

Newsletter no. 3 2015 from KMCH Support Group

Hello, Tashi Delek and Namaste

The earthquakes have put Nepal on the map and increased the interest for the country. We will in this newsletter convey additional knowledge of Nepal. Anton starts a series of the policy in the country as part of the "KMCH-school" where we try to increase our knowledge of the country. You can also read a little about what is going on in KMCH in Yangar as well as a summary of Chembal Lama's short and hastily decided visit to Sweden in May.

The earthquakes

It has been a hard spring for the Nepalese. A large part of the already very poor people is now forced to live under very difficult circumstances. We have probably all seen pictures of razed homes and temples. The risk of further big quakes is now small. Living in tents will for many people however be an option for a long time. Although a residential house only has little obvious damage the security status must be verified before you dare to move in again; and it may take time. The approaching monsoon will not make life easier. The need of help is enormous.



In the school

We believed and hoped that there would be no earthquake in Humla. But on the night of May 23, there was one and another on June 2. Both were of the magnitude just below 5 on the Richter scale. Our children moved immediately out of their house and slept under the stars. The quakes did not bring any harm to our buildings. On the other hand, we have heard about extensive damage to residential buildings and schools in other parts of Humla. A school was completely destroyed and 23 others have received extensive damage. Just in case our children's school was closed for two weeks and the kids had to go home to their parents and relatives. When you receive this newsletter, the school has opened again.



Not only the nature is fantastic.

What about a trip to Humla?

Chembal has left the life as a monk and don't have to work full time for KMCH. To try to make a living, he has started a travel agency that independently or in cooperation with other agencies can arrange trips in Nepal and Tibet. We would like to see some groups visiting Humla and, among other things, visit our school home and our children. Read more on www.hiddenparadiseadventure.com.

The political situation in Nepal - part 1

(By Anton Pilotti.)

The creation of the Nepalese Constitution.

In 2005, after almost 30 years of armed conflict, a historic peace agreement was signed between the Indonesian Government and the local rebel groups who fought for greater independence for the small province of Aceh, located on the Northwest corner of the island of Sumatra. After 30 years of violence an event of such magnitude occurred that the parties to the conflict finally could agree: tsunami during Christmas 2004. The enormous devastation with heavy losses in human lives and infrastructure, paradoxically, wiped away and thus contributed to a workable peace agreement. It is with an expectation of similar development in Nepal, I read in New York Times that the leading Nepali parties after the earthquake finally have been able to agree on a few key stumbling-blocks! Thus approaching the target of a constitutional process that makes the Swedish political debacle surrounding the formation of the Government after the election in 2014 to look like a bag of candy canes. Perhaps it is finally the earthquake devastation that will be the nudge in the right direction that the country's political system needs.

Trying to explain the Nepalese domestic politics and put this into a perspective that is relevant for the readers of this newsletter are unfortunately not made on a page of text. The constitutional process mentioned above has been going on for almost a decade. That is something that has sparked my interest. Why has that taken so long time? What are the parties really bothered about? What was wrong with the old Constitution? Who is participating? Why can the participants not only pull themselves? How has the conflict's effected the small mountain villages in the inaccessible Humla province that you readers through your commitment to KMCH now know?

The more that is read, the more complex is the Nepali politics. Nepal's history as a modern State contains aircraft hijackings carried out by parliamentarians, revolutions and guerrilla warfare, Royal murder and a constantly heavy corruption. In the Centre is

the control over an ancient Kingdom with unique ruling problems, and a poor population that literally is trying to hack their living out of the rock face. Here, then, is a collection of ingredients joints for a very interesting read. It is my hope that I in the coming newsletters will have the privilege to try to put answers to the questions I formulated above, and try to do it in a readable text. The purpose of the exercise, which has already been described: is to place your and my commitment in the inaccessible Humla and the challenges at hand in a Nepalese national politic context. This cannot be done without explaining how the Nepalese political system works and such a description cannot be done without a historical context. The problem with it, at a first glance a little project, is that the project itself, if it is to result in something worth reading, not is small at all. Thus you will, if this introduction raises interest from you readers, get stuck with me and my new hobby (delving into the Nepalese domestic policy) under a couple of coming newsletters. Then as this is my debut as a political columnist, I appreciate all comments, thoughts and ideas. These provided at: an.pilotti@gmail.com

Well you are welcome to it!

Activities within KMCH in Nepal

We don't have much news from the school home. Fear of earthquakes has been a dominant factor. This spring 70 Apple trees were planted. We got the samplings from the authorities of Humla. Any measure at a reasonable cost and effort that can increase our self-sufficiency is welcome, even long term projects, such as planting of Apple trees. We already have a greenhouse, two kitchen gardens and some goats.

Crucial parts of our planned investment in a water and sanitation project have not yet been started. The reason is that some building material still is at the border with Tibet. The pass Nara-la, on almost 5,000 meters, has been closed for nearly seven months due to excessive snow and landslides. You can only pass it walking. Hopefully, the way will be restored soon so that we can get our building material and continue our important project.



The school home in winter coat



Planting of apper trees

Chembal Lama has visited Stockholm

Chembal Lama was invited to Switzerland in April and was also invited to Sweden by a member of the KMCH. The decision to visit Sweden was taken pretty quickly so our time for the planning of the visit was very short. Chembal came to Arlanda airport on May 12 and went back to Nepal on May 20. He was busy almost every day, if not with lectures or the preparation of these, he was visiting friends and was sightseeing in Stockholm. We had arranged two public lectures; one in Stockholm one in Ekerö outside Stockholm. We visited the Askeby School in Rinkeby and gave a speech at Pouvres Hontoux in Fredhäll; all successful activities. However, with a more active advertising we might have attracted more visitors to the public lectures.



One of Chembals lectures. Ekerö.



Afternoon coffe at Richard and Gunilla. Ekerö.

We will be back in fall with fresh news from KMCH.

A sunny and nice summer, we wish you all

from

The Board of Directors of KMCH Support Group

by

Hans

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