ground situation, so that first-hand information can be given to other relief organisations.

German logistics company DHL has deployed a disaster response team (DRT) to Kathmandu to help manage the influx of international aid and goods that are being sent to the country's only international airport, which has been damaged in the quake, said to be the country's worst in 80 years.

The volunteers in the DRT comprise DHL employees from Bahrain, Belgium, Dubai, India, Malaysia and Singapore. Supported by DHL Express Nepal, they will work with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

Three days after the 7.8-magnitude quake struck central and western Nepal, the official death toll has shot past 4,400. Almost twice that number have been left injured and without shelter; thousands have slept outside since the quake, too afraid to return to their houses because of the aftershocks.

Approximately eight million people have been affected by the disaster, said the latest United Nations report by the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Nepal; more than 1.4 million people need food, in addition to other priority needs such as water, shelter and medication.

The Singapore Red Cross has raised its initial contribution of S\$50,000 in relief supplies to S\$200,000, and has dispatched a response team to assess the situation.



The team sent by HSL Constructor under the Corporate Citizen Foundation's banner teaching Nepalese how to use the water filtration system brought in from Singapore. The supplies they brought also included body bags and stretchers (in the foreground).

Three medical teams are expected to arrive in the disaster zone on Friday.

The Singapore Red Cross has, meanwhile, collected more than S\$200,000 in public donations.

Local bank DBS has included the Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund, under the banner of the Singapore Red Cross, as a billing organisation under its "Bill payment" service accessible through its 1,100 ATMs across the island; donations can also be made through its mobile wallet app, and through its internet and mobile banking channels. The company will also match, dollar for dollar, all donations from its staff to the relief fund.

Insurance provider Tokio Marine Life will also match donations from its staff dollar for dollar, as well as contribute \$2 for every life policy case filed in May. However, it has not yet decided which charity the funds will go to, said its spokesman.

Airlines have also pitched in for the relief efforts. Korean Air will deliver supplies – including 24,000 bottles of water, 2,000 blankets and rice – to the area.

A Singapore Airlines spokesman said: "We are assisting wherever we can, with relief supplies to Kathmandu, through SilkAir's four flights per week."

Popular communication app Line has released a set of charity stickers, "Pray for Nepal"; all proceeds from the sale of these US\$0.99 stickers until May 31 will go to the Japanese Red Cross Society's relief fund.

This effort reprises its previous initiatives, "Pray for the Philippines" and "3.11 Children Offer Hope" for the relief efforts for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan and the Tohoku earthquake respectively.

Facebook has also made adjust-

ments to its internet and mobile app interface to include an option for users to donate to the International Medical Corps. The company will match donations up to US\$2 million, which will go to local relief and rescue organisations.

The Singapore Red Cross will accept walk-in donations at the Red Cross House at 15 Penang Lane from 9:30 am to 7:45 pm on Mondays to Fridays, and from 10 am to 3 pm on weekends and public holidays.

Donations by cheque, ATM fund transfer and internet bank transfer (for DBS customers) will also be accepted.

Online donations can be made at www.sggives.org/NepalSRCS

► **Earthquake rebuilding cost will exceed US\$10b: Nepal minister, Page 26**