

To our members, supporters and all those interested in our activities

With this year ending, this is the time for thanks and for a look back and forward. For ten years our association has been in existence, financing the Mahadevi Women Education Center in Patan. This support for literacy training and education has only been possible through the many helpful people and organisations. Many thanks to all that have been helping, everyone in his own way.

Nepal has seen the first local elections (of mayors and their deputies) in 20 years. Communists (UML) and National Congress (NC) candidates have won, followed by Maoists.

Nepal has been taken off the black list of international aviation. Therefore Nepali planes may again get permission to fly to Europe.

The Bagmati river in Kathmandu is supposed to become cleaner with three additional sewage plants by 2020.

The severe monsoon all over South East Asia caused several thousand deaths, uncountable people were injured, lost all their belongings, and hit especially the Terai region in the South.

350 women participated in the literacy courses in the last nine years, more than one hundred in the sewing and tailoring courses. The women are happy and thankful for the opportunity of learning. They gain self-confidence and empowerment.

The sewing courses and the basic courses were in good demand again this year. In the Friday activities once a month, we want to stress the gender curriculum with topics for women and on social politics, beside cooking and celebrating. Our leading team, Mrs Beena Acharya and her husband Mr Anupendra Acharya, are doing an excellent job for the benefit of poor women.

Some women asked for hair styling courses, and a concept has been worked out – but our members meeting has decided to give priority to literacy courses in rural areas. We are in contact with a village where 50 women have expressed their need. Supported by Robin Chamlin we helped the people in Balche Thulagoan after the earth quake in 2015 (new water pipes, reconstruction of the abbey etc.). As a first step women in this village can be taught in the village school with simple means by a woman teacher, and Mr Chamlin will manage the funds. Mr Acharya has been asked to act as pedagogical advisor. Some more details need to become clear, and maybe we will be able to start with a new village women school in the near future.

A big audience came to our beneficiary concerts with Heidrun Speck and Jeschi Paul in Esslingen and the 'Beatles of Baltimore' in Hohengehren. We are going to continue with the flea-market stand at the town festival in Esslingen. Mrs Urmila from Nepal was awarded the Theodor- Häcker Prize of the city of Esslingen for showing civil courage and uprightness, and we could present our association during the event. We also showed the movie 'Urmila – the way to freedom' in Schorndorf.

Our activities are financed through member fees, donations and activities. Please, look at the newly designed website for more information.

2018 will see its highlight with the 10-years-celebration on October 6 in Patan. And we are again planning two beneficiary events in Hohengehren:

Apr 14: a theatre performance with Bianca Uhl: 'Komme was Wolle' ('Be what will be')

Dec 15: rock concert with BOB

We wish you a happy Christmas and health and satisfaction in the New Year. The world may become more peaceful and just. We don't need greed, envy, hatred nor bullshit. Trust in love, enjoy your encounters.

Keep on supporting our activities in Nepal. Thank you very much.

On behalf of all chairpersons

Detlef Gründel

