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**BISTAND SOM VIRKER**



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[www.norge-nepal.no](http://www.norge-nepal.no). Pdf filen sendes direkte til medlemmer som har e-post.  
 De som ikke har internett får sendt en printet papirversjon i posten.

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Forsidetegningen: Sigmund Setreng

# The 25th Anniversary Seminar

**O**n Saturday, November 14th, Voksenåsen was wrapped in thick fog. This did not prevent more than 60 persons to find the way and to participate in the seminar. During an intensive day, from 9.30 in the morning until six o'clock in the afternoon, we listened to excellent presentations about the current political, economic, and health care conditions in Nepal, and about the work that Norwegian organizations and individuals have done to enhance the development of Nepal. All presentations are included in this special issue of Hamro Patrika. Please contact the relevant speaker if you want to use information from a PowerPoint presentation. All photos from the seminar were taken by Manohar Pradhan, board member of the Norway-Nepal Association.

The efforts that many Norwegians already have done in Nepal are impressive. The seminar made it clear that there is still much to be done in Nepal, but it also showed that many people are committed to continue ongoing projects as well as to take on new tasks. The launching during the seminar of Peter Svalheim's biography of Odd Hoftun put past experiences, present and future challenges in perspective. The personal presence



of Odd and Tullis at Voksenåsen made our 25th Anniversary very special.

The seminar room, the space next to it, the restaurant, and the bar, all made it possible for the participants to listen, to look at photos and books, and to talk informally. And in the evening we enjoyed a lovely dinner, with daal bhat "with rice" (!), speeches, and songs. The venue was perfect for making new contacts. Voksenåsen, represented by John Jones, was an excellent host for this event – thank you!

In his introduction, Andreas Føllesdal (see page 8-10) raised six questions and issues that are relevant when discussing development. The Norway-Nepal Association will not attempt now to summarize the presentations and discussions in relation to these issues. It is, however, our sincere hope that the seminar was an inspiration for everyone who cares about Nepal's future, and that more meetings and discussions about Norway's role in Nepal will follow.



John Jones welcomes us to Voksenåsen.

**Marit Bakke**

## “My best Nepal Memory”

### Winners of the photo competition

Det ble ingen overveldende oppslutning, bare 9 deltakere, men juryen ble godt fornøyd, og av og til ganske imponert, over bildene som ble sendt inn - ca 50 stk. Hva deltakerne rangerte som sine beste Nepalminner spente vidt, fra storlagnede landskap til barneportretter. Noen hadde fanget inn karakteristiske scener fra dagliglivet, andre en humoristisk eller rørende enkeltsituasjon. Bildene vil etter hvert inngå i fotosamlingen på web-siden vår.

Styret (unntatt "konkurransefunksjonæren" som kjente alle navnene) valgte ut 15 bilder som ble forstørret, montert og utstilt under seminaret på Voksenåsen. Utstillingen ble meget vellykket, den fanget stor interesse og avstedkom mange gjenkjennende kommentarer blant seminardeltakerne. Blant de 15 utstillingsbildene ble de tre som vi viser her valgt ut til premiering, tatt av Lasse Storholt, Espolin Johnsen, og Sigmund Setreng. Fotografene får hver sin silkelakenpose fra Nomaden og utstillingsplansjene med sine egne bilder.

Vi takker for deltakelsen.

Dag Norling



Lasse Storholt (uten tekst).



Espolin Johnsen: Didi bahini – vedsamling.



Sigmund Setreng: Slått i ulendt terrengr.



# Dag Norling, Chairperson: Welcome

On behalf of the Norway-Nepal Association it is an honour to welcome you to this jubilee seminar. A few weeks ago we were anxiously waiting for responses to our invitation. But as we got positive answers from one after the other, Nepalese, Danish, Swedish and Norwegians, organisations and private persons, veterans and new-comers, we became sure that this could be the special event we hoped for and we think that the occasion deserves.

Most of the participants will be introduced later, during the program. But first I want to say a special welcome to some guests who have travelled a long way to join us.

Mr Kunda Dixit, editor of Nepali Times, who has come all the way from Kathmandu. Prof. Bishal Kumar Sitaula, who is President of the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) of Norway. From our sister-association in Denmark, Dansk-Nepal-esisisk Selskab, Birgit Nielsen, and from Sweden, Anna Schulte and Jan-Olof Bjørlin have come to represent Sverige-Nepalföreningen.

A special welcome to Tullis and Odd Hoftun who are real veterans in Norway-Nepal relations. A new book about their work will be presented during the program. Welcome to the author Peter Svalheim and the publisher Avenir forlag.

And last, but not least, our warm thanks to Voksenåsen and John Jones - and to the foundation Fritt Ord for all their generous support. Without it, this seminar would not have been possible.



## Some practical information:

The program is posted on the wall outside the meeting room. To your right, there is a bookstand with literature about Nepal, and also some very special books from Bibliotheca Himalayica, some of them for sale, some just for exhibition. You can also pick up a copy of the highly recommended anniversary issue of our magazine, *Hamro Patrika* (Nepalese for Our Magazine). For those of you who are not a member of our association, but want to be, you can find information at the door.

We have had an anniversary photo competition with the theme "My best Nepal memory". We received almost 50 pictures from our members, and a jury has chosen 15 pictures that are exhibited here at Voksenåsen. The persons who have taken the three best pictures will get their price during the dinner.

The Norway-Nepal Association was founded in 1984, 25 years ago. Many of the founders are present here today, as well as many of the approximately 70 persons who through the years have been on the board, and former and present members of our small but exclusive association.

Through all these years our association has been the natural forum for people with a heart for Nepal, both Norwegians and Nepalese who work or study in Norway. I will not present the whole history of our association and its activities now, just recommend our homepage – [www.norge-nepal.no](http://www.norge-nepal.no) - and again our web-magazine *Hamro Patrika*.

26 years ago I was in Nepal – as a backpacker tourist. Coming to Kathmandu by bus from the hot and crowded Indian lowland was like entering a better world - a calm friendly atmosphere, cleaner air, and relaxed traffic. My wife and I hired bicycles and explored the whole valley. Of course we saw poverty and a heavy need for development in many fields. But we also saw a strong presence of international development organisations. 4 wheel-drive cars with the logos of bi- and

multilateral NGOs almost dominated the traffic. It seemed like the whole world had joined their efforts to help Nepal. The future seemed promising.

25 years later, last autumn, I was back in Kathmandu. I had not been there in between, but I had been warned. Much was changed, but much, it seemed, to the worse. Traffic and pollution was terrible. Busy traffic could mean high economic activity and growth, but for whom? Poverty seemed as dominant as before - if not worse. Agricultural land had been lost to slum-like city growth. As an environment for people to live in today and during future generations, the once beautiful Kathmandu Valley seemed more or less destroyed.

Of course I must admit that a backpacker like myself cannot give a complete or true picture based on a few days' experiences, and Nepal is more than Kathmandu. May be I am unfair, for I am convinced that many do a good job and have the best intentions - and without their efforts, may be it would have been even worse? But still I could not help asking myself: Why all this misery,



From the seminar room.

## why is it not better after 25 years?

We all know that Nepal has suffered from a ten years destructive civil war. It also shares the problems of climate changes with other Himalayan countries. If the young population is Nepal's main resource for a better future, the huge population growth is also another of its main problems. The challenges have been, and still are enormous, and there is no oil in Himalayan geology to pay the bills. But there are probably hydroelectric opportunities?

Viewing the crowded and polluted Kathmandu calls for reflections:

The development organisations' 4-wheel drive cars with impressing logos can still be seen in the traffic, but where are the visible results from their work through 25 years? Were their efforts mostly in vain? Or have their efforts been limited to smaller local projects that, although with posi-

tive results, have not had any wider impact? Or did people get involved in running the development organisations themselves, with expensive vehicles, air tickets and business class lifestyle? Or were the efforts lost in Nepalese bureaucracy and corruption?

What expectations can be made for the 25 years to come, and for 2034? Will it be more of the same? Will a new political situation give better results? Who knows? Some of us will hopefully be alive to see.

There are many different development philosophies and strategies. If one want results the only really important questions is: What works? That is what we hope to learn more about during this seminar.

Welcome



Lunch at Voksenåsen. From left: Anuradha Gurung, Marit Bakke, Kunda Dixit, Sigmund Setreng.

# An Introduction: Norwegian Assistance to Nepal:

## What is most Effective? Enhancing Cooperation between Public and Private Initiatives, between Not-for-profit Support and Business

*Andreas Føllesdal is Professor and Director of Research at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo ([www.humanrights.uio.no](http://www.humanrights.uio.no)). His academic interests are in philosophy, particularly the philosophy of human rights. He has been in Nepal many times, and is a member of the Norway-Nepal Association*



It is especially fitting that our discussions about cooperation between Norway and Nepal takes place at Voksenåsen. Voksenåsen is a centre for exchange of culture and knowledge between Norway and Sweden. Norway, Sweden and Denmark are Nordic welfare states – committed to equality among own citizens, 'universal' social systems at quite high level, compared to other countries. These arrangements express solidarity and respect among citizens. What is striking is that statistically, these Nordic countries – together with the Netherlands and Canada – also have very high levels of international development assistance. Many think these two go together: that solidarity and commitment to equal respect extends beyond the borders.

Be that as it may, some say that the welfare arrangements are under pressure. Europeanisation, globalisation, focus on markets are said to lead to higher levels of inequality. Others say that the reason is an aging population, or due to miscalculation by the politicians who started the systems. Similarly, the commitment to international development – for instance with Nepal – is under pressure. Both Norwegian and international researchers question the effects of international assistance and support. This is not necessarily because they question why the rich of the world should take on these responsibilities. Many claim that the efforts are ineffective: The funds and competence that the poorer countries receive do

not seem to increase the quality of life in these countries. This may be due to bad choice of projects, poor choice of targets, or corruption, or lack of infrastructure, or bad follow-up.

This topic is very complex, but also important to take seriously - otherwise the popular will to assist with international development is at risk.

The conference today is about some of these issues, in Nepal. Instead of being negative about everything that does not work in the world, the conference today wants to highlight some of the possibilities – in Nepal, and start to explore how – in Nepal – the various good efforts can work together, find out what each does best. Instead of criticizing private small-scale efforts for being a band-aid approach, or large scale government-to-government efforts for being wasteful, we want to explore: What are the comparative advantages of each kind of assistance - with an eye to finding out why each works, for what kind of project, with what sort of aim.

Perhaps we can start to see some patterns at the end of the day?

The organisers have asked several very experienced contributors to prepare presentations along these lines. The different contributions represent different approaches, along at least six dimensions:

### From whom?

We will hear from private individuals, from government efforts, and from the Non-governmental organisations. We will hear from efforts that rely on Norwegians' voluntary sense of justice and solidarity - some draw on the religious commitments of individuals and associations, others rely on Norwegian taxpayers' contributions, decided by Parliament.

### To whom?

Some of the examples are cooperation with individuals – a nurse, a student, others are with the government, or with new and old entrepreneurs, large or small scale businesses – concerned with energy production, home production, tourism. Some are with groups of enthusiastic Nepalese – womens' groups and other organisations.

### Issue area

These efforts address different aspects of the quality of life in Nepal. Some work with basic needs – food, education, and child mortality, some with large scale changes to the energy infrastructure, or to help stabilize the post-conflict circumstances, or to promote even better governance in Nepal.

### Measures of success

The objectives of course have important implications for the standards we measure success with: Human Development Index in the village, Gross National Product, or measures of inequality between boys and girls' literacy rate? Some of these measuring standards require a lot of resources to count, while others are less costly. Some are rough indications of whether the objective is reached, while others are very precise.

### Mechanisms

The kinds of assistance also range widely, from Donor cash aid, to competence building person-to-person, government-to-government, or through business investment. They will have very different time horizons: Some will only have visible effects after several years, while private personal charitable contributions may show results within two months.

## Accountability arrangements

Each of these examples has different chances of success, and face different sorts of risks. In order to be able to determine whether they are effective enough, they have different ways to hold the Norwegian and Nepalese partners to account: Personal friendship, economic supervision by the investors, legal oversight by a Norwegian donor organisation – which is held to account in Norway, by voters, or donors.

So there are great differences between the different strategies, between public and private initiatives, not-for-profit support, and business investments. Some must have greater expenses for administration and accountability, some must have a greater risk of failure, and some can be seen to work very quickly. One aim of our discussions should be to determine: What are the strengths of each of these sorts of efforts, what may we learn? How might we better exploit these comparative advantages of each, to meet the challenge of more effective development assistance?

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Thrond Berge Larsen and others at the Anniversary dinner.

# Hari Dhakal

## The Medical Situation in Nepal



*Hari Dhakal is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Norwegian Cancer Hospital (Radiumhospitalet). After finishing his medical degree (MBBS) in Bangladesh and becoming a specialist (MD) in pathology in India, Hari got a job at the B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital, the national cancer institute in Nepal, which is located in Chitwan.*

*In 2003, Hari spent five weeks at Radiumhospitalet with a fellowship, and the next year he was invited back as a researcher in the pathology department to do research in breast cancer.*



Hari receives a stone "medallion", and so did also the other speakers.



