

Newsletter no. 2 2020 from KMCH Support Group

Ekerö 16 April 2020

Hello, Namaste och Thashi Delek

In this newsletter you can read briefly about the school home, about our planned exhibition at the Taragaon Museum in Kathmandu and a bit up to date from Nepal.

The Annual meeting is postponed

Our planned annual meeting on March 29 had to be cancelled due to covid-19. We haven't set a new date yet. Most of the participants at our annual meetings tend to be in the risk group or age-wise close to it so it is not impossible we will have to postpone it to the fall or try a video meeting. We will come back to the members and also put it on our website when we know more.

News from the school home

After a snowy winter, the children gathered at the school home in early March. However, it was not long before the Nepalese authorities closed all the schools in the country, so the children had to go back to their families. Even remote areas as Humla were affected by the authority's lockdown of the country. At the time of writing, we do not know when the schools will start again.



With just a ceiling lamp, it's hard to read.



One of our rooms for eating, reading and lessons.

However, it was gratifying that the children had the possibility to test the new shower rooms and shower in solar-heated water. A successful project as well as the new toilets. We are now waiting for a calculation on the costs of installing reading lights for children's rooms to facilitate homework and "free" reading of books from the library we intend to open at the school home. We see reading lights for all children as the next major investment.

There were eight children from the school home who graduated from class 10 last year. These were to write their so called SLC (School Leaving Certificate) in April. The results of this test determine whether they become eligible to study further.

Unfortunately, these tests have been cancelled as a result of covid-19 and when this can be done, we do not know. Even the universities are closed so our students in Kathmandu are likely to study remotely.



Queue to the kitchen to pick up food.

Here you get the food.

Our cook and his wife have left the school home. A new couple has been hired with the same functions as the former i.e. responsibility for food management and the collection and chopping of wood.

KMCH will be exhibiting at the Taragaon Museum in Kathmandu this autumn.

(By Italo)

In the Boudhanat district, forty minutes by local bus from "downtown" Kathmandu, you will find the Taragaon Museum. Don't miss it! Taragaon offers an oasis from the constant traffic noise and dust. Here you will find permanent collections with many interesting photographs and drawings from different parts of Nepal.

KMCH has been invited to work with Chembal Lama to do an exhibition in the museum's large exhibition hall. We have, of course, taken up the challenge. With photographs and short info texts in English and Nepali, models and objects, we will tell about the province of Humla and KMCH's school home. The exhibition is primarily aimed at school children. We have invited six different secondary schools in Boudhanat. Most young people in Kathmandu know very little about the rural areas, remote areas of Nepal. And Humla is definitely a very remote area. After a visit to our exhibition, the young people will hopefully know more about Humla and maybe even more about themselves!

Several of the "our" students from KMCH's school home will be at the exhibition. They will be able to answer questions that the visiting school classes have about life in the Humla.

Now in Corona times it is uncertain if we can conduct the exhibition in October as we planned. Maybe we'll have to postpone the date.

As in the previous newsletter, the interested persons are recommended to go to www.taragaonmuseum.com and get a picture of the exciting architecture and of the exhibition hall

Current issues in Nepal. (By Italo)

In Nepal, today April 13, only 14 people have been diagnosed with Covid 19. But there is a great legitimate concern that the virus will affect many more. The Nepalese health system has very little chance of dealing with a major epidemic.

Not to mention what the situation could be like if many people become infected up in the Humla.

The country has been largely locked down since the end of March. No transport takes place, and everyone should stay indoors. The schools are closed. In the days before the transport stop, half a million people left Kathmandu to go to their home region. The Nepalese economy is taking a very hard hit.

However, the dirty political game in Nepal is rolling on. The two leading politicians, Prime Minister Oli and the party's second man Dahal, are fighting openly over who should decide what direction the policy should take. Both of these two men are experts in painting the amazing future that awaits this very poor and fragile country. And as usual, the word "soon" is always present.

Everything will be done "soon". Sensible proposals are being made by the government on how to deal with the almost unimaginable problems that need to be solved. But of course, it is important to translate good thoughts into practice.

Unfortunately, corruption, not least at a high level, continues to be perhaps the biggest obstacle to good development. Only a few months ago a minister was caught on tape demanding a big cut for himself while he was negotiating a contract with a swizz firm. There is also an incredible plan from the government to change the statute of limitations for corruption to five years. If this comes true many high ranked politicians will escape justice.

Support to KMCH Support Group can be paid to our bank on: BIC-SWEDSESS IBAN-SE57 8000 0832 7990 4500 6518.

Greetings from the board of

KMCH Support Group

by
Hans



Finally! In the background we now can see the monastery and the school in Yalbang. Now it is only a few hours walk until we are at the school home.