

To: Louise, Kare, Meera, Gaylord, Chela, Paula, Nicky, Edwina, Jenny, Laurie, Anne, Tracy, Mary Ann, Hemant, Dorothy, Susanne, Sashank, Penny & Lee, Cindy, Marji, Sarita, Janaki
From: Rita
Date: 31 July, 2011
Subject: Sampanna Campaign Update – July, 2011

Nepal Now:



Nepal Jail in the City - Symbolic of Failing Infrastructures

Although on a cynical note the quote below in circulation has much to say about Nepal, as do the pictures I chose above and below, which are heartbreaking in their own ways. I wish I could say I do not relate to this quote – but hesitantly – I do!

“Had this country been Pakistan, the army would have taken over the country long ago. Had this been India, a presidential rule would have been clamped down on it long ago. Had it been China, many of these crooks would have found the gallows and there would be none of these problems bothering us with such carcinogenic tenacity. As things stand in Nepal at present, all appointments whether they be in the academia, government, constitutional bodies, or whatever, these are parts of the booty in which all these parties feel that they have a legitimate share. They don't care what happens to the people who are otherwise supposed to be their fellow countrymen. The appointment of a litterateur to lead the Nepal Airlines is the latest manifestation of this malady. Even in the police force, otherwise mandated to promote and maintain law and order, its top brass have been found to be only too willing to loot, in collusion with politicians of all coercive shades and stripes, the welfare fund which by its very definition, is meant for the good of its members at the bottom of the pile. People have no voice to expose these robbers masquerading in the garb of politicians, nor can/do they pose any possible threat to their fiefdoms because of a lack of polls. In short, there does not seem to be any

power or authority inside the country that can take remedial measure to end this limitless "lootocracy" in Nepal at present. The external forces that have been influencing the developments in Nepal have also been found to be interested only in the continuous debilitation and destabilization of the country. If the present day Libya is a legitimate situation for the world body to intervene militarily, the present state of affairs is much worse for the people of Nepal. Poverty, unemployment, underemployment, food insecurity, lack of access to decent education, or to health services are much worse here with no sight for better". Bihari Krishna Shrestha (previous secretary of the Government of Nepal & development consultant.)



Increasing High-rise Buildings - Without Adequate Infrastructures like Water, Electricity, Drainage.

With the recent price hike this month, the price of fuel has gone up by over 9.20% officially. But at least for fruits and vegetables and other essentials, we are experiencing 100% inflation. No major strikes this month bringing life to some normalcy. Power cuts has been reduced to 4 hours a day – which is manageable.

The women's movement for peace and the Constituent Assembly is ongoing for over a month now in daylong vigils. We distribute flyers, speak to the passers by and ask for their solidarity for a logical conclusion to the peace process. This month we visited the Shaktikhor Cantonment, to interact directly with the women People's Liberation Army to learn about their expectations of the reintegration plan. Doing this sensitively and carefully is paramount to Nepal's peace process – therefore as we lobby the government and political parties, it was important for us to understand this situation.

Moving the Campaign:

We received a pledge of \$5000 for 2012, from Tracy Gary/USA, a confirmation of from Marjan Sax/Netherland, and Cindy Ewing/USA to support the campaign – but amount will be stated later. **Sarita durga** took time from her busy schedule while she was in Kathmandu and visited Tewa. She instantly wrote a cheque of Rs. 100,000 (upping her pledged gift of \$1000 to over \$1400 approximately). She further offered to speak to Nepalis she encounters in the USA, and to her extended family living in the USA and in Nepal.

Janaki Shah, Tewa co-coordinator has tendered her resignation and will leave Tewa after 6 years, end of September 2011. We requested if she would be a durga? She said yes! So **Janaki Durga** will be a big asset for the Nepal fund-raising campaign. Please give Janaki a warm welcome as she steps in with wisdom & light for this campaign. We now have 8 durgas and need 1 more to have the **Nava Durgas!** Any volunteers?

Over 150 letters have been sent to grantees so far. Out of which, the campaign has received Rs. 48,000 from 23 grantee groups across Nepal. I also sent emails to a small group I knew when I was at the UoT in Canada, and Betsy Brill/USA.

Meera Jyoti and Rita met to review the SC so far and strategize on the campaign. **We decided to aim to raise a 100, 10 million rupees (1 corer) in gifts of a minimum of 10 million rupees each from Nepali individuals.** For this Meera will begin by hosting a meal in her home inviting donors and supporters for this campaign. Rita committed to finding at least 10 such donors. This campaign within the Sampanna Campaign would ideally be closed by February 2012, so that it can further inspire more international giving. Rs. 100,000 each has been pledged by Rama Shrestha, Arina Arjyal, Pratima Kakchyapati, Rita Thapa, and Nar Kumari who pledged 5000 rupees (are all Tewa members), and Lily Thapa. Rita took her visiting US based cousins to Tewa this month and on solicitation for the campaign, received a pledge of Rs.100000 from Indira B. Singh, whereas Shakuntala KC, Laxman Basnet, & Niranjana Koirala said they would consider a gift and inform accordingly. As we can see this campaign has begun to roll with a pledge of Rs. 600,000 so far.

Rita had a very useful skype meeting with **Louise durga**. This was basically to update, inform and think strategically about the campaign.

Update on Building/s:

The TLBD committee of 11 July requested engineer Santosh, and contractors Rajan & Ashtaman to make an estimate of all the prioritized tasks to be accomplished besides the dormitory building which are: children's activity & play house, outdoor toilets, walking trails, stupa mound, driveway above the dormitory and south-end car-park. His rough estimate is about \$ 100,000 if we work on a very modest scale.

On 18 July, the TLBD committee met again and agreed to cast the slab over the ground floor of the dormitory building on the 28th July. Whether forecast showed heavy rain and so it did – my son was calling from home to say how bad the rain was! But I was on the site the whole day and except for occasional gentle drizzles – there was no rain on the site. Tewa staff cooked for about 60 labourers who worked mostly

manually from 7 am to 7 pm to cover a space of more than 4000 square feet. It was a miracle! This is a big job and the work is moving well.



Casting the slab on the 1st floor of the dormitory building under construction!

Financial Aspects of Sampanna:

So far the campaign has received US \$ 185,300 out of a total pledges of \$ 219,600 (please see the attached excel update on fundraising). This does not take into account the grantee groups campaign and the Nepali donor campaign within the SC. Finally Meera and Tewa Treasurer Rama, report that they are sorted out in terms of the financial status of the TLBD project in Tewa! All of this has taken them almost 3 months of dedicated hard work! The bank transfers and Meera being signatory in the TLBDP is done. This will further ensure financial accountability of the campaign.

Conclusions:

I feel the most significant step towards the realization of this campaign is our decision to commit to raise such a significant amount of a little over \$140,000 from Nepali donors who will each need to make a significant gift of \$1400 in Nepali rupees before February 2012. This is not easy – but we can all do our very best! Our situation here is dwindling, but our larger world is not shining either. The emerging economic hurdles in the USA, the recent shooting/bombing – Oslo, famine – Somalia, and the unrest in the Middle East are all sobering. Yet our lives live and we have all the more reason to celebrate and appreciate – for we know it is precious, and our ability to gift for the larger interests of equity and justice is what will give us happiness and peace! I hope this is what will propel the Sampanna Campaign to reach its goals. But for now we all have much work to do! Thank you all our new donors/to be donors!



Ramita, distributes flyers to passersby – women's movement for peace and the constituent assembly!