



Toit du Monde

REVUE DE L'ASSOCIATION ASSISTANCE MÉDICALE TOIT DU MONDE

EDITORIAL

Balance

Kathmandu, November 6, 2007,
11:00 pm

At that time when I write my editorial, a notion immediately comes in my mind: that of balance. Every time I go back to Nepal, there is a shock. What strikes me the most is the difference of the value of things and the concerns between our two countries. Some wonder if they will have something to eat –monthly minimum cost €5 (only rice and lentils), others what flat screen TV they will choose for Christmas (€1,500, that is more than one year of food for 25 children). In short, there is an imbalance between North and South, as it is sometimes generalizing said. Some people will say it is due to chance, others to karma or to a higher power will. As for me, regardless of the cause, the important thing is the actions that we can and must implement. Therefore, I perceive the action of AMTM, in its principle, as a desire of readjustment. With their donations, each donor or sponsor contributes to this work. As always, and as you may have daily noticed during our mission (www.amtm.org), great oaks from little acorns grow. The purpose of the attached fund-raising to buy food is to restore a certain balance (*) in this Christmas season...
Thank you for them!

Laurent Charbonnier, Président

(*) Littré dictionary definition: fair proportion, fair measure

ON THE SPOT

Words by... Jean-Pierre Martin in Népal



Jean-Pierre Martin is checking water filters and is taking water samples for analysis



Hygiene : an essential role

Jean-Pierre Martin, 65 years old, an engineer geophysicist for the oil industry in several countries in East and north Africa

« I was not come back in the country for more than 7 years and this time, I have found it even more wretched and degraded than before. This has redoubled the energy of the team on the spot, which was very united despite the different personalities and skills. And then, there were those moments when we take a sponsorship, from heart to heart, with emotion and happiness. I was in charge of the validation of the “hygiene and humanitarian” part of AMTM charter. The first element to check was the quantity and the quality of the water. The assessment was quite bad. As a matter of fact, the local responsible persons often had not well understood the purification system and used it badly. The water quality is frequently and significantly deteriorated after its passing through the purification system. Another crucial element to health: food. Again, the differences between the sites are important, and the Palyul, 30 km far from Katmandu, has to face the greatest difficulties with an inadequate quality of the water and food. Conversely, the water quality is good and the food is satisfactory in Dolpo. As a result, the health of the children is significantly better. During the next months, we shall work to correct these disparities according to the facilities and hygiene standards defined by a working party before the latest mission, to which each school must have quickly access» J.-P. M.

Against Hepatitis B

With more than 350 millions chronic carriers in the world, Hepatitis B virus is a real scourge. Nepal is not spared, on the contrary, hence the need to put prevention campaigns in place.

In Nepal, as everywhere in Southeast Asia or in Sub-Saharan Africa, the infection rate of Hepatitis B is significantly higher than in Europe, especially in the Buddhist population, which is ten times more affected than others (6 to 7% compared with just 1% in the general population). Why such a difference? It is difficult to analyze because of the lack of studies on the subject in this country. The only confirmed fact is that 90 to 95% of the cases of Hepatitis B are cured, but that the remaining 5 to 10% become chronic, with more or less serious consequences on health like Cirrhosis or liver cancers. For 1 case in 100, Hepatitis B can even be fatal without a transplantation. Another observation is that the transition to chronicity depends on the age: from 5 to 10% in adults, it rises to 30 or 40% in children under 4 years old and may reach 90% in newborns. Hence the need to put prevention actions in place, which are the only weapon to



Dr. J. Nicolas gives a basic hygiene lesson to attentive children. On the right, Evelyne Charbonnier gives hygiene kits (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, towel) at Dolpo school.



fight against this scourge, particularly in Nepal, where biological check-up and treatments are too expensive. Alerted by Hepatitis B cases in two sites since last May, AMTM launched a vaccination drive. At the same time, the association gives hygiene lessons in schools. The disease is transmitted through infected biological fluids, blood, semen, vaginal secretions and saliva. And children often share their toothbrush or razor to shave their head. A slight cut, and there is contamination with all the consequences it may cause.

