

**Title of Session:** GPBL Tsunami Events and Projects for the Classroom

**Moderator:** Linda Ullah

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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

**JimOl:** I am interested to hear how colleagues on your side of the pond are thinking about how we react with students to the disaster - I have some thoughts on the subject...!

**LindaU:** I'm Linda Ullah. I work at Foothill College in Los Altos CA. Today I'm hoping to initiate an information discussion on how schools and classrooms can help with the Asian Tsunami Relief Effort.

**LindaU:** Please introduce yourselves... Where do you work. if you teach.. what.. and why are you here?

**JimOl:** Hi Linda, I'm Jim Oliver of Global Learning Communities in the UK and we have links in SriLanka

**BJB2:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

**LindaU:** Hi Jim.. I thought that was you.. fantastic.. glad to "see" you here.

**BJB2:** a reminder that if you're new to Tapped In, go to Actions and click on DETACH

**JimOl:** I would be interested to hear how colleagues are thinking about how we help students respond - we have some thoughts...!

**CathyArr:** My name is Cathy Arreguin. I'm a teacher and EdTech graduate student through San Diego State University. I recently completed a WebQuest with fellow teachers in Thailand and Bangladesh concerning Southern Thailand.. Just wondering how to effectively involve others - both children and adults.

**LindaU:** Fantastic.

**LindaU:** Since the disaster, all my listservs have had great information on how schools can help.

**LindaU:** Leilani Carbonell Pedroni at my e-Coach suggested that I post a web resource list.. which I did

**CathyArr:** Do you have a URL for that?

**JimOl:** I suppose two things are governing my thinking at the moment. Firstly, to ensure we keep the 'learning' up with the emotional support and also that we are in this for the long term

**LindaU:** I'm going to give you the URL and then we can discuss a few of the resources.

**LindaU:** I've posted this site for teachers on classroom resources and curriculum for the Asian Tsunami relief effort: <http://my-ecoach.com/online/webresourcelist.php?rlid=3993>

**LindaU:** Click on the link to go there.. then come back to this chat box for some guided exploration

**LindaU:** Let me know when you are ready, and I'll proceed.

**LindaU:** Cathy... I'll be in Bangladesh next week...

**LindaU:** Are you all ready?

**CathyArr:** A fellow student colleague, Steve Roberts, teaches at the International School in Dhaka.

**CathyArr:** ready

**JimOl:** Ready - really useful page Linda - I'll return to it later

**LindaU:** Please scroll down and click on

**LindaU:** Tsunami WebQuest 2004

**LindaU:** We'll explore that one first.

**CathyArr:** ok

**LindaU:** This is one teachers attempt to teach his students about earthquakes and tsunamis

**JimOl:** Excellent work - I am hoping we can involve some of the SriLankan schools in doing some writing for us to learn from - they went back last Monday

**LindaU:** What are the Sri Lankan schools doing to help those affected by the tsunami in their country... do you know?

**CathyArr:** I'm so sorry, I must go! If you'd like another regional webquest, please check out [http://eprentice.sdsu.edu/F04X/pfrang/tnt\\_wq/index.htm](http://eprentice.sdsu.edu/F04X/pfrang/tnt_wq/index.htm)

**LindaU:** will do... thanks for dropping by.

**CathyArr:** You can contact any of us listed for more info. Chris is the one in Thailand. Thanks

**JimOl:** I don't know yet - my contact there is keen to help us because she feels it will also help them but I haven't had material yet and am reluctant to seem impatient given the strains they are living with

**JimOl:** When I do get it, we will publish it in [www.glc.me.uk/247News](http://www.glc.me.uk/247News)

**LindaU:** exactly.. the one thing that is clear is that the relief organizations need donations of money rather than materials.