## Health Situation in Nepal



**"Every citizen shall have a basic health service free of cost from the state as provided by the law"**  
- Interim constitution of Nepal, part 3, clause 16(2)

Hari Prasad Dhakal  
The Norwegian Radium Hospital, Rikshospitalet, Oslo University Hospital  
and  
BP Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital, Nepal

## General Information

Area	1,47,181 sq km
Altitude	70 to 8848 m (Mt. Everest)
Population	26.97 millions (2008 est)
Male/Female ratio	1.000
Population growth	2.25% (CBS 2001)
Population density (pop/km <sup>2</sup> )	183
Households	
Urban	14%
Rural	86%

Source- Nepal in Figures, 2008, CBS

## Population by geography

Mountains (area-35%)	7.3%
Hills (area-42%)	44.3%
Terai (area-23%)	48.4%

## Basic Indicators

Indicators	Figures
Literacy rate	54.1%
Male	65.5%
Female	42.8%
Crude Birth Rate	27.7/1000 pop
Crude Death Rate	8.3/1000 pop
Infant Mortality Rate	48/1000 live births
Child Mortality Rate	61/1000 live births
Maternal Mortality Rate	3/1000 live births
Life Expectancy at Birth	64.1 years
Male	63.6 years
Female	64.5 years
GDP per capita (2007/08)	US\$ 470 (NPR 30361)
Population below national poverty line	31%

Source: Nepal in Figures 2008 NPC, CBS Nepal

## Public health problems

- Communicable diseases
- Non communicable diseases
- Malnutrition
- Maternal and child health



## Communicable diseases

- Viral: diarrhoea, respiratory infections, HIV, Hepatitis, Japanese encephalitis etc.
- Bacterial: Tuberculosis, Pneumonia, Dysentery, Typhoid fever, Cholera etc.
- Protozoal: Malaria, Kalaazar, Amoebiasis, Giardiasis
- Helminths: Roundworm, Hookworm, Tapeworm etc.
- Some with seasonal periodic epidemics
  - Diarrhoea/Cholera killed > 300 people in western hilly Nepal few months back during monsoon

## Communicable diseases spread by

- Contact
- Food and water
- Air
- Vectors



## Causes of death

Group	Disease/ Conditions	Weightage*	Number
I. Infectious diseases, maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions	Tuberculosis	4.30	9557
	Sexually Transmitted infections	0.10	222
	HIV/AIDS	2.50	5556
	Diarrheal Diseases	1.90	4223
	Vaccine Preventable Diseases	2.00	4445
	Meningitis	0.50	1111
	Hepatitis B	0.20	445
	Hepatitis C	0.10	222
	Malaria	0.40	889
	Tropical diseases	0.30	667
	Encephalitis	0.10	222
	Intestinal worms	0.03	72
	Respiratory Infections	4.9	10890
	Maternal conditions	2.0	4445
	Perinatal conditions	7.5	16669
	Nutritional deficiencies	1.3	2889
	Other diseases	20.7	47936
	<b>Total</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>110460</b>
II. Non-communicable Diseases	Malignant neoplasms	6.2	13780
	Other neoplasms	0.1	222
	Diabetes mellitus	1	2223
	Nutritional/Endocrine disorders	0.2	445
	Neuro-psychiatric conditions	1.5	3334
	Cardiovascular disorders	21.0	46673
	Respiratory disorders	6.0	13335
	Digestive system disorders	4.0	8890
	Genito-urinary disorders	1.0	2223
	Musculoskeletal disorders	0.10	222
	Congenital disorders	1.0	2223
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>93570</b>
III. Injuries and others	Unintentional injuries	5.5	12224
	Intentional injuries	2.4	5334
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>17558</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>221588</b>

Source: Suvedi BK, KUMJ (2007).Vol.5(1).17;121-123

## Immunization

- Coverage 80-90%\*
- 86% of parents immunize their kids\*\*

BCG, DPT, DT, OPV, Measles, TT, Hep B, Yellow Fever\*

Vitamin A supplementation 1/2 – 5 yrs, twice a year  
De-worming of children 1-5 years

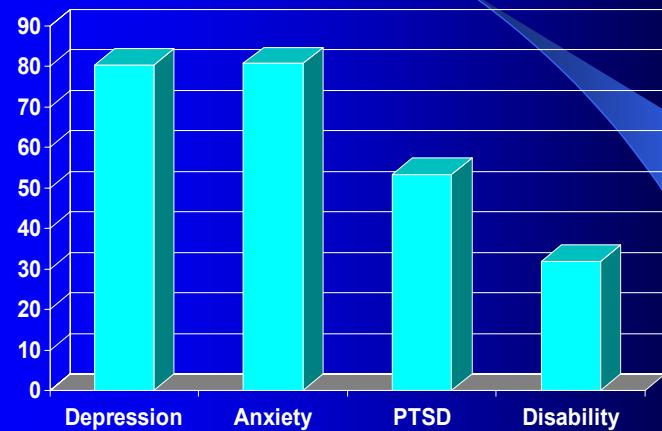
\*Nepal EPI fact sheet, WHO 2004

\*\*Matsuda, 2002

## Non-communicable diseases

- Cancers
- Chronic respiratory diseases
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Diabetes mellitus
- Mental disorders

## Mental health problems among IDPs due to conflict in Nepal



Source: Thapa & Hauff 2005

## Increasing trend of non-communicable diseases

- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that in 2020, non-communicable disease burden (i.e., cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes) will constitute 51% of all deaths in low- and middle-income countries.

## Non communicable diseases

### *Risk factors:*

- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Sedentary life
- Obesity
- Low fruit and vegetable intake
- Environmental pollution
- Hereditary

- 25 % of hospital deaths in Nepal  
(Subedi, 2003)

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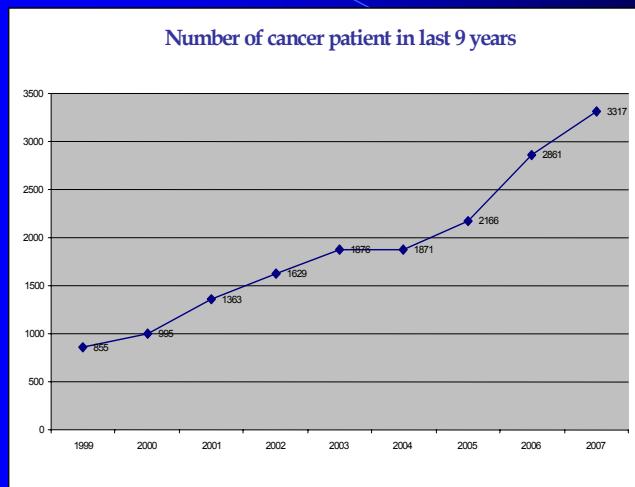
## Non communicable diseases contd...

- Cases of heart diseases and cancers are increasing due to extended longevity and changing of life style and dietary patterns.
- 19.7% of suburban population in Kathmandu- Hypertension (Sharma et al. Indian Heart J. 2006)

## Cancer situation in Nepal

- Estimated incidence around 17000 new cases per year (Ferlay 2004).
- Increasing number of cancer in Nepal over the years due to:
  - Control of infectious diseases/epidemics
  - Increased life expectancy & longer exposure to risk factors like;
    - Smoking and alcohol
    - Change of life style & food habits
    - Environmental pollution

## Increasing trend of cancer cases in BPKMCH



Source: BPKMCH

## Problems

- Most patients come at advanced stage of the disease
- High cost of diagnosis & treatment
- Devastating effects on the individual and family both emotionally and economically
- Loss of productive manpower for the country
- Inadequate physical infrastructure and resources

## Cancer patients visiting the cancer hospital Nepal



Source: BPKMCH, Nepal

## Cancer patients visiting the cancer hospital Nepal



Source: BPKMCH, Nepal

## What is being done to address the problem?

- Government allocates about 30 million NOK annually to deal with cancer for 27million people.
- Hardly any outside support or private initiative against cancer or philanthropic activities for millions of poor people
- People visit India and other countries to get diagnosis and treatment spending huge amount.

## How health problems are being addressed ?

- Expenditure on health: 6% of GDP (Marasini, 2008)
- Per capita health expenditure \$ 78 per year (WHO-Nepal, 2006), Norway \$ 4331 (WHO-Norway, 2005)
- No health insurance policy
  - Out of pocket 75%, government 10%, Others 15%
  - 5.5 % of household expenditure spent on health care (Hotchkiss et al., 1998)

## Health care system

- Government – MoHP/Other ministries
- Private sector- Private Hospitals/Nursing homes/ Clinics
- NGOs/INGOs- Hospitals/Clinics/ Health programs
- Private sector: key role in Nepal's health care system

## Government health care levels

- Specialized/Central Hospitals/Teaching Hospitals
- Regional Hospitals
- Subregional Hospitals
- Zonal Hospitals
- District Hospitals
- Primary Health Care Centers (PHC-C)
- Health Posts(HP)
- Sub Health Posts (SHP)
- PHC Outreach Clinics



Public Health Service Facilities*			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Hospitals	87	89	87
Health Centers	6	6	6
Primary Health Centers	180	180	205
Health Posts	699	699	676
Sub Health Posts	3131	3131	3129
Hospital beds	6796	6796	6944

Public Health Service facilities employ only 1361 doctors in 2006/07 (1 doctor/ 20000 people)\*

Private Health Care Facilities (Specialists/NGO/Mission)-123\*\*

\*Nepal in Figures 2008, NPC, CBS Nepal  
 \*\* Nepal Strategic Plan for Human Resources for Health 2003-2017, MoH Kathmandu 2003

## Human Resource Development

- Nursing training institutes-Public and private
- Paramedical training institutes-Public and private
- Medical Colleges/Universities- 3 Public, 12 Private
- Foreign trained doctors & other health workers
- More than 1000 medical doctors are trained every year
- Approx. 8500 doctors are registered in Nepal Medical Council

## Summary

- Communicable diseases still a major problem
- Non-communicable diseases constitute a significant portion of morbidity and mortality
- Government machinery inadequate to address the need of the health problems
- Private sectors are increasingly taking over the health services and medical training
- Highlights the need for integrated approach to reduce the burden of diseases through public-private partnership by expanding and efficient running of the health care delivery system

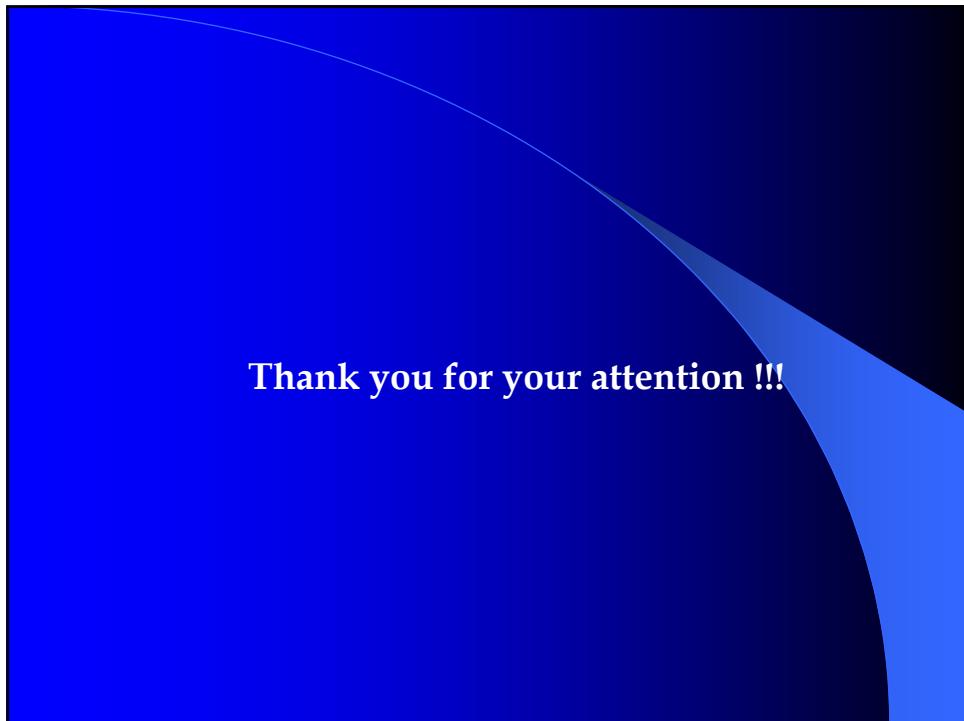
## How our friends can help?

- Support from friends like Norway could focus in making our existing health delivery system expanded at different levels for promotive, preventive and curative services
- Norwegian government, organizations and individuals can support health service areas like cancer hospital by helping to build infrastructure, train human resources

## Health as a bridge for peace (WHO)

*Health is fundamental for long lasting peace*

*Health for peace and peace for health*



In the seminar room, from left: Bishal Sitaula, Suraj Thapa, Jahn Nesland, Hari Dhakal.

# Peter Wood

## Education in Nepal



*Peter Wood is currently Regional Coordinator for South Asia in Save the Children Norway ([www.reddbarna.no](http://www.reddbarna.no))*

*Peter joined Save the Children Norway in 1988 as Project Director in Kenya and has since worked in the Oslo head office in various posts, also as Director of the SCN programme in Mozambique 1998-2000. Prior to moving to Norway he was a volunteer in Ethiopia 1965-67, and has worked with various development organisations including VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) - the British volunteer (fredskorps) service, Oxfam, ActionAid and the Red Cross.*



Save the Children



Country Strategic  
Planning  
2010 - 2013  
Priorities for Education  
Program

Save the Children in  
Nepal



Save the Children



- Program coverage
- The objectives
- The results
- Activities





## Area and Coverage



Save the Children



Save the Children



Save the Children



## The objectives

### Objective 1

- ECD/school going children benefit from improved quality in education



### Objective 2

- Increased number of currently out of school children, especially girls, gaining access to education



Save the Children



### Objective 3

- Strengthened capacity and improved accountability of education institutions from community to national level



### Objective 4

- Civil society organizations engaged in creating favourable policy environments for safe, supportive and protective learning environment



Save the Children



## The Results - on the ground

- Improved quality of ECD centres in SC working areas
- Improved quality of primary and basic education in SC working areas:
- Increased enrolment of new/out of school children in primary and basic education
- Increased number of schools implementing School Improvement Plan based on community education management information system (CEMIS) and school self-assessment (SSA).



