

To: Louise, Kaare, Meera, Gaylord, Chela, Paula, Nicky, Edwina, Jenny, Laurie, Anne, Tracy, Mary Ann, Hemant, Dorothy, Susanne, Sashank, Penny & Lee, Cindy, Marji, Sarita, Janaki, Riva
From: Rita
Date: 3 October, 2011
Subject: Sampanna Campaign Update – September, 2011

Nepal Now:

Finally after all the madness, and our ongoing and exhausting demonstrations and vigils, a new PM from the Maoists party was announced. This cleared the air temporarily bringing an end to ongoing political confusion and instability. Just before the festive season of September and October, this provided some relief to the Nepali people. Some of the highlights of this month were the government raid on food shops regarding quality control, which revealed that we were truly abused in the way sweets, milk, food was being prepared – still it allowed for more awareness and cautiousness for future. Sadly the sobering earthquake of 6.9 on the Richter scale, which came with considerable damage especially in the Eastern Hills of Nepal and India, and a plane crash carrying tourists this month, were sad happenings.

Tewa had a regional meeting of its grantees at Tewa, and the women's network I have been supporting Sankalpa, had a big launching event beginning with a peace walk! The rest of the events were hosted in the Tewa premise. The inaugural event was very memorable owing to the amazing venue where all the multiple activities took place.



The Peace Walk on 22nd September as a part of Sankalpa's Launch!

Update on Building/s:



Han & Marleen with Deepak (Tewa Cooordinator), Engineers and Contractors at Tewa!

Professor Han Verchure and Marleen Iterbeke from Leuven visited us after 18 years! This was significant for Tewa now - because on my request, as engineers and planners, their inputs on our building and landscaping gave us a chance for a second opinion, which was invaluable for Tewa's dormitory building and the remaining landscaping. I felt a little bad about making them work on their holidays, but it was too good an opportunity to miss! On their part they were gracious with their time and generous with their insights. Taking their advice we will change a few things that will make the dormitory more functional and the landscaping more practical and eco-friendly. Our volunteer advisor for the TLBDP, the site engineer, and the contractors also worked together with Han and Marleen. I am grateful. Please see the picture below to note, that as soon as the casting work is completed sometime mid-October, the main structural work of the building is done! The rice in the fields beyond is ripened and I pray the Sampanna Campaign too will be fulfilled!

Moving the Campaign:

This month we received a gift of US \$ 1000 from Han and Marleen! As a response to the emails I had sent, I heard back from Elizabeth Wickwire (a onetime volunteer at Nagarik Aawaz (NA), and a long time supporter of the peace work at NA) saying she will keep her eyes and ears open as she and her husband teach in Dubai – her words were sweet! Similarly Edwina durga's sister Camilla Morgan says on her email, "I would love nothing more than to help fundraise for Tewa, Edwina and I will have a brainstorm session and then will get back to you very soon." Tracy Gary suggested that I write a

letter to the “inner circle”, “articulating and explaining the vision”. This was very good advice, and I have drafted the letter which I will begin to soon send. All these words are comforting and so encouraging!

Tewa had a regular fund-raising theme dinner where we also announced the Sampanna Campaign. Now over 150 letters have been sent to grantee groups and over 50 responses and gifts have been received. I will make sure I have exact numbers and amount in the next update.



Just Ready for Casting after the Dasain Holidays – Photo Courtesy Sashank taken on 3rd October

Financial Aspects of Sampanna:

Being so busy with the works of Sankalpa, visitors, and recent travel to Brussels for the board meeting of the Global Fund for Community Foundation, I have not been able to catch-up properly with Louise and Meera to have a sense of the exact financial conditions of the Sampanna Campaign. I am giving my personal pledge of Rs. 100,000 during October and so far I have pledges from 6 other Nepali donors excluding mine – so I have 3 more gifts to go before I complete my commitment to raise 1 million rupees! I am sure I will have more good news when I write the next update.

Conclusions:

I am a couple of days late in sending you this update. I had to go and take a picture of the dormitory building (thankfully Sashank drove us there and took a picture for me today) before I could complete this update. I am thankful. I am also conscious that I have lesser details regarding finances this month. Still I hope you will see where we are with the building.

Early today I had a dharma friend, Thapa “dai” as I call him, visit me after a very long time. I was happy and shared with him about the Sampanna Campaign with some concerns and worries. He told me not to worry – because the Sampanna Campaign was for the larger good and done selflessly, it would be fulfilled. Words from a practioneer and a wise man, I feel very reassured!