

CONSOLIDATING

NEWSLETTER 2022
LUKLA-CHAURIKHARKA ASSOCIATION

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S U M M A R Y

NEW ACTIONS

CONSOLIDATING EDUCATION

Different measures have been undertaken by our association to relieve the Covid sanitary situation, to build accommodation for the teachers at Lukla, and to provide measurements during seismic earthquakes at the two schools. We are pleased to present you our current projects through this newsletter.

INTERVIEW

MEETING WITH MR. EDMOND FAHRNI

President of a Swiss NGO "Graine d'Espoir" (Grain of Hope), Mr. Fahrni is supporting education in Nepal with Luklass and explains the reasons for his commitment..

EXPERIENCE

DENIS BERTHOLET : WHAT A FILM !

Manuella Maury, journalist and member of Luklass Support Committee, has prepared the portrait of Denis Bertholet with Romain Guelat and Gilles Abravanel : they even took him up to the Dix Mountain Hut for an interview !

CONSOLIDATING EDUCATION

NEW ACTIONS OF LUKLASS.CH



“Namasté ! My name is Krishna Kumari Katel. I am a teacher at Lukla School. When I first came here, I could not find a room to stay in, I had no private space even to change my clothes. It was hard!

Today, I am so happy to hear that Luklass Association, Graine d'Espoir and Action for Nepal are building apartments for us teachers. This is really motivating ! We will work hard for our children. Thank you all so much !

Accommodation for the teachers

Victim of its success, the village of Lukla has expanded enormously over the last few years as departure point for treks towards the base camp of Everest. The tourist resort is suffering from a lack of accommodation for workers.

The teachers at Lukla School have difficulty in finding even a simple flat so that they are forced to live in temporary lodgings that are often improvised. The situation had become so serious that the school could no longer find any teachers.

In collaboration with Lukla Town Council, with Action for Nepal and with Graine d'Espoir, we have been able to set up a building project of eight flats for the teachers. Supervised by our advisory architect, Mr. Yves Coppey, the worksite has opened.



CONSOLIDATING HEALTH

NEW ACTIONS OF LUKLASS.CH

Urgent reply to the Covid situation

The sanitary situation rapidly declined in 2021 with the new Delta variant which severely affected India and equally its immediate neighbour, Nepal.

Once again, the schools at Lukla and Chaurikharka had to close for over six months.

Tourism was reduced to zero due to the cancellation of international flights. The most important action was to respond to the extreme urgency of the sanitary situation in the whole of Solukhumbu, by supplying the sanitary and respiratory equipment to the health centres, in collaboration with Action for Nepal, the NGO directed by Lakpa Thering Sherpa, one of the first pupils of Lukla School, and his wife, Dr. Jangmoo Sherpa (see photo).

An isolation centre for Covid cases was equipped at Namche Bazar, in the mountain medical building, and the necessary material for sanitary protection was supplied. To be noted that it was very difficult to obtain access to oxygen, a product that had become rare and expensive.

The third wave of Omicron weakened at the beginning of February 2022 and the schools were able to open again.



CONSOLIDATING PREVENTION

NEW ACTIONS OF LUKLASS.CH



The project of “seismology at school in Nepal” works directly with the school complexes. It is based on two pillars, that is : education and seismology :

- **Training of the teachers on the teaching techniques in relation to earthquakes and themes related to Earth sciences**
- **Installation at the schools of simple but good quality seismometers which detect earthquakes and can be used during class training.**

Further information on this project : <http://seismoschoolnp.org/>

Collaboration with the University of Lausanne (UNIL)

Professor György Hetényi, expert in geophysics and geology of the Himalayas and Tibet, is renowned for this work in seismology. He is very involved on site in Nepal.

He has proposed to install seismometers on the buildings of Lukla and Chaurikharka Schools and to hold courses on seismological education and prevention for the children at the two schools, in collaboration with Dr. Shiba Subedi.

UNIL is covering the expense of Dr. Subedi's transport and lodging, the organisation and the courses, delivery of the material for the installation, as well as the teaching documentation in Nepalese.

Our contribution amounting to CHF 1,000.- will cover the cost of the material.