Save the Children



## The results - national level

- Improved capacity of educational institutions for delivering educational services.
- Constitutional/legal provision made for i) Free and compulsory basic education, ii) students participation in school management committee (SMC) and iii) banning political activities and corporal punishment in schools
- Government plan and policies developed/revisited in consultation with civil society organizations for national education policy, education in emergencies and peace education



Save the Children



## Education: Key Activities

- Early-childhood development program School- , Home- and community based;
- School Enrolment campaigning;
- Capacity building of ECD facilitators and Management committees;
- School physical facilities improvement





Save the Children



## Education: Key Activities

- Capacity building of SMC and teachers;
- Free and compulsory education;
- Non-violent teaching, learn without fear campaign;
- School as Zone of Peace Campaigning;
- Social audit in schools;
- School Health and Nutrition;



Save the Children



## Key Activities

- Scholarship program;
- Teacher support
- Mini library and teaching material support
- Inclusive education;
- Accelerated learning (Non-formal education);
- Life skills education
- Vocational training;
- Coordination with line ministries and local government agency.





The audience in the seminar room.



## Book launching

# Peter Svalheim: Kraftverket. Odd Hoftun: Portrett av et livsverk. Avenir Forlag

Odd Hoftun receives the book from Asle Dingstad.

**A**venir Forlag was in charge of a special ceremony to launch Peter Svalheim's biography of Odd Hoftun. The Director of Avenir Forlag, Asle Dingstad, expressed his pride in being part of the project to document and honour Odd Hoftun's life long involvement in Nepal. Dingstad thanked Peter Svalheim for his dedicated work with the book. He then presented a copy of the book to Odd Hoftun, Peter Svalheim, and Marit Bakke, who had represented the Norway-Nepal Association during the preparations of the book launching.

Heidi W. Steel said a few words about Odd Hoftun's relationship and collaboration with Tidtemisjonen since he first came to Nepal in 1958. Finally, Peter Svalheim gave a speech after first playing the flute, to the joy of the audience. Peter told about three years of hard work that often had kept him mentally apart from his family. He was grateful for the wonderful cooperation with Odd and Tullis who live next door. Peter finished by reading from the book.



Fra venstre: Asle Dingstad, Tullis Hoftun, Radek Doupovec, Odd Hoftun, Heidi W. Steel, Peter Svalheim.

*If you search [www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com) you see a link on the head row to BLOGS / EAST WEST. On November 19th, 2009 there was an entry about a "Norwegian guru." We have copied Kunda Dixit's interview with Odd Hoftun:*

After a lifetime devoted to developing Nepal's indigenous capacity to harness water resources, what does Odd Hoftun have to say about the power cuts in Kathmandu?

The sprightly 82-year-old Norwegian is surprisingly upbeat. "Look, so much political change has taken place in Nepal since 1990, it takes time to digest it all and move ahead," he said this week in Oslo during the launch of his biography *Kraftverket* (The Hydropowerplant). "You just need a new generation of technocrat politicians to take charge and move forward."

The book was launched on the 25th anniversary of the Norway-Nepal Association in Oslo last week, following three years of research by author Peter Svalheim. Hoftun went to Nepal as a missionary in 1958 and helped build the Tansen Hospital, which half a century later still stands as a

model community medicine centre. Hoftun soon realised that to tap Nepal's enormous hydro-power potential and use it to drive development, indigenous capacity had to be built. He started work at the Butwal Technical Institute and later the Butwal Power Company (BPC), which worked on successively larger hydroelectric projects like Tinau, Andhi Khola and Jhimruk.

Today, BPC is part of a larger consortium of joint Nepali-Norwegian energy companies that built the Khimti project. Norway's SN Power International is now working on the Tama Kosi 3 power export project in collaboration with India's Tata Group. The step-by-step growth of engineering capacity is just what Hoftun had envisioned 50 years ago: to make Nepal self-reliant, to spread the risk, and take on ever larger projects as the technical capacity of Nepali engineers improved.



Kunda Dixit interviews Odd Hoftun.

The book, which will soon be translated into English and Nepali, also follows Hoftun's life in Nepal through the tragic loss of his anthropologist son Martin in a plane crash in Kathmandu in 1992, to the setting up of the research centre, Martin Chautari, in his name. The centre holds regular discussions on the social sciences, media, education and policy issues.

Hoftun was a keen observer of Nepali society, and says that it was evident even when he first arrived that conflict was inevitable. "Nepal was an innocent society in those days, but the injustice, the discrimination of the caste system were glaring. It was the neglect of these issues that ultimately led to the upheavals of the 1990s," he recalls.

A modest and self-effacing man with a frugal lifestyle, Hoftun has shunned interviews and avoids the media. But, he says, he wanted to publish the book so there would be a record not just of his life but also of his 'small is beautiful' philosophy towards technology.

He calls this the 'bottom-up approach' of empowering rural areas first. But Hoftun is careful to stress that not all big is bad, and that a country and society have to be ready for big projects and

make sure the benefits are distributed equitably while supporting national development. You can have a network of small hydro plants but, he says, for national-level planning and economies of scale there have to be big reservoir projects too.

Hoftun remains supportive even of the much-delayed Melamchi project because, he says, it is a project whose time has come. He agrees with Nepali activists who want the current design to be expanded to include hydropower and irrigation components that will make it a multi-purpose regional scheme, and not just a water supply system for Kathmandu.

He also thinks power exports to India are now a necessity because of Nepal's trade deficit with that country. "We now need export projects," he explains, "but we have to build our own industrial base at the same time." Hoftun's use of the words 'we' and 'our' are a giveaway as to his loyalties. That feeling was reciprocated at the book launch at the Nepal-Norway Association function, where he received a standing ovation.

Says the Association's Marit Bakke: "We wanted to honour Hoftun's life and work because it is an inspiration for the next generation of Nepalis and Norwegians."



*Kunda Dixit has been the editor of the weekly newspaper, Nepali Times, since 1996. He is a keen observer of Nepali politics, and does not shy away from criticizing the King (in previous days), the government, and the political parties, including the Maoists. In return, members of the royal government as well as former rebels have attacked the newspaper. Mostly verbally, but the staff has also been beaten up by Maoists. The newspaper's editing philosophy is always to be against any type of violence.*

*Hamro Patrika's interview with Kunda Dixit (page 43-45) gives more information about him.*

One of the indications of the level of political stability in a country is just to look at the headlines in the daily papers. A sign of a stable country with a mature democracy is to have a headline in the papers about a minister who is caught speeding by a tv channel.

At least Norway and Nepal have something in common. Because this week in Nepal a minister (of Youth and Culture) was also in the news for slapping a civil servant in the face because she refused to give him a big car to drive around in.

Another minister last week (minister of agriculture) vandalized her own official car because it broke down. I don't know whether the fact that both ministers women has any significance. But it certainly proves that we now have many more women in government, and they are much more assertive.

I must thank the Norway-Nepal Association for inviting me to Oslo and giving me the opportunity to get out of Kathmandu during the Maoist protests which have brought the capital to a grinding halt all week. If I had been in Kath-

mandu, I'd not have been able to get any work done anyway, so it's good to be here in this winter wonderland.

Looking at it from this far away, things in Nepal do look like a mess. The political stalemate is beginning to look more and more like a national paralysis. The Maoist-led coalition resigned in May after trying unsuccessfully to sack the army chief, and it was replaced by a government led by the UML, the Congress and a coalition of 22 other smaller parties. The Maoists tried to split the governing parties to get back to power, when that failed they have continued their six month blockade of parliament. The budget still hasn't been ratified, civil servants haven't been paid and development is at a standstill. The economy is stagnant, there has been no new investment which means no jobs are being created, no new hydropower plants have been commissioned to reduce a crippling power shortage.

The effects of the political disarray can be seen in every facet of life in Nepal today. Corruption has always been a problem, but it has become so commonplace that newspaper exposes don't even raise eyebrows anymore. As someone said the other day, in Nepal today it is a case of "the survival of the fattest". Political parties at the grassroots have no need to be accountable because they run VDCs and DDCs by committee and not by elected councils: so in many districts there is a dictatorship of the three parties. The country is on autopilot and runs by itself.

There are lots to be depressed about. Yet, I am a short-term pessimist and a long-term optimist about Nepal. Once outside Nepal like I am now, you get a new perspective. You start seeing the forest, and not just the trees. You begin to realize just what a dramatic transformation we have

gone through in the past four years.

It was four years ago that I spoke to a conference of Norwegian NGOs in Godavari. The king had just staged a military coup, he was determined to fight it out with the Maoists and crush the democratic parties. 300 Nepalis were being killed every month by fellow Nepalis. The country looked like it was headed for a long-drawn war, and the future looked dark. But April 2006 was itself a triumph of non-violent revolution and a model for other countries: what the Maoists could not achieve with ten years of war and the death of 16,000 Nepalis they achieved with a 19-day non-violent street uprising in an alliance with other democratic parties.

Since then, Nepal has gone from monarchy to republic, the royal army is making a transition to civilian command. We had elections in April 2008 that elected the most inclusive parliament we have ever had in our history. The king staged a final press conference and left the palace to become an ordinary citizen. In any other country he may have been beheaded, his palace ransacked or he may have been hounded into exile. Maoist guerrillas who are supposed to grab power by the barrel of the gun were elected to government, and in April when they lost the confidence of their coalition partners, the prime minister resigned as he is supposed to. He didn't try to hold on to power by force. And now we are trying to change the entire structure of the state in the new constitution and long as these discussions take place inside the chambers of the elected representatives, we will be fine.

Yes, it is messy. But why are we surprised? In fact the big surprise is that the whole process hasn't unraveled in the past four years. Bringing such dramatic changes to a society was never go-

ing to be easy. We expected things to get better overnight, but these things take time. The reason for the current stalemate and unrest is because the political evolution of the country since 2006 has happened so rapidly, if we had expected it to take longer we would perhaps be more patient.

We have to also look at all this from the point of view of the Maoist leadership, which is trying its best to keep control of its own party. It was so good at indoctrinating its cadre during the war that it is having problems de-indoctrinating them. We need a power-sharing agreement between the Maoists and the other parties at least until the country has only one army and the constitution is written by May 28 next year. For this there is really no other way than for the political parties to work together, and we in the media must articulate the public opinion in favour of such a consensus.

Nepal is not a small country, it is the 40th most populous country in the world. Nepal is not poor, it is just poorly-managed at the national level. And Nepal is definitely not a failed state. My

suggestion to all of you (and this is advice that I try to follow myself) is that we try to work with what we have. We have no other option but to work around the disruptions and do what we can to improve the lives of our citizens. Let's face it, it's not really original to complain about Nepal's problems anymore. In a sense, Nepal's problems are all given. The real question is what am I doing as an individual to change it for the better? And Nepal is full of examples of people and organizations that are doing meaningful work despite all the setbacks. These are people who never appear in the media because they like to do things quietly.

There are hydro-entrepreneurs ploughing money into social work. There are projects like Khimti, which with their development outreach have become models for other private sector hydropower projects in Nepal and around the world. Private schools in Kathmandu are helping schools in remote areas with teacher training. NRNs are helping Nepalis in Nepal with the Help Nepal initiative.



Some of the attentive listeners (from left): Andreas Føllesdal, Odd Hoftun, Marit Kleppa, Dag Norling.

Those who are cynical about Nepal should just look back at how well things were going till 1996 with the decentralisation and local-self-governance act. Grassroots democracy was finally beginning to deliver basic services because elections ensured accountability. But the war demolished this and we've not had local elections for 11 years now.

Yet, the reason development still goes on at the local level is because of the momentum that the self-governance act provided. Proof of this is that if there is anything you name from the past 20 years that has really worked in Nepal, it will have the word 'community' attached to it: Community Forestry, Community Radio, Community-managed schools, Community Ama Samuha, Community health volunteers, Community managed micro-hydro schemes.

This is all very good, but in the long term if Nepal is really move ahead we have to strengthen the government's capacity. Community forestry and radio were made possible because of national level legislation. But a lot of local development work is now being done by NGOs, this has let the government off the hook. It has allowed them to say, oh well, the NGOs are doing it so we don't need to. It is the government's job to provide free and compulsory primary schools, extend the outreach of public health programs. Only the government can scale up local success stories and make them nationwide. It's fashionable these days to be cynical about government, but only by strengthening the government's capacity and making national politicians accountable will we have sound and sustainable development.

And that brings us to the politics. It is true that we Nepalis never had the rulers we deserved. Even the electoral process threw up leaders who

quickly discredited themselves and made the people disillusioned about democracy itself. But there are second generation leaders within every party who have not been allowed to rise up the ranks, leaders who have done exemplary work at the village and district level. They are committed, proven managers who have integrity. It's their turn now. It is when they get to positions of power that we can expect the real leap forward.

And if you pause to think about it, it's really not that difficult to manage. A checklist may include: a Marshal Plan type investment in infrastructure to create jobs so that when the roads and hydropower plants are built they will allow the multiplier effect for economic growth and further job creation. The Karnali needn't be food deficit. Making sure that the money wasted and not spent in health and education is spent on improving the quality of service. Changing the content of education so that the next generation of Nepalis is aware of not just their rights but also their responsibilities as citizens. Ensuring that education gives Nepalis a pride in being Nepalis and in helping ourselves move forward.

Finally, if I may paraphrase John Lennon in his song 'Imagine': "Imagine a New Nepal, it isn't hard to do."

