



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, past volunteers and supporters, about 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.

MESSAGE FROM the EDITOR

Namaste Friends!

We would like to thank everybody for your kind responses to our September 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 or call us at (9771)-4780369, fax 4780631.

Bishnu H. Bhatta

LATEST PSD NEWS

Education Diplomacy:

Joyfully we announce the arrival of the international Early Childhood experts visiting Nepal from 28 December to 10 January 2015 for the Early Childhood Education Summit. They come to promote Early Childhood Education in Nepal by collaborating with Specialists in Early Childhood Education from the Association of Child Education International (ACEI), USA. Nepal urgently strives to advance the concepts of educational diplomacy, early childhood development and learning through thoughtful and focused collaborative initiatives. During this visit, the group will visit different ECD centers, private and public schools and different national and international organizations, including the department of education and ministry. The main Early Childhood Summit will be a day long event consisting of eight thematic working group discussions by Nepal Partners and IOC representatives. The summit is an invitational conference with a maximum of 80 participants.

How the summit is organized:

The summit will begin with an opening ceremony and a set of presentations that provide background and context for the program and lay out key areas of focus. The program participants will then separate into eight tracks, each of which will focus on a different topic. The topics are: children rights, parental involvement in care and education of young children, capacity development of early childhood workers (teachers, facilitators, caregivers), taking care of homeless/abandoned/orphaned children, early childhood curriculum, Education Diplomacy, Girl Education and Cultural and Linguistic Diversity. Each track will examine previous/pre-summit work on the topic; hold a discussion on the current situation, including issues and challenges; identify areas for improvement and action items; and explore areas for further research. On completion of this phase, the participants in each track will present their findings to the full conference. Finally, the conference will end with a set of closing remarks that will provide perspective and a call to action.

Expected outcomes:

The ECED Nepal development summit will produce a number of important outcomes that ultimately benefit the children of Nepal. First, it will raise awareness of ECD issues, and stimulate thought and discussion. This will be accomplished through presentations by international delegates. Coverage of the conference will help mobilize media on the topic. Secondly, the program will increase knowledge about ACEI's mission in Nepal and the region and drive increased ACEI membership. Thirdly, the group will support and mentor ECD leadership in Nepal. Fourthly, the increased awareness generated by the program will help drive lobbying and advocacy on behalf of children. Finally, the program will help identify research topics and develop proposals to improve ECD in Nepal and drive future work. Beside this, the summit will help the formation of a special interest group in Nepal, develop collaborative partnerships with international experts at institutional and individual levels, document best educational practices, Develop advocacy materials for future research and service efforts in Nepal and build a foundation for future projects and initiatives in Nepal.

Institute for Collaborative Education, Youth Media/Citizen Journalism and Artworks Exchange Program: "Reaching People Through Pictures" a collaborative effort of School in Manhattan, New York, USA and Triratna Secondary School, Bungmati, Nepal

This program is a unique opportunity to be part of an international collaboration. Students and educators will work together in creating visits from various worldwide communities researching topics, sharing information, developing curriculums and communicating through photography, art, film, creative writing, journalism, and community service. The aim of this overall program is to create sustainable relationships among educators, students, and communities worldwide. This partnership effort is hoped to reach beyond the schools and include linking the communities together, in a way this will be achieved through the creation of a Youth Media, Creative Writing and Arts program within participating schools.

The I.C.E. Youth Media /CJ Program will be visiting and working with students and educators in Nepal. An I.C.E. teacher and students will be working closely with teachers and students from a local Nepali school. It is hoped that a long lasting partnership will be created and will continued far into the future. Cultural exchange is obviously a major component of a program of this type. Working side-by-side on placement activities gives both overseas students and community members opportunities to learn from each other. Each party learns new perspectives and new ways of solving problems.

In total of 15 Youth Media students and one teacher from I.C.E. will travel to Nepal. These students are committed to the key concepts of Youth Media, art, and community service. During the training program in Nepal, the curriculum will be two-fold: Individual students will be trained on how to use photography to tell their own stories about life and community part one and Teams of student "newsmakers" will be shown how to pitch, prepare, and report stories on a wide range of local topics: everything from regional political issues, to family and community history, and, personal profiles and lifestyles part two.

All the students who are coming from USA are more or less trained in photography. The idea is to work with children involving art to raise awareness and to provide an opportunity for these children to learn how to take good photos. At the end, these photographs will used for fund raising (sell out) for their educational futures.

We will select equal numbers of students from different age groups from Nepali schools and provide art and photography training by Students from USA. Each child will have a camera (which is brought by US school) to take photos of what will inspired them during their excursion to different places in Kathmandu. Each child will select at least one photo and will be written a short abstract as to why they picked that specific photo which will be published in the journal.

PSD – Nepal is very excited to have the opportunity to work with schools over this new program. With our resources, development expertise, and experience in partnering with overseas and Nepali organizations, we believe we can help schools provide amazing learning opportunities to students.

