



TAPRIZA NGO

ANNUAL REPORT 2007



Students of the Tapriza School on the way to the Ringmo Festival

TAPRIZA SCHOOL & PROJECTS IN DOLPO – NEPAL

ACTIVITIES IN DOLPO, NEPAL 2007



Everyday life at school



Students in the school yard

TAPRIZA SCHOOL IN NEPAL, NEWS

The school classes grew in size again in 2007 and in total 132 children visited the Tapriza School. 27 children enrolled this year instead of the expected 15. The unexpected increase is mainly due to the excellent and widespread reputation the school has gained since the enormous success at the district level exams in spring 2007. Of 800 students from Dolpo attending the exams, Tapriza students achieved the first, second and fourth places.

More teachers for a new grade

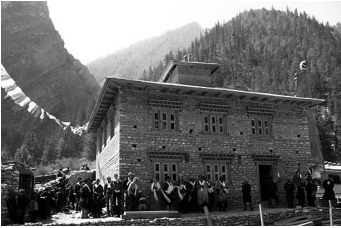
Three new teachers joined the Tapriza team. Together with the four others they take care of the newly introduced Upper Secondary that includes Classes 9 and 10. After finishing the secondary level, the students receive a diploma enabling the access to further education. In total 19 people worked in the school this year, besides teachers for kindergarten, lower and upper secondary, three cooks and three school mothers were responsible. For the first time one of the latter comes from Renji, a village south of the school.

Winter-school in Kathmandu

The curriculum of the Upper Secondary is a lot tighter than in the lower levels so that the students of the 9th grade have to attend school during the winter months – a novelty for the students and a challenge for the Tapriza School. Due to the harsh winter climate the lessons could not be given at the school itself, so the entire class moved to Kathmandu for three months. Besides intensive learning sessions, excursions were on the program so that the students, being in Kathmandu for the first time in their lives, could get an insight into the Nepali culture and the urban lifestyle.

Ringmo Festival

For once, no culture festival was organised at the school itself in 2007 because the entire school participated in the «Phoksumdo Conservation Festival» in Ringmo. The children performed in the dance program, competed in an environmental quiz and held debates to various themes. The next day the students, staff and parents of the Tapriza School went for a picknick accompanied by two famous singers from Dolpo. The day was spent with song and dance.



The new multipurpose building



Proud teachers with fresh vegetables

MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING, ROOMS AND GREEN HOUSE

The school complex, which was only a simple, one-storey building in 1999, slowly grew into a U-formed, partly two-storey structure. With the new three-storey multipurpose building the open end is closed and the schoolyard is now sheltered from wind. The walls are constructed in the traditional architectural style, whilst the roof was tiled with conjugated steel plates because of convenience reasons. Due to wrong calculations made by an external roof expert this turned out to be more expensive than budgeted. The artisans from eastern Nepal though did an excellent job. Exceptionally high snowfall and a very wet summer impeded their work, so that the inside of the building took longer to complete than anticipated. Since March the final wood and painting works have been resumed and the multipurpose building will be finished by the 10-year jubilee of the Tapriza School in April 2008 when it is to be inaugurated.

Four in beds for two

The increasing interest in the Tapriza School is a wonderful sign and merit for the hard work, but also leads to recurring lack of space. A second kitchen for the older students produced relief this year, but a new larger dining room is still desperately needed. Additionally a number of children are sleeping as a foursome in beds made for two. Further rooms are already being planned. The school has adequate sanitary facilities and warm water showers, thereby improving the basis for hygiene and no cases of serious diseases occurred in the school premise.

Vitamins for everyone

2007 was, so to speak, a green year for the Tapriza School. For the first time the school garden – and especially the newly completed green house – provided enough vegetables: cauliflower, cabbage, pumpkins, beans, radishes, tomatoes and chillies supplemented the daily menu and ensured a balanced diet rich in vitamins. Parents from Pugmo and Ringmo observed the experiment with great interest and first green houses have been planed in the villages, too. Of the 150 apple trees planted on the school grounds about 15 have flourished despite barren ground and gluttonous animals. With a little luck there will be apples in the school break regularly within the next two years.



Shrine in Ringmo



Thaktsen Rabgyeling – newly renovated

TAPRIZA PROJECTS

Additionally to their demand for an education for their children the local population is especially concerned about eventually renovating or rebuilding culturally and historically important buildings and architectural structures. Thanks to a generous donation from the Ernst Göhner Stiftung this year the Tapriza NGO could support some projects the people of the area are especially interested in.