### ***After the seminar, Hamro Patrika asked Kunda a few questions:***

#### **1. Please tell about your career - as a journalist and in other jobs.**

I was a scientist in my previous incarnation and did my thesis in biogas technology, and later drifted into journalism. After graduating from Columbia University in New York I started out working for the BBC at the United Nations. I

was then a media nomad for many years in the Asia-Pacific region, and returned to Nepal in 1996 to help start Himalmedia. We now publish Himal Khabarpatrika, a Nepali language fortnightly, Nepali Times English weekly and WAVE monthly magazine.

## 2. What made you decide to start Nepali Times?

Strange as it may sound it was first to make money so that it could cover our losses at Himalmedia. So we designed it like a lively tabloid, international quality printing and content. But it started being taken very seriously, and so we switched to being a political and business weekly newspaper designed to bring the reality of the Maoist war and what was happening in the countryside to the notice of people in Kathmandu.



Kunda Dixit discussing the front page layout of Nepali Times.  
Photo: Marit Bakke

## 3. What is your impression of the interest for Nepal in Norway?

The week that I spent in Oslo at the invitation of the Norway Nepal Association was an eye-opener for me. In meetings with Norwegian academics, officials at the foreign ministry, NORAD, among Nepali and Norwegian students I sensed a tremendous interest in Nepal and a genuine desire to see the country pull through its present

crisis. In every talk I did and everyone I met I was overwhelmed by concern for the welfare of the Nepali people.

## 4. How can Norwegian NGOs contribute to constructive social, political, and economic development in Nepal?

The primary thing of course is for Nepalis in Nepal and abroad to keep the national interest first, to excel in whatever profession we are in and to approach it with commitment and integrity. Not everyone will return to Nepal, but even from afar, there is a lot we can do. Norwegian NGOs are already doing a great job in helping individual Nepalis and communities to help themselves. We must strive to build self-reliance, sustainability in whatever we do so that the work we support lives on after us when we pull out.

## 5. The Norway-Nepal Association is concerned about how to contribute to this development. How can we (the board, members) contribute?

As I said, I think the Association can help be the bridge between Norway and Nepal at the individual, organisational or government level. It can bring people together regularly to discuss concrete accomplishments so they can be replicated or so they can inspire others. It can serve as a catalyst to spark new ideas and new activities especially in areas where Norway has core competencies like hydropower, information technology, energy policy and governance.

## 6. What in particular are the positive aspects of Nepali society that Norwegians can build on in their work in Nepal?

Despite the disappointing lack of unity at the national political level, there is tremendous energy at the grassroots and community level that can be tapped. In many cases all they need,

be it ama samuhas, forestry user groups, community-based water management committees, is a small push with seed money to get started. We see many examples of these things working in Nepal. Until we have a national government that works, we should build and help networks of community groups.

In the interview Kunda told that one of the *Nepali Times'* mission is to tell about what has happened in the country side during the Maoist war. A special part of this task has been to document in words and pictures the effects of the ten year long civil war in Nepal. For more than three months in 2007-8 Kunda and a camera team visited 32 places across Nepal with a travelling photo exhibition, named "A People War". About 350,000 people came to see the pictures, and many wrote comments, testimonies, and poems in guest books. The common message from this tour was "Never again", which also became the title of a second book. A few days after Kunda returned from our seminar in Norway, a third book in this project was launched in Kathmandu, titled *People After War*.

Thus, the next time you are in Kathmandu,



Front page of *People After War*.

look for: *A People War, Never Again*, and *People After War*. An exhibition of photographs and stories from the three books are also in a permanent exposition at Madan Puraskar in Patan Dhoka, in Lalitpur, for anyone who wants to see the exhibition that toured the country, and comments and testimonies from the visitors. Nepal's two noted documentary movie makers, Kesang Tseten and Prem BK, also made a film (Frames of War) on the book which tells the moving stories of seven victims of the war. Kunda is currently on his third tour of the country with the photographs and stories from *People After War*.

**Marit Bakke**



Odd Hoftun, Hem Gurung, and Sigmund Setreng at the Anniversary dinner.

# **Kikkan Haugen**

## **Norway's role in enhancing social and economic development in Nepal**



*Kikkan Haugen is Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and former Deputy at the Norwegian Embassy in Nepal. At the Embassy in Kathmandu he worked in particular with issues related to aid, and organized several seminars for Norwegian NGOs with projects in Nepal.*



norge

**Norway's role in enhancing social and economic development in Nepal 2004-2008**

Kikkan Haugen, MFA Oslo



UTENRIKSDEPARTEMENTET

norge

**In a situation where things change dramatically...**





norge

**...and you find yourself in one of the most unique places of the world...**



norge

**...where you have to expect the unexpected to happen...**





norge

**...you should try to be sensitive, relevant and flexible!**



norge

## **Sensitivity**

- Do no harm – any development in a conflict or transitional situation has an effect on the actors
- See your development assistance in light of the political developments – don't do like the World Bank did in 2005
- Have your ear to the ground – be in contact with the relevant actors – be a good listener with an open mind – be careful before you draw your conclusions.



norge

## Relevance

- Be relevant to the political processes as they develop – Norway first embassy to officially meet with CPN-M leadership in June 2006.
- Continuous process to develop political contacts and facilitate meeting places – dinner diplomacy
- Annual visits by minister Solheim and Prachanda to Norway in 2008.
- Increased the support to activities that have a direct relevance to the peace process – peace dividend through rural electrification (ESAP), and primary education (EFA), local development (DLGSP).
- Aarohan Theatre's support to Janaandolan II

norge

## Flexibility

- Ability to move quickly when needed – support to UNMIN weapons monitors received in the morning and paid out same afternoon
- Ability to use expertise in a relevant and flexible manner – election expert Kåre Volland and the Election Commission
- Ability to see and respond to new actors when they appear – support to the establishment of a women's network – co-chair of working group on SR 1325
- Decreased the level of support after the royal coup in 2005, but on the whole increased the support in light of the peace- and democratisation process (from NOK 155 mill. in 2004 to NOK 352 mill. in 2008)



Kirsten Greiner, Olav Myrholt, Anuradha Gurung and Øyvind Amundsgård at the Anniversary dinner.



# Marit Haug and Aadne Aasland Political Mobilization

*Marit Haug is Director of Research at the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) in Oslo ([www.nibr.no](http://www.nibr.no)). Her research interests include Civil Society, Conflicts and post-conflicts, and Decentralization and local democracy. Together with Aadne Aasland, also working at NIBR, Marit Haug has done research in Nepal about civil society, political mobilization, and social inclusion. Collaborating partners in Nepal are Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, Tribhuvan University, and Nepal Participatory Action Network (NEPAN). Marit and Aadne are members of the Norway-Nepal Association.*





# Patterns of socio-political participation in Nepal

Marit Haug

Aadne Aasland

Voksenåsen November 14, 2009



## Research programme 'Social inclusion and nation-building in Nepal'

- Collaboration between NIBR and Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, Tribhuvan University
- Funded by the Norwegian Embassy: 2006-2009
- 2010->programme continuous in the form of a large Nepalese Research fund for Social Inclusion Research funded by Norway





## The CNAS-NIBR study

Survey of 2,890 households in four districts:

- Sindhupalchowk: Tamangs (6%)
- Dhanusa: Tarai Dalits and Yadavs (4%)
- Surkhet: Hill Dalits
- Banke: Muslims (4%)

(Dalits: 12%)

Commonly considered excluded groups on the basis of caste, ethnicity, religion and region



### Are patterns of participation consistent with the notion of ethnic and caste based exclusion?

- H1: participation in organisations follow ethnic and caste lines – low caste groups and ethnic minorities are less likely to take part in civil society and politics
- H2: due to strong mobilisation formerly excluded groups have become more included





## Three questions?

- Who participate?
- How do they participate?
- What explains patterns of participation?



## Socio-political participation in Nepal

- Popular participation: Jana Andolan II, April 2006: 3-4 million Nepalese on the streets
- Expansion of civil society organisations, including social movements, CBOs
- The Maoists: military-political mobilisation
- Political parties: seven party alliance, new regional parties



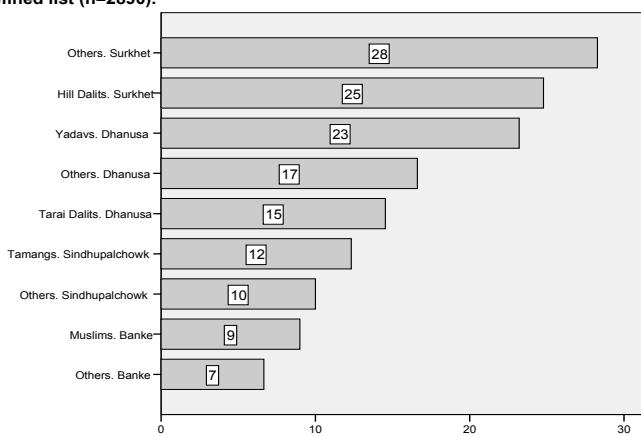


## Participation in organisations and movements: 16%

- Madhesi, Janajati, Dalit, Liberation Campaign, religious campaign, workers' organisation, employers' organisation, student movement, professional movement, cooperative movement, women's organisation, micro finance programmes
- Hill Dalits have the highest membership at 25%
- Muslims the lowest at 9%
- High variation between districts

 NIBR  
Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research

**Figure 1. Organisational membership by group. Percentage of randomly selected individuals reporting organisational membership according to a pre-defined list (n=2890).**



Weighted by group distribution in district

 NIBR  
Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research

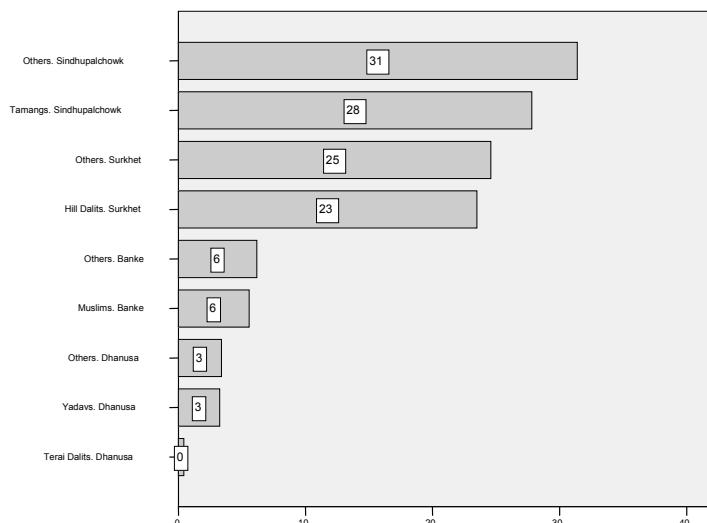


## Participation in community-based organisations: 13%

- School management, water consumer, forest consumer, road consumer, community development, reform committees, cultural groups, youth clubs
- Sindhupalchowk 30%, Surkhet 24%, Dhanusa 3%, Banke 6%
- Women's groups is the most common form of CBO: 5% participate
- Among men: 4% participate in forest user groups



Figure 2. Percentage of households reporting CBO membership (n=2861).



Weighted by group distribution in district



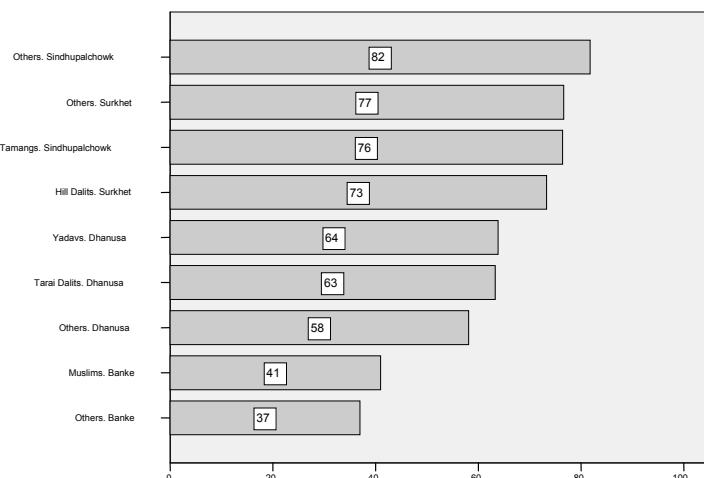


## Political participation

- 63 % participate often in political activities
- Large variation between districts

 NIBR  
Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research

Figure 3: Percentage of households reporting frequent participation in political activities (n=2775).



Weighted by group distribution in district

 NIBR  
Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research



## Participation index

- Non-participation: 33%
- Moderate participation: 52%
- Active participation: 15%



## Participation in movements

- Participation in movements: Madhesi, Janajati, Dalit, Maoist or religious campaigns is not correlated with other forms of political and civil society participation
- Does participation on movements compensate for low socio-political participation?





## Explaining non-participation: 33%

- **District** is very important – ethnic, caste or religious belonging is not, for example it is living in Banke – and not being a Muslim – that makes a difference
- **Institutional opportunity structure** varies across districts
  - donor funded organisations targeted at the poorest flourish in the hills
  - social movements are more common in the Tarai
  - few institutions in Banke



## Explaining non-participation

- **Traditional values**, i.e. not allowing all members of the household into the kitchen to cook or eat food, allowing children to attend mixed schools
- Low impact of socio-economic status, education and illiteracy...
  - Organisational membership has raised awareness on rights?
  - Traditional households live in remote areas with few opportunities to participate?





## Explaining active participation: 15%

- **Level of education** of the household head
- **Household resources**; amenities and consumer goods, land ownership, aggregate community resources
- Elites



## Implications for social inclusion

- Poor and marginalised persons have been mobilised across ethnic and caste divides
- Process of empowerment has taken place: increased awareness and capacity to act
- Living conditions have improved as a result of socio-political participation
- Institutional/policy response?





