



The Tsunami disaster in Thailand 2004

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KAMEDO

- **Documentation of disasters World-Wide for 40 years**
- **Unique organization in the world**
- **Focus on medical and psychological effects after major trauma**

Disasters due to Nature

- **Flooding Earthquake Tsunami Typhoons
Volcanoes**
- **Often many individuals involved**
- **Difficult to reach the affected population**
- **Small local hospitals often overloaded**
- **Large hospitals seldom have problems**



KAMEDO

Experience from previous large nature disasters

- **Information on extent of disaster hard to get**
- **Initiation of rescue work often delayed**
- **Communication initially has great problems**
- **Problems with coordination of the various teams**



The Tsunami December 2004

What happened

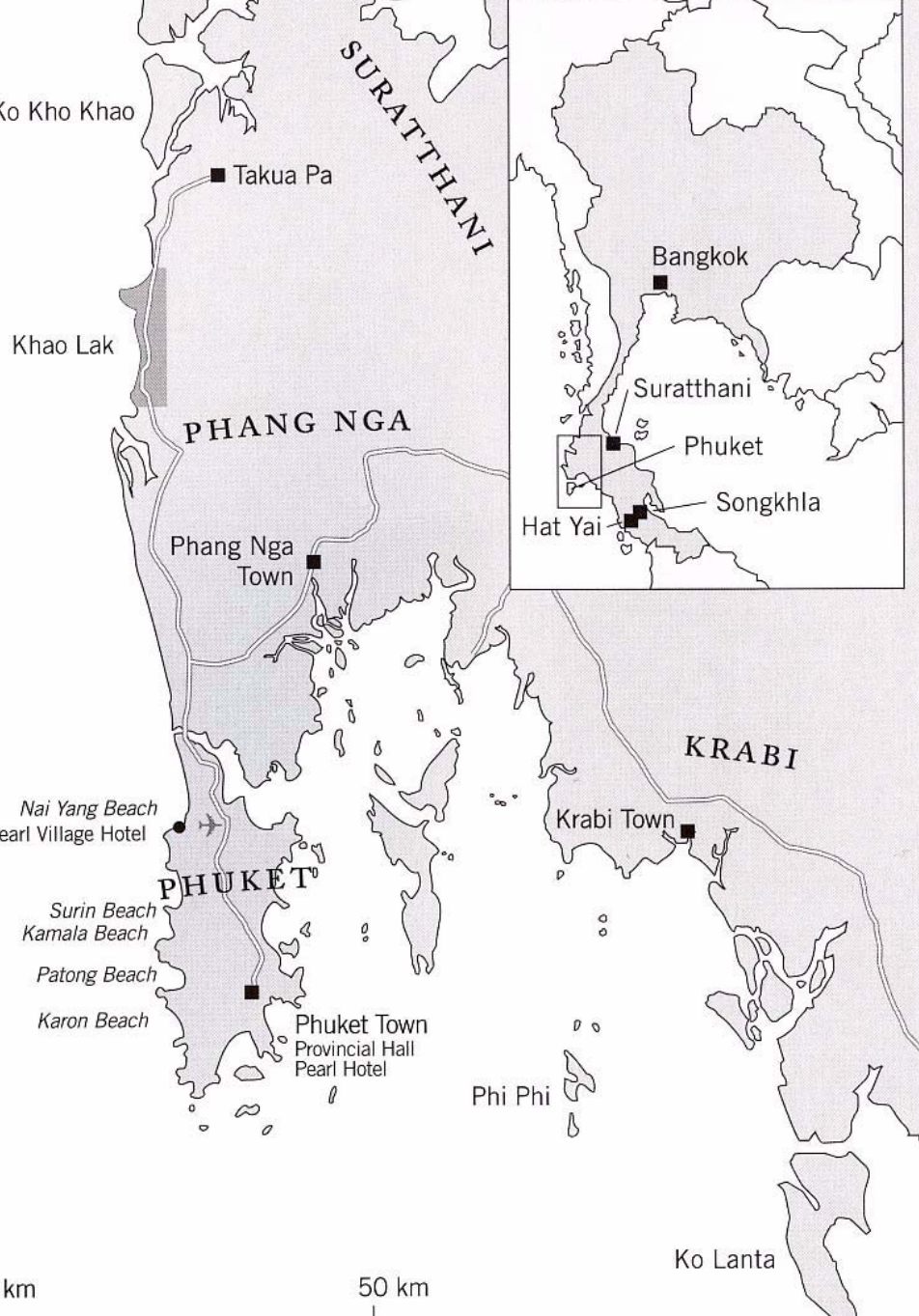
December 26, 2004 an underwater earthquake with a strength over 9 happened in the Indic ocean

