

## Hello, Tashi Delek and Namaste

### **LOSAR – The Tibetan New Year.**

Now we have just celebrated – LOSAR - the Tibetan New Year. It is the most important festival in the Tibetan cultural sphere and thus also in Upper Humla where the activities of KMCH are concentrated. LOSAR is like a combination of Christmas, New Year and birthday for us. They celebrate no particular birthdays so almost all celebrations are concentrated to LOSAR, which lasts for several days. We have now left the Water-Dragon year 2139 and are now in the Water-Snake year 2140.

### **The annual report for 2012**

We have now compiled and signed the annual report for 2012 for KMCH Support Group. You will be able to read it and download it from the website before the annual meeting of the Organization which will be held on March 23 at Ekebyhov ´s Castle in Ekerö, Sweden. Notice to attend the annual meeting will be sent out separately only in a Swedish version.

Every year starts with fear and concern regarding our possibility to maintain the level of our contribution to the activities of KMCH in Humla, or if we will be forced to reduce the same. It is therefore with great pleasure and wonder we can state that the contributions in 2012 could cover both the variable costs for the prioritized activities and to build a first-leg of the new hostel. We would like to thank all the sponsors for this fortunate year.

At present the hostel consists of four rooms in one floor and a temporary kitchen in a separate building. We will start to build a second floor with four more rooms as soon as we have got funds for that. Now it's very cramped for both children and adults so we hope it will not take too long time.



The new hostel



The temporary kitchen

We also have a new greenhouse in connection to the hostel. It is 6 x 11 meters, which is more than twice as large as the existing greenhouse, and it is expected to provide a great addition to the diet.



Children playing outside the new hostel



The new greenhouse

### **Short report from Humla**

Chemal has written an annual report for the KMCH Nepal. It does not contain much information beyond that we have told in previous newsletters.

The children are studying hard and are doing very well in school. They seem early to be aware of the need for education. Chembal tells us that there are still many children in Humla that do not go to school. This is partly due to the fact that the children are needed as workers on the farms and partly to the lack of hostels near the schools since the distance between the homes and the nearest schools may require one or more days of hiking. It is still primarily girls who not attend school, because the families give boys priority when it comes to education. There is a long queue of children who want to join the KMCH-family.

Last fall, KMCH moved to the new hostel. When the children return from their winter holiday in Mars, this will thus be the new base. Much remains to be done but it is satisfying that the long-awaited process to an own hostel has started.

During the year, our health clinic NCC has had 3861 visitors. Care and necessary medicine is free. Each patient is recorded so that both the patient and the measures can be followed up if necessary. Most patients come in May and November when there are big festivals and many people gather around the monastery. The clinic is open in principle 7 days a week and is since its start located in a local belonging to the monastery.



Nurse with patient



The hostel in winter

## **Humla – from an etymological point of view**

It may be a few more than me that have wondered about the name Humla. Does it mean anything and how can it possibly be derived? I have searched a few sources. Here follows some plausible explanations.

Chembal says that “Hum” is some sort of herb which is growing in Humla. Which herb we have to find out.



"Lha" or "lha" means also due to Chemba "south" or "south of". Humla would then refer to a place in the South where it grows "Hum". But, south of what? When it is so vague it may just be some of the most important sites of this culture: the sacred Mount Kailash; K in KMCH.

Humla could therefore derive as; an area south of Kailash, where it grows "Hum".

Another source, which I now do not find, says that one of the early kings of Tibet, Nyathi Tsanpo, – the father of the great Songtsen Gampo - built a palace in the Yarlung Valley south of Lhasa of timber from tamarix which is called "Hum" or "Yum" in Tibetan. The name of the palace is "Yumbu-lagang".

To be continued.



With greetings from the Board of Directors of KMCH  
Support Group

by

Hans Alm

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