Volunteer's stories: OXadventure and Partnership for Sustainable Development: Erradicating Poverty through Education

By: Nora Al-Ruwaished

OXadventure is a Kuwaiti based non-profit organization. The organization designs and executes volunteer opportunities abroad for the youth in Kuwait to step outside their comfort zones and experience volunteerism while interacting and living with the locals. Some volunteers come as interns who receive three credits for university and some come as volunteers without credits just for the experience.



During their OXNepal project, OXadventure teamed up with Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) to complete their charity work. PSD is a non-governmental, social development organization, which aims to support the poorest and most vulnerable communities in Nepal. Through the vast experience of its staff, PSD has the capability to facilitate social transformation, empowerment and to provide consultancy for the execution, monitoring and evaluation of development project activities. During the OXNepal project they were able to work with OXadventure founders to locate the school, sort out the budget and execute the project by ensuring the materials arrived on time and the project was complete in the set amount of days.



Over the course of 10 days, the team experienced Nepal and all its beauty by trekking and camping in Pokhara for 5 days, and then the team of 17 youth made their way to Kathmandu. The team restored GarmaSudhar School in Kathmandu Valley and built a basketball court to encourage the children to play sports and be active and healthy while keeping them off of the streets. In collaboration with Q8 Books, a non-profit library in Kuwait, the team arranged a library for the children to engage in leisurely or studious reading. Also they provided textbooks for all ages. In collaboration with Teachers Cellar, a teachers resource supply company in Kuwait, we were able to donate teacher's resources to help aid the teachers in educating the students as efficiently as possible. A cement pathway was created to prevent the school from flooding and classes canceling during the monsoon season. The artists in the group gathered together to paint murals on the classroom walls and repair the chalkboards., providing a more inspiring and pleasant educational ambiance.



OXadventure strives for sustainable development and hopes to help others around the world help themselves. It is the organization's firm belief that education is the key to eradicating poverty and that sustainable development projects and volunteerism are not options, they are a



necessity. We are all citizens of the world and some of us are more fortunate than others. Sharing, educating and cross-cultural exchange are elements in life that can inspire and change an individual in ways they may never expect.

In the future, OXadventure hopes to work with PSD to coordinate income-generating activities for the school itself so that the teachers will have salaries and so that they can be more self-reliant. OXadventure participants will brainstorm how to create more jobs and how they can help the Nepali school generate money so that they do not have to wait on others to help them. The

team will focus on improving education in the school through technology by working on collecting laptops to build a small computer lab and provide lessons to the teachers so the students can begin to enter the realm of internet and technology, as the internet is a never-ending educational resource for both the teachers and students alike, and an important part of today's fast-paced world.

OXadventure hopes that their efforts help to make international relations between Kuwait and Nepal stronger. As Kuwaitis we are accustomed to having Nepalese assist us in our country and in our homes, and the youth of Kuwait believe it is important to give back to the people who assist you. Though there have been many issues with Nepalese entering Kuwait and being mistreated, unappreciated and, in horrific cases, abused, the youth would like to take this opportunity to say that we are doing a part to make equally positive changes within our own borders and trying to alternatives to society's ignorance and mental confusion that has continued for too long. We hope this is just the beginning.



Volunteers Stories

By: Evan Hutchinson, Erin Lee, Eva Habib and Catherine Smith

This fall, PSD collaborated with Canada's Simon Fraser University to initiate a new project for the school's co-operative education program. In early September, we, four under-graduate students, began our journey to Kathmandu, Nepal to begin our three month placement. As we are all pre-medical students in varying fields, PSD provided us with a few opportunities to experience and observe differing areas and levels of clinical care related to the health and well-being of Nepali people.

After a few days studying the Nepali language and learning about culture in the beautiful and quiet Dhulikhel, we made our way into the busy Kathmandu to begin our first placement at the Nepal Health Research Council. Here, we input years of research proposals into an electronic format for easy-future reference. Reading the proposals was very educational in terms of understanding the types of diseases and health issues that people all over the country experience and also the efforts that are made to relieve these problems.

We then moved into Kathmandu's Model Hospital where we were given the opportunity to observe direct clinical care from the neurosurgery ward to the emergency room. Despite not being current medical students but only pre-medical, there was not much we could assist with but we were fortunate enough to find some doctors who were willing to explain their work and discussions with patients. This provided a useful opportunity to expose us to the clinical side of health care in a developing world.

Our last placement was at a rural health post located in Dhapakhel which was similar to the Model Hospital other than the smaller amount of resources and technology. At this placement, we were able to witness the care provided at a primary level and outside the busy city.

Outside of our work, we fully immersed ourselves into Nepali life and culture. We ate local foods such as daalbhaat and dudhchiyaa everyday, we haggled in the markets, and we took public transit. From our few trips into the tourist area of Thamel, we realized how different our experience was from any other typical tourist who visits Kathmandu. It's been quite the journey for all of us during the three months we spent in Nepal. It has been incredibly eye-opening living and working in a developing country and we have all returned with new perspectives of the world. For anyone planning to visit Nepal, we highly suggest experiencing the real-Kathmandu as well as visiting the beautiful sights outside of the city.

To subscribe to the PSD Connect, please send an email to psdnepal@mail.com.np with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. If you do not wish to receive our newsletter anymore, please return this note with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.