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Forsiden: Sykkeltur rundt Annapurna. Bidrag til jubileumsfotokonkurransen 2009

Foto : Lasse Storholt

Kontingenten

Det er tid for å betale kontingenten for 2011. Hvis du ikke allerede har betalt for 2010, så gjør det nå Konto: 6011.06.71221.

Enkeltmedlem kr. 175, familie kr. 225, organisasjon kr. 350. Du må gjerne betale for to år.

Husk å oppgi ditt navn ved betaling.

Førstkommende møte i Norge-Nepalforeningen :

Torsdag 27. januar 2011

På Norge-Nepalforeningens åpne medlemsmøte torsdag 27. januar vises filmen "Silencing the Guns: Tales of Non-Violent Resistance in a Warrior Village." Filmen er tatt opp i Nepal og er laget i et samarbeide mellom Senter for fredsstudier, Universitetet i Tromsø og IDEA-Nepal som arbeider med grasrotutvikling og forsoning i midt- og vestlige Nepal. Den ca 30 minutter lange filmen viser blant annet Hem Lal Pun, inntil nylig offiser i den nepalske hæren, og nå visepresident i IDEA Pun vil være tilstede på møtet, sammen med direktøren for Fredssentret, Tone Bleie. Filmen har verdenspremiere under Tromsø Internasjonale Filmfestival onsdag 19. januar, se <http://www.tiff.no/?lan=en&go=page&id=614>

Sted: Batteriet, Storgt. 36, Oslo

Tid: Kl. 18.30.

VELKOMMEN!

Hamro Patrika legges ut som en pdf fil på Norge-Nepalforeningens hjemmeside: 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.

Redaksjon: Marit Bakke

Layout: Dag Norling

Norge-Nepalforeningens logo: Stein Fossum

Forsidetegningen: Sigmund Setreng

Medlemsmøtet 25.november 2010 **Himalayas døtre**

Høsten 2010 skrev Sissel Henriksen mange artikler i *Klassekampen* om kvinnesituasjonen i Nepal. Den 25. november kom hun til Norge-Nepalforeningen og fortalte, med bilder, om mennesker hun hadde møtt på en rundreise i Terai og Kathmandudalen. Reisen ble gjennomført i samarbeid med Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN, stiftet i 1959) og International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) som har hovedkontor i London.



Jumumz Thapa Panta (23 år) med Rosita på et senter for kvinner. Foto: Sissel Henriksen.

Problemene for kvinner i Nepal er mødredødelighet, abort og trafficking. I Norge er det 9 dødsfall per 100.000, i Nepal er tallet 281 per 100.000 (tall for 2009). Før abort ble legalisert i 2002, risikerte nepalske kvinner inntil 20 års fengsel. Bedre tilbud på sykehusene har bidratt til nedgang i mødredødeligheten og at aborter skjer under legale og sikrere forhold. Sissel besøkte også sentre der kvinner med en fortid som prostituerte i India får menneskelig oppbakning og også økonomisk støtte til å starte mindre virksomheter.

Det ble en fin kveld med interessante og sterke historier, bare synd at så få møtte fram. Men dere kan fortsatt lese Sissel Henriksen artikler fra , se *Klassekampen* for 18., 23. og 25. september 2010.

Marit Bakke

Achham

-far away from the usual tourist track in Nepal



The first part of our trip went by plane from Kathmandu to Dhangadi. To our right, Dhaulagiri emerged among the clouds and the familiar Nepali hills were below us. One hour after we left Kathmandu we passed forested areas and endless flat rice fields as we approached the landing strip in Dhangadhi. We were on our way to Ridikot in northern Achham, one of the more remote districts in Nepal.



Background for the trip

We are one Nepali and Five Norwegians. The Nepali is Chhavi Raj Bhatt, the radiography student who Hamro Patrika wrote about in no. 1, 2010 (page 14-16). Chhavi had told his two sponsor families in Norway, Borgny Ween/Knut Skyberg and Grete Finstad/Olav Eriksen, about Nyaya Health and the medical clinic, Bayalpata Hospital, that it operates in Achham. Now they realized their plans to visit the hospital and discuss future support (including profits from another Hollies concert – see page 11), and to visit Chhavi's family.



