



# Association Karya

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## Newsletter No. 44: January–February 2012

*“One day, there was a great forest fire. Stunned and terrified, all the animals watched the disaster, powerless to act. Only the little hummingbird buzzed around, fetching a few drops of water in his beak to throw on the fire.*

*After a time, the armadillo, irritated by these pathetic attempts, said, “Hummingbird! Are you mad? Do you think that you’re going to put the fire out with a few drops of water?”*

*“I know,” replied the hummingbird, “but I’m doing my part.” According to the legend, each animal felt concerned, and each did its part as he could. Thus, the forest was saved.*



*(Asian legend)*

### ***Namasté, Tashi Delek,***

We begin this newsletter by wishing you a happy Lhossar and a nice beginning of year 2139 in the Tibetan calendar.

This month we want to share with you:

- A fantastic story of a reunion we thought was impossible. A few months ago, we knew nothing about the background of little Jibani, who was living in Karnaly Children’s Home. Today she is getting to know her uncle.
- The realization of the mutual aid projects of the teenagers of Karnaly Children’s Home: they are taking on increased responsibilities and have created a Nepali NGO to carry out their solidarity projects.
- The Tibetans’ situation is still difficult. To support the population living in Tibet, they called for not celebrating Lhossar, the New Year, on the roof of the world.
- The major events to come.

Good reading and thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Adeline, Aline and Christine for the Karya team.

### **An unexpected reunion!**



*Jibani meeting her uncle*

As you may remember, in March 2011, around twenty children victim of trafficking were rescued and placed in Karnaly Children’s Home. These past few months, extensive research has been carried out to find these children’s families.

As a result, most children have been able to return to their parents or other family members.

So far, only four children have not returned home. Among them, Jibani is a little girl we knew nothing about.

She has been a victim of trafficking since she was a very young child, and she couldn't remember her parents' names or the name of the area where she was born and raised. The only clue we had was her Mongolian face which is quite unusual in Nepal. Population movements are still limited in Nepal, so we thought her hometown was located in the Myagdi district where this ethnic group lives.

Sundup, a staff member in charge of family reunification cases, went to the district three times. His first mission was unsuccessful: he visited most villages, but nobody had heard of this little girl. He learnt only during his second stay that a little girl might have disappeared from the region when she was 2. As it takes three days' travel on foot to reach the village, a third trip was necessary to meet the possible family.

Finally Sundup met this family, whose story coincided exactly with Jibani's. Unfortunately, her father had left the country to work in the Middle East and her mother could not be found in the district or in the Katmandu valley. Therefore, the reunification procedure started with her uncle.

A week later, this man made the trip to Katmandu to find his little niece.

Jibani was intimidated at their reunion, as she had no memory of him. Sundup took matters into his own hands. He sat with Jibani next to the unknown man. They spoke about a lot of different things until Jibani felt safe, then Sundup left to let them get to know each other, talk about life in the village, joke...



*The uncle, Jibani and Sundup*

A quarter of an hour later, Jibani joined her friends holding a bag of sweets offered by her uncle (this

is a Nepali tradition when you visit your family) and she shared them with everyone. As far as Jibani is concerned, this present was very important, symbolizing her belonging to a family for the first time in her life!

Her uncle left Karnaly Children's Home two hours later. He wanted to bring Jibani home but we refused as we thought it was too soon for her. She needed to talk with her relatives, to meet them several times and feel secure and comfortable before her definitive return home was organized. She has already taken a big step forward, the reunification process is launched and we hope it will continue in the coming months.



*Jibani, proud to share sweets, symbol that she belongs to a family*

So that everything goes well, we have planned the next steps of the reunification process in addition to her uncle's visits in Katmandu and their phone calls:

- Jibani is going to pay a visit to her village with Sundup, with whom she feels safe.
- If things go well, she will spend one month alone with her family.
- In the best-case scenario, the reunification process could be successfully completed in April, at the time of the new Nepali year, so that she could integrate into the village school for the new school year.

### ➤ Creation of a Nepali NGO, "Samaaj Sudhar Sanshta"

A new NGO was recently created by the Katmandu Karnaly Children's Home's "eldest" (the Home's "young adults"). Farid (the current Director of N.G.N./Karya), Rachael (an American volunteer) and the future members of the organization thought about the aims and operation of an NGO.

Mandira Sharma (a well-known human rights activist and lawyer in Nepal) gave them all the necessary information to create and register this organization.

Its name will be “Samaaj Sudhar Sanshta” (S.S.S.), which means “Organization to improve society”.

In November, Dominique, an instructor of non-violent communication (NVC), taught the young adults the bases of this technique. Benjamin (President of the I.E.F.R. Association) presented to them a concrete example of cooperation in Casamance. They were shown a slideshow on micro-projects and micro-credits (based on the example of a women’s organization, the Sam-Sam, which set up a soap enterprise in Kabadio, Senegal).