On March 18, 2007, AMTM filed with the concerned authorities (*) an authorization request to open a humanitarian wholesale pharmaceutical distributor in the office of the association in Nanterre. AMTM is among the 5 associations in France which have received a favorable reception. Since August 23, 2007, AMTM is allowed to acquire medicaments for free or against payment and to store them before their wholesale distribution or their export.

(*) AFSSAPF (Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits de Santé) and the Ministry of Health.

A C T I O N S

■ **From June 28 to July 31, Brigitte Le Cossec was on mission in India**, where she visited two sites in Rewalsar and one in Spiti, and met heavy medical cases. But there are good news: the foundations of the medical house in Spiti, at the entrance of the village of Kungri, which is funded by AMTM, are laid. The completion of the building is scheduled in November 2008

■ **The site Manjughoksha in Kathmandu** received its new furniture and 30 obsolete tables and benches have been replaced for a total cost of €1,244.

■ Faced with the deplorable condition or the absence of the underwear we have seen on the sites, which is an illness factor, AMTM has decided to finance the purchase of 1,045 panties for €280. The purchase in bulk has been made on the spot and distributed during our latest mission in Kathmandu.

CULTURE - ÉDUCATION

Sketch at Nyingmapa Wishfulfilling Institute

In spite of everything, the teaching of English. It is done in most of the schools we sponsor in Nepal, but pupils and teachers are not always enthusiastic. Hence our surprise and emotion when the Nyingmapa Wishfulfilling Institute students have performed in English a play on the fundamentals of Buddhism. Admittedly, this monastery-school established in 1974 by venerable Khetsun

Sangpo is a Buddhist studies institute opened up to the outside world and reputable even beyond the borders of the country since it receives students from everywhere in the world. But that's no reason to think that the monks, whose progress in English are amazing, may play in the language of Shakespeare, in spite of their reticence and shyness of the beginning. Behind this mini-revo-



lution, there is their teacher, Amélie Kelly. Living on the spot for two years, she has created three English classes and does not hesitate to use innovative teaching methods. An example to follow.

Welcome to «Sagarmatha Aide aux défavorisés»

Children of Sagarmatha orphanage now hosts 53 young Nepali. In partnership with AMTM, a new structure will be created next January to enable its development and to secure the future of the children.



Francis Laune with some children of the orphanage.

We have created it in 2002 to cope with a growing and unbearable childish poverty in the country. That year, we received and treated 35 Nepali children whom family had pointed the precariousness out to us. Visited by their parents when they wish, installed in a large house we have bought in order to ensure the permanence of our actions, today, these children are healthy and their school results are exceptional. Managed by Phinzo and Beena Sherpa, an affectionate and devoted

couple, Children of Sagarmatha now hosts 53 joyful children and we are very proud of this site. But the orphanage has an annual operating budget of €50,000 and may extend its actions. To finance its development without jeopardizing the 20 other sites which we take care of, a new structure was just created in France, in partnership with AMTM: “Sagarmatha Aide aux Défavorisés”

(Sagarmatha Aid to the Unprivileged). It was created by one of our members, Francis Laune, who is in charge of the orphanage since its inception. In addition to the permanence of the orphanage, it will act for adults and children in trouble throughout Nepal. AMTM will continue the management of the orphanage sponsorships and will finance its homebuyer’s loan until its term. Up to “Sagarmatha Aide aux Défavorisés” association to raise funds for any additional assistance. We are confident that this collaboration will generate other projects, all good for the local populations.

For sponsorships, please contact Armelle Martin at AMTM.

For “Sagarmatha Aide aux Défavorisés”, contact Francis Laune.

PORTRAIT

Useful...

By donating €14,600 to AMTM, Dr. François M. honored the memory of his dead brother.

In 2006, François M., general practitioner, member of AMTM since 1997, has lost his brother Thierry, of whom he inherits €14,600. He immediately donated this money to AMTM. His dearest wish: improving the comfort and education of the 250 monks of the Palyul, where he sponsors a young 22 years old monk. “I am pleased that this project has emerged so quickly, he

said. And I am confident that my brother would have approved my approach. As to me, I am proud to honor his memory this way. When one has the good luck to have a job and to enjoy financial comfort like I do, the aim is not to hoard but to be useful.” Moreover, François M. may quickly join the association

volunteer medical team. He was indeed in Kathmandu during the latest mission and thus could see his donation had made some people happy: the Palyul monastery now has a new classroom, showers and toilets. Palyul, where his godson lives, is one of the largest site AMTM supports in Nepal.