Achham is in far western Nepal.

Ricefields in Achham



Achham, with Dadeldhura, Mahendranagar and Ridikot (BH for Bayalpata Hospital).

The fifth Norwegian was Marit Bakke who wanted to assess Bayalpata Hospital as a potential site for posting PAHS students during their 6th, and last, year (see the article "The first 60 students at PAHS" in this issue of HP).

How we got there

Most readers of Hamro Patrika have travelled on roads in Nepal and know that they in general are narrow with asphalt in the middle, and, not least, have many, many turns as they wind up and down steep hills. During the monsoon season even the best roads can be badly damaged. If there is money, the roads are repaired – without money, no repairing. Therefore, we better be prepared for hours of driving when moving around in the districts. Going to Ridikot was no exception. It took us two days, six hours each day, to drive from Dhangadhi to Dadeldhura (where we stayed overnight), and from Daldehura to Sanfe and up the hill to Ridikot and Bayalpata Hospital.

In addition to the normal dumps and holes we had to pass places where parts of the road had been washed away.



We are soon in Sanfe Bagar.

It was more dramatic when we returned to Dhangadhi and a big hole in the Godavari bridge forced us to drive very carefully across, while trucks and busses had to cross in the river bed. It must be said, however, that the road between Dhangadhi and Mahendranagar is excellent, being the main road to India in this part of the Tarai.

Bayalpata Hospital: Proof that private-government collaboration can work

The main goal for our trip was to visit Bayalpata Hospital; Chhavi and Borgny to look at the X-Ray facilities, Marit to discuss potential collaboration with PAHS.



Big hole in Godavari bridge.

Bayalpata Hospital is run by Nyaya Health, a private (501(c) (3) organization founded by people at Yale University in 2006. Most of the following information is from the Nyaya Health' website www.nyayahealth.org. In April, 2008, the organization opened Sanfe Bagar Primary Health Center, and during the following year it served over 17.000 patients, completely free of charge. In 2009, Nyaya Health joined in a partnership with the Nepali Ministry of Health and Population and moved up the hill from Sanfe to Bayalpata Hospital which the government had abandoned when it was decided that the Achham District hospital should be in Mangalsen. The contract states that the government over a 5 year period will provide 40% of the hospital's costs, and that the Ministry of Health and Population will take over the hospital in 2014.



Bayalpata Hospital on the distant hill above the tree to the right.



Bayalpata Hospital.



Bayalpata Hospital is a small, but significant element in the ongoing effort to expand health care capacity in rural Nepal. The needs for health facilities and services are particularly great in western Nepal, including in Achham with a population of 250,000.

Before Nyaya Health arrived the number of allopathic doctors in Achham was zero, it took more than 10 hours by bus to reach the nearest airport and operating room (the Maoists bombed the Sanfe airfield in 2006), and 14 hours by bus to get to the nearest intensive care unit. The female and male literacy rate is 6% and 54%, respectively. One in 125 deliveries results in the death of the

mother, and for every 1,000 live births 64 are stillborns. The average daily per capita income in Achham is 50 cents, which partly explains why 60% of the children are chronically malnourished.



Dan Schwarz and Ranju Sharma.

Except for the Executive Director, all staff at Bayalpata Hospital are Nepalis. The current Executive Director is Dan Schwarz who will stay one year before returning to the United States to finish his medical degree. Sitting in the grass above the hospital, Dan and Ranju Sharma (Program Coordinator) told about the challenges that they face every day. One of them is limited medical equipment, but regular supply of water is even more critical. From a source 8 km away, water runs through rubber pipes into huge tanks on the hospital ground. Although local people sometimes cut holes in the pipeline, the major problem is the environmental challenge like landslides and floods. In an effort to prevent water drainage a guard checks the pipeline twice a day. A particular problem this year has been that, due to the political crisis there is no government budget, thus the government's 40% share has not yet (in October) been transferred to Bayalpata Hospital.

