

## **One million francs for Monaragala; extension of agreement with SOS Children's Villages Switzerland**

Schaan (FL), June 25, 2013 – The Hilti Group initiated the construction of a vocational training center in Monaragala, Sri Lanka together with SOS Children's Villages Switzerland after the devastating tsunami disaster in 2004. Since then, Hilti employees worldwide have raised CHF 1 million for the project. On Monday the Hilti Group announced the extension of its cooperation agreement with SOS Children's Villages Switzerland during a ceremony at which the Group presented the organization with a symbolic check for the amount collected.

The SOS Vocational Training Center (VTC) in Monaragala provides young people coming from low-income backgrounds with a qualified education as mechanics, welders, carpenters, electricians, bakers or IT specialists. The courses of study range between six months and two years in duration, focus on practical training and are fully recognized by the Sri Lankan government. Since the training center opened its doors in 2006 some 700 young women and men have completed a comprehensive training program there.

Hilti's employees around the world supported the school's construction and help to finance the ongoing maintenance costs through various fund-raising activities, such as Christmas markets, benefit sports events or raffles. Many employees at Hilti's Schaan, Liechtenstein, and Kaufering, Germany, locations also provide fixed monthly amounts to the VTC that are deducted directly from their salaries. The administration costs for coordinating the project are covered by the Hilti Foundation.

"The actions of our employees show that our claim to act with corporate responsibility and solidarity is more than mere lip service. The school administration and the instructors at the SOS VTC are doing outstanding work. This can be seen in the exceptional graduation rate of 90 percent. The commitment of the people responsible

for the project and the thirst for knowledge of the young students continue to enthuse us,” says Klaus Risch, Head of Global Human Resources at Hilti.

SOS Children’s Villages General Manager Christian Hosmann offered a word of thanks for this valuable and sustainable partnership. “The commitment of Hilti employees is inestimable. It adds up to a true opportunity for hundreds of young people, coming from difficult circumstances, to lead a life of self-determination. The young people in Monaragala and SOS Children’s Villages Switzerland are very grateful for this successful, long-term cooperation. The various fund-raising drives and employee donations made over the years, and the corporate philosophy of the Hilti Group, bear witness to this strong approach. I would like to express my sincere thanks and admiration.”

An announcement, made during the symbolic check handover ceremony, stated that Hilti will maintain its partnership with SOS Children’s Villages Switzerland. Future donations will go toward the construction of an auditorium, allowing even more young people access to the education provided by vocational training. This is a sentiment that dovetails perfectly with Hilti’s mission statement: We build a better future.

#### Photo caption

Symbolic check handover to SOS Children’s Villages Switzerland:

Klaus Risch, Head of Global Human Resources Hilti Corporation, Beatrix Baettig Staud, Hilti Foundation, Markus Siegfried, SOS Children’s Villages Switzerland (from left).

---

The Hilti Group supplies the worldwide construction industry with technologically leading products, systems and services that provide construction professionals with innovative solutions and superior added value. The Group employs some 21,000 persons in over 120 countries who passionately create enthusiastic customers and build a better future. Hilti generated annual sales of CHF 4.2 billion in 2012. Hilti’s corporate culture is based on integrity, teamwork, commitment and the courage to embrace change. The headquarters of the Hilti Group are located in Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein.