

**To:** All  
**From:** Rita/Meera  
**Date:** 29February, 2016  
**Subject:** Aanandi 3 Update - 1

**Aanandi 3 - How It All Began:**



Already in 2014, there was news going around that a piece of land adjoining Tewa at its western boundary was up for sale. Tewa couldnot allow it to be bought by the adjoining housing company who may any day, put up a multi-story building next to Tewa. At the Tewa Center since the existing residential Annex in the Aadhar has now been converted into a Tewa Boardroom, we have growing recognition that to use the TC's capacity to its full potential so that the investment



of the initial 17.2 million rupees endowment fund can generate adequate money to run Tewa/TC, we will need an additional residential facility. During October, I had the unsuspecting visiting planning expert Han Verschure & Architect Marleen Iterbeke (Leuven University, Belgium), to work on the most appropriate/suitable design. This they kindly and most generously did during a personal visit to my home, and Han also used his influence with Nepali engineers to get us assistance to ensure the drawing with the help of a young architect working with

the government, Srijana. So the land is now legally Tewa's, and the drawing is the best we could wish for the residential building we wish to build (estimated roughly at **US \$ 400,000** considering boundary walls and sky-rocketing prices).

**Where We Now Are:**



Learning through the years, although I was clear that I would need to take leadership in ensuring its building and use, I waited to hear from the Tewa Executive Board regarding their full ownership and responsibility especially in terms of fund-raising! Only a few weeks back, Nirmala KC, the Board Chair assured me that this



would be the case. In the meantime we had the Vastu expert come to check the land and the building site. He said all is very good, and suggested that we exchange the shower place with the commode. On the auspicious day of Sree-Panchami, we performed the

Bhoomi Puja (worshipping of Mother earth).

We also took responsibility to build the boundary walls quickly by buying raw materials ourselves and hiring labourers through our trusted loyal Sainla and Prem, sub-contractor and supervisor for AM Construction Company, working with us since the very beginning of the TL&BDP<sup>1</sup>. Today the boundary wall has gone so far ( R ).



<sup>1</sup> Tewa Land & Building Development Project

### How we mean to go about it:

From April 2016, as some of you may recall, I will move into a monitoring and a coaching role at the TC, hopefully halving my physical presence at Tewa/TC. Since it began, the TC has been self-reliant, but it has yet to grow the ability to support Tewa - given the earthquake and now the blockade.

I will need to ensure the fruition of the **Aanandi 3!** I commit to doing this with a goal to have the new building **inaugurated by September 2017**. On the financial side Meera Jyoti my better half literally, in the TL&BDP (who undertook the mammoth SC under her wings with me) will again take the helm. As such we will reach out to and update the select donors of the SC starting February 2016 – informing on progress at all fronts. However any of you who choose not be on this monthly update please let us know. I will take you off this list – I can understand that this is tiresome. But I seem to be called/gifted to do this work.

I feel we need to do this final piece of work at Tewa so that Tewa's ongoing work is supported and they can focus fully on their ongoing work.

Also we will not mix the work of Aanandi 3 with our previous building work. It will be a standalone project both building wise and from a financial point of view.



After a series of consultative meetings, with Architect Srijana Das Chaudhary and with Dr. Prakash Tuladhar and his colleague of the New PROGRESSIVE DESIGNERS who will backstop the AM Construction Company from the varied engineering aspects of Aanandi 3, all related people met on 28<sup>th</sup> February to finalize

pending details and flow of the building, and rejoice over what we are undertaking – without dedicated funds – yet!

At this meeting moved by the occasion and what Tewa managed to build (not just literally), Prakash said that his firm will donate back 25% of all their bills to the building costs of Aanandi!

### **Funding for Aanandi 3:**

So far with the earthquake and the blockade and all that we have encountered here, we do not yet know details, but we have already spoken with the contractors saying like one time earlier, that we will pay as money comes in. They have agreed. I am basically trusting that gifts of money will come in as and when we need it ☺!

So far the initial thoughts are that we will not reach out to Nepalis on a war footing, but we will share information and if so moved those who will make a gift will be most welcome. For we feel it is the participation, and the ownership of Nepalis that will enhance Tewa's work on community philanthropy.

### **Conclusions:**

My initial thoughts, yet to be shared widely even with the Tewa Team, is that Professor Han Verschure be invited to open our building in September 2017. Hopefully my husband's friends and Han's students in the region can also come to participate in this project and the inaugural. The possibility of some of them also being donors, is something I do not yet know – it was so far back in the early eighties. Yet, I would like to hope so and aspire for – for the strength and sustainability of Tewa.

This update is sent only to our earlier donors for the SC and more. As such, it is now a group of less than 35 people. Please let me know if you have had enough of this never-ending (so it seems now) journey. But if you can bear, please support us/me morally and tangibly. I too am now habituated to count on you ☺!