



TAPRIZA NGO

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Women from Ringmo at the inauguration of the newly renovated village shrine

ACTIVITIES IN DOLPO, NEPAL 2009



Students during the school break



Lessons in the school

TAPRIZA SCHOOL IN NEPAL, NEWS

In 2009 the number of students at the school somewhat stabilised thanks to the new admission rules although the rush to the school is still hard to handle. 163 children attended the Tapriza School, of which 95 were boys and 68 girls. Especially in the lower grades the number of students is large with about 20 to 30 children in a class whereas in the higher grades some of the classes have less than 10 children.

Extra-curricular activities and sport

Throughout the school year competitions are organised regularly in various sports and other activities. For these events the students of all classes are divided into four groups that are called 'houses'. In this way exchange and solidarity between the older and younger students is encouraged. At the Tapriza School Fridays are reserved for sport, environment classes, tending of the garden and other activities. The garden work of students and teachers paid off this year – vegetables worth more than 1000 Swiss francs were harvested! The children especially enjoy playing volleyball and football. During the annual celebration of the school there are tournaments. In future the students want to participate in matches between the different schools of the district. During the school year other competitions in common knowledge and the writing of Tibetan essays were held. Besides the annual protection ritual for the school the students also partake in cultural activities of the neighbourhood. This year a one-day pilgrimage on the occasion of the solar eclipse was organised.

Increasing teacher salaries

The Tapriza School is constantly confronted with increasing teacher salaries. In the year 2009 the Nepalese government changed their guidelines anew and the teacher salaries for employees in remote parts of the country were raised significantly – this is also appropriate. Now, especially in the senior secondary level our present salary scheme shows big differences to the new wage rates. For next year we will have to adapt the salaries in order to stay an interesting employer for teachers and maintain the quality of education. Only in this way we can find qualified teachers for the senior secondary level, especially in subjects such as maths or sciences. Compared to other schools in Dolpo supported from abroad our salaries are still relatively low.



The west wing during construction...



... and nearly finished

New construction of the west wing

The re-building of the collapsed west wing of the school house started sluggishly in 2009. In the first three months of the school year no qualified workers were available in Dolpo. Only after the Yartsa Gumbo season in June could the construction work begin. Stones and wood had already been collected and dried in the previous year and were ready to be used. Planks were cut into the right size and the solid stonewalls erected. At the same time stone tiles were laid out in the schoolyard to stop the dust. The building was completed in two months. It consists of two storeys with four rooms each. On the ground level there now are one classroom and three dorms for the younger children and on the top two bedrooms for the girls, a room for the school manager and a guest room. The paintwork and some planks for the roof of the ground floor still have to be completed next year, as the collected wood was not sufficient.

The newly constructed sanitary facilities with bigger toilet rooms and showers have improved the hygienic conditions at the school significantly. The building is located in a sunny place sheltered from wind so that the water can be heated with solar energy even on colder days. Some sanitary work still has to be finished. Next year the present kitchen and dining area will be extended into a two-storey building so that everyone can eat inside together.

Solar energy

Electricity supply is a huge problem in Nepal and the Tapriza School is more and more investing in solar energy. In 2009 three new solar panels were installed at the school. The power generated is now sufficient to light the children's bedrooms – this makes doing homework and studying during exam time a lot easier. It is though still not enough to use a computer and printer regularly. The older students service and repair the solar panels themselves. We are thinking about sending some interested students to special solar trainings so that they can enhance their knowledge. Solar energy is increasingly also being used in the villages of Dolpo and in future the education could therefore be beneficial for the students. In this year we had to buy a new solar panel for the office in Kathmandu as well, because the capital city is at present without electricity for up to 20 hours a day.



Kalsang Hombar shrine in Ringmo

TAPRIZA PROJECTS

For the first time we supported the initiation of a handicraft training in the villages. It will serve to process local handicraft in a way that makes it interesting for the international tourist market. For example cushion covers or cell phone bags can be manufactured out of traditional belts and cloth. Further we are helping to establish an information centre with a small shop. It will be run by students together with the teachers, help them gather first business experiences, offer some products to tourists, sell local handicrafts and transfer information. Both projects will be continued in the next year.

