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**SEE INTERNATIONAL RESTORES SIGHT TO PATIENTS IN BANGLADESH
Multinational Eye Surgery Team Collaborates on Special Mission**

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., December 18, 2007 – Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE) International today announced it has completed a successful eye clinic in Dhaka, Bangladesh—restoring the sight of 48 patients, including some affected by the recent cyclone. SEE International’s volunteer eye surgery team included Sven Redin, M.D., from Sweden, and Munirul Huq, M.D. from Bangladesh.

The SEE International free eye clinic was held in Dhaka, the capital and most populous city in Bangladesh. Although the cyclone disrupted operations temporarily at Dr. Huq’s surgical facilities, he was determined to hold the eye clinic scheduled for the last week in November. Amidst the devastation, Dr. Huq screened 300 potential patients and worked with SEE International on the logistics of transporting donated medical supplies, including suture and intraocular lenses, to Bangladesh.

“There will be serious long-term effects from the cyclone,” described Dr. Huq. “More people will not be able to receive any health services at all. We expect more patients in 2008 and more poor patients from the affected areas.”

“This eye clinic represents the true spirit of international cooperation and humanitarian aid,” said Kim Krajewski, SEE International general manager. “With a 30-minute cataract operation, a person’s sight and life is restored. Not only is the patient’s life transformed, but the entire community benefits, starting with the immediate caretaker who can now return to work or school.”

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Restoring Sight and Restoring Lives

One young woman, whose life was transformed by Dr. Huq and Dr. Redin and SEE International, traveled 124 miles (200 km) to reach the eye clinic. With developmental cataracts in both eyes, she was divorced at a young age due to blindness. Twenty-four hours after the surgery, in which an implanted intraocular lens replaced the clouded lens, she could see perfectly. Her hopes for the future include obtaining a job and remarrying now that her sight has been restored.

In another case, a 65-year-old woman's life was also transformed with a 30-minute eye surgery. Living in poverty, this grandmother had lost sight in her right eye during childhood due to an accidental injury from a cow. She successfully raised a family, which included one son and grandchildren, with sight in only one eye. Tragically, five years ago, a cataract began to form in her good left eye. The clouding of the lens eventually led to complete blindness. She could not see her family and needed help to eat and to walk. Through the SEE International clinic, the cataract from the left eye was successfully replaced with an implanted lens. Upon the removal of her eye patch the next morning, she was full of joy because she could see everything around her, including her son.

“She smiled such a sweet smile that I named it the ‘million-dollar’ smile,” said Dr. Huq. “You cannot put a price on the gift of sight. It is such a rewarding and emotional moment for a surgeon when a patient regains sight after years of blindness.”

SEE International's Work In Bangladesh and Around the World

SEE International has collaborated with Dr. Huq on five surgical expeditions since 2004. Next year, three eye clinics are scheduled in Bangladesh. According to the World Health Organization estimates, there are more than 900,000 blind people in Bangladesh, out of a population of 150 million people. The gross domestic product per person is \$2,300 annually.

SEE International is a pioneer in the fight against global blindness. According to the World Health Organization, 37 million cases of blindness are treatable and/or preventable. Cataracts, the clouding of the eye lens, account for almost half of world blindness. Last year, SEE International performed sight-restoring eye surgeries for nearly 8,000 people in 26 countries.

In addition to direct surgical interventions, SEE International helps train U.S.-based ophthalmologists in specialized surgical techniques that are appropriate and effective in developing countries. SEE International also promotes skills exchanges between host and visiting ophthalmologists.

About SEE International

SEE International is a humanitarian nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring sight to disadvantaged blind individuals worldwide through medical, surgical and educational services. Founded in 1974, SEE International's network of 600 volunteer eye surgeons from 75 countries restores sight to approximately 8,000 people annually. For more information, visit www.seeintl.org.

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