

To: All
From: Rita
Date: 31st January, 2018
Subject: Peace Building Museum Center (PBMC) Monthly Update

Nepal Context:

Nepal has just completed its provincial level elections during November/December 2017. Just recently the provincial state capitals and Governors have been named (1 woman and 6 men!). Soon after that there has been dissatisfaction over designated provincial capitals and there is agitation in several districts. This has led to strikes, some level of violence, and demonstrations, in the respective areas leading to some level of instability.

Work with the Land:

It was agreed that NA would build the PBMC in the area covering and close to Rupendehi and adjoining Bharatpur districts. This was owing to the following:

- An international airport is being built in Bhairahawa
- There is a 6 lane highway being built, and
- Lumbini the birthplace of Buddha, Pokhara the gateway to Annapurna range of mountains which is a tourist destination, and the Chitwan national park are stone throws away.

We luckily had our well-wisher and supporter Shankar Raj Pathak (a civil engineer and a GIS/GPS expert), now also a member of our expert group), currently based in the district, and taking his help we have been scouting possible sites. We decided we would not ask for help from brokers. On Shankar's advice and his hosting, on October 30th, Susan & Rita made a preliminary visit to Rupendehi District to scan a preliminary lands. Four sites were visited. A significant learning from this was that land was much more expensive than what we anticipated and that the prices were sharply rising. We were lucky to find Shankar Gautam, an ally from the local area willing to look for appropriate land and this expanded our search for the land. Following this end of this month 27-28th we revisited the districts to look at 7 plots of identified land, with the help of local people. Out of these two were shortlisted and Shankar Raj Pathak was given the discretion to finalize the better of the two in terms of price and location as informed by his negotiations with the owners and the go between. On the 31st we were very happy to learn from him that one of these plots has all the necessary legal papers and the price is suitable. Now the necessary legal paper work needs to move from NA side for the final transaction of the land.

Fundraising for PBMC:

At the beginning it was realized that it is urgent to buy the land. NA had some savings but not enough for the purchase of the land. Therefore it was thought that this shortfall could be met by requesting NA members to give a soft loan for 1 year. In this regards, a meeting was held on the 12th at Rita's home. 15 members came for the meeting and all agreed to the proposal, all together 47 lak¹ rupees was pledged. Inspired by this the NA

¹ 1 hundred thousand rupees which is approximately US \$ 1,000

Finance Officer, Sanjeev said that the staff could also give this kind of a loan and personally pledged 1 lak.



Following this, a luncheon meeting was held with the 3 remaining members who could not attend the previous meeting. The three, together pledged 20 laks. Thus, the members together pledged over 65 laks. Taking the

Members meet in Rita's home

cue from Sanjeev we had a meeting with the NA staff team on the 17th. Likewise **all of the staff** were happy and **pledged a total of a little over 8.5 laks**. Cumulatively, they expressed the following key points:

- They were very happy that NA was doing the PBMC - its time had come!
- They felt very



Staff meeting at NA

happy to be included in this way so that they could participate and own the PBMC better, and

- None of them wanted any interest on the loan they would provide for 1 year.

This meeting demonstrated the strength and ownership of NA, and gave all of us moral strength.

Besides, we have sent request letters to the German and the Japanese Embassies requesting a meeting with the respective Ambassadors.

Others:

On October 2017, a Joint NA Board meeting decided to form a Core Committee consisting of NA Trustees with CEO Susan and Treasurer Jyotsana. Several advisory Sub Committees were also named e.g. Legal with members Sandhya & Bhakta who are

members of the NA Board; and the Technical, & Infrastructure Development Sub Committees (members yet to be decided). Besides, weekly planning meetings between Ganga, Susan, and Rita, is ongoing.



Susan & Rita with Prabal

This month we also met with architect Prabal S. Thapa as a possible key person responsible for the work on design from Nepal side. Prabal is well known for his locally and environmentally grounded designs. We were delighted that at the end of the meeting where he was briefed on NA and its work and the PBMC, he expressed

happiness to be a part of the PBMC acknowledging that this would require much more technical and expert input.

***Note:** This is the first of the monthly updates, which will document and inform the progress on the NA/PBMC. It will be sent out on the last day of the month hence on. Please send a blank message back if you do not wish to be on this email group. Thank you!*

To: All
From: Rita
Date: 28th February 2018
Subject: Peace Building Museum Center (PBMC) Monthly Update

Nepal Context:

Despite all the political disruptions and setbacks the work on the new officials e.g. the Chief Ministers, Ministers, Speaker of the House, and Chief Justice for the Federal States are ongoing. The new Prime Minister is now Mr. K. P. Oli as voted by the UML party, who got the overwhelming majority of votes in the recent elections, and who is now working on expanding the cabinet.



On 14th February, women rights activists and organizations celebrated the One Billion Rising Campaign with rallies, vigils, and the "break the chain" dance/s, saying "NO" to violence against women and demonstrating a show of solidarity and strength.

Work with the Land:



Our expert committee member and supporter Shanker Raj Pathak had further scrutiny of the land and he sent us this reassuring note with several maps of the location. In his words, *"the most beautiful part of the land is that we can enjoy the view of Narayani river and*

Chitwan national park from the first floor and the floor thereafter. The local community is of the indigenous Tharu community known for their sincerity helpfulness. Although the Narayani River is close enough there has been no history of flooding. We have a wide graveled road up to our land and little beyond which is

expected to be blacktopped within 1-2 years' time period. The area is just 4-5 Km south from East-West highway. I am sure that the value of this land will increase within no time as the government has already declared the right bank of Narayani river from Gaidakot to Triveni Susta (Nawalparasi - East district) as a tourist area, and therefore already a number of resorts are being operated in the area".

He was also able to further reduce the value of the land by Rs. 300,000 per "bigha" (the land measuring Nepali term). We are buying 2 bighas or 1.36 ha, which will now cost us Rs. 19,400,000 - approximately equivalent to US \$ 194,000. There will be official taxes for buying this land so the total cost will a little over US \$ 200,000.

Buying the Land:

During this month we constantly received invaluable professional inputs and advice from our expert member Shankar Raj Pathak as per the preparations and documents that would be needed for the official transaction of the land. NA was busy preparing all the official documents required, e.g., minutes, signatures, financial documents, good



for payment cheque, and other financial arrangements. On the 17th Saturday, Susan Risal, CEO; Bhakta Bahadur Singh, Board Secretary; and Sanjeev Raghubansa, Senior Finance/Admin Officer flew into Bharatpur for the official transaction of the land. With the help and support of Sankhar Raj Pathak, they worked the whole day on Sunday before the official work was completed through some harrowing and frustrating moments for them of working in government offices. However, the task was completed. None of this would have been possible without the critical role played by Sankhar Raj Pathak. PBMC owes him the basis of its existence! Yes, now the PBMC has its site.