Today the hospital provides inpatient and outpatient services, 24-hour emergency and obstetrical services, clean water for the community, and laboratory and a pharmacy. There is an ultrasound machine, an X-Ray machine has been installed recently, and the construction of a surgical suite had just started.

To serve the local community outside the hospital is an important preventive measure, and so far a Community Health Program has been initiated in three VDCs. Together with Dan, Ranju took us to meet Sunita Kumal who is the Volunteer Community Health Worker (VCHW) in the Ridikot VDC. Sunita welcomed us with tea, and after a little chat in the sun, she showed us the three stories high house, from the kitchen on the ground floor, to bedrooms on the second floor, and the third floor's storage rooms for food.

It is generally agreed that Nepal's Community Health Programs, and the female VCH workers in

particular, form the backbone of health services in Nepal's rural areas by keeping track of people's health conditions and social welfare in general – a crucial contribution to preventive medicine. No wonder that Sunita appeared to be a proud woman.



Sunita Kumal with two of her children.



Sunita's kitchen with open fire place.



Pots for storing food.

People and events on the road

To travel implies that we go to specific places that we usually have decided in advance, be it countries, cities or villages, islands, national parks, or other sites, and we also often know who we will meet on our journey. However, encountering unexpected sites and people can be an even more exciting part of travelling. The days in western Nepal offered several such occasions.

The day we flew from Kathmandu, the heat hit us when we left the plane in Dhangadhi. We quickly sought shade while waiting for the jeep that would bring us to Ridikot, and I walked to a big tree where three young men stood next to their shining motor bikes. I know very little about motor bikes, but could at least give complimentary remarks about the vehicles. And then: Did they live in Dhangadi? Where did I come from? Where were we going, and would we drive, fly, or walk? We soon were engaged in a nice chat, and I learned that all three of them had a job: Sanjiv as a reporter in the local radio station in Dhangadi, and Bisna worked as a supervisor in Nepal Telecom. Sujit said he had a permanent job in Japan, but responded somewhat reluctant-

tant to my comment that he was a migrant worker. May be 'migrant worker' is associated with having a blue-collar, low paid job somewhere in the Middle-East? Anyway, they could afford a motor bike and seemed quite happy.



Crushing stones.

On the way to Sanfe we saw two women crushing stones. We just drove by, but stopped when we returned two days later. Without any glasses to protect their eyes, without gloves, and with very simple tools they hit one stone after the other – and had probably done so for hours. They seemed a bit surprised when we approached



From left: Sanjiv, Bisna, Sujit.



them, the one more shy than the other. What can/should a foreigner, a tourist do? Watch curiously, ask to try the tools, give some rupees, or just smile and say good-bye? We were faced with the eternal dilemma when rich foreigners encounter local people whom we pity or feel compassion for.



Tools for crushing stones: hammer, stone holder, and bag to sit on.

To show pictures from home or pointing on a map is always an excellent way to make contact. This was the case also during a short stop in a small village.



We live here.

Medical practice in Nepal often has to cope with behavior that is based on traditional beliefs and values. For instance, it is not unusual that people still believe that they get sick due to an "evil spell" and, therefore, seek help from the local shaman. Another tradition is that menstruating women must follow the *chhaupati* practice and live isolated for four days in separate huts or cow sheds, and stay in the so-called *chhaupati goths*. Today this practice is most prevalent in western Nepal, and we met one woman outside a *goth* in Sunita's ward.



Menstruating woman in the doorway of a cow shed



There were so many things during the journey that attracted my attention and made me wish that I could stay longer to explore and learn more. Billboards, for instance. In Mahendranagar there apparently is a Human Rights office, and close to Dhangadhi I spotted a sign that encouraged people to visit the Centre for HIV and AIDS. This sign probably is not the only one in this or other part of Nepal, indicating that the disease slowly is losing its stigma.

What to believe in now? In Dadeldhura, "Lovism" was painted in many forms and sizes on a wall. According to a native Nepali, Lovism relates to a particular philosophy or religion. The

Nepali text in blue is a political message: "No one living in the mountains or in Tarai are enemies. Nepal must not be divided."