Monrisosum Monastery, Kalibon

Since four year the villagers of Khalibon have put a lot of effort and energy into building a monastery. In the mean time, an impressive building stands two-storeys high. In 2007 the main works on the outer layer were completed. Now the village is intensely looking for an appropriate Bon lama who is also knowledgable in Tibetan medicine.

Kalsang Hombar Shrine, Ringmo

The most important and biggest shrine at the entrance of Ringmo is in a bad condition. But as the workers wanted to start the renovation, they realised that the shrine was threatening to collapse. The building committee was not prepared for such a difficult situation and decided to renovate two other shrines instead in 2007. The main renovation was postponed into 2008 so that the necessary precautions could be made.

Thaktsen Rabgyeling Monastery, Pugmo

Great festivities are held at the newly renovated monastery in Pugmo to celebrate the acquisition of important holy Bon scriptures (Kangyur and Tengyur). The entry of the text collection is a premiere for the entire region Phoksumdo and therefore was accompanied with grand ceremonies.



Ceremonial entry of the books



Kangyur and Tengyur in the monastery

ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND 2007



Board and Administration



The founders – S. Lama and M. Kind

TAPRIZA NGO SWITZERLAND

In 2007 the Tapriza NGO had 177 members (of which 45 supported a class) and 68 donors. The NGO would like to express thanks for the continuous support. The 9th general assembly was held on the 15th of June 2007 in Zürich and attended by 16 members eligible to vote and 4 guests. In addition to the regular agenda items and the presentation of the newest developments of the Tapriza School and other projects, Riccardo Vrech who visited the School last year, talked about his experience. After the official part of the assembly he showed a movie of the 8th jubilee celebrations at the school.

EXTRAORDINARY DONATIONS

The Ernst Göhner Stiftung donated 20'000 CHF to the Tapriza Verein to support the three described projects. Until now the lack of necessary financial means hindered the implementation of the projects. We would like to forward the thanks of the local population.

We would like to express wholehearted thanks for all the donations contributed this year and the large faith put into our organisation. In the following we would like to name some donors:

CHF	3000.-	Aline Andrea Rutz Stiftung
CHF	1500.-	Ben and Agnes Seleski
CHF	1000.-	Donation 50. Birthday of Dora Winkler
CHF	1000.-	Hamasil Stiftung
CHF	1000.-	Dr. Stefanie Wolfensberger
CHF	1000.-	Mathias Schindler
CHF	1000.-	Ursula Rutz
CHF	1000.-	Tibet Unterstützung Lichtenstein

GUIDED TOUR THROUGH THE TIBET COLLECTION OF THE RIETBERG



Objects of the Berti Aschmann Collection

In June the Tapriza NGO invited to a guided tour through the collection Berti Aschmann in the Rietberg Museum Zürich. The collection of Buddhist art from the Himalaya region is a highlight of the museum. The specialist Martina Wernsdörfer explained the magnificent bronzes and their meaning in Buddhism. Afterwards the visitors were invited to an aperitif with Tibetan delicacies. We thank Pasang Gurung wholeheartedly for her delicious momo!

NGO ACCOUNTS 2007 (1.1.-31.12.07)

Income	2006	2007	Budget 2008
Contributions of members	8'050.00	9'100.00	8'500
Contributions of class sponsors	13'885.00	15'356.00	15'000
Donations	7'987.50	6'151.00	6'000
Donations (extraordinary)	8'757.50	15'864.91	13'000
Donations for Projects	2'713.60	20'495.00	0
Sales revenue (lectures, postcards, CDs)	4'965.00	2'167.00	2'000
Capital gain	544.00	481.72	400
Total Income	46'902.60	69'615.63	44'900
Costs			
Office material, equipment & computer	848.30	1'210.35	1'200
Office, infrastructure & homepage server	2'740.00	3'160.60	3'400
Administrative costs	4'800.00	6'193.25	6'200
Mailing expenses	1'123.70	1'090.09	1'200
Telecommunication & email	144.25	169.45	160
Brochure, Photos, CDs, printed matters	1'845.20	1'549.25	3'000
General assembly, occasions	1'131.40	578.40	1'200
Capital expenditures	305.81	416.70	400
Total Costs CH	12'938.66	14'368.09	16'760
Transfers to the Tapriza School Nepal	35'887.35	47'905.60	*40'000
Nepal, office and school material from CH	145.70	610.00	1'500
Various projects TASHI D	10'813.35	902.60	1'600
Projects TASHI D financed by donation	2'713.60	19'542.00	0
Bank charges for transfers to Nepal	43.65	103.85	120
Telecommunication with Nepal	419.15	361.40	400
Total Costs Nepal	50'022.80	69'425.45	43'620
Costs CH/Nepal Total	62'961.46	83'793.54	60'380
Operating results	-16'058.86	-14'177.91	-15'480

