

Info-Letter 2016-2017

Dear donors and supporters!

2016 was for all of us a year of exceptional efforts as well as a year of great satisfaction. On May 14th, 2016 we could inaugurate the school building in Bhorle Rasuwa Langtang together with our colleagues Ram and Maya of NHEFON and the village population of Bhorle.

The terrible earthquake in May 2015 made exceptional commitment necessary which without you would not have been successful. Only the donations of 100,000.71 € from Germany, Switzerland and Austria made it possible to build an earthquake-proof school. A very cordial "Thank You" to all of you!

The reconstruction works in Nepal only now really get going, almost 2 years after the earthquake. Who ultimately is responsible for this, we can't tell with certainty. But the structures in the Nepalese government, and also on community and village level, are characterized by nepotism, caste-priority and greedy profit-taking. Especially Ram and Moncho Gonzales, our architect, experienced it personally. Continually new requirements in the planning process, only to be withdrawn in the next appointment, obligatory involvement of two Nepalese architects who cost much money but showed next to no commitment to the project, are just a few examples.

In January 2016, due to great perseverance of Ram Tamang on the Nepalese side and of our architect Moncho Gonzales, we were one of the first organizations to be able to start the building process.

In the building phase several NGOs made their way to Bhorle to study our way of earthquake-proof building. At this point we would like to give once more our special thanks to Ram Tamang, Moncho Gonzales and professor Kurt Rhyner of Ecosur/Switzerland. They were a super team of outstanding pragmatists and specialists in matters of earthquake-proof building.



Initial planning for the school building in November 2015 in Ram's house in Kathmandu



School opening in Bhorle/Rasuwa, on May 14th, 2016.

Regrettably, the opening found no interest at the governmental schools authority.

A "thank you" to NHEFoN failed to appear.



News from the Projects

You can find the detailed description of all projects at www.gecotec.org

Children become people

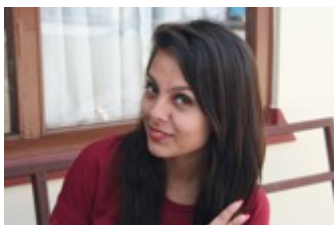
This year, several pupils and students have left our project. Most of these youths were in our project from the beginning. They will now, each in his or her own way, start to stand on their own feet, or, with our support, study or attend a training course. We wish them that they steer a good course, and we hope that in future they will support us actively in Nepal and give back some of the support they have received.

Some of the decisions the youths have taken for their future raised our doubts and we got concerns whether these decisions make sense for their lives, but these adolescents, too, have the right to make their own way and have the right to make mistakes.

Please, as a supporter, don't be disappointed if "your child" is taking a direction you can't understand.

Important for us is that they all have an income, and that due to your support the subsistence of the children is much better secured than it was when the sponsorships began.

Saying "thank you" to you for your support are:



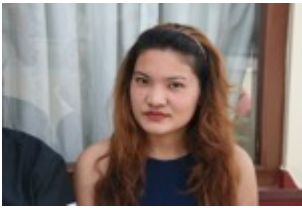
Mandira: class 10, school-leaving certificate, training course 2015, hairdresser and beautician



Nima: GCE (A-levels), 2 semesters computer science, since 11.2016 service employee in a Kuwaiti restaurant



Tshiring: GCE (O-levels), vocational training as medical health assistant, finals 2014, subsequently Bachelor studies in the medical field, financed by his own means, he is working in parallel in a hospital and thereby finances his studies



Muna: 12 years at school, school-leaving certificate, working as nursery assistant, had no wish for vocational training



Soni: GCE (A-levels), now studying economics with focus in banking



Roshni: 12 years at school, school-leaving certificate, works partly in a restaurant and partly as healer, takes care of her very ill parents and of her two younger siblings



Ayusha: GCE (A-levels), works as assistant nurse in a kindergarten, takes care of the 89 year old grandmother



Ashma: 12 years at school, school-leaving certificate, she is getting married and in addition works in a kindergarten



Rashmita: class 10, vocational training as medical health assistant



Pasrakash (picture of 2011): GCE (A-levels), studying with support of the family at his own expense



Dipesh Tamang, studied 4 semesters engineering in Kathmandu, enlisted with the Gurkha regiment, was dispatched to London, he will continue his studies there. For him a dream comes true, we had our difficulties with this decision.

Dear sponsors and supporters,

these are all journeys through life that are no different from the ones over here, only with the difference that all these children would not have had a chance of education without your support and Ram's and Maya's engagement. It is the extraordinary part of our concept, that these young adults have the chance to consider a professional perspective or studies after leaving school.

Since study and course fees in Nepal are between 500 € and 2000 €, and since we want to give all children a chance to prepare themselves for the difficult labour market, provided they have the aptitude, we continue to require donations.

Sponsoring Project in Kathmandu

The "Oldie" among the Gecotec Programmes

It's all "business as usual" according to Ram and Maya. We can accept 8 new children this year, since some youths no longer need support and left the project.

It appears problematic to us that the private schools which our children attend, cost a large amount of money, but that in the obligatory governmental final exams our pupils on average get 10% fewer marks than they used to get in their private schools in the preceding years.

This is a dilemma. As long as the state does not seriously take on the responsibility of education, the problems will not be solved. Uniform standards and free schools still are a long way away. As long as the standard of state schools remains as bad as it is now, we will have to continue to provide about 90% of the schooling for our children through private schools.

Increasingly we have to cope with the problem that the official examination results only become available up to 8 months after the exam. I.e., the youths don't know whether and how they succeeded. After the 10th form they already attend the 11th although it is not clear they have succeeded with the 10th. Of course that year must fully be paid for, even if eventually they failed to achieve the goal. After the 12th form, realization of further perspectives can't be undertaken because, e.g., enrolment for studies only is possible with the official certificate.