Soon as we can, we will visit again with the contractors and our local architect, Prabal S. Thapa for necessary initial assessment and work. The expert group is tentatively expected to convene in Kathmandu/Parasi during early April.

Fundraising for PBMC:

Looking for funding support and screening the possible donors website is ongoing. A skeletal of a proposal on what we have of the PBMC has been drafted. We have identified the Belgian Government Development Grant in the field of Peace building, and think we need to apply for this. Coincidentally, our expert member Han Verschure & Marleen who are from Belgium will be hopefully able to support this application better. The grant is located in the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Any of you know of an agency we can approach or apply to, please do let us know.

Others:

PBMC Core Group meeting took place on 2nd February. This meeting, inclusive of a NA Board meeting, was essential for the preparations of all the officially necessary legal papers.

***Note:** This is the first few of the monthly updates, which will document and inform the progress on the NA/PBMC. It will be sent out on the last day of the month hence on. Please send a blank message back if you do not wish to be on this email group. Thank you!*

To: All
From: Rita
Date: 31st March 2018
Subject: Peace Building Museum Center (PBMC) Monthly Update

Nepal Context:

The new government is being formed. Mr. K.P. Oli is unanimously voted in as the PM. Likewise Vidya Bhandari is reelected as the President, and the Deputy Speaker of the House is also elected a woman. All are from the left and the Maoist parties, which was to be expected after the over sliding victory in the election results for the left parties.

An untoward disaster this month was that the US Bangladesh flight crashed on landing at our airport, taking a toll of 49 passengers and crew out of a total of 66. Very sad! Yet spring is here restoring the earth with new shoots, leaves and floweres!

Work with the Land:

Work with the land is not moving until the expert group meeting in mid April. We are expecting three key people from Belgium and the 3 Nepali experts, Prabal S. Thapa, Sankhar Raj Pathak, and Madhav Mathema (yet to be asked) to visit the site and advise us accordingly so the master plan and the phase wise design can move forward.



This month we met with the contractors, Rajan Singh Basnet (L standing) and Astaman Maharjan (far L) to finalize their interest and commitment for the PBMC. Since they had worked for 17 years in building the Tewa Center, and know the way we work well, the PBMC Core Group decided that we

would first approach them. They said they were very pleased to be asked and would give their full commitments and any support they could extend to the PBMC.

Fundraising for PBMC:

All the pledged monies as loans by members and staff are being collected by NA. In Nepal, we have not yet managed to approach possible donors for the PBMC. But Han and Marleen made an appointment and visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels on the 7th morning to look at any possible funding sources for the PBMC and in particular follow-up on Belgian Grants for Peace Building. In brief, they shared that they were told that although there was no opening for 2018, they are hopeful that there may be a possibility for funding in 2019. The Ministry's funding had been significantly downsized (not good news for us) and at this point was entirely dedicated to Africa.

But, we are thrilled to receive our first gift of US \$ 5000 from Han & Marleen. They also write "*Of course, over time we will also solicit gifts from other donors.*" This is definitely marked as the historical gift for PBMC. We have a few Nepali perspective donors who have pledged to give but since they have not stated an amount or when the gift is coming I will not advertise them yet.

Susan and I also have an appointment with the German Embassy this coming week – we are crossing our fingers.

Others:

This will be an exciting month with the expert group meeting and site visit. A concept and a plan for the building work will surely emerge!

To: All
From: Rita
Date: 30th April 2018
Subject: Peace Building Memorial & Learning Center (PBM&LC) Monthly Update

Nepal Context:

We are having incessant rain this month very unusual. The political scene is hot with the communist parties uniting especially the ULM and the Maoists. Geo political relations are also warming up with 1 railroad coming in from India and the other from China – what all this may mean for our future – hope it is all for the good!

Work with the Land:



On the 12th the team of 4 engineers, Han, Marleen, Prabal and Goedele accompanied by Susan and Rita flew to Bharatpur, to take a look at the land. Ganga flew in a day earlier to ensure the smooth flow of logistical needs and met the team as they arrived. Two site visits were made

The center trees and the land is NA/PBM&LC

before the team returned to Kathmandu the next day, in order to verify the status of the land and its physical location so that the designs and drawings could be technically and esthetically the best possible. Focused discussions took place probing on needs for the PBM&LC as



(L-R), Marleen, Goedele, Han & Prabal at the site

perceived by NA, the ongoing peace-building work of NA, and the possibilities for the PBM&LC as it stands rooted in its context. The field visit also allowed for some

conversations with the owners of the land and members of the local community. Everything went as planned and we had a successful site visit.

Fundraising for PBMC:

Inspired by Han and Marleen's gift of US \$ 5000, it has been agreed by the NA PBMC core group here, that we will attempt to raise at least Rupees 50,00,000 (50 laks) from Nepali donors. Towards this Susan gifted the first Rs.100,000. Likewise, Rita gifted Rs.500,000. Jyotsana Shrestha the Secretary General and Roshani Karmacharya the Treasurer at NA, also each gifted 100,000 each. Taking the opportunity of the NA's 17th anniversary celebrations on the 17th, NA longtime supporter Pratima Thapa also made a gift of Rs. 100,000. Good news arrived end of this month from Chela Blitt who is sending us US \$ 2000. All together, this month, we have approximately **US \$ 16,000 coming in for the PBM&LC!**

Expert Group Meeting in Kathmandu:

Madhav Mathema, a senior Urban Planner in Nepal joined the expert committee this month. Han and Marleen arrived as planned on the 6th of this month and Goedele arrived on the night of the 10th. An initial introductory meeting of the Expert group was planned for the 8th



where Prabal, Madhav, Han, Marleen, Prativa, Ganga, Susan, and Rita were present.



Prativa Pratap Singh (also Rita's visiting daughter) attended owing to her keen interest to support the PBM&LC in ways she could even though she is based in India. Rita suggested that Susan with the Core Committee take the final decision on this. The Expert group also asked

Rita to request Hope Chigudu, a Zimbabwe feminist activist to be a part of the expert group as was suggested earlier. Good news is Rita did, and Hope Chigudu said "yes" – so she is on board the **PBM&LC** expert group!

Goedele Desmet, was taken for a tour of Tewa and given an orientation on the genesis and status of the PBM&LC before going on the site visit. She was scheduled to return on the 15th.



On the 14th the Nepali New Years Day, following return from the site visit, the full Expert group team joined by Madhav and Shanker Raj Pathak, and Rita and Ganga met at Patan Dhoka for a comprehensive 4

hour long meeting. This meeting comprised of introductions, update and outcome on/from the field visit, a conceptual layout plan by Han and Goedele, inputs and consensus from all on the basic concept and the esthetics of the PBM&LC, and fundraising. Of course the meeting also included a celebratory brunch for all.

It was agreed that Prabal as the local architect would meet with Han and Marleen once more on the 17th – and did. Rita with the NA team would provide a revised concept note and a quantitative requisite of the spaces, rooms, halls of what the PBMC would need which would allow Prabal to design in detail, backstopped by Han from afar and Madhav locally.

