

## PSD Connect

### A Quarterly Newsletter

**The PSD Connect is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) Nepal to inform all their partners, ex-volunteers and supporters, about our activities and news. PSD Nepal is a non-profit social development organization dedicated to the alleviation of poverty of Children and youth of rural Nepal. For more information please visit [www.psdnepal.org](http://www.psdnepal.org).**

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### MESSAGE FROM the EDITOR

Namaste Friends!

We would like to thank everybody for your kind responses to our March newsletter! It is wonderful to hear from you. Here is our latest quarterly newsletter keeping you up to date with some of our work and accomplishments over the last year and give you an outlook what you can expect from PSD. Please feel free to contact us if you have any announcements, articles, or messages that you want to promote through our newsletter. We heartily welcome your views, comments, and queries regarding the work of PSD-Nepal and/or regarding the improvement of the newsletter! You can send us an email to [psdnepal@mail.com.np](mailto:psdnepal@mail.com.np) or call us at (9771)-4780369, fax 4780631.

Bishnu H. Bhatta

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### LATEST PSD NEWS

- Bishnu Bhatta, Director of PSD Nepal, attended a workshop in New Delhi "Investing in Young Children Globally" in last August. In this program there are lots of donor community people participated as well as grassroot NGOs people. It is very useful to make connection with donor organization during the workshop.
- There will be new intern working with us from September 10. She is from USA and she will stay three months working with us. There will be another volunteers from Germany working in rural community school in Chitwan for six months.
- A new cooperation has been set up with the Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada: 4 students will come to Nepal in the 11 September to end of November to do some service work in two different organizations: One group will work at a Primary Health Care Center and another group will work in Reacher Council. All groups will be provided with a Nepali counterpart.
- For this year's summer program, student groups from two British universities have been working.: In total, 12 volunteers from the University of Bristol (BVDA) completed their project and now they are exploring more Nepal and 10 from the University of Oxford (ODA) will be finishing their assignment on 13 September. All four groups have been working in the Ilam District in the very East of Nepal.
- One University from USA decided to visit Nepal with their students in coming May 2015 which is very good news for us which is a new connection with us. Before that, two professors visited Nepal to finalize the program with their students. There is another school who is interested to bring their students in Nepal in January 2015 and we are in process of developing the program for them. Also City U students want to revisit school and do some project work in same school where they worked before at the end of this year which is very good news. We have been in discussing phase with some other university also and hoping that they will also join our hand soon.

## Volunteers stories: Our life and work in Nepal, City University Hong Kong

During this summer there were 23 students, one project officer carried out volunteers program with PSD Nepal and one Associate Profession did monitoring visit during there work. Three groups of Social work students worked for 4 weeks and City-Youth Empowerment Project students carried out 2 weeks service in rural school in Nepali. All the students are from Department of Applied Social Sciences. In the service program, they assisted in English teaching, organizing extra-curricular activities and school hardware improvement in 4 different schools. Though they only stayed in the school for 10 days, students were energized and empowered, teachers were inspired and PSD was impressed by their effort paid and program organized. And after they went back to Hong Kong, they composed a detailed report which includes evaluation and recommendations for the school. They aim at providing suggestion for sustainable change and improvement by the school. Volunteers from City-Youth Empowerment Project were so grateful to join such a meaningful and memorable service program organized by PSD. Some pictures of activities volunteers carried out during their placement work.



### LEE Kar Hooi, Rachel - BBA Accountancy Year 2



In this service trip, the greatest difficulty is neither the demand on our stamina nor the professional knowledge, it was about communication. We are only able to speak some basic Nepali vocabulary, while they just understand simple English. Yet, from their body languages and facial expressions, I felt the genuine of love. Although it was only a short time, we were like intimate brothers and sisters. Regardless background and everything, Love and passion became the bonding between me and the kids; it breaks the boundaries and connects us together. What happened in these two weeks are just like movie plots, and the time flied so fast especially when together with the kids. We tried to maximize what we can do for the kids during that time, even just teaching an English song. I never know how great a small thing can be achieved until I overheard the kids were singing by themselves after I walked out from the classroom. I also would never forget the smiles on the kids' face and the courage they gave me. This is just an inspiring soul trip, and it is more than I can say.

### CHIU Ka Chun, Gary - BA Linguistics and Language Technology Graduate

Throughout this two-week trip, I realize that it is not an easy task to run a school. All of us took the responsibility and committed ourselves to designing activities and development program for both students and school and doing labor work for hardware improvement. After working at school for the whole day and getting tired, we were still devoted to discussing and planning the details of the school activities and program, ranging from how to attract students to use the library to how to ensure the art and sport competition would run smoothly. Our host, Bikal, gave



us a lot of freedom to work for our program and was receptive to our ideas. Other than school work, I learnt a lot about Nepali cultures from him and the Nepali counterpart, Sandarva, such as singing the national anthem, traditional Nepali songs, eating with hands and describing the history of education in Nepal. Even though we had no experience in education and school management, we had energy, ideas

and innovation. There are a lot more we could have done during this trip, for example, teacher development, demonstration of using the new resources and facility improvement. But we were glad to make this commitment and do everything for the sake of the school development and students' future.

