

# Milk cartons act as collection points for Japan disaster aid

By Sirkka Huish

Bermuda's two Japanese companies hope your small donations will make a big difference to the victims of devastated communities.

Tokio Millennium Re and MS Frontier Re want to help the millions of people in Japan who are struggling to find food and water after the massive earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

The two reinsurance companies were "more than happy" to team up to sponsor a milk carton collection fund which aims to give to those who need it most.

More than 200 of the specially designed milk cartons will be put in place to collect people's donations at stores, supermarkets and restaurants.

Tats Hoshina, CEO of Tokio Millennium, said: "Seeing all the footage from Japan, this is the very least we can do.

"This is our way of supporting those who have lost their homes. These people have lost everything.

"We would ask everyone for their pledges, every little helps."

Redesigning milk cartons was



Photo by Mark Tatem

**Coming to a store near you:** Tokio Millennium Re and MS Frontier Re are organising a fundraising effort in conjunction with the Bermuda Red Cross for the devastating events in Japan, and will be distributing these milk cartons around the Island to collect donations.

the brainchild of Chris Carpol, technical assistant at Tokio Millennium, who raised money for Haiti in the same way.

Staff from both companies

were yesterday busy assembling the milk cartons and delivering them across the Island.

Any funds raised in the collection, which continues until the end of April, will be matched by both Tokio Millennium Re and MS Frontier Re.

The fundraising effort is being run in conjunction with the Bermuda Red Cross and more than 30 companies have already offered to either make a donation or match the amount raised by the public. The business community is said to have "offered their assistance without hesitation".

Mr Hoshina added that some Tokio Millennium staff from its Japan offices were still unaccounted for, while the daughter and granddaughter of one company member have been confirmed dead.

He said: "It's so saddening to see what has happened.

"It's a devastating incident. It's the largest ever earthquake to hit Japan and the fifth in recorded history. So many families and houses were lost in just one day.

"Everyone should do their bit to help."

# Revised Tucker's Point SDO to go before Senators

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"The major tourism season for Bermuda is about to get underway and Tucker's Point looks forward to focusing its energy on providing world class service to its guests who come to enjoy this beautiful island of Bermuda."

Mr Hayward said he was alarmed some work still seemed set to go ahead at Paynter's Hill, which he described as "an extremely sensitive area".

"Given the public reaction to the SDO, and our role in it, we would have hoped to have been included in the discussions that led to any changes or at the very least been informed what the changes were," he said.

"It's been quite quick, particularly considering that the public has expressed an interest in this and Government is applauding itself for its transparency.

"This has all happened rather quickly, at least from the public standpoint, and from the standpoint of groups trying to raise public opinion.

"I like to give the benefit of the doubt, but it doesn't feel like that when revisions are made and we read that they have taken place in the press."

Coalition on Tucker's Point SDO co-ordinator Frances Mar-

ator Burt would say when the debate would take place, although sources indicated it would likely be today.

Nine of the 11 Senators spoke at last Friday's debate. It's thought each will have a chance to speak on the amendments, while the two who didn't speak last week, Economy Minister Kim Wilson and Sen Bassett, will be able to air their overall views.

If approved by the Senate, the SDO will then go back to the House of Assembly, most likely

at a special sitting on Monday, when MPs will have to reconsider it in the light of the amendments.

Tucker's Point, which has been losing more than \$1 million a month, said its lead lender HSBC Bank of Bermuda has indicated support.

HSBC said in a statement: "HSBC takes the issue of customer confidentiality very seriously and as such is not able to discuss any matters in respect of customers."



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