As in the previous year we supported the monasteries Kalibon and Hurikot. In Kalibon the outer structure of the monastery was finalised and in the monastery Hurikot the continuation of regular lessons for students in Tibetan and English was made possible. Additionally, this year the entrance shrine to Ringmo village was fully renovated, following initial security complications as described in our previous reports. After local Thangka painters redid the wall paintings, the village and a large number of Tapriza students celebrated an elaborate inauguration ritual.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As already described in the newsletter, we were able to obtain scholarships for three of the students who graduated from Tapriza School last year. The other five are receiving small contributions from our newly founded scholarship fund. Thank you for the donations we have already received for the support of the scholarships. In case you wish to support the students after class 10 you may use the usual payment slip with the remark: donation for the scholarship fund.



10th grade before departure



Kathmandu hostel for winter coaching and scholarship students



ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND 2009



Inauguration of the newly renovated village shrine Kalsang Hombar

TAPRIZA NGO SWITZERLAND

In the year 2009 the Tapriza NGO had 180 members (of which 44 are class sponsors and 19 benefactor members) and 88 donors. The NGO would like to thank everyone wholeheartedly for the support. The 10th General Assembly took place on the 12th of June 2009 in Zürich with 14 members entitled to vote and guests. After presenting the most recent developments at the Tapriza School, Marietta Kind showed a slide show of impressive changes at the school in the last ten years – from the beginnings in a simple house without furniture and just one black board to a school with an own building, numerous teachers and a growing number of students. In the Tibet Songtsen House the newly graduated president also held a presentation on a chapter of her ethnological PhD thesis on the Bon landscape in Dolpo.

EXTRAORDINARY DONATIONS – THANK YOU

This year many members and friends were actively supporting the Tapriza school and its projects. Donations collected at audio-visual presentations, at a benefit concert as well as a larger collection were contributed to us. We would like to express our wholehearted thanks for the commitment and dedication to the Tapriza School in Dolpo. Unexpectedly we received an additional contribution, a part of a legacy in favour of the Tapriza School. This large donation will now be used to build a new kitchen and dining room, to acquire accommodation for the students in Kathmandu as well as give small contributions as scholarships to the elder students.

CHF	42'120	Donation from a testamentary legacy
CHF	4'000	Marianne and Ernest Imhof (Donation from collection at presentations)
CHF	3'000	Aline Andrea Rutz Stiftung
CHF	1'600	This and Jutta Schenkel Casimir (Donation from a benefit concert)
CHF	1'500	D. and H. Winkler-Gerber (collected at audio-visual presentations)
CHF	1'500	Ben and Agnes Seleski
CHF	1'000	Hamasil Stiftung
CHF	1'000	Mathias Schindler
CHF	1'000	Ursula Rutz
CHF	1'000	Dr. Stefanie Wolfensberger
CHF	1'000	B. and S. Grafe Keller
CHF	1'000	Elisabeth Buhofer



The village Ringmo



Inauguration of the new village shrine

NGO ACCOUNTS 2009 (1.1-31.12.2009)

Income	2008	2009	Budget 2010
Contributions of members	9'600.00	8'229.00	8'000.00
Contributions of class sponsors	14'412.00	16'718.00	16'000.00
Scholarship fund	0.00	2'385.00	3'600.00
Donations for projects	10'460.00	0.00	0.00
Donations regular	27'137.00	9'398.00	7'000.00
Donations extraordinary	0.00	61'650.00	8'000.00
Sales revenue (lectures, postcards, CDs)	1'707.25	1'964.50	300.00
Capital gain	52.57	117.95	100.00
TOTAL INCOME	63'368.82	100'462.45	43'000.00
Costs			
Office material, equipment & computer	403.70	1'378.30	1'400.00
Office rent, infrastructure & homepage	3'174.50	2'945.00	3'200.00
Administrative costs	5'416.45	5'752.10	6'200.00
Mailing expenses	1'622.97	926.85	1'100.00
Telecommunication & emails	129.85	152.10	200.00
Brochures, Photos, CDs, printed matters	3'475.75	902.95	2'000.00
General assembly, occasions	249.00	445.35	450.00
Capital expenditures	1'245.53	326.15	350.00
TOTAL COSTS SWITZERLAND	15'717.75	12'828.80	14'900.00
Transfers to the Taprizia School Nepal	44'722.60	39'235.20	*70'000.00
Nepal, office and school material from CH	2'058.00	13.00	600.00
TASHI D various projects	9'724.00	5'907.50	5'000.00
Scholarships to former Taprizia students	0.00	2'082.13	6'000.00
Bank charges for transfers to Nepal	52.05	58.00	70.00
Telecommunication with Nepal	132.70	146.45	250.00
TOTAL COSTS NEPAL	56'689.35	47'442.28	81'920.00
TOTAL COSTS SCHWEIZ/NEPAL	72'407.10	60'271.08	96'820.00
Operating results	-9'038.28	40'191.37	-53'820.00