The visit to Achham is one among many experiences (some of which are described in this Hamro Patrika) which confirm that changes for the good in Nepal are possible, and indeed are taking place. Thank you, everyone at Bayalpatya Hospital for showing me your contribution to social development in Nepal!

Read more: www.nyayahealth.org

"Norwegian group visit to Bayalpata Hospital", blog posted by Knut Skyberg and Borgny Ween on Nyaya Health's website.

"Resurrection Achham. Nyaya Health is making the right to health a reality for the people of Achham", by Paavan Mathema. www.nepalitimes.com, Issue #528, November 19 – 25, 2010.

Text and photos: Marit Bakke



Nye konserter med the Hollies !

I *Hamro Patrika nr 1, 2010* skrev vi om konserten den 8. mai med the Hollies og at overskuddet skulle gå til prosjekter i vestlige Nepal. Det ble til og med arrangert en ekstra konsert og i juni ble det overført US \$ 11.000 til Bayalpata Hospital / Nyaya Health.

Vi kan nå fortelle at Knut Skyberg er i full gang med å arrangere nye konserter med the Hollies i 2011: På Sentrum Scene i Oslo lørdag 10. september og i Olavshallen i Trondheim søndag 11. september. Overskuddet skal fortsatt gå til prosjekter i Nepal. For mer informasjon, kontakt Knut Skyberg: Knut.Skyberg@stami.no. Billetter er i salg på www.billettsservice.no

PAHS has admitted the first students

In these troublesome times in Nepal there are indeed success stories to be told. Readers of Hamro Patrika have had the opportunity to follow the story about PAHS, from the project started formally in 2005, when the name was Patan University of Health Sciences (PUHS) (see HP nr. 1/2007), to the Parliamentary approval in 2008 of the renamed Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) (see HP nr. 3/2008), and to its successful conclusion on June 11th, 2010, when the first class of 60 students was welcomed. Thus, it took Dr. Arjun Karki at least five years of negotiations with Nepali politicians and bureaucrats as well as networking in Nepal and abroad to realize his vision to create a different type of medical school.



Dr. Arjun Karki was appointed PAHS Vice-Chancellor in 2008.

During all these years, Patan Hospital has been a solid basis. The hospital's history actually began in May 1953 when Dr. Fleming opened a cholera clinic at a different site than the present Patan Hospital. Three years later the clinic became Shantabhawan Hospital, assisted by United Mission to Nepal. A school of nursing was created in 1958, and a community health program in 1963. In January 1978 the construction of the present Patan Hospital started and opened with 138 beds and a staff of 211.

Today, Patan Hospital has 450 beds and a staff of 778. United Mission to Nepal's collaboration with Patan Hospital ended in 2006.

Morning view in Nagarkot.





Meeting with PAHS students.

In 2005 an International Advisory Board (IAB) was established with members from USA, Canada, Australia, and from several European countries, including Norway. Together with the PAHS team, IAB members have met every year for three days in the middle of October. The major issues on the agenda have been funding for teaching equipment (laboratories, library, textbooks, computers, etc.), and top level faculty. Most of the meetings have taken place in Nagarkot where the views have soothed tired minds.

It was a very special occasion for the IAB members when the PAHS annual meeting this year was inaugurated on October 27th in the presence of the caretaker Prime Minister Mr. Nepal and the Minister of Health and Population.

It was also wonderful to meet the students in the new teaching block at Patan Hospital, with a library, computer room, laboratories, and rooms for Problem Based Learning, all paid by the Nepali government. Although it was in the middle of the Introductory Block exams, the students took the time to meet IAB members and also to present reports from the second Community Posting.

At the end of their studies, the PAHS students will have a six months long clinical posting outside Kathmandu Valley. Bayalpata Hospital is one of the potential sites for this training, and my visit there offered an opportunity to follow up previous contacts between PAHS and Nyaya Health regarding this matter. The current Administrative Director, Dan Schwarz and his staff were enthusiastic about this possibility, and asked me to bring back an invitation to PAHS to visit Bayalpata Hospital as soon as possible. (Read more in „Achham – far away from the usual tourist track in Nepal“ in this issue of HP).