Dr. François M. and Khempo Sangye Rangjung, who manages Palyul.

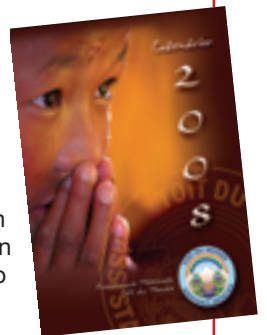
A C T U A L I T É



■ The new French ambassador to Nepal, Mr Gilles-Henry Garault, warmly received us during our latest mission. Our President, Laurent Charbonnier, has introduced AMTM and our work. Collaborative actions prospects have been considered.

■ This year, **BSC** agency has freely devised an exceptional calendar with the beautiful photos Daniel Collin has taken. €7 per calendar, €15 for three. On sale at the association office and on our web site www.amtm.org

■ Magnificent sets of postcards are also available. The themes are landscapes, flowers, children. €5 for 5, €12 for 15.



Artists mobilize to AMTM

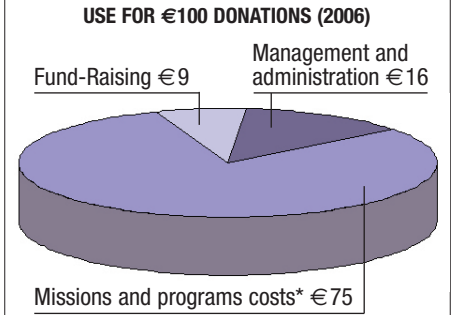


L. Charbonnier, President of AMTM, V. Condette, Public Relations and M. Higonnet receiving the many people coming to Metanoïa Gallery for the opening.

Ninety three painters, sculptors and visual artist have agreed to auction their works and to donate a part of the sale total amount to our association. This operation was initiated by a friend of one of our member, Danielle Siegfried-Moussard, Marc Higonnet, owner of Metanoïa Gallery in Quincampoix street. Decided in April 2007, this auction was held on September 21 at Hôtel Drouot by the auctioneer David Nordmann. The theme was "Far Eastern Contemporary Art and Spirituality". The initially expected 50 artists quickly rose to 93. Each of them sold five of his

works of which at least one was for the benefit of the association. Our photograph, Daniel Collin, was among them and put five of his photos in the catalog of the sale. The gain the association received amounts to €9,000 (before fees). The gallery owner Marc Higonnet as well as the auctioneer David Nordmann assured our President, Laurent Charbonnier, of their wish to renew this operation, but with different process and implementation in order to increase its scale and to optimize the effects. Until this next meeting, we warmly thank the artists and all those who generously got involved.

KEY NUMBERS



- > AMTM budget for 2007 **€550 000**
- > number of donors **3,700**
- > number of sponsorships **900**
- > number of volunteers **115**
- > visits on the Internet site **300 per day**
- > sponsorship monthly cost **€25** (€8,5 after tax deduction allowance in France)
- > annual subscription **€35**

*Including a reserve for future projects.

THEY HELP US

- Thanks to the communication agency **Strategik & Numerik** which helped us for the creation and the design of a new brochure presenting AMTM and to JPA for the free printing.
- A photocopier and three fax: thanks to **Qatar Airways** for this useful donation.
- When fans mobilize: they came to Il Divo concert in Paris from... California, and did not hesitate to visit us at our office at the same time. Thanks to the members of the Californian fan's club **Bay Area Divas** for their donations of US\$1,500 and their support to AMTM.



CONTRIBUTE TO OUR AID

Cut and send this donation form to :

Assistance Médicale Toit du Monde 81, avenue du Maréchal Joffre - 92000 Nanterre - France
 Phone : 33 1 47 24 78 59 - Fax : 33 1 47 24 78 07 - E-mail : contact@amtm.org

Name : First Name :

Adress :

Zip code : City : Country

E-mail :

I wish to help AMTM and I make a donation :

30 € 50 € 100 € other :€

You can also use secured online donation at www.amtm.org/en