Others:

After consultations all around, it was agreed that we would name the center as "**Peace Building Memorial & Learning Center**". Nagaik Aawaz celebrated the completion of its 17 years where they publically announced the building of the PBM&LC in **Sehari, Madhya Bindu,**



Back row L-R Sanjeev, Susan, Chhatra – Chair of NA, Marleen, front row L-R Ava, Jyotsana, Bernie, Rita & Han

Nawalpur, Parasi, as one of their main undertaking in the coming years. The PBM&LC Core group members had a debriefing meeting with Han and Marleen before they left Nepal on the 19th April. We can say that the PBM&LC is slowly moving ahead.



One other important meeting took place with the 2 engineers in Nepal, Madhav Mathema and Prabal S. Thapa. This meeting was to discuss on the final revised draft of the PBM&LC concept note, finalize on the urgent actions to get the work going. It proved to be a

very productive and a very useful meeting. Both Prabal and Madhav ji were very generous with their time and inputs.

On the 30th Prabal took time to visit Tewa.

PS: for everyone's convenience please find NA's bank account here below ☺:

Bank's Name:	Siddhartha Bank
Address:	Satdobato, Lalitpur, Nepal
Account Name:	Nagarik Aawaz
Account No:	01815090950
Swift Code:	SIDDNPKA

Note: Photo Courtesy: Ganga Sagar Rai

To: All
From: Rita
Date: 26th May 2018
Subject: PBM&LC Monthly Update

Nepal Context:

This month, the political highlight and the historical event was the merging of the UML ruling party with the strongest opposition, which were the Maoists. It is hoped that this will provide more stability to the government and an impetus for progress. The government has also announced an ambitious five-year plan, with a double-digit growth in living standards, infrastructure development, and increase in agricultural outputs. We can at least be hopeful!

Work with the Land:



Prabal & the NA team sat together to work on the due diligence necessary for the government to finalize the contract with Prabal. The NA team also discussed at length the detailed needs of NA in a phase wise approach for the building of the PBM&LC. Dr. Chattra Amatya, the chair of NA Board also joined the

meeting for a while. At the end of the meeting we all felt that we were clearer about our needs at least for the first phase of work realizing that every other phase will require review and revision according to how work moves on the ground and our context related needs.

Tentatively, it is agreed that Prabal will prepare the drawings within 3 months with timely inputs from the expert group members. We will begin building work on the ground by the end of the festivals September/October, but will initiated other PR related work with the local government and the community as soon as it is feasible and we identify appropriate local liaison person. We now hope that our first phase of work will be completed by the end of March 2019.

Fundraising for PBMC:

Early this month, members of NA, Dr. Bina Pradhan and Dr. Ava Darshan Shrestha both pledged a sum of Rs. 100000 each for the PBM&LC. This was soon followed by a pledge each of Rs. 100000 from Riva and Dr. Suman S. Thapa, and Prativa & Charat Pratap Singh. Around the middle of the month Lynne Brennen NA's longtime

supporter arrived with a gift of US \$ 1200 from Professor Angela Miles. Rita's nephew & niece-in-law Pradumna Thapa & Johana Shah sent a gift of US \$ 200 for the PBM&LC during Rita's visit to Washington DC. Likewise Rita got to share about the PBM&LC with a few interested Nepali donors. Towards the end of the month Kiran Singh, a long time Tewa donor pledged Rs. 100,000. On the 22nd Rita received an email from our long time Tewa supporter and ally, Louise Davis saying *"Please tell NA I sent along a contribution of US \$ 5000 for the PBM&LC (to match the kind contribution of Han & Marleen)"* gladdening our hearts and keeping us motivated! Soon after, Maaïke van Vliet, our friend from the Netherlands pledged Euro 1000 for the PBM&LC!

I also felt lucky to be meeting the Programme Manager Karine Meaux, of **Fondation De France** and requested her to make any funding connections for us as she may think suitable. I also met with Father Cap Miller and Ishaan and requested for their support in any connections they can make for us. I also spoke to the white butterfly man Milan Rai. In this way I spoke or wrote to several other people who have all said that they will make connections for us when they see an opportunity and some of them are sending us appropriate links or words of support.

Nepal Expert Group Meeting:

On 13th the expert group in Nepal met, with an apology from Madhab Mathema. The meeting focused on the following:

- Deciding on who and how we could carry out the work in the site: a overall supervisor, a community mobilizer, and a caretaker especially now that SRP will not be based in the province. It was



agreed that we would call Lamsal ji by the following week to discuss the best options at the field level in detail.

- After a thoughtful consultation, it was agreed that Prabal would take an initial 3 months for necessary field study and for agreeing on the finalizing the concept and an initial plan and estimated costs. NA will draw a contract and pay an agreed lump sum for this piece of work.
- The AM Construction Company's contractors Rajan and Ashtaman were asked to arrive after we finished our meeting with Prabal. They introduced and expanded on their work and experiences as A class contractors. Prabal, Susan,

and Ganga felt that their probing were satisfactorily answered. They have been given the first task of conducting a survey of the land since they have the equipment and good surveyors in their network as well as documents needed for government compliance from their side.

Others:



On the 25th the NA/PBM&LC Core Committee met to pass some of the urgent pending matters e.g. Prabal's payment for detailed site plan incorporating local architectural design, and the first phase detailed design. We agreed on

8.5 laks for the first 3 months of work. The Core Committee discussed on the contractors and the best option and for now agreed to use AM Construction Company. They also decided to invite Prativa Singh as a member of the Expert Group and requested Rita to inform her. All the 12 participating members expressed their happiness at initiating the PBM&LC and said were committed to lending it full support. Most members pointed out that this work does need to model for Nepal and needed to be worthy to be a drop-in destination for visitors from Nepal and the world.

Other than this in the **past 2 months, we have raised a little over 28.5 laks or approximately US \$ 28000**. This is good but there is a pressure for us to raise approximately 15000 dollars a month to keep up. This will be hard and we will humbly request for all your help and support – please do support our worthy cause! NOTE: I am sending this update a few days earlier owing to upcoming travel.

Bank Information:

PS: for everyone's convenience, please find NA's bank account here below ☺: But if you wish to make a gift directly please inform us in advance so that we have records for necessary follow-ups with our bank.

