



Newsletter No. 2 2013  
April 2013

Ekerö in

## **Hello, Tashi Delek and Namaste**

### **Annual meeting in KMCH Support Group**

2013 annual meeting was as last year held at Ekebyhovs Castle on Ekerö. We were 16 participants, not so many but we had no special information or activity that could attract people.

The meeting elected a Board of the following composition.

Chairman: Hans Alm

Ordinary members: Eddy Sandberg, Richard Sjöberg, Italo Pilotti and Kathrin Steinmetz.

Deputy member: Caroline Prising.

We welcome Kathrin back to the Board after a few years by the side of this. Caroline goes on her own request, from ordinary to deputy member. We hope to be able to continue and develop our support to KMCH in Nepal.

The Board stressed at the annual meeting as well as in the annual report that our priority in terms of funds raised is the children's living and schooling and the health clinic NCC. Other important projects such as, adult education, greenhouse cultivation in a larger scale, reforestation, economic aid for the use of solar power, etc. will start when additional funds for these projects have been obtained.

Our most important investment now is to finalize the new school home, install smoke less stoves and make bunk beds for the children.

### **Information at Ekebyhovs Castle**

A few weeks before the annual meeting - February 17 - the Assembly Hall of Ekebyhovs Castle were crowded when the men of the Board of KMCH Support Group told stories from their travels worldwide. The Sonora Choir sang songs related to the stories.

Of course, we told about our visit in Humla 2011 and about KMCH. We also sold KMCH jewelry and bags but mainly we sold hats and scarves knitted by our friend Lillemor.

## Latest news from the KMCH

In mid-March the kids were back in Yangar to start school again. They are all well and live in the new building. They can already get fresh vegetables from the new built greenhouse. It seems unlikely but I have heard of similar results in Ladakh.



There is much to do for the kids to make the area

around the school-home more convenient for playing. The site is located approximately 80 altitude meters above the village Yangar so they have an amazing view. We had our tents on the same place in July 2011 so we know how fantastic the view is.

## Planting of apple trees in Humla

In Newsletter No. 4 2011 we told that Chembal had contact with an organization TNW – Team for Nature and Wildlife- which among other things is trying to save the Snow Leopard. By helping the inhabitants on the Himalayan slopes to get alternative employment, they hope that this will make them to be more motivated to accept predators in the area. Through the planting of apple trees as a base for a future industry this could be a way to do that. TNW has since 2011 been trying to raise money for the project.

The project is soon going to start. In addition to TNW and KMCH, The Department of Agriculture in Nepal is also engaged. The Department has already purchased 5 000 seedlings to be transported to the village of Yangar, and to our school home. With the plants there will come a specialist in planting and caring for plants. It is the 27 families in the village of Yangar and our children in the school home that will be trained and be responsible for this first phase of the project. Next year, other villages will be offered the opportunity to plant.

The children are eager and they know how to plant. We know because we trained to plant when we were there in the summer of 2011. (See picture below).

This project is a result of an assiduous effort by Chembal and his co-workers that now have resulted in the start of this long-term development projects in Upper Humla. Apple trees don't bear fruit for many years to come so it is really a work for the future.

We are particularly pleased to be able to cooperate with both TNW and the authorities of Nepal. We have always stressed the



need for KMCH to seek cooperation with other groups and organizations. Our cooperation with the authorities of Humla regarding the adult education is another example of this commitment to cooperate.

## **Katha – The sacred scarf**

In Newsletter no 1 2013 we set out some thoughts about the derivation of the name Humla. We will come back to it when we know more. In this newsletter we will learn a little about the white scarf which occurs on many occasions in the Tibetan culture and then also in Upper Humla.

In almost all contexts, large and small, public and private the white scarf will occur both at welcoming and farewell. The handover of a Katha to a person is mainly a sign of courtesy and civility. If it is given to a high Lama it is also an expression of respect and

appreciation. If the Lama gives the Katha back or gives another Katha these are regarded as blessed and are therefore considered as very valuable by the receiver. In the monasteries you can often see Kathas around statues of various saints.

The Katha is usually white, sometimes orange or yellow, or as in Mongolia sky blue. The finest are made of silk and are long and wide with symbols on it. The Kathas that are for everyday use are short and narrow and can be made of fine cotton or synthetics. These



everyday Kathas can thus be regarded as symbols of a symbol.

The history of the Katha goes back to the late 8th century and to the main introducer of Buddhism in Tibet, the Indian Yogi Padmasambhava or Guru Rinpoche as he is called in Tibet. According to legend, he would one day meet a King who was jealous of Padmasambhava because people honored him more than the King. At a festival with many high dignitaries, the King was planning to put Padmasambhava in his place. But instead of throwing himself in front of the King as was customary he stretched out one hand from which flames darted that set fire to the King's clothes.

The King then realized the forces of and threw himself in front of Padmasambhava and presented him his ceremonial scarf as a sign of humility. Padmasambhava accepted the scarf and hung it around the Kings neck as a blessing and as an evidence of the spiritual forces ' victory over the secular or the temporal.

**With greetings from the Board of Directors of KMCH  
Support Group**

by

Hans Alm

KMCH Support Group [www.kmchumla.se](http://www.kmchumla.se) E-mail: [info@kmchumla.se](mailto:info@kmchumla.se)