# CONSOLIDATING

NEWSLETTER 2022 LUKLA-CHAURIKHARKA ASSOCIATION



## SUMMARY

## 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!





"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!

#### Accomodation 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.





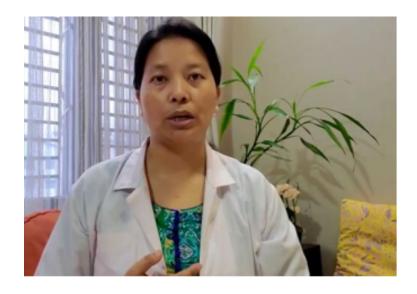
Urgent reply to the Covid situation
The sanitary situation rapidly
declined in 2021 with the new Delta
variant which severely affected India
and equally its immediate neighbour,
Nepal.

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.









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
- o 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.



## M O V I N G M O U N T A I N S

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!