# Olav Myrholt

## Developing Local Business

*Olav Myrholt is working in the NGO Development Fund (founded in 1978) as Programme coordinator for Nepal. The Development Fund's local partner work with sustainable agricultural development, supporting local community planning and women's rights. Olav also has his own company "Deurali", working with "the heart and brain" with environment and development issues.*

*Olav knows Nepal very well and speaks Nepali. He is a member of the Norway-Nepal Association.*

### Olav Myrholt – Nepal related activities:



- First tourist visit in 1980.
- BA and MA studies related to Nepal '84-'88.
- Followed a single village in Kaski for 25 years.
- Involved w Norway-Nepal Association since 1988.
- Nepal portfolio of the Development Fund.
- Consultancies in Nepal.
- Volunteer activities.
- Holidays in Nepal every second year.





## The Development Fund Utviklingsfondet:

- 1978 started by FIVH.
- Independent.
- Donations from individuals, businesses, NORAD, MFA.
- Rural focus.
- Food production.
- Social conditions, rights-based.
- Linking environment and development.
- Global portfolio NOK 70m
- Nepal portfolio NOK 4 m.



# For Sale:

Developing Local  
Business





## Developing Local Businesses

### The journey of a development aid NGO

- From charity to development.
- From civil society to business.
- Romancing the self-sufficient farmer
- Poorest of the poor do not own land.
- Aid fatigue.
- Remittance economy.
- Sustainability.



## Developing Local Businesses

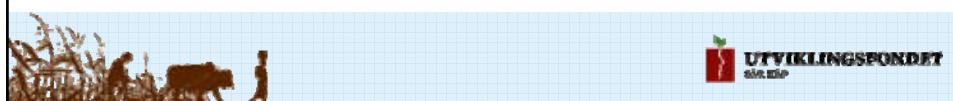
- Civil society "projects" attract; do they survive?
- DF project history in Nepal since 1982.
- DF farmer focus, interesting non-farming results.
- Changes in approach and focus are yielding better understanding of how to develop and benefit from markets.





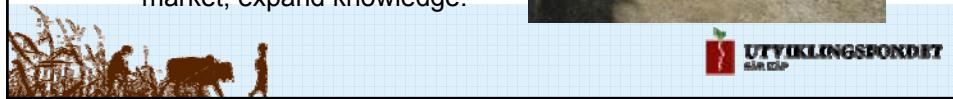
## Developing Local Businesses : Two examples of ex-DF projects.

- MDO, Kaski (1999):
  - Focus on welfare schemes, infrastructure, household technologies, education, environment.
  - Attracting new institutional donors and government.
  - Alliance with VDCs.
- Coppades, Lamjung (2000):
  - Focus on women's saving&credit schemes, literacy, book-keeping, productive investments.
  - Cooperative group formation, group maintenance.
  - Mini and small hydro development shareholders.



## Developing Local Businesses

- Current partner in Kaski and Tanahun, LIBIRD:
  - Making the market work for farmers; organize!
  - All about access and the right thing to sell
  - Agro-biodiversity and value of niche products; example: kodo/finger millet.
  - Pumdibhumi Women Power Group.
  - Arwa beans, Eklekhet roadside sweet potatoes.
  - Strengthening s&c cooperatives, linkages to market, expand knowledge.





## Developing Local Businesses



FONDEN

## Developing Local Businesses

- NGO classification in Nepal – a case in point: NIDS:
  - Wide range, many are de facto not-for profit foundations or businesses.
  - NIDS sells attractive skills and access knowledge to donors and puts the profit into social issues advancement - pourakhi.
  - NIDS' investment is primarily in hiring up and coming entrepreneurial spirits, acquiring research knowledge, putting time and effort into networking, presence and voicing clear opinions.
  - The product is knowledge and advice. We buy their product.





## Developing Local Businesses: Microfinance

- MJS in Ilam, a successful association of 9000+ women members of a s&c scheme:
- Rationale: social status, equal rights, political power comes through economic independence.
  - Kutruke program as a start, group qualifications through women-led production cooperatives.
  - Rotating credit access, 3 crore in combined savings.
  - Micro, mini, small enterprise development.
  - DF support towards larger schemes (dairy, tourism), business plans, skill development
  - Face-out discussion: women-run small hydro development and ownership.



## Developing Local Businesses: MJS businesses



PIONERET



## Developing Local Businesses: MJS businesses



UTVIKLINGSPONDET  
SØR-ØST-ASIA

## Developing Local Businesses: NCDC selling goo

- NCDC, Ilam:
  - Specialists in VDC planning, opinion facilitation, natural resource mapping and project implementation.
  - Completed 48 VDC/ municipal plans of Ilam.
  - Side activities in agricultural innovation, health and sanitation, environment conservation
  - Discovered that a mix of animal waste and herbs produced a strong fertilizer/ pesticide. Now Nasabike is commercialized.



UTVIKLINGSPONDET  
SØR-ØST-ASIA



## Developing Local Businesses: NCDC going it alone?



- VDC planning as exit strategy and business plan.
- Investing in a resource- and training centre.
- Is already selling VDC planning skills in 5 districts, subsidized by DF.
- Cost per VDC 10% of UNDPs, with lasting impact, VDC money spent acc to budget, 5-year rotating plans.
- Main customers are districts (Zilla) and VDCs, requests from nearly 20 districts.
- Dilemma for NCDC – staying the old ways and hoping for new donors, or setting up a business wing?



## Developing Local Businesses: Conclusions or the next step –I can stop here!

- Interesting: business development is not prominent on the DF agenda.
- Partner organisations in Nepal are moving on into business, but limping, need more support – skills.
- Back donor attitudes are changing, the aid scene shifts in the direction of business development/ entrepreneurship and business partnership.
- DF is looking into how best to leapfrog.





## Developing Local Businesses:

### 3 opportunities:

- 1) Continue along the trend discussed here and polishing it.
- 2) Take advantage of the huge remittance economy
  - Beginning to utilize the remittance at this end.
- 3) Tourism involvement.
  - Planning for tourism involvement and partners are doing some.
  - DF lacks investment capital and non-booked cash.
  - Limited knowledge, excellent networks.
  - No need to change the spirit.



## Developing Local Businesses:

The obvious choice – tourism:

- access, knowledge, skills, services, products.



## Developing Local Businesses:

- **Tourism involvement:**
- Expertise associates and partners to run a development by business model.
- Businesses as partners: 3Sisters/EWN focal point.
- Train and support business development via MJS (Antu Danda), NCDC (Singalila/Sandakpur).
- Light infrastructure on the Gamgadhi-Simikot trail.
- Community development in Mugu and Humla villages.
- Trail loops in Humla.
- Recovery of Fewa Lake.
- Swayambu renovation.
- Niche treks.



## Developing Local Businesses:

Thank you for your  
attention!





# Ingrid Stange

## Social Entrepreneurship – Ashoka Norway

*Ingrid Stange is working with financial services. She holds a job as Philantropy advisor in Formuesforvaltning, and is Head of Family Office in the company. She is now involved in the Norwegian branch of Ashoka, a world wide association of social entrepreneurs (<http://www.ashoka.org/norway>).*

All over the world there are serious social issues to be met. And all over the world there are entrepreneurs who are eager and willing to find solutions to the issues. Sometimes, actually quite often, the challenges they meet are surprisingly similar, regardless of where in the world – or where on the social ladder – they are.

Let me give you an example from my own experience. For the past 20 years, I have been es-

tablishing and running schools for children aged 3 to 16 – in Norway. Do we need that in this country? Yes, we do. I established the first Montessori school in Norway in 1990, and now we are heading towards 40 schools of this kind. But I will not go further into the pedagogic issue here – that is another topic. The challenges I met, however, are interesting from the social entrepreneurship point of view. Bureaucracy, political hindrances, training staff to the ethical standards needed,

making sure we keep the pedagogical standards we aim at – and managing to get the business sustainable – all these issues have kept me awake more nights than I like to think of.

In Ethiopia, a remarkable woman has taken on the task to provide education for the poorest children in her society. Also, she runs a wide range of programs for their mothers – if they have a mother – as well as for those who are orphans. When I started cooperating with her, we both realized that the challenges were very similar. She meets the bureaucracy, the political hindrances, the training challenges – I recognised everything. Of course, there are differences. The parents in our schools do not have aids, the children are generally well fed – although we have decided to serve breakfast at school because all our kids do not get that at home. We do not lose electricity twice a day, etcetera. But the main issues are surprisingly similar. She calls me her sister – because I can understand her challenges. I can see how her feelings for each and every child are what are driving her. I understand how she opens her home for the children and the school – because I did the same. For 15 years, I had 75 children using my home as their school and schoolyard. I can see how frustrating it is for her to lose government support or support from large NGOs because she failed to meet a specific paragraph in a specific report - I did the same. And – I can try to help her with those skills she does not have. Not because I necessarily have them myself – but because I can find someone who has them.

Ashoka is about finding those remarkable social entrepreneurs all around the world, who will not let anything stop them in their efforts to make the world a better place. Ashoka is also about using the same requirements and tools we have from the academic and business world to

make sure the social entrepreneurs will be able to succeed. And last but not least, to make sure that good programs are exported to other areas and countries where they can bring change.

Ashoka is the world's first and largest association of social entrepreneurs: People who are pioneering new institutions and innovative solutions to many of the world's most intractable problems. In 1980, Ashoka's founder, Bill Drayton, developed a revolutionary approach to philanthropy and social change: Applying the principles and methods of venture capital to the area of social investment, and by seeking out entrepreneurs who had new approaches to the root causes of the problems society faces. Ashoka was the first investment group to focus solely on fresh, enterprise-based solutions to social problems, and over the past 30 years it has steadily built a new professional identity for social innovators around the globe. Over 2000 social entrepreneurs in the areas of health care, education, the environment, economic development and human rights, in over 70 countries, are now members of Ashoka's global community



#### ASHOKA'S VISION

Ashoka envisions a world where "everyone is a changemaker": a global community that is able to respond quickly and effectively to social challenges anywhere and anytime. Every member of society would have the freedom, confidence and societal support to create positive change. Every part of society will benefit from having more change

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every part of society will benefit from having more change.

### MBAs turn to social enterprise



This vision may seem naïve. But it is not. There is a revolution out there. Let me just quote from Skoll Foundation:

#### Leading Business Schools are responding to student demands

- The leading business schools, around the world teach social entrepreneurship
  - Stanford's Center for Social Innovation has 20 faculties attached.
  - Said Business School at Oxford University has its own masters program.

#### Students are demanding social entrepreneurship coursework and extracurricular activity

- At Columbia Business School the incoming class of 2006 identified Social Enterprise as the #2 area of interest, second only to Finance.
- MBA students have formed interest groups like Net Impact – which today has over 11,000 paying members at 115 chapters around the globe, all with a strong social enterprise focus.

#### Practitioners and educators are eager to learn more

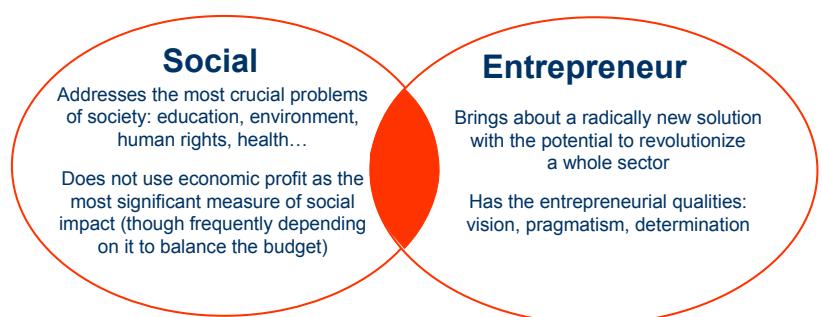
Annual conferences around the world are ex-

anding exponentially in number and size. When I first participated at the Skoll World Forum only a few years ago, we were a fairly small group. Now, you have to apply long in advance to be admitted.

#### Social Entrepreneurship is commanding significant media attention

- Mass media publications such as *Time*, *Fast Company*, *Fortune*, *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* have published featured articles about social entrepreneurship and Ashoka.
- Academic and practitioner journals such as *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *McKinsey Quarterly* and *the California Management Review* have followed suit.
- The Schwab Foundation has joined forces with major media outlets in 22 countries to publicly celebrate "The Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award". Significant investments are being made in Social Entrepreneurship at leading universities around the world.

### What is a Social Entrepreneur?

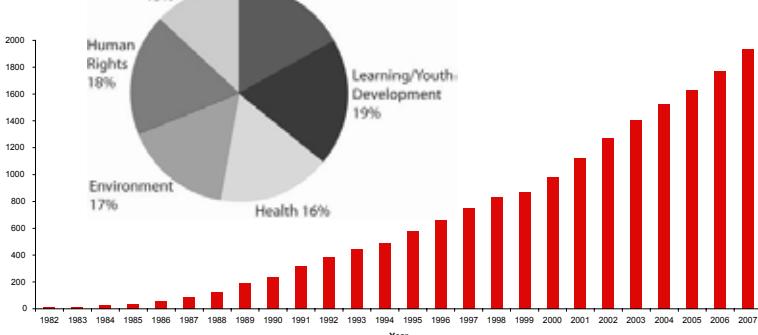


There are many definitions and all are valid. For Ashoka, it is crucial to find those who have

the potential to make a significant change in the issue approached, where it is possible to scale the solution up by "exporting" the solution. The social element is clear: The issue must be crucial, and the financial return must not be the primary driving force.

The entrepreneurial element is important: A radically new solution with the potential to revolutionize a whole sector. And the personal qualities such as vision, pragmatism, and determination are as important for any entrepreneur to succeed.

