



DOLMA FOUNDATION ..The Netherlands

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Spring 2016 Newsletter and Annual Financial Report

Dear readers, it is already June again, and therefore high time that we bring you up to date on the latest news that we have received.



Prime Minister Lobsang Sangay at the sponsor plaque.

There were celebrations in Bir on 17 May! Sufficient progress had been made on the construction of the village for Tibetan ex-political prisoners who had fled to India on their release from prison, to open it officially. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Internal Affairs came to Bir for the opening, and of course the opening was accompanied by many rituals and blessings, and a big feast. The occupants of the houses are very happy that they can live together as Tibetans who have had the same traumatic experiences, and no longer have to pay exorbitant rents elsewhere. By our standards the houses are very small, but of course nothing beats having one's own home. We can be proud of the fact that we have contributed a total of € 33.288 and that the name of the Dolma Foundation is also listed on the sponsor plaque.

Last year we financed the construction of a new water tank in Camp 5, and this is working very well! In the last newsletter we asked for a donation for the renewal of the water pipelines as well, and successfully so! The pipelines are in working order again and the inhabitants of Camp 5 can be assured of a good water supply for a good many years to come. We received an enthusiastic letter of thanks, with much praise for our foundation, and our contact person in Mundgod mentioned that this letter was also read out loud during a general meeting of camp leaders. I would like to pass this praise on to you!

Another water project is the irrigation system for the mango orchard of the Rato Monastery. Last year the monastery received a donation from us for the purchase of mango saplings. As the orchard land is situated higher than the surroundings, it was necessary to set up an irrigation system. Thanks to a donation of € 2.500 from the ASN foundation, they could sink a borehole, and there is now enough water to ensure good growth for the trees. We have pleasure in showing you an aerial photo of the mango and cashew plantations. Every green dot is a Dolma tree which is already bearing fruit here in Camp 8.





Tibetans are mad about football! This spring, a big football tournament was organised in Mundgod. Teams from all the camps dispersed in the whole of India and Nepal came together to compete in the championship. This is always a big festivity, drawing many Tibetans. For the first time the players could enjoy running water to drink and to shower in. You have most probably guessed that the setting up of this water supply has been financed by Dolma! It is lovely to be able to contribute in this way to the social cohesion of the community.

During my visit last year, I received a request for help with the renovation of the large community hall. This is where important guests are received, and where the entire population is often addressed. It also hosts many cultural events and in this way the hall serves an important function for interpersonal communication and the preservation of the culture. After 20 years of use, this hall is in a bad state, and certainly no longer an attractive venue for such an important purpose. Thanks to the many donations we received from you, we can already finance this project in large part. It involves the considerable amount of € 12.000! The first € 3.600 has been transferred and a committee has been set up to deal with the various renovation activities. This involves the improvement of the water supply; the repair of the walls, windows and roof; the electrical installation; and a complete repainting, necessitated by the hot and humid conditions. Through your help, there will be a lovely, renovated hall for all special meetings. The first big event in the hall will be the visit of H.H. the Dalai Lama in July! Isn't that fantastic!

A generator has been bought for the old age home. The amount they had asked for turned out not to be enough to buy a generator with a sufficient capacity, so we have doubled the amount of the donation to € 3.000. There is now a large generator which is amply sufficient. During electricity cuts (nearly a daily event) the fans can continue to turn to provide some cooling in this frequently hot climate. The fridge and the freezers no longer shut down and the food in them is no longer lost, and that is a considerable saving. How nice that we have jointly been able to make this a reality.



The grateful elderly

So we have together again achieved a great deal. It is always surprising that we can jointly raise enough money to meet the most important requests for help. And this will continue for as long as there are no real solutions for the Tibetans dispersed in camps. In this respect, a **large new project** was recently proposed to us.

The population in the 9 camps of Mundgod keeps on growing. Twelve year ago a good 13.000 people lived there, and now there are nearly 18.000. Many of them are monks and nuns who are well housed in the monasteries and nunneries. It is not the same for the lay population. The shortage of housing that has been making itself felt over the years, is now so great that it has been decided to build a new residential area. This will be called Camp 10. A committee has been set up to concern itself with this large housing expansion and the Central Administration has made an amount of about € 50.000 available. Several farm families who had been given agricultural land but have proved more successful in trading, have made their land available for this new development. The plan is to house about 50 families. To begin with, the area has been opened up with a new road, and walled. There are many building activities planned for the years to come, for which a great deal of money must be collected. This would seem to be a good project for Dolma to become involved in. As a first small contribution we have donated E650 to making the area more accessible. Of course we do this in proper consultation with the local authorities. Further requests will surely follow, and as soon as we know more we will keep you informed. This is a new project with which we can make many people happy!

In the financial report of last year, you will notice a clear increase in income. HURRAH! We are extremely happy that you are continuing to support the Tibetan people with small and large donations. This will also allow us to continue giving assistance with medical expenses.

We have noticed that the interest in sponsoring people has slowly been declining. Apparently it is too heavy a commitment to undertake a sponsorship for a period of 3 years. Fortunately the Dolma Foundation can help the people who are in extreme need from the general kitty. We still would like to bring to your attention some people who have sent us requests in the past months.