The tsunami reached the west Coast of Thailand at 10 am and caused severe destruction along the coast and on several islands

The tsunami severely damaged several countries including Sumatra Sri Lanka and India. About 250 000 were killed or missing

In Thailand there were about 20000 Swedish Citizens including our family of 3 who arrived in Patong on Phuket island the day before the tsunami





Thailand, Phuket and Khao Lak

Patong Beach



Tsunami

Many persons died immediately from drowning or severe trauma

Many surviving patients had fractures and multiple wounds

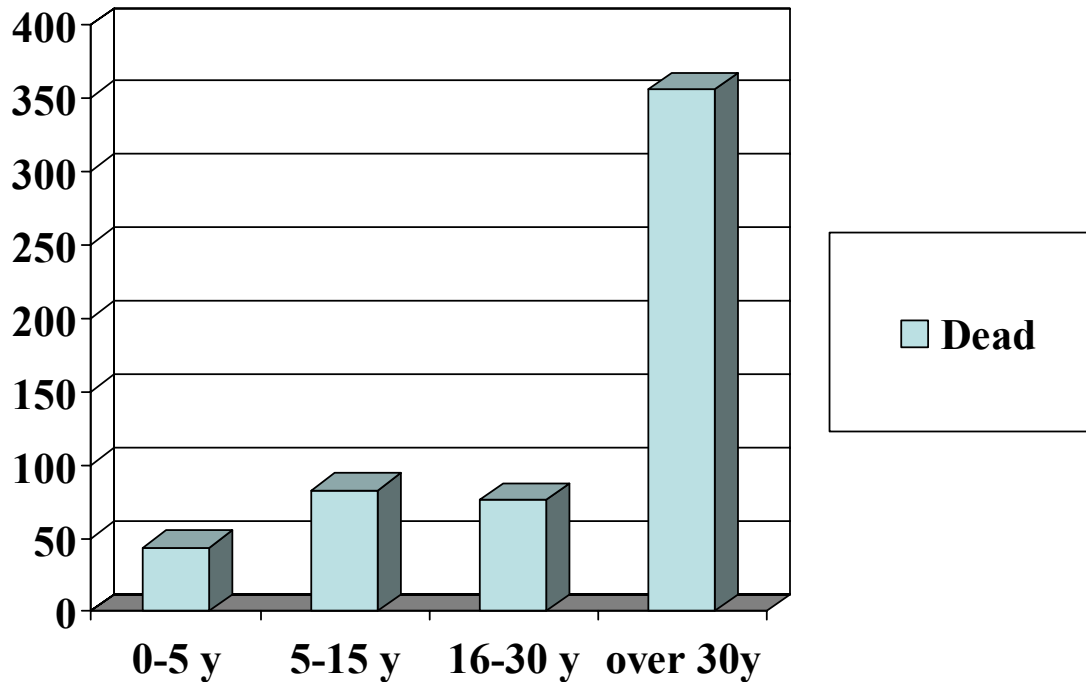
Many had wounds all over the body when they tumbled around in dirty water

Few Swedish patients in Thailand who survived the first 24 hours died but many got infections both in sutured wounds and wounds that were left open

Surgical drainage was needed and performed in many hospitals in Thailand before transportation to Sweden



Tsunami Thailand



**About 530
swedes died in
the tsunami.**



Tsunami

14000 swedes came home to Arlanda airport

**All injured swedes were transported home starting
5 days after the tsunami**

**147 patients came to the Stockholm County and
were admitted mainly to Karolinska University
Hospital in Stockholm and 40 needed plastic
surgery**



Tsunami

Many patients had multiple infected wounds with a variety of infectious agents and needed surgical treatment with multiple revisions in addition to antibiotics

There were few MRSA infections

A few patients had unexpected, unusual and difficult infections which will be reported by the next speaker