Bank's Name: Siddhartha Bank
Address: Satdobato, Lalitpur, Nepal
Account Name: Nagarik Aawaz
Account No: 01815090950
Swift Code: SIDDNPKA

Note: Photo Courtesy: Ganga Sagar Rai

To: All
From: Rita
Date: 30 June, 2018
Subject: Peace Building Memorial & Learning Center (PBM&LC) Monthly Update

Nepal Context:

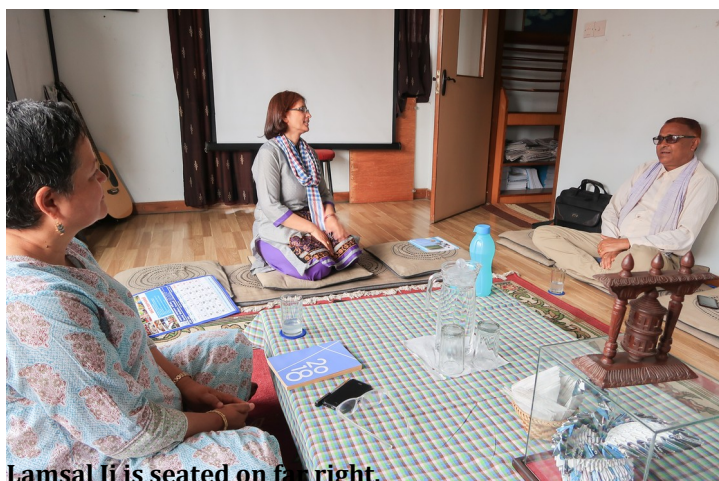


The price of oil went up four times in less than a week this month and the opposition parties student union went on a strike and demonstrations. A murderer who is a close associate of the Maoists - Bal Krishna Dhungel, was released as a part of the Presidential discretionary pardon on democracy day. A couple who had been demanding that their

son's murderers be disclosed and brought to trial, by going on a hunger strike since years, were force fed in government custody. The husband of Ganga Maya passed away but she lives on and is now refusing to be force-fed. Transitional justice and reparation work is pending and victims and survivors have no recourse to justice as Nepal is working to institutionalize its new constitution.

Work with the Land:

We invited Shovakanta Lamsal (who lives near PBM&LC land, and who helped us buy the land) to the NA office to finalize if he would agree to work for NA as a local liaison and a field supervisor. On 8th June we had an open frank discussions and at the end of it Lamsal ji settled for monthly Rs 15,000 honorarium starting August. A detailed TOR



Lamsal Ji is seated on far right.

and a contract will be signed before August from when he will begin work after the monsoons. Also a date has been fixed for early July for the expert team to visit the site for a necessary survey, assessing monsoon rains and its effects on the land, and other essential tasks.

Fundraising for PBM&C:

Dr. Chhatra Amatya, Chair of the Board, and Board members Purna Shova Chitrakar, and Sharad Babu Shrestha, all pledged 25,000 rupees each and rounding this up to make it 100,000 rupees, Rita pledged 25000 rupees from Café Cheeno. Likewise early this month, NA Board member Sukumaya Bohra pledged Rs.100,000. On request, Tewa VP Meera Jyoti also promptly pledged and gifted Rs. 100,000. Susan's sister and brother-in-law Deepa with Sachit Pokhrel also gifted Rs. 100,000. NA Board member Dr. Aruna Upreti contributed Rs. 20,000 for the PBM&LC and the TC staff team collectively gifted us Rs.11,000. Meeting with possible Nepali donors and sharing about the PBM&LC is our ongoing work.



Lynne Brennen our long time supporter at NA gifted Can \$ 1000, equivalent to Rs. 85000. Marta Drury (Tewa donor from its inception days) and Kerry Lobel, from California have pledged us US \$ 500.

Ms. Claudia Heipe, the Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy where we had been trying for funding since January, wrote: "The bad news is that we are currently not in the position to contribute funding to construct the center. However, we will certainly keep it in mind. The good news is that we will of course continue the collaboration with Nagarik Avaaz and through that there might also be possibilities to support some of your activities with ZFD technical expertise such as Dealing with the past". We are very disappointed and we don't really know what this means! We were invited by the ICRC after they reviewed our concept note. They thought we had an excellent idea, but that they were not likely to fund it as of now. We took time to also approach the Israeli MoFA on the advise of the Israeli Nepal Ambassador, but once more this request did not qualify. We can keep our doors open, but this warns us that we need to look for enlightened individual donors and funds to support our efforts at PBM&LC especially in the early days when we need to begin work on the ground. We are scanning the field and sending letter of interests but so far no luck.

Nepal Expert Group Meeting:

The expert group consisting of three members, Shankar Raj Pathak, Madhab Mathema, and Prabal S. Thapa with his colleague Emil met on the 21st June. This was to take a look at the proposed 1st draft of the master plan prepared by Prabal and Emil and discuss on essential things before Prabal could send the draft master plan for Han, Marleen and Goedeke to give their inputs and feedback. To give you a glimpse of the



details and the engagements of the expert group members, I am attaching as annex the minute of this meeting written by Madhab Mathema voluntarily for the PBM&LC. Since this was also such a technical meeting, I do not feel competent to capture it this well.

Others:

Besides these our regular work and efforts for fund raising, doing what is necessary to move the drawings is ongoing. Besides, once the draft master plan was ready we took time to share and brief the larger staff of NA. They were all very pleased to see the proposed plans and pledged their ongoing



support and ownership for the PBM&LC. The staff all vouched to support in any way they could and felt that this will be something to look forward to in their careers. They have great ownership for the PBM&LC!

Bank Information:

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Note: Photo Courtesy: Ganga Sagar Rai

Annexed Minutes Written by Madhab Mathema
Meeting of the Peace Building Memorial & Learning Centre Initiative
Advisory Expert Team
21 June 2018 from 3 to 5 PM

1. General Discussion:

- 1.1. A fairly accurate map of the plot and its immediate surroundings should be prepared, the degree of accuracy being consistent with its intended use: preparing the 'master plan' of the area, laying out of buildings and infrastructure, an aid to defining the property boundary, a base map on which additional information (e.g., engineering soil characteristics) can be added as a layer as and when such information become available.
- 1.2. At the minimum such a survey map should provide the following info
 - 1.2.1. Accurate alignment and position of the boundary of the property referenced to two existing landmarks or, if necessary, concrete pillars to be installed at the time of surveying
 - 1.2.2. Natural drainage system both within the site and beyond: any potential issue of easement right need to be explored
 - 1.2.3. Irrigation channels and flow direction
 - 1.2.4. Contour for internal drainage planning purpose
 - 1.2.5. Location of trees and other landmarks (utility poles marking whether carrying high voltage or normal lines, telephone lines and DB, bridges and culvert whether temporary or permanent along with its dimension (width and span), trees by girth size and species, religious spot (formal or otherwise), similar info on adjoining land within 150 feet from the plot.
 - 1.2.6. Existing use of land: if agriculture mentioned if Paddy Field, Cash Crop or Barren (commercial plantation will be considered as Cash Crop)
 - 1.2.7. North Line (geographical)
 - 1.2.8. Scale both in number and diagram (Fractional and Linear)
 - 1.2.9. Name of the Chief Surveyor with her/his signature
 - 1.2.10. Date of survey and date of submission
- 1.3. A tentative plan showing the phasing of the project
 - 1.3.1. Preparatory phase: From FY 2074/75/To FY??
 - 1.3.1.1. Retaining an architectural firm