### **CHUNG Hei Ting, Gody - BSSc Social Work Year 3**



We encountered serious language barriers and we could only rely on the very elementary level of Nepali to communicate with the students. However, the body languages and the amazing human interactions helped us to overcome this barriers and minimized the disparities among us. Students always wore a smiley face and approached us actively, in which we had established a close and genuine relationships in this short period of time. Relationship is always mutual. When we worked with them passionately and truly, they would always felt our care and carried our influence with them.

Moreover, the counterpart from PSD also helped us a lot throughout the trip in doing the translation, assisting us in buying new stocks and introducing the Nepali's culture to us. From the experience, it reminded me to serve with a genuine heart. Most importantly, the trip also inspired me to think more on the role of volunteer and the importance voluntary trip. It is not only for us to experience the living of underprivileged or expanding our horizon, yet, it is all about what we could bring and change there. I was reminded to think in a more long term eyesight which could really enhance the learning environment of the school or even the community. Students whom I have met there had high potentials and strengths, however, their strengths were under-utilized due to the environmental constraints. This also reminded me that how environment affected one's growth. As a volunteer, the activities we held may not demonstrate an effect shortly or change the living significantly. However, the small acts counted and contributed to bring changes for others 'live. What I have impressed most was the determination and passion among the volunteers to fight for a better future for the Nepal students and teachers.

### **TSO Ka Hei, Heidi - BSSc Social Work Year 3**

This service trip allows me to explore more on Nepal. Before coming to this country, I was curious about the education system and living environment. We wanted to bring some long term impact to the school. The 2 weeks service was unforgettable. We need to wash our clothes in the public bath, walk up a steep slope in every morning, dig a road in school, and manage the library. Although there were many things to do and follow up everyday, we felt satisfied. The most memorable activity was the inauguration ceremony. The ceremony raised the teachers and students' attention towards the student leaders. They were proud of their duties and became more confident. Within the service, we built up a trust relationship with students, understand more the school environment, worked with limitations. I cherish the moment playing with students, I also reflect more on my own values and living. If I have given a chance, I hope to come back to this beautiful country again.



### **Rubina RIAZ, Rubina - BSSc Asian & International Studies Year 2**



The service trip to Nepal has been a greatly meaningful and worthwhile experience for me. Through PSD I, along with my group, had a chance to contribute to the teaching and management services of Gram Lower secondary school. The opportunity gave me an incredible chance to work with the locals while living with them to make a difference in the education at the school. This trip did not only allow me to contribute to their society it also educated me about the living style, culture and tradition of the locals which has broaden my horizons about the social system and education culture in developing countries. I must say that while working in school I have also learnt a great deal about the library

management, ECA arrangement and teaching in a multilingual setting. Although working in a rural area came with various challenges including the diverse weather conditions and other local factors that would often lead to big changes in our plans it was an immensely fruitful opportunity for us.

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## What Volunteers said about the program

Mak Ao Ling

"I think it is a golden chance to step out our comfort zone to explore more in the world. Visiting a new country, learning a new culture, meeting and communicating with people can broaden our horizon. However, I think people who want to volunteer in Nepal need to consider how to adapt in a different culture (e.g. food, drinks, and habit)"

Lo Hot Him

"If you want to volunteer in Nepal, you have to be one of the Nepal we follow Nepali culture, learn about the caste system, always chat with host family members and students, attend and enjoy all the members with the local people beside, we should keep remind are expectation, role and what we can learn from Nepal culture"

Riaz Rubina

"There might be many uncertainties and your pre-planned schedule might be disturbed by the environmental for other factors but that shouldn't stop you from contributing to this place because these people are keenly looking forward to your efforts and they want to improve the situation as much as you want"

Chung Hei Ting

"In deed, the rural school and the education in Nepal presented loads of improvement –what volunteer did not just built room for the hardware for the school but also bring non-tangible knowledge and skills for them"

Heidi Tso

"Don't forget attitude is more important than plans. Try your best to understand and integrate In to Nepal culture and think of some long term plans to your placement"

Sasha Selkirk

"Volunteering in Nepal has been an unforgettable experience and are that I would recommend to anyone. The country is overwhelmingly beautiful but be prepared for the unpredictability of the weather. Nepal people are one of the most friendly and most hospitable that I have ever encountered. I can't think of any other way I would rather have spent my summer teaching English to such reciprocative and enthusiastic children has made me reconsider my future and I have met some people that I will truly never ever forget."

Rebecca Millington

"I really enjoyed sharing a culture which has to many similarities and differ enter to my own teaching. To other who want to join volunteer programme, go for it! It is an eye-opening way to spend any spare time and a memorable, invaluable experience, which all the opportunities available to me."

Shailini Vora

"I would definitely recommend volunteering in Nepal. I have never met such friendly people who are so generous, loving and hospitable the students were great too. Polite in the Lessons and once they had got to know us they were much happy to answer and question in classes and joke around with us. I feel that working in a secondary school was effective as we communicate better with them. Also found that, we could teach them new concept that local teacher could not, for example about English idioms or different culture teaching as very enjoyable way. We had unforgettable experience and genuinely unique take over thing with us to adapt to the new environment and enjoy every moment."

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