

Epsom Hire

From: Peter Hall <nepalaid@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 22 December 2016 10:14 PM
To: info@epsomhire.com.au
Subject: Seasons Greetings from QEN

Dear Rob

Christmas and New Year greetings to all our friends in Australia, Nepal and elsewhere in the world.

We are in Kathmandu, returning home on Christmas day. Our trip is going very well. On our way we stopped in Bangkok where we had lunch with Rotary International Director Saowalak Rattavich. Saowalak is Professor of Education at Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok, with a particular focus on literacy. In conjunction with Australian Rotarian Richard Walker she developed the Concentrated Language Encounter Approach to teaching literacy which has been adopted nationally in Thailand. She is keen to foster the spread of this approach throughout South-East Asia, with the assistance of Global Grant projects. We can see much scope for collaboration with her. Despite her intensive workload as RI Director (until June 30), Saowalak has agreed to serve as Educational Consultant to LEARN.

We spent three days in Pokhara where we attended the meetings of three Rotary clubs. All are very supportive of our initiative, confirming their sponsorship of US\$100 to our Global Grant project. We are indebted to KB Shahi as Project Manager for the Primary Host Sponsor club of Baglung for his coordination of Nepalese Rotary support. Likewise we must thank Kym Stock as Project Manager for the Primary International Sponsor club of Portland. He has revised the application documentation, and yesterday initiated the re-authorisation process. LEARN has obtained the necessary approvals of the District Development Committee and the Social Welfare Council to allow the first 10-day training course to be delivered in April, subject to funding approval.

Back in Kathmandu we have been working with Krishna Pun and Dwarika Amgain to plan the development of LEARN. Dwarika joined us in April on the understanding that he would in due course replace Krishna as CEO. Krishna would remain with us as Executive Director. We expect this transition to be confirmed by the LEARN Board next month.

Krishna and Dwarika make a formidable pair to take LEARN forward. We have agreed targets for the next three years which would see the number of teachers in training rise to close to 1,000. This will not be easy, but it is a welcome challenge for both LEARN and QEN.

We wish you the best, and look forward to bringing you further news in the new year of our progress.

Best regards

Peter and Ronda Hall