**LindaU:** thanks Jim...

**LindaU:** Hi Chris.... we are exploring: <http://my-ecoach.com/online/webresourcelist.php?rlid=3993>

**LindaU:** Next, I'd like to have you scroll to Leilani Carbonell Pedroni's Asian Tsunami Resource Site

**JimOl:** Sure - I guess we are all using our various links to raise funds; I gather the public in the UK have now raised in excess of £100million

**ChrisP:** Hi Well actually, I heard about this from a friend and we thought it might be interesting to see what everyone had to say

**LindaU:** This is another activity that could be done in classrooms... any thoughts?

**LindaU:** How might you see this or the WebQuest used in the classroom?

**LindaU:** From my perspective, I believe it is important that we teach our students to help others who are in need... Unfortunately sometimes it takes a disaster of this scale to make us aware of this need.

**LindaU:** There are many things that school children/classrooms can do to raise money to donate to relief organizations to help those in need.

**LindaU:** Part of that, however, has to be educating the children about the need, the cause of the disaster, and the countries/cultures involved.

**LindaU:** Jump in with your thoughts here... ideas.. either based on the two curriculum pieces we've looked at or other ideas of your own.

**JimOl:** Sure. what I like about what your colleagues have produced so far is the ways they have tried to break the enormity of the situation down by looking at the effects on people/families etc. 'One person's death is a tragedy - a million deaths is just a statistic'

**LindaU:** Good point.. this personalizes the tragedy.

**AvivaG:** thanks

**JimOl:** Yes, makes it a bit more real

**LindaU:** Do you think children really understand the scale of this tragedy..?

**JimOl:** I don't think I do really

**LindaU:** Can those of us sitting comfortably in our homes really understand the loss involved?

**JimOl:** We were wondering if the way forward is to try to 'adopt' communities and relate to them more

**JimOl:** Sort of 'twinning' idea

**LindaU:** Great idea.. any thoughts on how to do this?

**LindaU:** Tsunamis have occurred throughout history... many have been written about in stories and history books, etc.

**JimOl:** Well I guess we are trying to exploit (if that's the right word) our existing contacts

**LindaU:** Somehow, though, disasters of the past seem rather distant and unreal.

**LindaU:** Let me know how I can help with this... I'd love to get our schools involved here as well, Jim.

**LindaU:** Aviva and Chris...any thoughts here... feel free to introduce yourselves as well.

**ChrisP:** Sorry I was trying to catch up here; traffic was heavy this morning in Bangkok.

**LindaU** thinks.. Jim is in the UK.. Linda is in California, where are Chris and Aviva... now I know Chris is in Bangkok.. yes I know the rush hour traffic there..

**AvivaG:** I am new to this website and trying to find out all of the resources available. This topic interested me because my students (5th grade) did research reports on natural disasters in October.

**LindaU:** Chris, are any schools in Bangkok involved in the relief effort in Thailand..

**AvivaG:** 3 of them researched tsunamis, so they were very into the whole news story. I teach in south Georgia, USA

**LindaU:** I've been to Phuket and Phi Phi Islands...I find it horrific to realize what has happened there and elsewhere in SE Asia.

**LindaU:** Chris... are your students interested in helping with the relief effort?

**JimOl:** Does anyone feel that there might be small ways in which we might help the children who are affected through the huge psychological trauma they are experiencing?

**ChrisP:** I've been watching the news both locally and internationally for the first two and a half weeks there was absolutely no regular programming on local TV. And it's just now getting back to normal. One site that was referred to me that would be great for teachers to use to voice their opinions share ideas is this one: <http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/001814.html>

**LindaU:** One of the sites at <http://my-ecoach.com/online/webresourcelist.php?rlid=3993> that caught my attention is the Heritage Cook Book... I got the information about their willingness to help schools raise money for the relief effort from one of my listservs. Can you think of how this could be used within a classroom or school?

**LindaU:** Jim.. this is interesting.. I was reading in US News and World Report about this need...and how Asian cultures deal differently with psychological and emotional support that do western cultures.

**LindaU:** Let's take a look at Chris's site.

**ChrisP:** Yes, many if not all schools are doing what they can to help

**JimOl:** Mmmmm - that makes it doubly difficult I guess

**JimOl:** Just been looking at Chris's site - again some great contacts which I will note to look at later - thanks Chris

**AvivaG:** lots of good resources there

**LindaU:** Great resources.. I'll add it to my site.

**JimOl:** Maybe our western cultures can learn something from the way these countries approach addressing the trauma

**LindaU:** Chris.. I've added your site to my page.

**ChrisP:** Linda, I really haven't had a chance to ask my students if, or how they are contributing. right now they are at a three day camping field trip that was previously arranged.