Tashi and Dolma have 4 talented children. Their mother also lives with them. Their only source of income is the clothing that Tashi sells in the winter. Both the parents and the grandmother have many ailments, and high medical expenses. The children receive partial bursaries, but there are still too many extra expenses. A monthly financial support would help them.



Chime Khando is a widow and lives with her deaf son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. Her son is an assistant to a street trader and earns very little. There is urgent need for support with medical expenses and the education of the children.



Tashi, an Indian street child, was adopted by an elderly Tibetan. He has been accepted completely in the Tibetan community and has married a Tibetan. They have 4 children. He also has Tibetan voting rights. Their house is very dilapidated and he earns very little as a security guard. This mixed family could make good use of your help.

At present there is great turmoil in this world. There are so many people who have been driven from their birth country and have become dependent on people who are well off and wish to share some of this. We have to make choices, as we cannot help all needy people, as much as we would all like to do so. From our little corner of the world we are doing our best to support the Tibetan community, so that these people can live with a bit of human dignity and preserve their beautiful culture. I hope that you can enjoy the freedom we have here, and the possibility to do many things that are unthinkable in other parts of the world. I wish you a wonderful summer. Tashi Delek.

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Franz de Reeper

In response to our previous newsletter, there was a request for information about the Tibetan government in India. Here I would like to give a short description. Until 2011 the Dalai Lama was the head of state and the spiritual leader of the Tibetans. In that year he withdrew as head of state, as he wanted to have a fully democratically elected government. The Tibetan people did not really want this, but they finally respected his wishes. The most important member of the **Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamsala** is the Prime Minister. He is chosen from, and by the people, for a period of 5 years. The Prime Minister appoints 6 ministers and together they form the Council of Ministers. These Ministries are Internal Affairs, Education, Health, Safety, Finance, and Information and International Relationships. The Council of Ministers is controlled by Parliament. Parliament is also elected by the people, and has 45 members: 10 originally from each of the 3 provinces of Tibet, 2 from each of the five religious lineages, and 2 from the Tibetan communities in Europe and the USA, and one from Australia.

A **refugee settlement** (in Mundgod this consists of 9 camps and two large monasteries) is governed as follows. For the whole camp there is an elected local assembly, made up of lay people and monks. This assembly advises the officials of the camp office, where the 'representative' holds the highest rank. The representative is an employee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and therefore only has authority over matters falling under this Ministry, such as housing, the care of the elderly, economic development, sport, etc. (Other concerns falling directly under the other 5 Ministries are governed directly from Dharamsala.) Every camp in the refugee settlement has a camp leader who is chosen from, and by, the inhabitants of the village for a period of one year. The camp leader has no real authority, but is required to see to the interests of the camp. He has a number of assistants who will carry messages to all the homes.

The monasteries have their own governing structure and are completely independent of the Central Government.

For additional photos and reports see www.facebook.com/TibetFondsDolma/

DOLMA FOUNDATION				
Contributions		2015		2014
donations and sponsor contributions	€ 41.020,52			
annuities received	€ 14.152,00			
legacies	€ 2.500,00			
Individual donations	+ -----	€ 57.672,52		€ 50.253,55
Broeders Joannes de Deo	€ 500,00			
PDX services	€ 600,00			
Putoshan	€ 360,00			
Het Consultancyhuis	€ 11.340,00			
Stichting De Schelp/de Boekenboog	€ 6.940,10			
Rebuild your Life	€ 360,00			
ASN Foundation	€ 2.500,00			
Zen.nl	€ 1.000,00			
donations from legal entities	+ -----	€ 23.600,10		€ 10.728,00
		+ -----	€ 81.272,62	€ 61.335,20
Interest		242,27		€ 353,65
Total Income		+ -----	€ 81.514,89	€ 61.688,85
Expenditures				
Individual sponsorship	€ 33.512,12			
bank costs individual sponsorship	€ 624,00			
	+ -----	€ 34.136,12		€ 30.445,83
<i>Projects</i>				
medical assistance+	€ 2.430,00			
scholarships	€ 2.932,00			
winter schools	€ 1.186,00			
Ladakhi Nuns Association dr. Palmo	€ 643,00			
school near monastery in Tibet	€ 2.493,00			
housing of ex-prisoners in Bir*	€ 7.313,00			
renovation water tank Camp 5	€ 5.800,00			
school books	€ 713,00			
Old age people home Mundgod generator and o	€ 4.779,00			
Rato Dratsang mango and cashew saplings	€ 2.493,00			
Agricultural project research evaluation	€ 800,00			
Nepal, on account of earthquake	€ 960,00			
Various minor expenditures Central School Mun	€ 1.277,00			
Water tank sports complex C3 1 st phase	€ 513,00			
	+ -----	€ 34.332,00		€ 25.036,50
bank costs projects	€ 196,00			
travel expenses re visit to projects	€ 850,41			
	+ -----	€ 1.046,41		€ 371,10
secretarial costs	€ 153,23			
stamps	€ 168,36			
printing	€ 200,00			
telephone/internet	€ 308,00			
general bank costs	€ 142,30			
	+ -----	€ 971,89		€ 946,82
Total expenditures			€ 70.486,42	€ 56.800,25
Dolma reserves end 2014	€ 22.680,24			€ 17.791,64
To be added to the reserves	€ 11.028,47			
Balance end 2015**	€ 33.708,71			€ 22.680,24
*This project will continue into 2016				
**For the balance see our website				