All this makes our planning difficult. But we've learned to be patient, not to drop contacts to our youths, and to use the time to reflect on a decision concerning formation or study.

Health Project

Good news! Our doctor Sabina Tamang can as of now resume her work for NHEFoN. She has returned from Australia.



*Health-/Project-Day
2016*

Tooth problems still are enormous.

Education by the dentists does not yet show the desired results.

Often poor sanitary facilities are among the reasons for deficient dental hygiene.

All children continue to undergo a medical examination once a year on the project day in November. The participation is obligatory, and usually parents and relatives come along as well on this day.



This year again we provided intensive education on the subject of cleaning teeth. 95% of the children have damaged teeth. In Kathmandu, too, sweets and sweetened drinks have arrived. On the one hand, the understanding of the necessity to clean teeth did not keep up with this development, on the other hand, the prerequisites for hygiene, like clean water and adequate washing places, often are not available.

In the general medical examinations 2016, no special abnormalities showed up. Occasional cases of skin problems, sinusitis and stomach complaints continue to be found.

All children receive prophylaxis against parasites of the intestines, a new toothbrush and toothpaste.

We keep being surprised how rarely the children fall ill, and with how little money a network can come into existence.

Project volume: 2,000 €



School Project Jhakribas

Small but fine!



2016

In Jhakribas, 30 children receive the necessary learning aids and school uniforms free of charge. These are prerequisites to attend school.

The greatest difficulty is to bring home to the parents that regular attendance of the children at school is a necessity.

There are positive reports from Jhakribas. There was no fluctuation this year. I.e., none of the families moved away. For 2 years now, the village has been connected to a road which unfortunately only is negotiable for half a year. This brought a little upswing to the village because it's products can now be marketed more easily, and in case of illness a hospital can be reached faster.

In 2016 Ram could visit Jhakribas with a group of guests from Lörrach. The visit of the school was impressive for them, it made it very obvious that the gap between city and country is very large, also with regard to education.

The population in Ram's and Maya's place of birth intensively endeavours to establish culture trekking in their village. A good idea to become a bit more independent of farming.



Gecotec e.V. celebrates 20 years of existence



Since 1999 Gecotec e.V. is accommodated in Freiburg's Solar Info Center free of charge

In December 1997 Gecotec e.V. was founded by assistant professor Rolf C. Buschmann in Freiburg.

Questions to assistant professor Rolf C. Buschmann

Why did you found Gecotec e.V. in 1997?

At the time, I wanted to create an instrument which would enable me to acquire subsidies and donations for our work in Latin America. My cooperation partners were Cubans and Swiss, with Gecotec e.V. we got access to European funds.

What have since been the major changes in this field?

Today, the work of Gecotec e.V. is focussed on education, and in my view Gecotec's original topics in this area are fully implemented in the current work. There are very many things that can be done in the realm of development, and a small society must focus.

Where do you see the connection between the work in Nepal and the basic idea of Gecotec?

Already in those days, the topics were transfer of technology and education. For a couple of years, there was a student exchange with Santa Clara / Cuba. As already said, today education has become the focus.

Personally, I would like to make transfer of technology a more central topic, as we discussed it just now, not because I think it is more important, but because it is my subject where I am expert and where I know it can be a tremendous support in a development cooperation, both technologically and economically, because it advances access to a stable supply of energy and increases locally added value, not to speak of the possibility of a relevant reduction of emissions.

News from Switzerland

Congratulations! New foundation and cooperation

„NEPAL Bildung & Gesundheit e.V.“

After long years of cooperation with Gecotec e.V., we, the Swiss supporters founded a separate society. As of January 7th, 2017, we have our own organization named **NEPAL Bildung & Gesundheit e.V.**. The financial conditions in Switzerland induced us to take this step. Our society is tax exempt and we now can issue donation receipts to our donors which will be acknowledged by the tax authorities. We closely cooperate with *Gecotec e.V.* and *Nepal Helping* and for the moment will not start projects of our own. The board consists of: president: Elisabeth Schwery-Kinzler (centre) secretary: Anny Heynen (right) treasurer: Roman Anderegg (left)



Cordial congratulations on the foundation of the society!

We look forward to good cooperation and we say "thank you" for the great support from Valais

A new documentary movie showing our work in Nepal has been completed!



In September 2016 Jan Keijsers and Anne Peter could complete their new project movie about their journeys between 2014 and 2016 to Kathmandu. It was a great challenge to reappraise the hectic sequence of all the events in a way that made a good story.

If your interested to show the film to your contacts, let us know. We'll be pleased to come along.

The film is available in German only. It's title is
« **Let it be - it will be good** »

It attempts to present our work in Nepal with Rhenish humour and with respect for the people and for the problems in Nepal.

Thank You

Finally, we from Gecotec e.V. NEPAL and NHEFoN would like to say a very cordial "thank you" to all of you for the support of our children, for your accessibility in emergency situations, for the frequently very personal exchanges, for your suggestions and critique, and above all however for your trust.

A hearty greeting!

Namaste,

wish you

Ram and Maya Kumar Tamang - **NHEFoN-Kathmandu**

Anne Peter (president), Jan Keijsers (Nepal delegate), Elisabeth Schwery-Kinzler (president), Mary Paukstadt (president) and Rolf C. Buschmann (president) - **Gecotec e.V.**



Donation Accunts

Gecotec e.V.

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Nepal-Bildung & Gesundheit e.V.

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