Prime Minister Nepal opens the Inauguration Ceremony. Dr. Arjun Karki to the left of Mr. Nepal.



At Bayalpata Hospital, from left: Dr. Amir Bista, Dan Scwharz, Ranju Sharma, Marit Bakke, and Dr. Bikash Gauchan.



Jahn Nesland, Ramhari Regmi, Marit Bakke



Scholarship agreement signed with The PAHS Registrar K.B. Bhandari.

Ten of the 60 PAHS students have been selected to receive a full scholarship for five years. Ramhari Regmi is one of them, and his scholarship will be sponsored by people in Norway.

Ramhari comes from a village close to Lapsibot in the northern part of Dhading. He is married and has a three year old son. He completed his training as a health assistance at the School of Health Science in Chitwan. Shortly after I came back to Norway, Ramhari sent an e-mail with the good news that he had passed all exams. So far, four persons are sponsoring Ramhari's scholarship, and others are welcome to join. For more information about PAHS and the scholarship from Norway, please contact Marit Bakke (marit.bakke@media.uib.no) or Jahn Nesland (j.m.nesland@medisin.uio.no).

Also the Nepali business community is supporting PAHS. One is the owner of the successful Bhatbhateni Super Market, Min Bahadu Gurung, who provides scholarships for two PAHS students from Rolpa and Khotang (www.nepalitmes.com, Dec. 24-30, 2010, "Persons of the Year"). You can read more about PAHS on www.pahs.edu.np

Text and photos: Marit Bakke

Anuradha Koirala is CNN Hero of the Year

Den 22.november 2010, kunngjorde Himalayan News Service resultatet fra den fjerde CNN-organiserte online avstemningen om CNN Hero of the Year. Resultatet er ganske så apropos til Norge-Nepalforeningens medlemsmøte om Himalayas døtre (se dette HP, side 3) Vi siterer fra Himalayan News Service:

Anuradha Koirala, a crusader known for her anti-human trafficking drive through her non-profit making organisation Maiti Nepal, has been named the 2010 CNN Hero of the Year. This is the first time that a Nepali has bagged the prestigious international award.

CNN's Anderson Cooper announced the result at the conclusion of the fourth-annual CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute, from the Shrine Auditorium amid a gala event in Los Angeles, California, before an audience of nearly 5,000 today.

Anuradha Koirala was chosen by the public in an online poll that ran for eight weeks on CNN.com. Koirala was introduced by actress Demi Moore, who along with her husband, Ashton Kutcher, created DNA, The Demi and Ashton Foundation, which aims to eliminate child sex slavery worldwide: "Every day this woman confronts the worst of what humanity has to offer," Moore said of Koirala.

Koirala's Maiti Nepal is best known for its mission to curb women trafficking from Nepal to the sex industries abroad, and the rescue and rehabilitation of over 12,000 victims since 1993.

"This is the victory of every single Nepali and all those fighting for the cause. This award is something more than personal," she told The Himalayan Times. "The honour has made us more responsible to overcome a shared concern of trafficking in humans. We should not wait for tomorrow what we can do today. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who always supported me."

Back home, premises of Maiti Nepal was lit up and fireworks were played. More than 150 women and children participated in the ceremony. Anita Syangtan (17), a ninth grader of Teresa Academy being run by Maiti Nepal, said, "We are all proud of you, Anuradha didi. Keep up the good work. Nepal needs more people like you so that children like me are not deprived of the privilege of education." The girl, once a victim of domestic violence, was rescued by Maiti Nepal five years ago

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The top 10 CNN Heroes, chosen by a blue-ribbon panel from an initial pool of more than 10,000 nominations from more than 100 countries, were each honoured with a documentary tribute and introduced by a celebrity presenter. The programme also featured performances by Grammy Award-winners Bon Jovi, John Legend and Sugarland. Anuradha will receive \$100,000 to continue her work with Maiti Nepal, in addition to the \$25,000 awarded to each of the top 10 Heroes honoured.



