

Newsletter No 3, 2011

Ekerö in June 2011

Hello, Tashi Delek and Namaste

Chembal left Kathmandu for Humla in the end of May. He brought medicine to NCC so there will be enough for a festival in the beginning of July, when there will be many visitors to the monastery. Deliveries of medicine tend to take place before the great festivals in July and November.

Chembal had intended to go to Humla earlier this spring but different engagements in Kathmandu kept him there. He is seeking contact with various organizations and authorities in the hope of obtaining more money, and help to KMCHs activities in Humla. It is important to involve more donors so the activities will not be completely dependent on aid from KMCH Support Group in Sweden.



KMCH children with teacher in children's home Yangar 2011.

Annual meeting 2010

This year we could not have our annual meeting at Ekebyhov's Castle like previous years. We chose to be in Mälärö SOKs club cabin in the forest not far away from Ekebyhov's Castle. Sunday March 27 paths to the club cottage were covered with ice and it took a lot of sand to make sure that anyone would be able to get there.

Before the annual meeting, we had an open house with a slide show and a few screens with photographs and pictures that showed KMCHs activities past and present and our hopes for the future. We also showed photographs from Humla by photographer Thomas Kelly, sold some bags, some jewelry and several KMCH-nest boxes.

There were not so many visitors that were not already involved in or contributors to KMCH. Those who came were all the more interested. 18 members were present at the annual meeting.

Election of officers

Annual meeting chose Hans Alm to Chairman (re-election).

To the full member of the Board of Trustees was elected Caroline Prising (new election for two years). Board members Eddy Sandberg and Richard Sjöberg were both elected until the annual meeting in 2012.

To substitute elected Italo Pilotti (new election for one year).

Paul Mikaelsson and Lars Urell were elected to accountants and Stefan Remius to deputy auditor.

Ulla Brauner and Maria Lindberg were elected to form the nomination committee. Pernilla Smith had due to change of residence renounced a re-election. We thanked Pernilla, in her absence and we look forward to continued support from Pernilla on various issues depending on time and opportunity.

Minutes of the annual meeting as well as the new statutes will be published on our website.

Modification of the statute

In addition to the usual points on the agenda, the annual meeting took position also in a proposal for amendment of the definition of membership in the statute. The annual meeting approved the Board's proposed amendment. It has later been confirmed at an extraordinary general meeting on May 6, 2011.

The difference from the previous definition is that you actively must specify interest in membership of the Association and pay the prescribed membership fee – SEK 100 for 2011- if you want to have the right to vote at general meetings, etc. Newsletters and other information we will send to all who wants to have them, provided that they give us their e-mail address.

Those who have given a gift exceeding SEK 100 prior to the 6 of May are, according to the old statutes already members of the Association. New sponsors - those who give a gift after the 6 of May – must state that part of the gift refers to a membership fee.

News from Humla

Newsletter n ° 2 from April 3 2011 contained much information from Humla that Pernilla got from Chembal during her stay in Kathmandu in March/April. Since then Chembal has got some new information from his brother in Humla.

Our teacher for adult education in the village Tumkot – see the image- is a woman from Tumkot who went to school until grade 7. She is still the only woman in the village who has had such long schooling and she is reportedly a very good teacher.



The adult education works well both in Yangar and Tumkot. As well as the kids the adults show a great interest in education. There seems to be no problem with motivation.

Our cook who has been with us since we established in Humla has married and moved to a nearby village named Kermi. She will now focus on the family farm and future children.

Chembal is very happy for her, "she has got a nice boy". According to Chembal, it is very hard to be a single woman in Humla. The new cook is a single woman with one child. We hope that her job in KMCH will be good for her and her child.

The first "eco-sanitation toilets" in Humla are now built in Yangar. They separate urine from the rest and the result will after processing and composting be used as manure in the fields and the green-house. It is Chembal's brother who has been in Kathmandu for training who now introduces the technique in Humla. These two sons of Humla are really important engines for the development of the district.

Chembal announces that KMCH now perhaps will begin to cooperate with an organization that works on a snow leopard preservation program. KMCH will help them with the project in Humla. Through this program KMCH will get help with education and training in various subjects such as agriculture, composting, preservation (= drying) of apples and other revenue-generating projects. Several of these topics have already been discussed in KMCH, but have not been followed up on due to the lack of resources, see below.

Application to the Forum Syd

In April we submitted a new application to the Forum Syd for projects starting in 2012. In November 2011 we will have the decision from Forum Syd. The application is based on that we submitted last year, however, some changes have been made to better fit the rules of Forum Syd. (Forum Syd is an organization that distributes the governmental development assistance among Swedish NGOs).

The application consists of three parts: **education, greenhouse cultivation and reforestation**. (As mentioned in the previous newsletter there is no idea in applying for money from Forum Syd for the children's home, a new building for the children's home or for our health clinic, NCC. Forum Syd does not support such activities.)

The **education** project consists of adult education in four villages under the current model but supplemented by information of society and democracy issues and education of the board of KMCH Nepal. The program for the education of the board is still not designed in detail.

The other projects in the application concern **greenhouse cultivation and reforestation** both practical and theoretical. Chembal has told us that the KMCH greenhouse worked well. It has produced fresh vegetables even during the winter. (See the picture that was taken last winter). It is probably a very important new source of producing nutritious food that now has been introduced in Humla. We must remember that malnutrition among children is still very common in Humla. The greenhouse is sponsored by Bastian Etter from Switzerland.



In Ladakh they have long experience of cultivation in greenhouse. Ladakh has almost the same climate as Humla so a collaboration with and learning from them is included in the project.

Wood is still the only energy source for cooking and heating in Humla. KMCH has e.g. a special employee "wood cutter". Wood is also used in house construction and exported to Tibet. This has been going on for decades and has reduced the forests of considerable proportions. It is important to try to maintain and where it is possible also to restore forests around the villages to a level that is capable of further withdrawals, and allowing the original flora and fauna to "survive". It will take many years before enough energy from solar, wind and water in an appreciable manner can replace firewood as the main source of energy. The project starts with an assessment of needs and selection of species to plant etc. of an expert in reforestation in the Himalayas.

Other activities

In addition to the annual meeting KMCH Support Group has had no more outreaching activities this spring.

We are working to expand our network and are trying to locate businesses, foundations and organizations that can help us. We gratefully receive ideas and suggestions from members and friends on how and to whom we can turn to hold speeches, seek support or cooperation.

We still dream of getting funds so we can build our own children's home building on the land that is set aside for this purpose. It must not only act as a children's home but also be used for crafts and craft training and serve as a center for training in energy issues, greenhouse cultivation and reforestation etc. In short, the building is intended to serve as a guidance and inspirational center for the residents of upper Humla.



As shown in the picture above the villagers of Yangar have on their own time already begun to gather stones in the hope that we will soon have the money to start building.

All photographs have been obtained from the Chembal Lama.

With greetings from the Board in KMCH Support Group
by

Hans Alm

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