



ASIANEWS N° 2/2009

The Newsletter for the Sustainers and Friends of Tibet

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Help ASIA Get Close to Tibet!

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Dear Friends,

on July 9th Linda, the head of ASIA communication department, participated to the inauguration of the "Nobel for Peace Hall" in San Demetrio, Abruzzo, where she met Nobel Peace Prize recipient Betty Williams (with her in the picture).

Here you will find updates about our project in favour of the people struck by the earthquake and much more information about our work.

Enjoy the read!

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HIGH LIGHT



Updates on the Galingteng College, County of Derge – Province of Sichuan

Dear friends,

Thanks for your involvement in the campaign launched to rebuild Galingteng College, recently devastated by a fire. The work is about to start.

After long and difficult negotiations, ASIA signed the contracts with the companies for the construction of the two buildings destroyed by the fire.

The first two-floor building will have a total of 18 rooms for the students. Seasoned local wood will be employed, which will be painted in the local traditional way.

The second building will have a 150 sq.m (lecture) hall on the first floor and 8 rooms for the teachers, a library and a few rooms for retreat on the second floor.

The construction work will be completed by December 2009.

After signing the contracts and communicating the news to the monks and the people of Galingteng, Tashi Choepel, Khempo of the Galingteng College thanked all those who helped preserving this important site, home to the precious cultural and spiritual knowledge of Tibet.

The fundraising campaign continues. The Galingteng monks still need:

- to rebuild the old part of the college which was blown up with dynamite to stop the fire
- to buy the furniture and equipments: beds, desks, bookshelves;
- to set up the irrigation system.

To support the campaign please [click here](#).



SPECIAL CALL



Sponsor a Bönpo monk!

We started a new sponsorship project to support Bönpo monks of the College of Khyungmo, in Amdo (north-eastern Tibet)

The Bönpo monks are guardians of the ancient and original Tibetan spiritual tradition, the Bön, in which the major sciences making rich the cultural heritage of Tibet - philosophy, poetry, traditional medicine, astrology etc - and spiritual teachings, among them Dzogchen or Great Perfection – are handed down.

Bönpo monasteries were harshly repressed during the cultural revolution and are now very rare in Tibet.

In 2007 ASIA started a project for repairing the College of Khyungmo in the village of Dongche, province of Qinghai. ASIA was active there since 1997: we built an elementary and middle school, a traditional medicine clinic and started a long distance sponsorship project to allow the children of the poorest families in the village to attend school.

The monastery's elderly monks asked ASIA to intervene to rebuild the College and allow young monks to study the ancient Bön teachings.

Works have been completed and there is now the need to maintain the monks' studies.

When you sponsor a monk of the College of Khyungmo, you take part in the important aim of keeping alive a unique and ancient knowledge: you can support him by covering his primary needs (board, lodging, basic healthcare, heating) and by providing educational material.

All they needed is 25 Euros/month!

[Start a sponsorship](#)

To know more on the project [click here](#).



EMERGENCY



ASIA supports the project 'Sale per lo spettacolo'

Dear friends,

On 9 July George Clooney and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Betty Williams, inaugurated the "Nobel for Peace Hall", a permanent cinema/multipurpose facility for the community of San Demetrio!

The Association Arts and Performances - supported by Asia - works to bring cinema, theatre and art inside the tent camp, in order to make this area a cultural focus point from where life will start rekindling!

For further information on the project [click here](#).

NEWS FROM OUR PROJECTS



"Diary of a mission" by Andrea Dell'Angelo

On June 8th, ASIA director Andrea Dell'Angelo, Sara, a restorer who has already been in the field with Asia, and Marco, the architect who has been helping us for years putting together biocompatible buildings, began their mission to Tibet.

Read their [STORIES FROM THE FIELD](#)

Follow the mission on [facebook](#)



NEWS FROM OUR PROJECTS



Health Project in Panam

by Maurizio Ruscelli, Health project director

Panam is a town situated at 3.900 metres of altitude, approximately 6 hours away by car from Lhasa. In the old days, to reach the town one had to travel a whole day on a track, climbing up on the mountain, over 4500 metres of altitude. In the last few years, a road was built connecting Lhasa to Panama directly and comfortably.

ASIA has been working in this County since 2001, when the European Union entrusted the NGO with the execution of health projects because of its experience in Tibet and its deep awareness and understanding of the local context.

The people of this area may be the closest to paradise for location, but are possibly the furthest for living standards. The nature of the environment and the fact that the villages are far away and scattered over an immense territory make their people in need of all types of healthcare.

Health surveys -quite difficult to obtain- report a rate of maternal mortality of 400-500 per 100.000 births (in Italy, the rate is of 4 maternal deaths per 100.000 newborns), as well as a high incidence of children's malnutrition (51% of the children below the age of 7 receive inadequate food).

Another survey highlights that a Tibetan woman is 6 to 10 times more likely to die during her childhood than a Chinese woman, and her children are up to 3 times less likely to survive.