Nepal Tourism Year 2011

Den 25. oktober 2008 vedtok den nepalske regjeringen at 2011 skulle være "Nepal Tourism Year." Beslutningen ble tatt etter samtaler med reiselivsnæringen i Nepal. Formålet med kampanjen er å mobiliserere turistindustrien i Nepal slik at minst en million utenlandse turister kommer til landet i løpet av 2011 og at antall personer som direkte eller indirekte arbeider i turistnæringen i Nepal kan økes fra de nåværende omkring 548 000.

Kampanjen ble lansert den 1. januar i år. Starten ble blant annet markert på Tribhuvan flyplassen der de første 25 turistene som ankom den dagen ble ønsket velkommen med en gave på en dags gratis mat og hotell (www.nepalnews.com, January 2, 2011). Ellers innebærer kampanjen at man skal prøve å få trekkerne til å oppsøke nye, mindre kjente ruter. I stedet for å gå i de populære Everest- og Annapurna-områdene, skal turistene oppmuntres til å reise til blant annet Langtang, Mugu, Dolpo, og Humla. På www.trekworld.com kan du blant annet lese om trekkingturer i Nepal, og på <http://nepaltourismyear2011.com> finner du mange forslag til turer og opplevelser.

Nepals religiøse festivaler er velkjente. Mindre kjent er det nok at det i løpet av året arrangeres festivaler om film, musikk, kunst, og teater. I *Nepali Times*, Issue 533, Dec 24–30, 2010 (www.nepalitimes.com) er det en oversikt over slike festivaler. Forøvrig kunne www.nepalnews.com på nyåret (Jan 2, 2011) fortelle at gjeldende fra 1. januar 2011 er inngangsbilletten til Bhaktapur økt fra 750 rupees til 1.000 rupees for turister. Inngangsbillett til Bhaktapur ble innført i 1994.

Norge-Nepal foreningen har dessverre ikke ressurser til å bidra aktivt til denne kampanjen her i Norge. Vi kan imidlertid oppmuntre våre medlemmer til å fortelle andre om denne satsningen og generelt om hvor fantastisk det er å være turist i Nepal. Du kan også lese mere om Nepal Tourism Year 2011 på <http://nepaltourismyear2011.com>

Bilder fra Palmstrøms samling

Vi fortsetter serien med bilder fra Arild Palmstrøms gave til Norge-Nepalforeningen, et hundretalls dias etter hans far Knut Palmstrøm som var på FN-opppdrag i Nepal 1957. Selvom mye er forandret i Nepal på mer enn 50 år, kunne mange av bildene være tatt i dag. - Men legg merke til himmelen over Kirtipur, når var den sist så klar og blå ?



"I full stas"

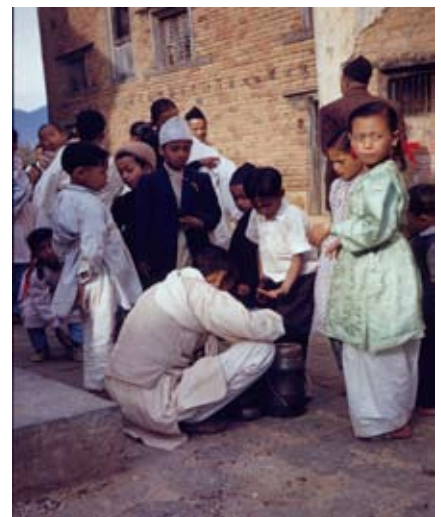


En smule skeptisk ?