- 1.3.1.2. Preliminary investigation of site and its environs (done)
- 1.3.1.3. Engineering studies (in the process)
- 1.3.1.4. Establishing working relationship with local entities
- 1.3.1.5. Preparing the master/development plan of the property¹
- 1.3.1.6. Recruitment of local staff
- 1.3.1.7. Building temporary structures for living accommodation
- 1.3.1.8. Establishing a nursery
- 1.3.1.9. Others
- 1.3.2. First Phase: to be defined in the final master plan
- 1.3.3. Second Phase: to be defined in the final master plan
- 1.3.4. Subsequent Phases: to be outlined in the final master plan²
- 1.4. Mr SR Pathak will prepare a Google based map of site & vicinity showing circulation, drainage, landmarks, villages. He opined that he would be able to take “reasonably accurate’ spot elevations within the site and superimpose this information on the Google base map. He argues, and Prabal concurred that this base map should be good enough on which to draw the physical master plan of the Initiative.

2. Master Planning:

- 2.1. Architect Prabal Thapa and his colleague gave a rundown on the draft Master Plan of the project area. The main expectations of the Plan are:
 - 2.1.1. The overall setting created by the architectural design should contribute to making the site a destination in itself.
 - 2.1.2. The ambience created by the design should reinforced – visually and experience-wise – the supremacy of peace and inclusiveness over conflict and divisiveness.
 - 2.1.3. The design should be sympathetic to local architectural (in style, proportion and materials)
 - 2.1.4. The design should promote respect for nature and flora and fauna

¹ The master plan should include an implementation strategy (phasing of investment, fund raising, continuing the master planning exercise to garner local support, etc.)

² Each phase will be described briefly stating the physical outputs to be achieved, money to be raised, and construction to be undertaken – all linked, as far as relevant, to the core objective of the Initiative.

The *phasing plan* is a work-in-progress and will change according to circumstances: success in raising funds, adjustment in the perception of needs, change in the implementation strategy.

- 2.1.5. The design should allow for any unexpected change in the space requirement in future
- 2.1.6. The mater planning and its phase wise implementation should promote participation of local inhabitants and land owners in a number of ways:
 - 2.1.6.1. Employment opportunity in the locality
 - 2.1.6.2. Enhanced access to knowledge on conflict and resolutions
 - 2.1.6.3. Promotion/preservation of local culture expressed through architecture, life style and values
 - 2.1.6.4. Empowering the local inhabitants to define the quality of the physical development of their community so that it remains consistent with the core objective of the Initiative: mutual respect, harmony and peace (*we can put these states-of-mind in reverse order, but I thought without mutual respect we will not have harmony and without it we will not have peace*)
 - 2.1.6.5. Enabling local community to be a part of the process of peace building by engaging them in wide ranging relevant activities of the program to be developed as a part of the Initiative.
- 3. The observations made in the discussion following the presentation of the draft Master Plan are noted below:
 - 3.1. The meeting dwell, albeit briefly, on the phasing of the implementation. It was suggested that while the centre piece (Library/Museum and Open-air theatre) will take some time to build we may want to explore the feasibility of building the open-air theatre and the library first followed by raising the tent structure at some later date as and when we have sufficient fund.
 - 3.2. The research/class blocks should be designed for two story to accommodate any future increase in the space requirement for research and seminars, etc.
 - 3.3. Since the tent structure is not enclosed we should explore the possibility of using trees, shrubs and water to positively affect the micro climate, especially, during the summer season.
 - 3.4. The meeting noted with satisfaction the novel idea embodied in the design of 'the entrance gate': no gate or imposition pillars will be built to denote or connote entrance to the premises; instead the perception of 'entrance' will be created by allowing the space to attract activities that creates an aura of peace and harmony.

4. Architect Prabal Thapa will circulate the softcopy of the “Master Plan” report he presented to the meeting.
5. Deadlines
 - 5.1. Survey map based on Google: to be made available by <date>
 - 5.2. The Master Plan taking into consideration the points listed in § 3 above.
 - 5.3. Field trip of technical team: From/to

To: All
From: Rita
Date: 24th July 2018 (sent a week earlier)
Subject: Peace Building Memorial & Learning Center (PBM&LC) Monthly Update

Nepal Context:

This has been a season of rice planting, flooding and landslides owing to the incessant monsoon rains. The earthquake affected mid-hill areas have been particularly prone to landslides. Over 20 losses of lives and loss of homes and farmland have been registered so far. But the monsoon is ebbing off and the valley is enjoying bunchy white clouds and deep blue skies.

Work with the Land:



Owing to incessant rains and the cancellation of flights our expert team consisting of Shankar Raj Pathank, Prabal S. Thapa (L) and his architect colleague Emil, could only fly on the 7th to assess and measure the land among other things. They need to be commended for a very fruitful visit. They both brought back lots

of pictures and reports of all the work they covered. Following their visit the expert group met on the 16th to discuss the outcomes in depth and decide on the course of actions.

The following points were reported by Prabal and Shankar:

- The access road to the north of the property has been gravelled for black topping. The drainage is completed.
- The land is clear from fear of negative impacts from monsoon rains
- Site measurements were done by GPS instrument – all details measured.
- Two water canals exists in the property, which can be beneficial.



- The team visited the Municipal office and were advised to follow the building construction code and bylaws (2060-2072 Nepali year). Team was advised to follow the Transport Master Plan currently in the making. There may be need for some adjustments in our drawing owing to the road set back.
- Land is within the buffer zone and we were also advised to consult with the Nanda-Bhauju user group committee before submission of documents to the Municipality.
- The team also visited a near by nursery to see what was available.

Following this the expert group met exclusively in Prabal's office for detailed technical discussions. Madhab ji then wrote a very detailed and comprehensive report for all of us, which is comprehensive and precise but too technical to be summarised here for us, giving us lots of food for thoughts.

Likewise Han and Marleen and Goedele convened two meeting in Brussels to discuss and feedback on the drawings they received from Prabal.

Fundraising for PBMC:

As 2 more letters of declines arrived from the agencies we had tried, I began to shortlist our longtime donors at Tewa and began to write personal request emails. Out of these I promptly heard back from Kåre Vollan who pledged US \$ 1000 from his consulting firm Quality AS, and Regina Muller who also offered to look for possible funds and donors for the PBM&LC. We are lucky to have a pledge of Rs. 100,000 from a non – resident Nepali couple who wish to remain anonymous.



Nepal Expert Group Meeting:

The expert group meeting on the 16th was very fruitful. Not only did we get a full understanding of what is happening in terms of development of the location and its relevance on the land, but we also got the next course of action we needed to take and the

technical measurements that was necessary for preparing accurate maps. In conclusion we agreed on the following actions to take:

- We will have to adjust road setbacks in terms of our drawings.
- NA will visit the site latest by mid-August or early September, to brief different stakeholders and plan plantation of the nursery and give directions to Lamsal ji (who will be the site liaison on our pay role from August).
- A meeting will be held with Dr. Tirtha Shrestha to get advise of the best plants and trees for the site.
- A meeting with Mainalee ji is also to be planned.

