

To: Louise, Kare, Meera, Gaylord, Chela, Paula, Nicky, Edwina, Jenny, Laurie, Anne, Tracy, Mary Ann, Hemant, Dorothy, Susanne, Sashank, Penny & Lee, Marji, Sarita
From: Rita
Date: 30 June, 2011
Subject: Sampanna Campaign Update – June, 2011

Nepal Now:

The political mood continues to be unsettling. A couple of strike days in Kathmandu were called off at the last minutes in nail-biting uncertainty. The census drive has begun. Although the attacks on women human rights defenders continue in many ways, a corruption scam in the senior police hierarchy has been opened up and investigations are underway unraveling other political nexus. If proven guilty, this could be a major breakthrough for the government and could help bring down institutional and systemic corruption – but will this expose those politically more powerful – let us wait and see?

The women collectively decided to continue the sit-in protests for the extended 3 months period of the Constituent Assembly for writing the new constitution. Different organizations take turns each day to “sit-in”, distribute flyers, educate the public and seek solidarity from a broad section of society, while alerting the CA members. Other awareness raising programme workshops, visits to cantonments, and nation wide peace rallies are planned. Women will not stop!



Peace Process & Integration of Army - Hon. Barsha Man Pun (CPN-M) addressing the gathering!

Moving the Campaign:

Tewa Board made a commitment to raise Rs. 3 million from Nepalis by the end of 2012. Only larger gifts of Rs. 100,000 will be accepted. So far, about 100 letters have also gone out to grantees requesting for their participation in this campaign. Any gifts of Rs. 1000 and more will be appreciated. This grantee campaign to reach out to over 300 grantees of Tewa all over Nepal, and the grantees participation will further strengthen the partnership spirit between Tewa and its grantee groups. More letters will go out and follow-ups will begin. Tewa has also send a grant request for the endowment (implying the current campaign for the TLBDP), to Mama Cash. I emailed requests for support to – Cindy Ewing, Jean Beard, Patricia Chenery, Katie Grover & Mike Campbell, Elizabeth Hardman Rix & Jack Rix, Ravi Grover, Tracy Bert, and Regina Mueller who are all donors to Tewa. I sent hand written letters to other Tewa donors for whom we only had mailing addresses: Martha Denney, Beth A. Reid, Wendy Volkman, and Doris Falgner. I also wrote Heather Arnot & Laura Penny, Women's Foundation of Northern Arizona, USA. I have not heard back from any of them. But I will not lose heart. Our work is to send the word out and pray. The universe has a way – I hope – I know.

I had a skype conversation with Louise recently, and she is hoping there will be an opportunity for the USA based **Durgas** to meet in July. We also need more **Durgas!** Any volunteers?

Update on Building/s:

The TLBDP Committee met every Monday this month to move the detailing of the work of the dormitory building. Further revisions of the drawing to focus on minimal ducts, improved/increased space, and provisions and placement of solar energy for hot water and lighting were made. As is visible in the picture the shuttering (or form work) is almost complete, after which the iron rod work and the casting of the slab will be expected to be completed within the next 15 days for the ground floor. Like I said earlier we will save on plastering work on the ceiling – because the shuttering work has been completed with much care. (Please see page 3 for pictures)

Financial Aspects of Sampanna:

Louise's gift of \$ 100,000 has arrived. Also the \$67,000 from the Oak Foundation has arrived. Meera has been working tirelessly with the treasurer to change so many things to ensure the best financial management for the TLBDP. This is taking much longer that we imagined. But work is ongoing.

Conclusions:

Meera, Louise, and I call on each of you for your support. We do need your help, networks, and credibility where we are unknown. Every bit is precious – for it all adds up in making the Sampanna Campaign successful.



Shuttering work on the upcoming dormitory building (right) - the Tewa office on the left and the rice fields as backdrop!



Looks messy now - but there is much work to it!