Over: Festivalmusikanter

Under: Bepising i Swayabunath



Ungdommelig publikum lytter til historieforteller fra India

Peace and Conflict Study Center



Bishnu Pathak, President, PCS Center

Det er mange organisasjoner i Nepal som er opptatt av landets politiske, økonomiske og sosiale forhold. Noen legger vekt på praktisk handling blant folk, mens andre er mer akademiske og utgir egne rapporter og bøker, ofte i håpet om at de kan brukes av politikere eller for å mobilisere sosiale grupper. Blant de handlingsorienterte har HP tidligere skrevet om International Peace Brigade (IPG) i HP 3/2009, Mountain People (inntil 2010 kalt Shrinking Horizon) i HP 4/2009, Kathmandu International Study Center (KISC) i HP 2/2010, International Porter Protection Group (IPPG) i HP 4/2010, og Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN) som bare så vidt er nevnt i dette HP. Ut over disse har en mengde utenlandske og internasjonale organisasjoner avdelinger som arbeider i Nepal. Blant organisasjoner som kombinerer forskning

og utredninger med praktisk arbeid med blant annet opplæring er NEPAN (HP 1/2009), Martin Chautari (HP 4/2009) og Peace and Conflict Study Center (PCS Center).

I oktober i fjor hadde jeg en hyggelig prat med Bishnu Pathak som er President i PCS Center. Sentret ligger i Kathmandu og ble etablert i 2006 for å fremme den demokratiske utviklingen i Nepal, inklusive respekten for menneskerettigheter. Foruten en regnskapsfører og administrator har sentret fem personer med samfunnsfaglig bakgrunn. Forskningen har konsentrert seg om Tarai, spesielt forholdet mellom Madhesiene og Pahariene, dvs. folk som stammer fra Hill-områdene. Det praktiske arbeidet har omfattet kurs for ansatte i departementer og offentlige kontoret, for folk i sikkerhetstjenesten og også for Maoist soldater, slik at de kan forstå de underlig-

gende årsaker til konflikter og vold og dermed gjøre dem til "dedicated peace professionals". Sentret har også arrangert såkalte 'Grand meetings' med politikere, ministre, og militære. Alle synes kursene har vært lærerike, men ifølge Bishnu følges dessverre ikke den positive responsen opp når deltakerne vender tilbake til skrivebordet – ingen ting skjer. Politikere og embetsmenn er enige om at 'change' er nødvendig, men det er høyst forskjellige oppfattelser av hva endring innebærer. Bishnu tror det vil ta 10-12 år før det er skjedd en reell endring i Nepal. Dagens sivilsamfunn får ikke mye støtte fra de politiske partiene og er til dels også i miskreditt på grunn av dårlige representanter for sivilsamfunnet. Håpet er at dagens unge som har fått opplæring i demokrati om 10-12 år sitter i offentlige stillinger.

Bishnu Pathak har en PhD fra Tribhuvan University i Conflict and Human Rights og har skrevet boken Politics of People's War and Human Rights in Nepal (BIMIPA Publications, Kathmandu

2005) Han har vært tilknyttet den finske og den britiske ambassaden i Kathmandu og har hatt studieopphold ved Europakommisjonen og Dansk Center for Internationale Studier og Menneskerettigheter (DCISM) i København. Bishnu er koordinator for Sørøst-Asia avdelingen av TRANSCEND International som Johan Galtung etablerte for mange år siden (www.transcend.org). Galtung har besøkt PCS Center et par ganger i løpet av de siste fem årene.

Hver måned publiserer PCS Center en Situation Update om et bestemt tema. I desember 2010 var det en ti siders rapport om "UNMIN's Withdrawal Formally Winds up Maoist Army Cantonment and Barracking of the Nepal Army." Du kan be om å få disse rapportene ved å sende en e-post til: cscenter1.nepal@gmail.com. Du får vite mer om PCS Center på www.cscenter.org.np. HP vil gjøre oppmerksom på en fersk bok om et tema som PCS Center arbeider med: Electoral Violence and Volatility in Nepal, av Dhruba Kumar. Utgitt av Vajra Publications, 2010.

Marit Bakke



Laxmi close Foto: Espolin Johnsen Bidrag til Jubileumsfotokonkurransen 2009

Hva har skjedd siden sist?

"A year of false dawns. All across the country, there is a real sense that the people have been let down by their leaders." Dette er den noe pessimistiske og triste oppsummeringen som Nepali Times ga ved utgangen av 2010 (www.nepalitimes.com - Issue 534, Dec. 31, 2010-Jan. 06, 2011).