- Following this meeting the local expert group met separately in Prabal's office to discuss necessary technical details (Madhav ji has written a minute separately on the outcome and key points of this meeting).
- Phase 1 of the construction needs ideally to start latest by end of August.

Others:

Our Core Group members met on the 23rd of this month so that we could brief them on developments so far and also to seek their help in local fund-raising. Our Local fund-raising has been very weak this month owing to many reasons and conditions. We need all your networks, contacts and support. On the 24th we had another meeting with



our key architects, Prabal and Emil who wanted to clarify some points that had arisen. They left feeling satisfied for now but we know that this is a very process/context oriented rolling plan.

Bank Information:

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Account Name:	Nagarik Aawaz
Account No:	01815090950
Swift Code:	SIDDNPKA

Note: Photo Courtesy: Ganga Sagar Rai, Emil & Marleen.

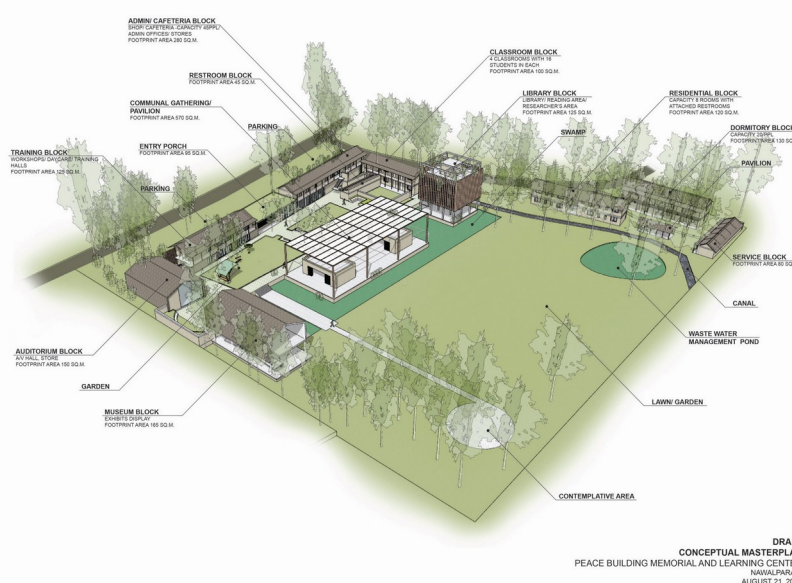
To: All
From: Rita
Date: 24 August 2018
Subject: Peace Building Memorial & Learning Center (PBM&LC) Monthly Update

Nepal Context:



The rains have been incessant this year and it does affect the work we do delaying our building work by a week or too. There have been incidences of attempts at bombing in Biratnagar and Kathmandu by a Maoist faction demanding that their arrested party workers be freed. VAW seems to have increased with the rape cases of 4-year-old babies to young women. The NAWHRDs with other networks and organizations (photo credited to NAWHRD) to out a demonstration to end violence against women and to demand the changing of over 20 clauses in the citizenship including one that will not require the mothers to state the name of the father for a child's citizenship.

Work with the Land:



Prabal with his colleague Emil have given us a revised drawing of the master plan (still up for expert group inputs and discussions), and the detailed drawings of the utility building we hope to build as soon as possible. This building will provide us the start up



residential space as we shuttle frequently between Kathmandu and Nawalpur, and a start up office and storage space. With great inputs from the expert team we are ready to roll.

With the coordination

support from Deepak Dewan, Tewa, Susan and Deepak had a meeting with Dr Tirtha B. Shrestha Nepal's ace botanist and naturalist. He has advised on the plants and trees we may wish to plant from the aspects of smell (for the visually impaired), bird attraction, and even according to what Hinduism and Buddhism texts advise.

Fundraising for PBM&C:

This month I have been travelling and fundraising has suffered. Yet we are lucky and the outcome has been very encouraging! Our ambassador extraordinaire at Tewa, Susanne Jalbert, has pledged US \$ 3000. [The most exciting news is that The Charitable Empowerment Trust – our long-term supporter at Tewa and Nagarik Aawaz, has approved a grant of US \\$ 100,000!](#) Likewise my chance meeting in Kerala, with a Brussels resident Helen Peers who has already started advocating for our PBM&LC allowed me to connect her with Han & Marleen. It was possible to physically meet with Kåre Volla who is a donor to the PBM&LC and also request him to make any linkages and connections that he can for us.

On the Nepal side on the 15th I met with one of the Durgas of the Sampanna Campaign, Janaki Shah and other supporters of Tewa e.g. Meena Gunung, Janaki Shrestha and Irina Shrestha pleading with them to be our donors and also to see if they can be our advocates and



supporters. Janaki Shah, will be our point person and we will further discuss what we may call these emissaries of the PBM&LC. We need to have deeper discussion on

this and it may be a good long-term fund raising strategy. Janaki just informed me that NK & Irina Shrestha pledged Rs. 100,000 for the PBM&LC.

Nepal Expert Group Meeting:



The Nepal expert group met on the 19th. Madhab Mathema offered apologies on account of illness but all else including the NA Chair of the Board Dr. Chhatra Amatya were present. After much deliberations and reflections, the group made important decisions on the first infrastructure being

built – the utility building (design attached above). Also many important details e.g. the civil engineering work, the official passing of the design maps, field visit to the land site and the beginning of the work were discussed. As such the essential field visit is now scheduled for the 14/15th September.

Others:

A wonderful discovery for us during this time has been the respect and appreciations for each other and the collective strength we bring in to the expert team. Madhav ji and Shankar ji being in Nepal, makes it much easier in terms of accessibility and physical meetings. We are learning a lot.

This month Han lost his brother and we are all sad and offering our condolences to him. Ganga and wife Saluja are proud parents of a beautiful baby girl **Gauri <3** – we are rejoicing with them. Rita needed to go for Ayurvedic treatment, and Susan has had some setbacks owing to health issue of her husband for whom treatment is ongoing in New Delhi.

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Note: Photo Courtesy: Ganga Sagar Rai (bad picture – Rita)

To: All
From: Rita
Date: 30 September 2018
Subject: Peace Building Memorial & Learning Center (PBM&LC) Monthly Update

Nepal Context:



The value of dollars went up at 116 rupees to 1 dollar as of today, and the price of petroleum products went up. This is bad news and it means overall inflation and shortages of petroleum products to inflate the prices. This month NA held

a 2-days cross-cultural learning workshop for all its partners and allies. I was lucky to be invited and to witness the important work NA is doing, which also clearly demonstrated the value of building the PBM&LC.