### Global Network of 2000 leading social entrepreneurs in over 60 Countries



Since Ashoka was established, more than 2000 Ashoka fellows have been elected. These have been supported financially with stipends as well as financial investment and professional support at the critical launch stage. Also, Ashoka is committed to support the entrepreneurs through every stage of their career. And last but not least, Ashoka has an active global network facilitating collaborations across the globe, enabling the social entrepreneurs to expand and increase their impact.

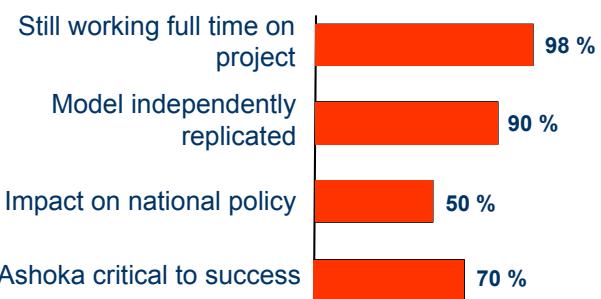
I will use an example from our own back yard. In Denmark, where Ashoka is just getting started, the first fellow elected is Torkil Sonne, who es-

tablished Specialisterne to help his Autistic son: <http://www.specialisterne.dk/specialist/du-er-ikke-alene/>

Sonne has had both social and financial success with his company. Ashoka is now helping him establish a unit in Norway. Further on, Specialisterne will be a global company, with the help of Ashoka. From being isolated from society, the young people with minor Autism in the form of Asperger's Syndrom will again have a chance to excel if they have the potential that they for so many decades were unable to show in our A-4 society.

### Measuring Effectiveness

#### % Ashoka fellows 5 years after election



### So –Does this work?

After 5 years, 98 % percent of the Fellows are still working on their projects, and 80 percent have been independently replicated. For 70 percent of the Fellows, Ashoka was critical for their success.

Ashoka's first region was Asia, and the first fellow from Nepal was elected in 1987. Today 41 Ashoka fellows operate in Nepal. 12 of these are working with Human rights issues, 8 on Economic development and the rest are equally spread between Environment, Education, Civic engagement, and Health. I have picked some examples, to show the wide variety of projects we fund. See <http://3sistersadventure.com/EWN/>



Lucky Chhetri was elected Ashoka Fellow in 2004 for her work to empower women in Nepal. I shall not bore this audience with things you know too well about the women's situation in Nepal, only briefly quote the statistics: 85 % of the women in Nepal live in the countryside, and only 14 % of these are literate. Lucky established Empowering Women in Nepal (EWN) to lead training for an initial core of women, many of whom had never before left their villages. Lucky started a business connecting female trekkers to the newly trained guides from her program. The success of this venture inspired her to broaden her trainings to reach many more women. Her program is gaining recognition and proving that Nepali women can successfully compete in tough job markets.

With demand for her training rising, Lucky is building a strategy for expansion, relying largely on mobile training. She launched a suite of mobile trainings in western Nepal in 2004, and she plans to spread the training across ten districts within four years. She has also partnered with the Nepal Tourism Board and Trekking Agents Association of Nepal, who have given high priority to her program. With their help she has reached beyond the country's borders to the Indian Himalayas, and she intends to spread her program to Tibet. In addition, she has opened a culinary school, leveraging the ethnic culinary skills of her women to add a delicious element to the travels of adventure tourists. Lucky's ventures all serve one central purpose: To create opportunities for women at work and at home. She shows that by acquiring financial independence, women can elevate their social status, gain self-confidence, and take their rightful role as leaders of social and cultural change.

Another Fellow – elected in 2006 - is Man Bahadur, who has succeeded in making the practice of Kamlari Prahta, which is the practice by which

poor families send their young daughters to work for landlords or wealthy families in the cities of Nepal. Man Bahadur uses the law to fight against the practice, making it illegal, and he uses economic incentives to create better alternatives for victims.

Man Bahadur's initiative, the Indentured Daughters Program (IDP), has become Nepal's most effective organization advocating for and resettling bonded girls, who are also referred to as Kamlaris. He recognizes negative cultural norms and traditions as the primary deterrents to justice and full citizenship for them and is advocating for change from both the demand and supply side of the problem—the employers of bonded labor and the parents sending their daughters into servitude.

The impact is beginning to show. PLAN Nepal has replicated the program in six additional villages of Dang and is scheduled to be expanded to five other districts, with the possibility to work with over 20,000 families and larger local communities. He has established strong coordinated efforts with various organizations working for child welfare and is networking with bilateral and multilateral organizations in addition to lobbying government bodies. By creating an awareness of the injustice in Kamlari Prahta at all levels of society—especially among the youth—helps to prevent the practice from continuing.

As in any other region of the world, the team of Ashoka Fellows in Nepal is a very impressive group of enthusiastic people. They find their peers in all other regions, and what strikes you when you meet these impressive people, is that they are all of the same making – and they are what the world needs to become a better place.

Ashoka is there to help them succeed and leverage their efforts.



# **Kjell Roland**

## **How to mobilize Norwegian capital and competence to address Nepal's energy problems**



*Kjell Roland er administrerende direktør i Statens investeringsfond for Næringsvirksomhet i utviklingsland, Norfund - [www.norfund.no](http://www.norfund.no)*

*Norfunds målsetning er å bidra til fattigdomsreduksjon i utviklingsland ved å satse på bærekraftig privat næringsvirksomhet. Roland var med å stifte analyseselskapet ECON i 1986. Han har vært konsulent og rådgiver for et bredt spekter av bedrifter, og har jobbet med energi- og miljøspørsmål for institusjoner som World Bank og Asian Development Bank.*



## Norfund – et særlovvsselskap eid av UD

### Bistandspolitisk virkemiddel:

- Lønnsomme investeringer for å skape økonomisk vekst
- Virksomheten skal utøves i samsvar med norsk utviklingspolitikk

### Våre virkemidler:

- Egenkapital, lån og faglig bistand

### Hvordan:

- Investere på kommersielle vilkår, alltid med partnere og normalt med en eierandel på 20-30%, aldri i majoritet

### Investor:

- Egenkapital 5,3 mrd kr

**Mandat:** *"....bidra til å  
redusere fattigdom  
gjennom å investere  
kunnskap og risikokapital  
i lønnsom  
næringsvirksomhet i  
utviklingsland...."*





## Strategi: Kompetanse – Kapital – Addisjonalitet

- **Geografi:** Fire regioner med vekt på Afrika og MUL
- **Sektorer:** Fornybar energi og finansinstitusjoner
- **Industrielle partnerskap:** Prioritere MUL og norske partnere



## Fornybar energi

For å bygge  
energiinfrastruktur



→ 2339 mill. i inngåtte  
investeringsavtaler

→ 49% av samlede  
investeringer

Norfund



## Fornybar energi – for å bygge energiinfrastruktur

### Hva:

- Investering i fornybar energiprojekter, med hovedvekt på vannkraft

### Hvorfor:

- Tilgang til elektrisitet er en forutsetning for økonomisk vekst – en fundamental infrastruktur

### Hvordan:

- Etablerer energiselskap med kompetanse på utbygging og drift i fattige land
- Investerer i fornybar energiprojekter
- Mobiliserer norsk kapital og kompetanse innen fornybar energi

### Visjon:

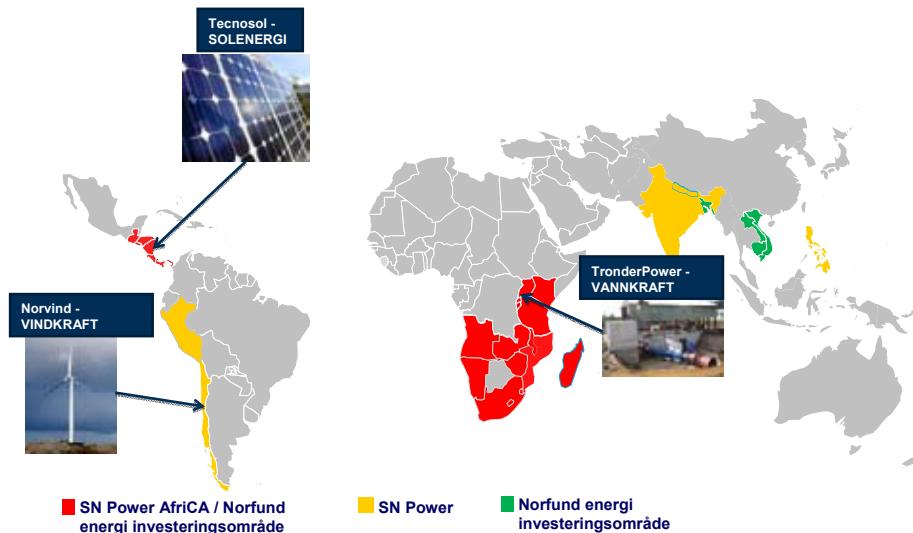
- Å bidra til økonomisk vekst og bærekraftig utvikling gjennom å være en ledende investor innenfor fornybar energi



Norfund



## Norfunds investeringsunivers for fornybar energi



## Utviklingseffekter av SN Power - klimavennlig strømforsyning

- Strømproduksjon på 1000 MW, tilsvarer strømtilgang til 7,1 millioner mennesker\*
- Overføring av norsk kompetanse og teknologi
- Sysselsetting av 1860 mennesker i 2008 – 60 i Nepal
- SN Powers iverksatte prosjekter forventes å resultere i en årlig reduksjon av CO<sub>2</sub>-utslipp tilsvarende klimakvoter på 2 millioner tonn CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Uten energi fra SN Powers vannkraftverk ville kull- og gasskraft blitt benyttet
  - I Nepal ville alternativet vært strømutskobling og dyr kullkraft fra India



\* SN Powers produksjon delt på nasjonal strømforbruk pr innbygger (ikke et uttrykk for strøm kun solgt til enkeltindivid)





## Bugoye i Uganda – en pioneer investering

### Fakta

- Norfund og TrønderEnergi har investert i 13 MW småkraftverket Bugoye i Uganda
- Den første norske privat finansierte hydro prosjektet i Afrika
- Ferdigstillelse høsten 2009

### I samsvar med investeringsstrategi

- Katalytisk – Trekker med annen kapital og mobiliserer norsk kompetanse
- Addisjonell – TrønderEnergi ville ikke investert uten Norfund
- Pioneer – Illustrerer at slike investeringer er mulige
- Stor fokus på HMS
- Utvikling – Øker strømforsyning i Uganda med omtrent 7%
- MUL fokus - Investering i vårt kjerneområde



9

## Norfund i Nepal

### SN Power

- SN Power overtok majoriteten i Himal Power Ltd fra Statkraft i 2006.
- Himal Power opererer Khimti Hydropower Plant, som var det første privatbygde vannkraftverket i Nepal og bidrar med opp mot 10% av den totale elektrisitetsforsyningen i Nepal.
- I samarbeid med blant annet Norad og UNDP driver SN Power et omfattende lokalt utviklingsprogram rundt Khimti som inkluderer blant annet skole, helsetjenester og lokal elektrifisering.
- SN Power planlegger å øke kapasiteten i Khimti fra 60 MW til 110 MW for å utnytte vannføringen i regntiden bedre.
- Miljø- og mulighetsstudiene for Tamakoshi 3 på går. Ferdigstilt til prosjektet på 600 MW genererer ca 2 500 GWh, delvis for direkte eksport til India og delvis til det nasjonale nettet.



10



## Norfund i Nepal

### Interkraft Nepal

- Norfund gav et lån på NOK 3 millioner til IKN som bidro til IKNs kjøp av 6% av aksjene i Butwal Power Company ifm privatiseringen av selskapet.
- Siste avdrag på lånet ble betalt i 2009.



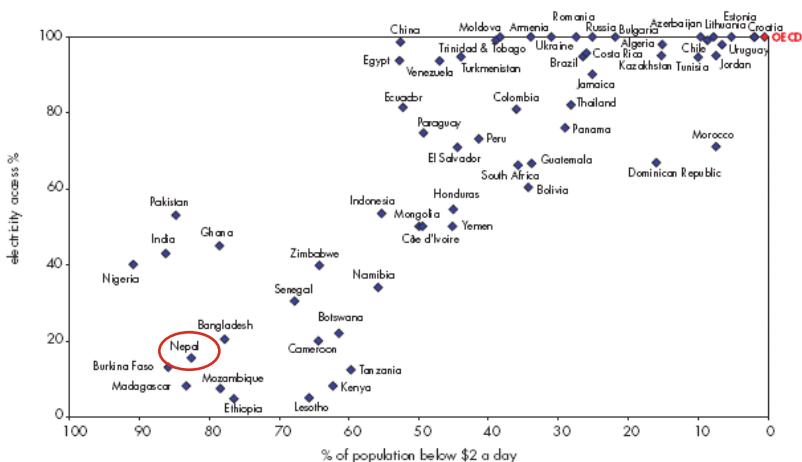
### Planer fremover

- Ser på muligheten for en forrentningsmodell for småskala vannkraftsutbygging i Nepal.



11

## Tilgang på energi – avgjørende i kampen mot fattigdom



12



# Peter Svalheim Bottom-up Assistance and Aid: Odd Hoftun's work in Nepal

*The launching of Peter Svalheim's Hoftun biography was described on page 37-39 in this Hamro Patrika. Peter Svalheim was also asked to tell more about Odd Hoftun's methods in development work. Peter Svalheim is a nurse, a journalist, and also involved in many cultural activities, including playing the flute. He has published two children's books.*

Odd and Tullis Hoftun arrived Nepal by new year 1958, seven years after the country opened for influences from the outside world. And he is still playing an active role as a senior adviser for the companies that he created in Nepal. This means that Odd Hoftun's work corresponds to a large extent with Nepal's modern history. It also covers the time span during which Norway climbed to the top of the world economically, and also as a so-called "humanistic superpower". Our contributions to aid and development add very much to our understanding of ourselves as Norwegians.

