

Speech by Marc



I am extremely happy to be here in representation of the European constituencies of Friendship and in particular of Friendship Holland and Friendship Luxembourg, who will, thanks to the support of a number of donors, both private and institutional, be in a position to be on board this new journey of the former Rainbow Warrior, now the Rongdhonu of Friendship.

Already last year we discussed very concretely the perspective of adding a seagoing vessel to Friendship's hospital fleet so as to be able to serve the remote and marginalized communities of the costal belt of Bangladesh. Thus the offer from Greenpeace early this year to donate the Rainbow Warrior, truly came as a gift of heaven and we cannot thank Greenpeace enough for that.

Now, of course, it will be for Friendship to turn this source of Hope into day to day, effective and efficient health care for the benefit of those who are intended to be the final donees of this vessel, that is those who presently have no access to even the most basic health services. For having seen Friendship at work since 2004 and having seen it grow without ever moving away from its fundamentals - the most important of which is deep respect for its beneficiaries - I am confident that this will be achieved.

Thus I firmly trust that Greenpeace has made the right, generous, choice here.

Thank you for that.