



PSD Connect

A quarterly **E-NEWSLETTER**

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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 good wishers, about our activities and news. PSD-Nepal is a not-for-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 EDITORIAL

Dear Friends!

We would like to thank you for your warm responses to our last newsletter! Since the first two newsletters have been such a great success, we enthusiastically present our third newsletter. We will publish our newsletter on regular basis as schedule to keep you informed about PSD-Nepal, its work and results. This month's newsletter will mainly focus on the stories of intern volunteers about their personal experiences with working in Nepal. Additionally this newsletter will give you a brief update of the projects that have been finalized, the current situation in Nepal, what PSD-Nepal envisions in the future and of course how you can help us. Please feel free to write to us if you have any announcement, article and message you want to spread out through our newsletter and also Comments or questions regarding the work of PSD-Nepal or regarding the newsletter are more than welcome! You can send us an email psdnepal@mail.com.np or phone to (9771)-4780369/ 4780631.

Bishnu Bhatta

LATEST PSD NEWS

Our last intern Charlotte van der Tak has successfully completed her 5 months assignment in PSD Nepal. We have been raising our profile in Netherlands and presented her experience in different universities in Netherlands. In response her presentation, we already received some email from interested people who are planning to do intern with PSD Nepal. Also, Alice Roberts completed her assignment in December as a volunteer for PSD Nepal.

Minna Pimia from Finland will be working as an intern with us for 5 months from February 22 to 19 July 2007.

Marcel Grella from Germany who is studying in the Netherlands will also work with us as an intern and he will work with us as well as with our partner NGOs for their capacity building.

On the 30 of December PSD-Nepal has organized a health camp in Manohar, Kathmandu district. This health camp has been enabled by the facilitation of a general physician, a child specialist, a dentist, gynecologist, nursing staff and pharmacists. All the facilities, including medicine distribution, were provided to two rural communities of Manohara free of cost. This was among others enabled through JustAid that was able to raise money to buy medicines, to pay the doctors fee and logistic expenses for the health camp. Additionally this health camp was hosted by the local organization Manohara Community Hospital that was responsible for

the day to day organization of the health camp. From PSD-Nepal's side, Mohan and Bishnu have been working in the health camp as a facilitator.

During the Christmas and New Year period JustAid was able to raise the fund to fund 36 small skill projects that are in the process of implementation. Thank you very much for all who have donated fund and helped to make this come true. Let us to do our best to raise the profile and to get more donors who can help poor people of Nepal.



PSD was invited to inaugurate the school building in Himalaya Secondary School, Chitwan and Rastrya Primary School, Bramapuri, Chitwan which was built by summer project and Just Aid project.

Above: Himalaya Secondary School, Champanagar, Chitwan. built by SVA group 2006.

Left: Shree Rastrya Primary School, Bramhapur, Chitwan, built by PSD with support from JustAid. PSD staff was inaugurated the building during school yearly program.

There will be 20 Medical students coming to work with us in this Easter. They will be working in Manohara Community Hospital, Kathmandu, Malekhu Community Hospital, Malekhu, Dhading, Stupa Community Hospital, Boudha, Kathmandu, Dhapakhel Health Post, Dhapakehl, Lalitpur and there will be exposure in Model hospital, Kathmandu. The medical students also help to organize a health camp during their placement.

Abroad Training: Roshana Maharjan – Programme Assistant of PSD Nepal has completed her 3 weeks conflict transformation training in Bangkok and got back this week. It will be very helpful to run PSD activities in the field of conflict with her skills that she gained in Bangkok training.

In Country Training: PSD Nepal has been running in house skill development training for the youth. At the moment, there are 15 participants taking part in this training and this is the fifth batch of the training. It will be continuously run at the PSD office.

INTERNS' STORIES

From August till November last year I did an internship in Kathmandu with Partnership for Sustainable Development Nepal (PSD-Nepal) as a part of my master in International Development (Wageningen University, The Netherlands). This has been a great learning experience in every sense.

In the office I mainly worked on promotional material, newsletters, proposals, internal communication, reports, etc for the organisation. I felt at home with the organisation immediately due to the open and friendly character of all staff members. They were always willing to answer my questions and ready to help me.