The expression "bottom-up" describes very

well Odd Hoftun's approach during his 50 years of service. In this presentation I would like to focus on the basic values, philosophies, and features that form the foundation for Odd's work. They might also serve as basic elements in development work in general and, even more for international, commercial trade.

The first significant feature I will mention is Odd Hoftun's dedication to serve. When he and Tullis went to Nepal, he had been struggling systematically since his early youth with the questions: What is my determination as a human? What is God's calling for my life? Eventually he reached the conclusion that his calling was to serve peo-

ple in another country, with his skills and his mind. To put it simply: Odd is a missionary. He became a co-worker for Tibetmisjonen and United Mission to Nepal (UMN). This was very fortunate, as both these organisations proved to be flexible enough to appreciate Odd's rather untraditional ideas, rather than to restrict them, as many other organisations surely would have done.

The bottom-up-perspective is prominent in UMN's description of its task: "We shall minister to the needs of the people of Nepal in the Name and Spirit of Christ". At the African Ministerial Conference on Hydropower and Sustainable Development in 2007 Odd described his service like this: "What it requires, is people who believe that this is important! People who are willing to go out there and start the process - and have the patience to see it through to the end! Because it is people that matter." This quotation describes Odd Hoftun's work in a nutshell.

The other feature that I will mention is the genuine humbleness that he imposes on his work. This is not necessarily because he is a humble person, but because he recognizes intellectually that his task requires humbleness as a work method. He consciously chooses to discipline himself and puts aside his natural desire for success as a professional. Instead, he can be quoted in sayings like:

- It is not important what you yourself achieve as a development worker. What matters is the achievements of your national co-workers.
- A development project that cannot be copied by the use of local resources and efforts might very well be a failure, even though it seems in itself to be perfect.
- It doesn't matter if you do mistakes, when only the mistakes are in a properly small scale and that you are able to admit your failures towards

your national co-workers."

Yet another feature in Odd's bottom-up-perspective is closely connected with his background and identity as a Norwegian. At this point, I will refer to a French Dominican Pater and sociologist, Bernhard Delplanque, who in the mid-1960ies wrote a 90 pages long essay: "Norge og utviklingslandene. Fra teknisk assistanse til politisk-sosial hjelp" (Norway and the developing countries - from technical assistance to political and social support"). Odd received this essay from Haakon Lie in 1969/70, as Lie's response to Odds' work in Nepal.

In this essay, Bernhard Delplanque stresses that the developing countries not only needs technical and economic assistance, but also values and human resources. However well intended, it would not have any decisive effect if a foreign donor pops in and delivers advanced technology or ready-made social structures from abroad. The developing country itself has to experience the conflict between the new and the old time, and at the grassroots level, in each family and village. This, Delplanque wrote, is the only and inevitable way to transform a nation's traditions and history into a natural foundation for a modern society.

Delplanque thought that Norway was a very relevant source for inspiration, and he described a specific Norwegian phenomenon: The structure of our society had developed from the bottom level, and was not based on an ideology of the elite. He argued that the Norwegian model had developed through thousands of conflicts and initiatives in hundreds of local communities, while at the same time being aware that they were parts of a bigger society and, therefore, had to connect with each other at the national and also the multi-national level.



Delplanque also pointed to the rural cooperative movement, Grundtvigianism, and, going back 210 years, Hans Nielsen Hauge – the lay preacher and establisher of industry and cooperatives. Hauge was a social reformer to a much larger extent than what is remembered and recognized today.

These ideas and values were integrated in many local communities in Norway - also in the small mountain society Ål in Hallingdal, where the local power station director's son, Odd Hoftun, grew up and later spent all his abilities, national and mental heritage, effort, skills and experiences in his service for Nepal.

When Odd Hoftun met the Nepalese society in 1958 it took him only a few weeks with observations and considerations to form the platform for his work during the next 50 years. "It is good in itself to run a hospital and do charity-work. But it simply doesn't meet the strategic needs of the people!" he writes to a friend, summer 1958. Instead, he outlined a totally new strategy for a Christian mission: To give technical training to individuals in Nepal. He also wanted that individuals would believe in values such as reliability and appreciation of physical work. In short, he wanted to create a basis for industry and a market economy so that the individual might be able to help himself through his own efforts.

At the same time, he developed an attitude towards funding that was in stark contrast to a common, commercial perspective: "Money should be treated as poison", he declared and argued that putting too much money into a development project would have a devastating impact. The local people would turn passive, and find a position as receivers instead of actively taking part in the

project. Instead, shortage of money would lead to creativity among the co-workers who would use own initiatives and skills to find their own solutions. Too much money would also take away the development project's value as an example of how poor people can help themselves.

In a paper focusing on Human Capacity Building, Odd has given his own description of his life-long work:

*What developed in our case was not a result of a pre-planned effort. Human capacity building does not work by directives from above. Nor does it fit well under crisis management, where the time perspective is too short. It is more like having the faith and courage to go and plant a seed. Then adding water and some fertilizer, but otherwise standing aside, letting the process take its time - and simply watch it grow. Both people and institutions are living organisms that must be allowed to find their own way and shape.*

I can't help feeling that the expression "simply watch it grow" is somewhat misplaced in the case of Odd Hoftun. From the huge piles of files which I was dealing with during my work, I also know that the planning efforts were far more detailed and foreseeing than this quotation seems to admit. Nevertheless, the quotation describes very well the organic nature of his work. The perspective shifted naturally from the individual to the forming of companies. As the years passed by, it so happened that the hydropower resources of Nepal got the main focus.

The perspective shifted naturally from the level of individuals, to projects, from projects to institutions, from institutions to the society of Nepal as a whole. Geographically there was a similar

development: From the local community, to the region, to the country.

This organic, natural growth at the same time contradicts a misunderstanding: That the "bottom-up"-perspective in development work is linked with the size of the development project. The bottom-up perspective is not describing a certain size, but expresses an attitude and certain principles that are implied in the project. This point became visible when Odd Hoftun's work reached the level of cooperation with international, commercial companies.

Now we are in the 1990-ies, and we are talking about Khimti and the plans for a 60 Mw Power plant east of Kathmandu. For Odd, this represented the next, natural step both for teaching skills to his family of companies, and for meeting the country's need for energy to the grid. This family of companies had all grown out of the same, tiny seed. Now they should learn to deal with the international, commercial world. And then it so happened that the Norwegian waterpower expertise had a similar need with the Norwegian Statkraft wanting to go abroad to find new markets and expand its activity. In Nepal, the company found it all prepared and built up from the bottom, by a fellow Norwegian, engineer and missionary. It couldn't be easier.

The waterpower companies of Nepal and of Norway met, with Odd Hoftun as the natural link and "midwife". The cooperation seemed to be a perfect match. And indeed it was, in a practical sense. The Khimti power plant was built on time and is now delivering energy to the grid. At the same time, this project represented a crisis in which Odd Hoftun's unique bottom-up strategy was challenged by the Norwegian companies'

totally opposite approach. Statkraft insisted to bring in the big, international investment banks, Asia Development Bank and even the World Bank. These big and mighty organisations operate in a way that keeps the small, developing countries under foreign dominance forever. It forms an evil circle: All commercial contracts shall be exposed for international bids. Due to the lack of relevant experiences, local manufacturers and suppliers do not win contracts in competition with foreign suppliers. And they do not gain such experience because they never get jobs where they can learn. This is a system of patronizing the poor and favouring the rich, in the name of "the holy" market-economy.

As far as I know, Nepal is the only developing country that has overcome this evil circle. Nepal has now got its own competence on how to utilize its vast water resources. This is very much thanks to a 50 years long effort for building up the competence in the country, from the bottom up, through individuals, and then through the family of companies, which all derived from the same seed.

Now in 2009, the Norwegian government expresses that: "The government wishes to stimulate Norwegian companies to get more involved in commercial trade in the developing countries." (Stortingsmelding 13, 2009: *Klima konflikt og kapital. Norsk utenrikspolitikk i et endret handlingsrom.*) Luckily, Odd Hoftun's work in Nepal offers a splendid example of how companies, the Norwegian government, and also the rest of the world can implement commercial trade in development work in a manner that serves the needs of the development country as well as the commercial company.



## Marit Bakke Norway-Nepal Association members' involvement in Nepal

*Marit Bakke is Professor emeritus from University of Bergen. As a Sociologist she has been teaching and doing research at universities in Denmark, Norway, and the United States. Her academic interests are comparative cultural policy, and communication and development, focusing in particular on health care. In both fields she has used examples from Nepal.*

*Marit has been in Nepal several times, and is a member of the Norway-Nepal Association.*

This Anniversary celebration is also an occasion to reflect about what our association has accomplished. 25 years ago the founders of the Norway-Nepal Association approved a set of Articles. Article 2 said:

The association's purpose is to promote cooperation and understanding between the Norwegian and Nepalese people by:

- Working for cultural exchange between

Norway and Nepal, and to distribute knowledge about Nepal's culture and traditions to Norwegians.

- Working to increase Norwegian aid to Nepal, and contribute to coordinate efforts to increase development aid and research collaboration.
- Functioning as a forum for people with an interest for Nepal.

In April this year the association's Annual meeting decided to take out the second goal in Article 2. This does not mean that the association no longer is interested in issues of development and aid, but rather the result of a realistic assessment of what an association with limited resources and with board members who often work fulltime, can accomplish. However, what our association as such cannot do, our members can do, and are doing. We want to regard them as significant representatives of the Norway-Nepal Association, all of them contributing to make the second goal more than just empty words.

Articles in previous issues this year of Hamro Patrika as well as today's seminar show that many Norwegians have worked in Nepal for many, many years, and contributed in various ways to improve the living conditions for people throughout the country. Most of these Nepal veterans have been, and still are, members of the Norway-Nepal Association. In addition to these "celebrities", there are many members who are less known, but who nevertheless have been involved in small scale development work as individuals or through NGOs. We do not know exactly how many they are, only that they exist.

In order to tell more about this group of people at this seminar, we asked our members to send us their story in an e-mail. So far the response has not been overwhelming, but sufficient to give you an impression of the type of development activites they are involved in, in Nepal.

First, many members work through formal institutions such as government agencies, NGOs, universities and colleges, etc. This type of work is based on contracts and agreements of collaboration. In terms of money, this is probably the

largest source for development projects in Nepal, although we do not know the total amount that comes from individual donations.

Second, Norwegian business is slowly becoming interested in investing in Nepal. Some of our members import Pashmina products or carpets to Norway, others work in Nepal for big companies like Statkraft. When I was in Kathmandu in October, the Deputy at the Norwegian Embassy, Einar Rystad, said that the business field in Nepal offers exciting possibilities for Norwegian entrepreneurs, given more stable political conditions.

Third, the members' response gives a small indication of what is probably a high level of individual contributions. Many stories about how they got involved in development work in Nepal are similar. Often it started with an accidental meeting on the trail during a trekking trip, with a guide, a porter, or with people in a village. One member's words are typical: "After the trek, I stayed in touch by mail, and also got to know his family. It was a great joy for me when I decided to support the family so their two sons could get an education." Some of these contacts have lasted for more than 30 years – "ever since I went as a young hippie to Nepal in 1977".

To illustrate how individual relationships can contribute to development I will tell a personal story about Bhim and Bina, not to brag about "good deeds", but because I learned something first hand about the results of small scale interventions.

The story started when another member of the Norway-Nepal Association, Marit Kleppa, went on a trek some years ago. Bhim was one of the guides. Bhim told Marit about his every-

day life, and about his wife Bina, who very much wanted to become a nurse. But a guide's income cannot pay the fees to attend a nursing school. Marit decided to sponsor Bina, and I joined in. Three years later Bina graduated from one of the best nursing schools in Kathmandu, and Marit and I had followed a fascinating process. While Bina was struggling to cope with courses taught in English, she slowly developed as a person and we watched her self-confidence grow. It was wonderful and moving. It was equally wonderful to see how Bhim, the husband, supported Bina. He was the one who had pushed Bina to get an education, and his support continued for three years, without being jealous by the fact that his wife became more educated than himself. The last aspect of this story is that Bina got a job at

a private hospital in Kathmandu, thus, one more person in Nepal employed.

The Norway-Nepal Association is grateful that many among our members, in these three ways, contribute to social change in Nepal. Collectively, they do what the association as such cannot do. However, what the association can do, is trying to fulfill the other two goals: To function as a forum for people who are interested in Nepal, and to keep distributing knowledge about Nepal by organising meetings and publishing our newsletter *Hamro Patrika*. To this end, we also invite new members who can expand the network of people who have a warm heart for Nepal.

**Marit Bakke**



Albert Kolstad at the Anniversary dinner.