Work with the Land:

The drawings from the civil engineer arrived with all necessary details for the contractors to begin work, allowing time for the official process of receiving approval from the government. The NA Team was supported by expert team member Shankhar Raj Pathak (who kindly agreed to come on our request since he is familiar with the people and place in Parasi) made a field visit during 20-22 September. The objectives of this visit were as follows:

- Introduce NA & PBM&LC and its objectives to the local community surrounding the Center,
- Introduce NA & PBM&LC and its objectives to all the government officials and the related stakeholders,
- Initiate a process for all the official work necessary with the local government/municipality, and
- Introduce our contractors to our site and the field liaison officer, Lamsal ji.



Doman Bhandary

User Group Committee, and Narayan Paudel, the Chairperson of the Ward 2. Both were very open and forward looking young persons and said they were pleased to know about the PBM&LC, and would give it their full support. That same evening we invited all the government officials and related stakeholders for a briefing meeting followed by dinner. It was well participated by 36 persons from the Province Chairperson to the Chief District Officer (CDO), to the Mayor. Many other officials, security officials, representatives of organizations, and social workers were also present. After our presentations, the Chairwoman, CDO and the Mayor all spoke. They expressed that they were happy and expected good outcome from the PBM&LC, and also assured us of support from their side.

Accordingly Ganga and Govinda from NA left a day earlier on the 20th for all the necessary preparations and official work. Shankar, Susan and Rita followed on the 21st. We met individually with Doman Bhandary the President of the Nanda-Bhauju



local liaison officer Lansal ji and have them take a look around the property. Even on a Saturday, the community gathered enthusiastically and

On the 22nd we coordinated to meet with our contractors Rajan S. Basnet and Ashtaman Maharjan who drove early morning from Hetauda to meet us at the hotel. Together we left for our land. Here we had time to introduce them with our



we had a sharing meeting with members of the local community.

After our presentations, several local officials and civil society representatives spoke of their support for the PBM&LC. The Gunras Women's Saving Group prepared

all the logistic support for our meeting, from putting up a tent, arranging chairs and cooking and serving refreshments after the meeting. We also learnt that there are



Gunras Women's Saving Group Preparing to Welcome the Meeting Participants

several womens savings and credit groups in the area. This would prove to be a great asset for the local community and the PBM&LC as we begin building work. Rajan & Ashtaman, our contractors are ready to begin work as soon as the official time to wait after posting the notice to build is over.



A Group Picture After the Meeting With the Local Community

Fundraising for PBM&LC:



It is not good news for us that the value of the US \$ has risen against the Nepali rupees. This month we are lucky to receive a pledge of US \$ 1000 from Carolyn Fineran. We also have a gift of Rs. 300,000 from Tewa for the PBM&LC. During our visit to the land a well-known community

social worker, Laxmi Gyawali (he also happens to be the person from whom we bought the land) pledged Rs. 101001 for the PBM&LC.

We also have agreed on a strategy to have point persons who can help with PBM&LC fundraising. On the 23rd we had an orientation meeting for them in order to familiarize them with NA & PBM&LC. Kamal Rupakheta, Irina Shrestha, Meena

Gurung, Ganga Gurung, and Riva Thapa joined this meeting. Apologies were received from Ravi & Rama Shrestha, Janaki Shah and Janaki Shrestha. Some wonderful suggestions came up for our fund raising strategy and all present committed to help in ways they could.



Joë our intern at Nagarik Aawaz helping with PBM&LC with Ganga has helped prepare an information material on the PBM&LC. This will be very helpful in the promotional aspects of the work of the PBM&LC. Please find attached

herewith for your use when you have a chance to promote what we are doing. We will appreciate it very much.

Nepal Expert Group Meeting:

Although we did not have a meeting of the expert group this month, our architects received feedback from Han, Goedle, and Madhab ji. We sat together on the 5th with Prabal and Emil in their office to assess where we are with the design and feedback received. One word Madhab ji had used as his feedback will be our guideline for the PBM&LC – "HUMBLE". From the design to the materials used to the spaces created! Our team at NA is convinced that we take in the advise of the expert group while ensuring practicality for the use of the facilities. Han and Marleen have further expanded and elaborated on the way we work through the PBM&LC concept.

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Account No: 01815090950
Swift Code: SIDDNPKA

Note: Photo Courtesy: Ganga Sagar Rai

To: All
From: Rita
Date: 31st October 2018
Subject: Peace Building Memorial & Learning Center (PBM&LC) Monthly Update

Nepal Context:



This was a month of the big festival – the Vijaya Dashami! People who have migrated to the valley leave it during the start of the festival to go back to families in their villages – so Kathmandu becomes much more quiet for almost a month until the festival

of Tihar or Diwali as the Indians call it comes to an end mid-November. For NA this month is especially meaningful because they serve the annual Dasain lunch at the Shanti Bhanch, which they have been running now for almost 14 years. Raising all the money themselves, this year they fed a meal with meat to over 300 people off the streets of Kathmandu. This picture speaks for itself.

Work with the Land:

Most of our time during this month was spent deciding on the contractor for the PBM&LC. We had 3 sealed bids by contracting companies who filled in the BOQ. We took the technical expert assistance of Santa ji, the Project



Management Consultant who Prabal recommended so that we could come to the best conclusion in selecting the suitable contractor for the PBM&LC.

Finally at the very last moment this month, after much thought and work we and the NA Board, came to the conclusion to award the contract to A.M. Construction Company (P) Ltd. Interestingly they also built Tewa, but they went through the PBM&LC screening process and we felt they would be the best contractors for us. They will be beginning work for the utility or service block by next week.

Fundraising for PBM&LC:

Our fundraising has been very weak this month! Luckily photographer Rohan S. Thapa pledged Rs.100,000 for the PBM&LC and we are very grateful for his generous gift. But I also got to speak to several friends and associates of NA and they all gave words of encouragement and a promise to support to the extent possible. They were my old friend Kirsty Chakraborty, a new connection - Karen/Sten Linnander, and a previous NA volunteer, Daniela Bachi. At least our efforts are ongoing! Please connect us if any of you know of possible donors for the PBM&LC! We need your support!

Nepal Expert Group Meeting:

On the 2nd Prabal and Emil handed us 2 copies of the Master Plan for the PBM&LC. Promptly it was sent to the expert team members for their inputs and thoughts on the ways forward. If any of you are interested to see/study please ask us and we can send you an e-copy.



Early in the month, Ganga & I had a meeting with Santa Kumar Shrestha who is a Project Management Consultant and runs IFID/Nepal, to consult on various options for the best contractor and for backstopping the contracting

company throughout for the PBM&LC.

We will take the advise of the expert committee after the Tihar holidays to decide on a suitable contract so that Santa ji can backstop the building aspects of the PBM&LC as he is already beginning to do.

Others:

This month we also reviewed our fundraising strategy under our present conditions. It will not be easy, but we are committed to doing our best. Ganga is going to search the net for possible funders and send proposals, and Susan and Rita plan on other strategies for individual fundraising in Nepal.