At the start of my stay Bishnu Hari Bhatta (programme Director for volunteer programs) took me to see some PSD summer volunteer projects in Chitwan. This gave me the chance to see a completely different part of Nepal and to see what kind of work the volunteers do. It was amazing to see the dedication and effort of these volunteers, and how much they manage to achieve for the community within a short period of time.

In the same region I also visited several projects set up by PSD through the 'Just Aid' program. It was striking to see that throughout this relatively small area so much has been achieved by these projects. With my own eyes I saw the way that PSD really addresses the most basic needs of local communities and poor government schools: from the construction of classrooms and water pumps, to toilet block and water wells. It amazed me to what extent PSD minimises its overhead costs to ensure that a maximum benefit for the different target group.

Throughout my stay in Nepal I was housed by a typical Nepalese family. This enabled me to become familiar with more aspects of the Nepalese culture and the Nepalese. Roti and tarkary (typical Nepalese food) were on the menu daily and every single night I loved it. The best thing was being part of their family.

Although I spent most of my time in the capital city, Kathmandu, I was exposed to a fair share of Nepalese culture. Apart from living with a Nepalese family, one of my colleagues at PSD (Roshna Maharjan) took me all around the city. She showed me different festivals, typical Newar food, took me to a special Newar Pujaa at the famous Budhanilkantha Temple, and even introduced to her relatives.

All in all my internship has been an experience never to forget. I would recommend anyone who wants to contribute to the development of Nepal, and is not afraid of hard work and getting their hands dirty, to do an internship or a volunteer project with PSD-Nepal.

Charlotte van der Tak - Netherland

At the end of 2005, I spent several months assisting in PSD's head Office, Kathmandu. It was great to settle for a while, as I had spent the previous two years working and traveling around Asia and Australasian, and laying my bags to rest for a while was a welcomed break.

The placement came about due to a friendship that myself and Tirtha Raj Poudel, the Programme Manager, built up whilst I was working in Nepal as a volunteer in 2001.

It was during this period that I first fell in love with Nepal: the people, the breathtaking scenery, and the vibrancy of culture that blows every newcomer away, all made it clear to me that I had to return one day, and thankfully I was fortunate enough to get that opportunity – with the added bonus of working with PSD.

At first I was dubious about what I was going to do whilst there and how I could contribute to their organisation. However, it soon became clear that skills that I held could be utilised, and in return I too gained and learnt a lot.

I began assisting PSD in developing networks between themselves and universities within the UK and internationally, researching possible long term financial donors and fundraising opportunities, editing and proof reading a variety of documentation, and helping to refresh their vision and mission statements to reflect new areas of focus.

Even during the short period that I was with PSD I felt like a lot changed, new opportunities and developments in work occurred daily, spurring new confidence and excitement for all involved. I would like to thank everyone that made my time there so memorable, and wish them every success as they go from strength to strength, which I have every confidence they will!

Alice R. Roberts - UK

FUTURE PLANS

PSD-Nepal has been linking up with the Universities of Aberdeen, Oxford, Birmingham and Glasgow to send volunteers to work in Nepal. The universities of Bristol and Dandee are also in process of sending volunteers to work with us in the summer of 2007. Since the security situation has now been stabilized, we are ever so happy to conduct the project in the remote and beautiful places such as Ilam and Baglung, where help is most needed.

PEACE IN NEPAL!!!

After signing the Comprehensive Peace Accord by the eight political parties a lot changes have been taking places. Interim House of Representatives has been formed. They are working for the General election of Constituency Assembly which will be held during in June 07.

UN has completed the Arm Verification and its management. Very soon there will be a new collision government (interim government) will be formed including Maoist. Eight Parties are holding talks in different levels to form an Interim Government. Everybody from different walk of life and at different level is working for the development of New Nepal.

Apart from this, the ethnic groups, marginalized groups as well as the terrain people putting forward their demand for the representation in the new constituent. Hope this sort of problems will be sorted out very soon and there will be enough room for the development workers in reconstruction, rehabilitation and even in the relief work at places where for the post war situations are.

JUST AID AND YOUR CONTRIBUTION

We are happy to share that in Christmas and New Year time JustAid has attracted several donors through their website, which enabled 36 projects to take place in Nepal. We are optimistic to get support each month few projects. Please visit the JustAid website; **www.JustAid.org.uk**, to see the requests that come from the poor communities and government schools of Nepal.

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