# Marit H. Vedeld: Experiences, Lessons, and New Politics



*Marit H. Vedeld is Senior Advisor in the Norad Education and Research Department. 2000-2003 she was stationed at the Norwegian Embassy in Kathmandu, working with the Basic Primary Education Programme (BPEP), later Education for All Program (EFA). Since 2004, Marit has been working in Norad as an advisor and quality assessor of Norway's involvement in the education sector in Nepal. Throughout her diplomatic career, Marit has been an enthusiastic advocate for using education as a tool for social change and development. E-mail: Marit.Vedeld@norad.no.*



## EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

### Experiences, Lessons and New Politicies

Nepal

Marit H. Vedeld



### The link between Education and poverty reduction

- ❑ No country has reduced its poverty without economic growth
- ❑ Basic, but good quality education boosts household income



- Good quality schooling is related to greater economic growth and less poverty
- Levels of productivity, economic growth and patterns of income distribution are closely linked to the state and distribution of education



- Education is a Human Right
- "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"  
(Nelson Mandela)



Norad

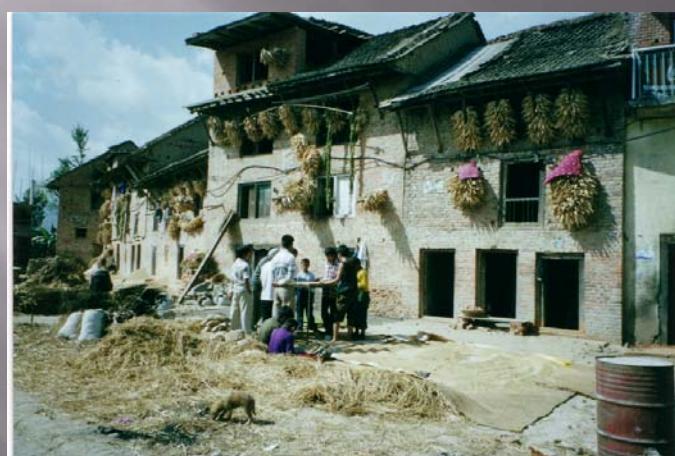


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Norad



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- The political transformation in Nepal is closely interlinked with a desire for social change, with inclusion being very high up on the political agenda.
- A manifestation of this social change is the very strong demand for education in post-conflict Nepal.
- There is strong political support for education, cutting across party lines.



Nepal has been focused on the education sector since the early 1990's through a series of national programs which have got Norwegian support;

- Basic Primary Education Program (1999-2004)
- Education For All sector plan (2004-2009)
- School Sector Reform Plan (2009-2014)



- The Government of Nepal's (GON) prioritization of education is a response to the increased demand for education services.
- The success of these past programs is shown by the achievements in schooling outcomes reflected in the increased access, survival rate and gender parity.
- BUT -significant challenges remain



- Eight percent of primary-school aged children do not participate in schooling, and it increases sharply for higher levels of schooling.
- Internal efficiencies continue to be poor at the primary level (nearly 16 % dropping out after Grade 1, and 30 % repeat the grade).

# Greetings from Sweden, Denmark, NRNA, and Jon Gangdal



From left: Jan-Olof Björlin, Anna Schulte, and Birgit Nielsen.

It was a pleasure to welcome representatives from our sister associations in Denmark and Sweden. Anna Schulte and Jan-Olof Björlin represented Sverige-Nepalföreningen, and Birgit Nielsen, as vice-chairperson, Dansk-Nepalesisk Selskab.

Anna and Jan-Olof told that Sverige-Nepalföreningen was founded in 1992. The association has focused on working for education and children's situation in Nepal, and since 1993, it has collaborated with partners in Sweden and Nepal to establish children's homes. Today, 43 children are sponsored with Swedish money. Anna said that she and her husband, Claus, would love to come to a meeting in the Norway-Nepal Association and tell about the children's homes sponsor program. In the meantime, you can contact [klaus.schulte@telia.com](mailto:klaus.schulte@telia.com) for more information.

Anna also told that her husband has introduced solar cookers in Nepal. Anna and Jan-Olof gave us copies of *NepalNytt*, the association's newsletter.

Dansk-Nepalesisk Selskab is the oldest among the Nepal associations in Scandinavia – it was founded 40 years ago. Birigt Nielsen took us through some of the highlights during this period. On 29th January 1969, Crown Princess Mar-

grethe and Prince Henrik attended the founding meeting, and the 20th Anniversary in 1989 was honoured by the presence of both Margrethe, King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya – to be totally correct: King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah.

In 2007, Nepal's diplomatic presence in Denmark changed from a Consulate to an Embassy (see *Hamro Patrika*, 1/2008). Until then, Denmark belonged to Nepal's Embassy in London, as Norway still is (see *Hamro Patrika*, 3/2008). Birgit had worked in the Embassy in Copenhagen, and gave some inside stories. Birgit handed over a copy of the elegant anniversary issue of *Nepal Vision*, the association's magazine.

Birgit presented a concrete proposal to the effect that the three associations should attempt to get a permanent meeting place in Kathmandu, either as a Scandinavian house, a restaurant or a cafe. We agreed to pursue this excellent idea, knowing well that it will be challenging to realize. The idea has been posted on [www.nepal.dk](http://www.nepal.dk) - Project.

The three associations have agreed to exchange regularly information about meetings and activities.

# Greetings from NRNA

Dr. Bishal K. Sitauli expressed greetings from the Norwegian branch of Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA). Bishal said a few words about Nepalis who are studying or working in Norway, and also about his own work as Professor at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås. Bishal hoped that NRNA and the Norway-Nepal Association could be even better to exchange information about meetings and activities.



## Hilsen fra Jon Gangdal

*Litt forsinket bringer vi en jubileumshilsen som Jon sendte fra Nepal:*

Kjære Norge-Nepal foreningen!

Gratulerer med 25-årsjubileet. Mitt ene bidrag til feiringen får være at jeg akkurat nå er der denne foreningen er til for – i Nepal. Det andre bidraget får være at jeg melder meg inn i foreningen. Det tredje at jeg får komme på et medlemsmøte utover vinteren for å fortelle om prosjektet vårt i Rolwaling.

Jeg sender dette bidraget med en av mine mentale bærere, Hem Gurung, og ønsker dere en strålende fest.

Beste hilsen

Jon Gangdal

# All pictures from the photo competition

*The three best pictures were shown on page 4. Below are the other 12 pictures that were selected for the exhibition at Voksenåsen.*

Three pictures by Lena Fauske:



Primary school.



Prayer flags at Syangboche.



Fetching food.



Tordis Korvald: Tilber du en sten er det en gud. Tilber du den ikke er det en sten.

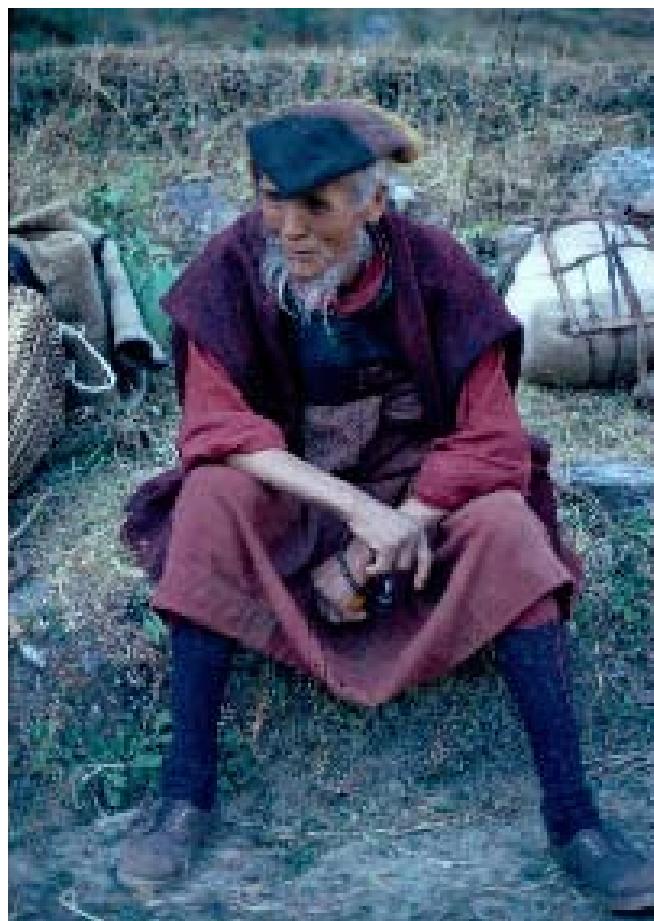
Three pictures by Sigmund Setreng



Bridge on the trail to Rolwaling.



Lama dwelling under Tseringma.

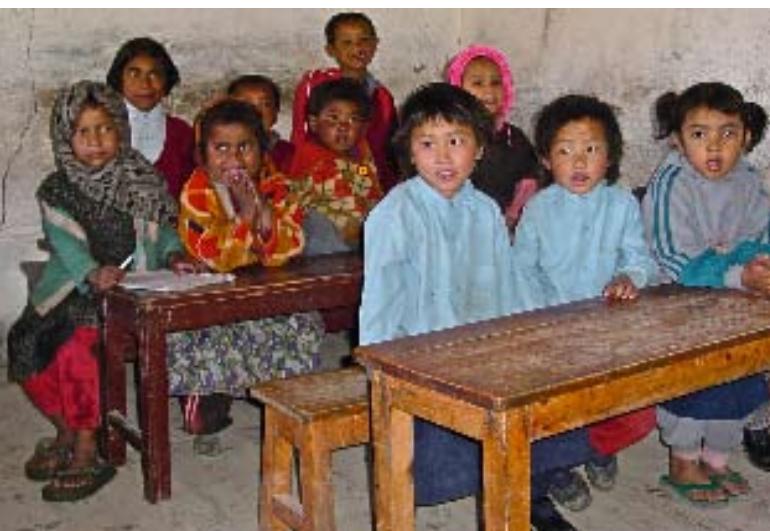


Lama in Rolwaling.



Reidun Johannessen:  
On the border Nepal-India.

Per Helmersen: Jomsom school children.



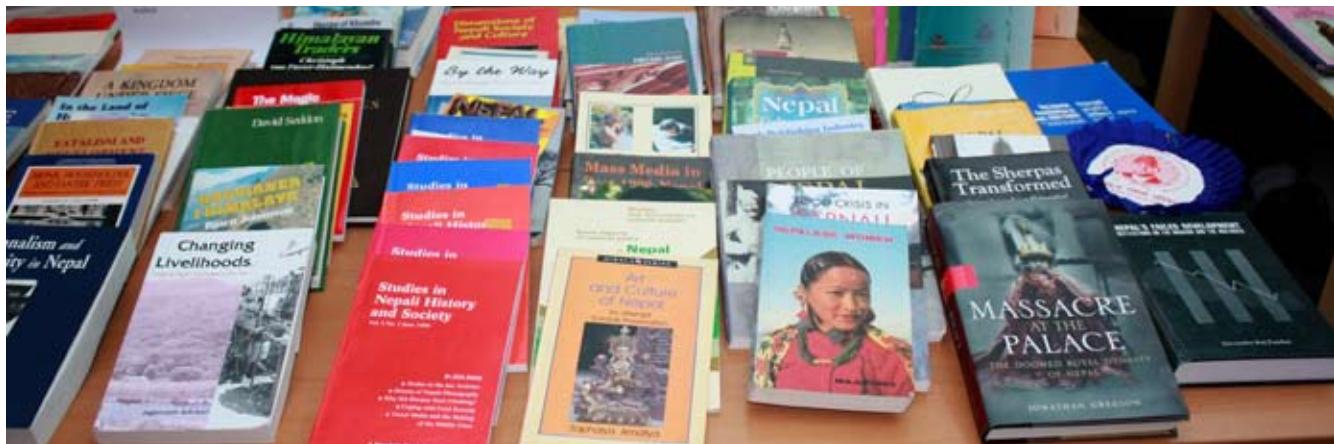
Two pictures by Lasse Storhol (uten tittel).





# Book exhibitions

One exhibition included Marit Kleppa's and Marit Bakke's own books, for people to browse about Society, politics, culture; Trekking and tourism; and Fiction.



Cecilia Leslie (Kåre Kuløy's widow) exhibited books from the *Bibliotheca Himalayica* series. A list of all books were published in Hamro Patrika, 4, 2009. If you want to buy some of these books, please contact Cecilia directly: [cecilia@extern.uit.no](mailto:cecilia@extern.uit.no).

# Anniversary Dinner

In the evening about 40 people were gathered for dinner at Voksenåsen. The Swedish cook had prepared a delicious meal, with daal bhat as one of the courses.

On behalf of the Norway-Nepal Association, Dag Norling honored the members who had been elected to the first board in 1984. A painting made by a Nepalese artist, with honoring words written on it, was given to those members who were present: Albert Kolstad, Hem Gurung, and Sigmund Setreng. Also Hans Bjønness, Sigrun Møgedal, and Kirsten Rogg were members of the first board, but did not attend the dinner. Kirsten Greiner and Ane Haaland were honored with a painting for their contribution during many years to keep the association alive.

Dag released the names of the three winners in the photo competition (see page 4): Lasse Storholt, Espolin Johnsen, og Sigmund Setreng. Only Sigmund was present to receive the prize - a silk sleeping bag.

Manohar Pradhan sang two Nepalese songs, and everyone joined him to sing *Resam Firiri*.

Hem Gurung held the main speech. He reflected upon his personal experiences from Norway-Nepal relations, as part of the diplomatic and bureaucratic system, and as a member of the Norway-Nepal Association.



## Members who were honoured:

Manohar playing guitar



Sigmund Setreng



Albert Kolstad



Hem Gurung



Kirsten Greiner - with Mio

# Norge-Nepalforeningens historie i tall

## Styreledere

1984-85	Albert Kolstad
1985-88	Hem Gurung
1989	Dag Norling og Hege Araldsen
1990-91	Erik Hoftun
1991-93	Ane Haaland
1994-97	Marit Kleppa
1998-99	Ingela Flatin
2000-03	Kirsten Greiner
2004-05	Kristine Ø. Alsvik
2006-07	Alsvik, Greiner, Haaland
2007-	Dag Norling

## Hamro Patrika

HP begynte å utkomme i 1986. I perioden 1986-88 ble bladet redigert av flere styremedlemmer i fellesskap.

## Redaktør deretter:

1988-1992	Dag Norling
1993	Ragnhild Krogvig
1993-1998	Kirsten Greiner
1999-2001	Anuradha Gurung
2002-2005	Synnøve Nes
2005	Knut Erik Helle
2006-	Marit Bakke



Thrond Berge Larsen tok disse bildene av opptoget med kong Birendra etter kroningen i 1975.