

# 'Broken hearts and shattered dreams everywhere'

## City Doc Recalls Experience

Stanley Pinto | TNN

**Mangalore:** Mangalorean doctor Edmond Fernandes, who went to Philippines to work towards medical relief missions for people affected by Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) that devastated portions of Southeast Asia in November 2013, says the victims have demonstrated great resilience and courage in the time of adversity.

"They still afford to smile in the midst of such a catastrophic disaster," said Edmond who returned to



**GOOD SAMARITAN:** Edmond Fernandes is the first Indian to participate in the AMDA relief missions in Philippines

the city on Wednesday.

Edmond is a member of the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia

(AMDA)-India and Chief Executive, Health Concern Foundation. "What remains and what lives after is bro-

ken hearts and shattered dreams. Although, Philippines is often hit by such typhoons, something of this magnitude had never been witnessed by people before," he said. Most of the areas are still without electricity. And people are going hungry and getting restless. To rebuild the lost pride, it will take years, he said.

AMDA chapters from Japan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, India and Philippines had its representation during the mission.

"Estancia has particularly become the victim of a major oil spill that got struck after electricity poles collapsed over the oil barrels. A part of the area has now been stopped

from public movement due to health concerns," he said.

Regarding the future ambition towards humanitarian missions, Edmond said: "I would like to get more involved in such efforts. This kind of missions and service is something that medical education does not teach you. If you do not join in and give your time and while as a doctor in such service, there is no use in showcasing intellectual idealism at conferences and getting degrees for collecting information."

He is the first Indian to take part in the AMDA relief missions in Philippines. He was also the youngest doctor to have participated in the relief mission.