This project aims to improve health conditions in Panam in a structured way, not just for few individuals. Over the next three years, ASIA will assist the local government enhancing the quality of healthcare through long-lasting and intensive professional upgrading of the personnel working in the villages' small clinics and in the Hospital in Panam. The trainings will include not only theoretical lessons but also (hand-on work) assistance in daily tasks.

Our aim is transferring medical skills and competences to the local staff in full respect of their culture and traditions, considering local resources as an essential part of a durable and self-sustaining development. An additional important element is empowering health education among the population.

It is still common for women to give birth lying down on dirty floors in the lower levels of their family building, along with straw and domestic animals; or for river water to be used both for drinking and cooking; or the total lack of latrines. These conditions bring on numerous infectious diseases, often deadly in the case of children, which could be easily averted following simple and appropriate rules of hygiene.

All women and men with whom I have worked with over these years in Tibet are concerned and determined to act to help their people. This challenge involves me as well, not only as a job, but also in terms of an experience teaching me that meeting and exchanging ideas and opinions make us all more similar despite our differences of colour, culture and religion.

For further information on the project [click here](#).



NEWS FROM OUR PROJECTS



Women micro-enterprise for a sustainable development of Sri Lanka's south-western coast. Update on the Project.

by Federica Voltolini, Sri Lanka project director

Asia's activities continue in south-western Sri Lanka, with the contribution of Tuscany region. At this time, official registration is in progress for the second cooperative of the women in the Galagoda community. They have been taking part in the latest training courses held by Asia Onlus, in collaboration with the National Craft Council (NCC), a government body devoted to conserve and enhance the importance and value of crafts.

Last January-February there were 4 craft training courses for the production of batik, the working of fibres and coconut, knitting and crocheting. The 50 participants were also provided with the materials and equipment needed in order to attend the courses and begin production.

This new cooperative being set up in the village of Galogoda, joins the one previously formed during the second half of 2008, in the nearby community of Urawatta and the partners in the two organizations stated their intent to work together and collaborate, so that both cooperatives can keep developing.

During the last few months the focus has been on sustaining the marketing of the women's products through governmental sale circuits and local channels. Thanks to the collaboration with the National Craft Council, women have now the chance to show their products, with a sales account, at the Sipnara Training Centre of Galle, where there is an atelier space open to many craft cooperatives connected with the NCC.

In addition, considering the women's need of specific support in starting their business activities over the territory, we decided to undertake a market research in order to identify possible local commercial outlets for their products. Then we will turn our attention to developing visibility for the newly formed cooperatives.

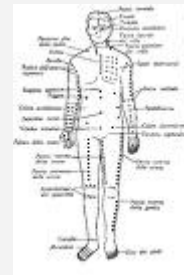
In particular, we made samples and photo catalogues of the crafts products, explanatory labels for each item produced, and also banners to advertise when the cooperatives take part in fairs for local artisans. We keep looking for commercial channels even outside national borders, primarily looking at plugging the two cooperatives into channels for equitable and supportive commercial channels

Moreover, so as to strengthen the artisans' expertise in management, marketing and design, ASIA, with the collaboration of Tuscany Region, is planning to organize training courses at an advanced level. We also intend to open a centre for arts and crafts, to be a space for both laboratory and sales show room, where the partners will be able to gather and work on their products.

Once the Centre is started up, it will also provide a chance for a few young people to attain an internship.



EVENTS



Shiatsu for Tibet at the "Loving Amendola", Modena

During the "Slow Event" Loving Amendola, 8th-22nd June in the Park to the south of Modena, in the sign of welcome, slowness and opening to meeting, the Shiatsu School ISA offered free Shiatsu treatments for citizens, collecting funds for ASIA's activities.

Thanks to the commitment of the operators and the generosity of participants, we started a new distance sponsorship for Phurba Wangmo at the Chauntra School (Northern India) and received a donation for rebuilding the College of Galingteng.

Many Thanks!

EVENTS



Evening in Rome for the College of Galingteng

On June 18th the Roman section of the Dzogchen Community organized, in collaboration with ASIA, a fund raising event for the College of Galingteng.

Indian dinner, good wine, music and dancing were the ingredients of a pleasant evening at the Galleria Wunderkammern in Rome.

Many thanks to Zhenphenling, the artists and all the participants!



EVENTS



Photographic exhibition on the Contrast of Contemporary Tibet

The exhibition "Contrasts - Lights and shadows of Contemporary Tibet" has arrived in Arcidosso.

A journey of more than 50 shots by Alberto Giuliani and Carlo Meazza tells the contradictions of real life in contemporary Tibet, balanced between tradition and modernity. The show, that opened 20 June at Castle Aldobrandesco, has been realized with the contribution of the Tuscany Region and the sponsorship of the township of Arcidosso, in collaboration with the Shang Shung Institute and the Dzogchen Community.

It will remain open until 31 July.

For translating this Newsletter we would like to thank Marta Medusa, Serenella Ciongoli and Silvia San Marco.