*1\$ – rate 1.22 CHF

BALANCE PER 31.DECEMBER 2007

Assets	2006	2007
Cash office	1'354.70	1'008.50
Postal cheque account balance	2'726.60	3'091.57
Bank balance	66'665.86	42'834.30
Withholding tax balance	28.18	51.06
Accruals	0.00	9612.00
Total Assets	70'775.34	56'597.43
Liabilities		
NGO capital	86'834.20	70'775.34
Operating results	-16'058.86	-14'177.91
Total Liabilities	70'775.34	56'597.43

in US \$ EXPENDITURES SCHOOL IN NEPAL

Costs (for operating school)	2007	Budget 2008
Salaries	44'229	57'818
Food	23'131	27'003
Books	2'666	3'328
School uniform, blankets, jackets, sewing machine	919	738
Hygiene and medicine	727	1'115
Energy, solar panels, batteries	351	410
Cultural programs, nature study, sports	988	2'353
Teachers advanced training	217	328
Office Nepal and infrastructure	1'150	2'775
Kitchen	65	196
Travel costs (Dunai, Kathmandu)	1'232	1'066
Transportations costs (porters, animals)	4'232	5'164
Transportation costs Kathmandu	769	984
Guests (NGO-meeting, official visitors, parents, trekkers)	362	508
Kathmandu room rent and sustentation	2'001	1'846
Communication with CH/USA (tel., email, photos, post, film)	718	730
Other expenditures, reserves for emergencies	545	607
Reserves bank deposit, exchange rate	80	98
Winterschool in Kathmandu for senior secondary	2'562	5'950
Total School operating costs	86'944	113'017
Cost: Building and Infrastructure		
Schoolhouse: building, maintenance, toilets, drinking water	1'222	1'391
Furniture and repairs	491	656
Multipurpose building: construction, material, labour	27'571	3'648
Three hospital rooms on the other side of the river	215	410
Three new class rooms	0	11'275
Total Building and Infrastructure costs	29'499	17'380
TOTAL COSTS TAPRIZA SCHOOL	116'443	130'397

INCOME SCHOOL IN NEPAL IN US \$

Income	2007	Budget 2008
Contributions of parents	18'652	22'426
Teachers salaries form the Nepali government	18'517	19'503
School clothing	422	328
Donations/ collections from local organisations and visitors	1'580	2'720
Income from sales of products	105	115
Free work of the villagers for the multipurpose building	574	0
Share parents: winter-school in Kathmandu senior secondary	2'031	2'492
Income office sublease Kathmandu	365	410
Total Income Tapriz School	42'246	47'994
Contribution Tapriz NGO Switzerland	46'109	37'029
Contribution Friends of Dolpa and AHF, USA	28'452	37'029
Total Income from abroad	74'561	74'058
Bank balance and cash office in Nepal, early this year	11'317	8'345
Total Income and Balance	128'124	130'394

COMMENT TO THE BUDGET

In 2007 the administrative efforts are higher than in the previous years because for the first time social security contribution became necessary. A further contribution was appointed for the coordination and organisation of the projects (covered through an external donation).

Further we experienced loss due to the exchange rate because the dollar severely dropped in value. In Nepal, banks are bound to the dollar so we could not change to a different currency. This loss especially becomes evident in the higher expenses for the multipurpose building. For this reason the budget of 2008 was done with a much lower exchange rate.

POLITICAL SITUATION IN NEPAL

2007 was a turbulent year for Nepal. Before the turn of the year the Maoist rebels signed a peace treaty. Therewith the 10-year civil war in the country was officially over. Quickly the Maoists started to participate in the interim government. These first steps in direction of democracy were overshadowed by violent clashes in the south of Nepal. The traditionally prosperous Terai demanded autonomy. In the election for the constituent assembly in April 2008 the Maoist emerged as strongest party. End of May Nepal was declared a republic and the King Gyanendra was requested to leave the palace. It remains to be seen how the former rebels prove themselves in the democratic system.

These political developments finally mean a gasp of relief for Dolpo, as the repressions by the rebels have decreased. In the time period formed by rebel activities the Tapriz School could run the school relatively normally thanks to the ability of the school manager and the great support of the local population.

Marietta Kind and the Tapriz Team