*1\$ – Rate 1.074 CHF

BALANCE PER 31ST OF DECEMBER 2009

Assets	2008	2009
Cash office	1'251.75	570.65
Postal cheque account	12'770.25	14'197.60
Bank balance	33'467.71	72'940.96
Withholding tax balance	69.44	41.31
TOTAL ASSETS	47'559.15	87'750.52
LIABILITIES		
NGO capital	56'597.43	47'559.15
Operating results	-9'038.28	40'191.37
TOTAL LIABILITIES	47'559.15	87'750.52

IN US \$ EXPENDITURES SCHOOL IN NEPAL

Expenditures School	2009	Budget 2010
Salaries	45'724	71'966
Food	25'064	28'904
Books	2'515	2'945
School uniform, blankets, jackets, sewing machine	137	589
Hygiene and medicine	613	822
Energy, solar panels, batteries	2'773	96
Cultural programs, environment classes, sports	1'299	1'492
Advanced teachers training	365	616
Kitchen	145	205
Travel costs (Dunai, Kathmandu)	1'505	1'849
Transportation costs (porters, animals)	5'549	5'890
Transportation costs Kathmandu	1'532	897
Guests (NGO-meeting, official visitors, parents, trekkers)	590	479
Kathmandu room rent, food, maintenance	3'379	4'137
Communication with CH/US (telephone, email, photos, films)	685	637
Official revision Nepal and other expenditures	700	582
Other expenditures, reserves for emergencies	1'757	685
Reserves bank deposit, exchange rate	10	21
Winter school in Kathmandu for senior secondary students	6'979	4'699
TOTAL EXPENDITURES SCHOOL	101'321	127'511
Expenditures Building and Infrastructure		
Schoolhouse: Maintenance, toilets, drinking water	5'764	1'712
Furniture and repairs	297	548
General purpose building interior work and painting	357	1'164
Three class rooms, new kitchen and dining room	17'446	46'685
TOTAL BUILDING	23'864	50'109
TOTAL EXPENDITURES TAPRIZA SCHOOL	125'185	177'620

INCOME SCHOOL IN NEPAL IN US \$

Income	2009	Budget 2010
Contributions parents	20'006	24'473
Teacher salaries from the Nepali government	19'654	31'480
School clothing	297	616
Donations/ collections from local organisations and visitors	8'714	3'219
Contributions education department, VDC, buffer zone committee	6'374	17'809
Contributions parents for winter school in Kathmandu, senior secondary	1'054	1'027
TOTAL INCOME TAPRIZA SCHOOL	56'099	78'624
Contribution Tapriza Verein (NGO) Switzerland	33'488	65'182
Contribution Friends of Dolpa und AHF, USA	29'945	30'000
TOTAL INCOME FROM ABROAD	63'433	95'182
Bank balance and cash office in Nepal, beginning of the year	8'562	3'817
TOTAL INCOME AND BALANCE	128'094	177'623

TRAGIC WINTER IN DOLPO

The winter 2009/2010 has been the hardest winter in Dolpo since years. Several avalanches brutally swept humans and animals to their death. Tapriza School also suffered severe losses. Tashi Gyaltsen, a student of the 8th grade, and Chupur Baigy, the village chief of Pugmo and one of the most active members of TASHI-D, were both killed by the masses of snow. We are mourning and send our condolences to the families. The villagers of Pugmo have started to renovate the Namgyal Lhakang monastery in remembrance of their village chief. We would also like to contribute to this in 2010. Chupur's abilities, experience, and devotion will be missed immensely in future. Besides the human losses, the villages Ringmo and Pugmo lost many of their yaks and *dris* (female yaks) in the avalanches. The livelihood of most people in Dolpo still depends on these animals and with their loss hard times lie ahead of the families. Semduk Lamas' family is one of the main one's affected, in one go they lost as many as 25 yaks and *dris*.



After the tragic incidents in Dolpo the school manager Semduk Lama received good news: he has been nominated for the National Education Award. This is a countrywide award for extraordinary achievements in the educational field. The final presentation of prizes will be in this year (2010). We are extremely happy and are keeping our fingers crossed for him!

Marietta Kind, Jenny Bentley and the Tapriza Team