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***Note:** Photo Courtesy: Ganga Sagar Rai*

To: All
From: Rita
Date: 30th November 2018
Subject: Peace Building Memorial & Learning Center (PBM&LC) Monthly Update

Nepal Context:

Nepalis celebrated the Tihar festival this month and the cold has increased considerably. Now work at the site can be expected to begin uninterrupted.

Work with the Land:

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Nagarik Aawaz, Ganga shared "the recommendation of our architect Prabal Samsher Thapa that engineer Shanta Kumar Shrestha be given the analytical and assessment role for our construction work, and the A.M. Construction Company (P) Ltd for the construction work of the service block. The Board Meeting and AGM unanimously agreed on the proposal and also extended appreciation to Rita for her leadership in the PBM&LC"¹.



On the 20th the work began with the sub-contractor with his labourers coming to prepare the site for them to begin work. On the 21st I took Jenny Hodgson, ED of the Global Fund for Community Foundations accompanied by her son Sam to the site. Luckily the day coincided with marking and preparing the land for foundation for the service block. So we also met members of the A.M. Construction Company, the engineer deputed by Santa ji our project management company, the sub-contractor, and

some of the workers. The organizing of water and electricity for the site and other

¹ Extract from the minutes of the NA/AGM of 5th November 2018

necessary details will need to be looked into. We have Lamsal ji, the site supervisor and liaison we have earlier deputed who will look into these.

Fundraising for PBM&LC:



We are working at fundraising as you can see from what Zoë the intern at NA, is saying: "I have been doing a lot of research into grants for construction projects, and grants for libraries and museums. Sadly there are not many grants available for construction

projects that accept proposals from Nepal. I have compiled a list of grants that would be suitable for the PBM&LC project, and I hope this list will be helpful for Nagarik Aawaz to look into over the coming months. I have also been working on a grant proposal for UN-Habitat, which we will soon submit".

Early this month we received happy news from Edwina saying that she and her husband Jacke are pledging \$ 2000 for the PBM&LC. Likewise we received a gift of Rs. 10,000 from Sten and Karen Linannder. On the 12th Dr. Kalyan & Mrs. Renate Rana Tewa/NA donors in the past, who also represent Forderkreis Hilfe for Nepal e.V, Germany, connected via the Tewa Trustee member Kamal Rupakheti, for the earthquake relief fund, visited Tewa and Nagarik Aawaz. This gave us an opportunity to solicit their support for the PBM&LC. They have given us a cheque of Rs. 500,000 to be used in the ongoing post earthquake recovery work being done by NA, which will now include our site area.

Nepal Expert Group Meeting:

Although a meeting of the Nepal expert group was scheduled for the 23rd we were unable to hold this meeting owing to sickness and unavailability of most of the members.

Others:

Nagarik Aawaz had meetings and events with their donors e.g. Peace Women Around the Globe and the Swiss Ambassador via them, Kurve Wustrow e.V., Jenny Hodgson Executive Director of the GFCF, and . All these gave opportunity for Susan and Ganga to explain about the PBM&LC and solicit their support and similarly they received positive response from all the people they met.

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Account No: 01815090950
Swift Code: SIDDNPKA

Note: Photo Courtesy: Ganga Sagar Rai

To: All
From: Rita
Date: 31st December 2018
Subject: Peace Building Memorial & Learning Center (PBM&LC) Monthly Update

Nepal Context:

So far so good! Violence and impunity reigns and consumer prices are skyrocketing, but this has been our case for many, many, years now and no Nepali is new to the suffering from these conditions. At least we can usher in the new-year 2019, in some level of peace and stability!

Work with the Land:



As you can now see that the building work is progressing at the site. This picture taken 2 days back from today, shows we have come up to the tie-beam level of the foundation. The fact that the site is not accessible to us personally on a daily basis is our reality

with the PBM&LC. But we have reliable and good local people who are supervising the work on a daily basis, especially Lamsal ji. We are therefore being briefed on a timely basis by/through phone calls and pictures. Much time was taken up in setting up the site, organizing for necessary water and infrastructure like electricity, toilets and a living shack for the labourers who are based at the site. Anyway, when we complete this service and utility building, NA will have a base to carry out the necessary programme/s from the field that will also lend to trust-building at the local community level.

After a week of beginning our work on the ground we on the advise of Professor Han and the expert team in Brussels, decided to stop the work to review the possibilities of a more vernacular approach and lower costs. After considerable consultations by the expert team here with everyone, and at their final recommendations leaving it to the NA Core Group to decide to move ahead, we did just that. The NA Core group sat for a meeting and agreed that now after over 3 weeks, the building work needs to move fast so that NA has a basis to carry out all the programme work planned for 2019 with the local communities in Nabalpur.

Fundraising for PBM&LC:

This month we received a pledge of 1 lakh rupees from Rupa Aryal (she is Susan's sister). Also Lynne Brennan and Elizabeth Wickwire did their annual fundraising in support of NA in Lynne's home in Toronto. This year the funds generated from this



event amounting to 4000 Canadian dollars is dedicated for the PBM&LC. Similarly, Han and Marleen used the recent occasion of Han's birthday to fundraise from their close friends and family for the PBM&LC.

They will decide on what part of the PBM&LC they wish to dedicate the amount matched by their own contributions at a later date. Here we are trying to meet embassies and are sending letter/s of interests for foundations as we discover them on the net, but so far we have not been too successful. We are worried because we hope we don't have to stop work after the completion of the service block on account of a lack of funding!

Nepal Expert Group Meeting:



This month the Nepal expert group met several times to review and see if the service block whose work has begun could be improved from a vernacular perspective and if costs could be reduced. They met with the NA Core Group Members but often separately as a technical

expert group. Although the NA Core Group decided to continue with the building of

the service block more or less as it is, the expert group physical meeting in April 2019, will review and redefine the master plan for the ongoing PBM&LC work.

Similarly, in Brussels, the expert group of Han, Marleen, and Godele met to see how best the PBM&LC master plan can be true to what we are trying to achieve to make it environmentally and ecologically friendly. This will be an ongoing discussion and work



as we build along. Especially when the expert group meets and consults on various aspects of the PBM&LC building works, during the week of April 8th they will also makes a site visit during that time.

Others:

First of all we as NA PBM&LC team, take this occasion to wish you a very **Happy New Year 2019!** For the PBM&LC, we hope we will have an uninterrupted flow of funds as we help lend to peace and community well being in a way that is exemplary. We are all committed to that and many of us are providing our skills and whatever funds we personally can in a voluntary capacity. This demonstrates the level of our commitments to the building and the running of the PBM&LC! Through its 18 years of peace building work, NA understands the importance and the relevance of such work in Nepal and elsewhere.

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***Note:** Photo Courtesy: Ganga Sagar Rai, Marleen & RSB*