*The new Nepali NGO logo SSS*

The young adults created a highly symbolic logo: twelve green branches matching the twelve organization members. Three hands (featuring Humla mother, father and child union) are drawn at the heart of the triangle. It symbolizes improvement and help given to the Nepali society as steps towards a better future.

This project makes a lot of sense for the country because it has been launched by young Nepali who deeply desire to help their community.

All of them are from Humla and suffered child trafficking or were displaced during their childhood. Therefore, they best know the needs of the local population.

This new NGO is an essential tool for them, with which they will be able to achieve plans they have been making for several years (the project was born when they first returned to Humla in 2008).

These young adults ask for support in the establishment of the NGO, for training in financial and human management, to develop partnerships, etc., in order to be independent and fully participate in their society.

The “Samaaj Sudhar Sanshta” NGO will soon be the perfect local partner for Karya and N.G.N.

**We admire and support their approach!**

### ➤ Lhossar 2139: Tibetan New Year

On 11 February, a young nun aged 18, Tenzin Choedron, committed suicide by setting herself on fire to call for the return of the Tibetan spiritual leader and the freedom of Tibet.

Tenzin’s father has declared that the Chinese government will not return his daughter’s body to her family.

Twenty-three Tibetans have already sacrificed themselves, ten of them since the beginning of the year.

For the sake of solidarity towards those sacrifices, Tibetan people did not celebrate Lhossar, the Water Dragon Year.

The police have been authorized to shoot and kill any person acting against the government.

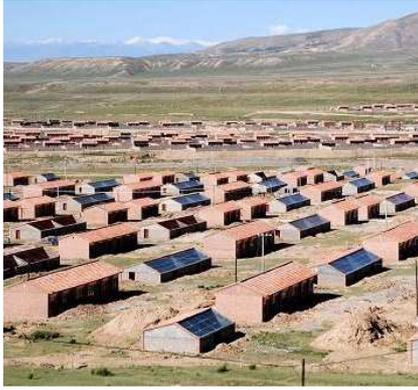
Karya participated in the celebration of Lhossar organized by *Lions des neiges Mont-Blanc* in Les Houches on 24, 25 and 26 April. It was a fantastic moment of solidarity to support the Tibetan people and help them protect their rights and culture, and an emotional event for many participants.

*Realization of Chenrezi’s sand mandala, Lord Buddha’s teachings of compassion. He protects Tibet and personifies love to all beings.*



Nathalie Gauthard’s conference on the major issue of the Tibetan nomads’ settlements was particularly interesting.

Indeed, the Chinese government has run a program aimed at settling Tibetan nomads. It consists in concentrating them in huge villages (or huge camps) where everything is well lined up and organized under the pretext of environmental protection (underlining land degradation due to overgrazing: a new human rights violation).



*“When a people is victim of crime against humanity and cultural genocide, any human, artistic or spiritual demonstration from them becomes a symbol and proves their determination to survive.”*

Matthieu Ricard

### We need help

French–English Translation

We are looking for people able to translate into English monthly letters (around one every two months), and the website news.

If you can help, please send us an e-mail.

### ➤ Agenda

- Solidarity weeks in Les Carroz (74)  
(more details on our website)

From March 12 to 16 and April 9 to 13.

#### Program:

- Photo exhibit, exhibit on Karya’s actions
  - Slideshow
  - Alain DUVAL’s film “Balade népalaise”
  - Sale of socially responsible handicrafts
  - Tasting of Nepali tea
- Free trade market in Cluses (74) : April 28
  - Information about Nepal at the yoga club in Servoz with M-C Hubert : April 4
  - Focus on child trafficking in at the college in Marignier (74)

### • “Le grenier tropical” shop in Villefranche sur Saône

Karya continues to welcome you at the association’s shop, “Le grenier tropical”, where you can find a wide range of free trade and socially responsible goods.

**The shop is open from 3 PM to 7 PM from Tuesday to Friday and all day Saturday.**

**167 rue Déchavanne**

**69400 VILLEFRANCHE sur SAONE**

- ImaginaCtion Association proposes different activities all year long and offers its profits to Karya.

Do not hesitate to visit its website regularly:  
<http://asso-imaginaction>

### **How to help these children...**

**Karya depends on its donors and sponsors to carry out its projects**

Where your money is going? Here are some examples:

- **Basic food** for one child for one month: 23 €
- **Tuition fees** in private school for one child for a year: 120 €
- **Maintenance** for one child for a year: 625 €
- **Water** for 25 children for a month: 60 €
- **House rent for a month:** 180 €

**Every euro counts in Nepal! To help us:**

**Cheque:** please make it payable to Karya and send it to:

KARYA  
57 Route de La Plaine  
74300 THYEZ, France.

**Bank transfer:** please contact Karya.

Visit our website and contact us to ask for more information about our actions.

**Thank you for your support!!!**