**LindaU:** How many of your are familiar with Pearl Buck's novel.. The Big Wave?

**ChrisP:** Ok, Glad I could assist

**JimOl:** Don't know the novel

**LindaU:** What I like about it is that it personalizes the tragedy of a tsunami.

**ChrisP:** Sorry haven't heard on it

**LindaU:** It would be a good novel to teach right now...

**AvivaG:** I've heard of it, but have never used it with students

**LindaU:** It is about a tsunami that destroys a fishing village in Japan.

**LindaU:** the NPR (National Public Radio) site as a real audio version of it on their site at:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4254285&sourceCode=RSS>

**ChrisP:** This would be nice esp. for an EFL listening activity

**LindaU:** There's a good review and activities for the book at:

<http://www.eduplace.com/tview/tviews/b/bigwave.html>

**LindaU:** I think it is important to put this tsunami in perspective.. eg.. there have been other tsunamis..

**JimOl:** Yes, I agree - however, has there ever been one on this sort of scale? Perhaps we don't know...

**LindaU:** The Tsunami Museum in Hilo Hawaii has a site on Hawaiian tsunamis at: <http://www.tsunami.org/>

**ChrisP:** So I see you saying, Linda, that something like a comparison lesson might be in order

**JimOl:** Linda, Chris - thanks very much for some really useful ways forward here. I have recorded all your links for exploring and disseminating to schools tomorrow. It is nearly 1.00 a.m. here and I have to get up early tomorrow so better go to bed. Best wishes - bye all

**LindaU:** The other part of this is to make children aware of how to prepare for being safe in as potential disaster that could happen where they live.. (floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, hurricanes...etc.

**LindaU:** Good night Jim.. I'm amazed you got here..

**LindaU:** I'll be in touch in the next couple of days..

**JimOl:** Sure - take care

**ChrisP:** Bye Jim

**JimOl:** Bye

**JimOl** left the room (signed off).

**LindaU:** I also think children who have experienced disasters can provide support (emotional.. psychological) for others in need.

**LindaU:** and by doing so for themselves as well.

**LindaU:** Chris.. do you have any final thoughts.. Since you are in Thailand... you may have a better perspective on how we can help.

**ChrisP:** I have some friends doing some missionary work in the area and they tell me that they are planning to set up an orphanage down there



**ChrisP:** Let me try and find the url for them

**LindaU:** Please do... I'll post it.

**LindaU:** Chris.. if you can't find it now.. my email is [ullahlinda@foothill.edu](mailto:ullahlinda@foothill.edu)

**ChrisP:** Ok It's buried I'll email it to you

**LindaU:** I'll be able to check email regularly through Monday.. then I'm off to Bangladesh and I imagine I'll have only occasional Internet access.

**LindaU:** Thank you... I love Thailand.... I'm glad you were able to join us...

**ChrisP:** I just finish a ed tech course with a teacher from Bangladesh

**ChrisP:** It's nice to hear of all the things going on to help

**LindaU** thinks wow.. small world

**ChrisP:** I'll definitely put you on my contact list

**ChrisP:** and maybe you two can get together.

**ChrisP:** I can't think of the name of his school right off hand

**ChrisP:** Well, I have to go talk to some students about their upcoming final next week

**LindaU:** If you have his contact info.. please email it.. I'll be in Dhaka..

**LindaU:** I'll be meeting with the iEarn Bangladesh director while there.

**LindaU:** so.. I'll let you get to work.. thank you for attending..

**ChrisP:** It's been great sharing ideas I'll go more deeply into your site when I have a chance

**BJB2:** thanks, Linda!

**LindaU** thanks BJ for letting her do this today.

**ChrisP**: Thanks Linda and BJ

**LindaU**: Thanks Chris.