Mr. Nepal er fortsatt statsminister for et forretningsministerium, Nepali Congress og Maoistene krangler hele tiden, og Maoistene krangler seg imellom. Maoistenes interne konflikter er såpass tilspisset at det har vært diskutert om Baburam Bhattari (en av partiets to nestledere) skal ekskluderes fordi han på partiets generalforsamling i slutten av november (ble holdt i Ghorka) la fram et alternativt, mer moderat, programforslag. For øvrig vedtok generalforsamlingen at Maoistene er for 'revolt'. Selv om Maoistene den 26. oktober trakk Mr. Dahal som kandidat til statsministerposten, opprettholdt Mr. Chandra Poudel fra Nepali Congress sitt kandidatur, og de resultatløse avstemningene i Parlamentet fortsatte og har visst inntil nå blitt holdt 16 ganger! Ifølge den midlertidige grunnloven må avstemningene gå sin gang når de først har begynt og president Yadav kan ikke gripe inn. Hvis det etter hvert ikke er noe valg, kan det imidlertid ende med at presidenten gjør nettopp det. Det sies at mange savner den tidligere statsministeren Girilja Prasad Koirala.

Den 15. januar trekker FN seg ut av den delen av fredprosessen som angår integreringen av Maoistsoldatene i den nepalske hæren. I et brev

til UNMINs sjef, Karin Landgren, informerte statsminister Nepal at oppgaven ville bli overtatt av Army Integration Special Committee (AISC). Mr. Dahal ble sint fordi brevet ble skrevet uten Maoistenes deltakelse, og truet med rettssak mot regjeringen.

Den 16. desember ble det nok en gang avfyrt kongelige skudd, denne gang av tidligere kronprins Paras Shah. På Tiger Tops Resort i Chitwan begynte han å krangle med svigersønnen til nåværende visestatsminister Sujata Koirala og grep til våpen. Dette bidrar naturlig nok ikke til å øke de ex-kongeliges popularitet. Folk ble sinte, politikere forlangte at Paras måtte arresteres og ex-kong Gyanendra måtte beklage – alt dette beroliger kanskje de som er engstelige for at monarkistene kan overta makten igjen.

I det stille og på grasrotsnivå skjer det imidlertid ting som gir håp, noe blant annet dette nummer av HP har illustrert. Til tross for mange skuffelser, holdes den offentlige debatten i live i medier og ute blant folk. I november 2010 kunne vi lese om Radio Audios arbeide for at folk skal komme til orde: "Real people, real drama. Nepal talks about its constitution in a tea shop" (www.nepalitimes.com, Issue #528, Nov. 19-25, 2010). Radio Audio holder til i Kathmandu og har 24

FM-stasjoner over hele landet. De produserer Chiya Chautari, en dramaserie som begynte som studio-sendinger, men som på grunn av stor popularitet snart ble sendt som utendørs teater. Sendingen begynner med at et tema introduseres av skuespillere og deretter utvikler sendingen seg som et samspill med publikum. Et eksempel er fra en sending om arbeidet med en ny grunnlov:

Skuespiller: "What does it matter to us if the constitution is written or not?"

En sjåfør svarer: "Nothing will come out of it. The constitution will never be written. What can be expected of these thieves?"

Nepal er fortsatt i stor grad avhengig av økonomisk støtte fra utlandet. Beregninger viser at den offisielle bistanden de siste ti årene i større grad er gått til "human development", især utdanning og helse. Dette er skjedd på bekostning av støtten til jordbruk, vanningsanlegg, skogbruk, kraft og kommunikasjon. India er nå blant Nepals topp fem utviklings/bistands-partnere. Interessant er det at bistandsmidler fra utenlandske regjeringer i løpet av de siste ti årene er redusert fra 23% til 17% (www.nepalnews.com, january 2011).

Marit Bakke



Foto: Lasse Storholt Bidrag til Jubileumsfotokonkurransen 2009