MOVING MOUNTAINS

*THE TOUCHING EXPERIENCE OF
MR. EDMOND FAHRNI*

**"DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE IMPOSSIBLE
AND THE POSSIBLE LIES IN MAN'S
DETERMINATION !" GANDHI**

**Edmond Fahrni (see photo), founder of the
"Graine d'Espoir" association, has committed
to support education in Nepal, thanks to his
meeting with Mr. Hervé Rey, an active
member of Luklass who talked to him about
our activities.**

Very great thanks to them both !

Abandoned at birth

What an unusual background and lesson to be learned from Mr. Fahrni ! As a small baby, Edmond was "given" to travelling basket weavers and lived with them for two years, after which he was adopted by a poor family in Morges. At the age of eight, the child understood that he must help his adoptive parents and find some small jobs. He works hard and becomes an accountant, giving courses at the professional college. He makes a big investment in public life, becoming fire commander, secretary of Corsier Town Council and assessor at the court of justice.

His dream comes true !

After a childhood in poverty, he dreams of helping the needy and one day he gains some money by selling a piece of land that had increased in value and founds his association. He travels and in particular finances a school at Hunsur in southern India. At present, his association supports our project of constructing accommodation for the teachers at Lukla School. We thank him warmly for his generous commitment !



Lukla Chaurikharka



RENE GREINER RESIGNS AS MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE

*A CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF DENIS
BERTHOLET, RENE FOLLOWS THE
EVOLUTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION
OF THE SCHOOLS IN NEPAL RIGHT
FROM THE START.*

*HE SUPPORTED THE ASSOCIATION
WITH ENTHUSIASM UNTIL 2021 :
AN ACTIVE INVESTMENT
THROUGHOUT 38 YEARS !*

René and Denis had a common passion – the mountains. They met up regularly to share ascensions in the Alps, treks in Nepal and their humanistic vision. Together, they worked hard for education and lasting development in the region of Lukla and Chaurikharka.

A question of luck !

If you ask René (photo below) how to become Finance Director of Nestlé in Japan and Malaysia with training as a commercial employee and a childhood as a mountain shepherd, he will reply very modestly : "GOOD LUCK" !

And that luck he put to the benefit of the association from its beginnings, with undisguised energy, a very clear vision and a network of real friends, to whom he did not hesitate to appeal and who have given us their confidence. Many thanks to him - and to all the members, donors and friends who have supported and encourage the actions of our association !





DENIS BERTHOLET WHAT A FILM !

MANUELLA MAURY AND HER COLLEAGUES, GILLES ABRAVANEL AND ROMAIN GUELAT, CREATE A FILM THAT PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF DENIS AND OF HIS HUMANISTIC, ARTISTIC AND ALPINE ACTIVITIES !

Manuella Maury, member of Luklass Support Committee, very committed to the association, went to Nepal in 2019 for the inauguration of the new school complex at Chaurikharka. She discovers the work of Denis through the association that he founded and meets the school children.

Birth of a documentary

She chooses to help us create a podcast to recount the impact of the school construction on an entire community.

She starts by interviewing Denis Bertholet and installs an improvised recording studio at the home of her friend and neighbour, René Greiner, at Mase.

Manuella comes out of the interview completely overcome by their rich conversation and chooses to dedicate a film to the unusual career of this high mountain guide, photographer, film maker, altruist and visionary.

At the foot of Mont-Blanc-de-Cheilon

Manuella asks Denis which location he would like to see again and as a result she takes him to the Dix Mountain Hut (Cabane des Dix), at the foot of Mont-Blanc-de-Cheilon, with Romain Guelat and Gilles Abravanel who film and record the sound in order to gather his testimony ! All three offer the association their day of work and valuable time ! The documentary will continue in 2022 with the consultation of Denis' archived photos and films, and will be followed by a visit to Nepal in order to interview the first pupils at Lukla and Chaurikharka who have now become mayor, president of an NGO, director of Nicole Niquille Hospital, official in charge of Everest National Park, directors of trek agencies...!

**"THE DIX MOUNTAIN HUT IS OVERAWED BY THE SCENERY OF THE MONT-BLANC-DE-CHEILON ! »
D. BERTHOLET**