From The Editor

An organization is only as good as its people. Often times, the only resource civil societies have is the passionate dedication of its members. However, this passion alone is insufficient to tackle the many challenges that one is confronted with in achieving our objectives. Leaders provide clarity of vision, goals and inspiration while the management sets targets, benchmarks, protocols and roadmaps. It is critical that people are provided all the necessary tools and techniques to get the job done.

At Tarayana we focus on improving the capabilities of our team through, so that we are equipped to handle the challenges faced in the discharge of our responsibilities. It is equally important for us to be able to use the new skills so that there is direct benefit from the training or the exposure visit. It is, therefore, mandatory that these skills are transferred to local communities, who in turn can improve their own capacities.

Tarayana has arrangements with several institutes and organizations both within and outside the country where we are able to send trainees and receive trainers. Moreover, these tie-ups help us source required special technical inputs when needed.

Everything is relative and a little distance created through travel often gives us a broader prospective. This is especially true for all the volunteer members of our Tarayana School Clubs who are selected to travel to distant lands to represent Bhutanese Youth. Our engagement with youth through the Tarayana School Clubs give us opportunities to nurture young minds so that they grow up understanding universal human values in practice.

Human resource development will continue to be important to ensure that our services are relevant to the changing needs of our rural communities.

~ Happy reading ~

Improved Cook Stoves – a visit to Nepal

The Sustainable Rural Biomass Energy (SRBE) Project of The Department of Renewable Energy organized a study visit to Nepal from 1st-8th March, 2015. SRBE Project contributes to the reduction of greenhouse emissions through sustainable production and utilization of biomass via promotion and dissemination of efficient cooking stoves in the rural areas of Bhutan and promotes biomass energy technologies in relevant industries. Dealing officers from the three local implementing partners were invited for the visit which was facilitated by the Centre for Rural Technology/Nepal (CRT/N).

This Centre is a professional non-governmental organization engaged in developing and promoting appropriate rural technologies effective in meeting the basic needs and improving livelihood of rural people. Mr. Karma Wangchuk, who is Tarayana's implementing officer of this project, was also invited.

(Read More : http://www.tarayanafoundation.org/?p=1286)

Pottery & Natural Dye training in Trongsa

Training on Pottery and dyeing was held from the 26th of January till the 5th of February for seven participants from Wangling and Bayzam villages, at the Tontongphey Centre in Langthel, Trongsa. The training was conducted by Ms. Sonam Dema, Manager of the Rural Crafts Production Unit, who has spent a year in Japan, improving her skills in handicrafts design and production.

According to her, the old traditional kiln was modified with the voluntary service of four students from Bayzam community, to make the stacking of pots more convenient and help avoid breakages. The modified kiln was found to perform much better than the old one. The main focus of the training was to teach new designs, new products, introduce new techniques and improve on the workmanship and product quality.

(Read More : http://www.tarayanafoundation.org/?p=1291)
People with Special needs survey undertaken in Samtse

Tarayana is partnering with Bussi-en, a Japanese Social Welfare Organisation, in implementing a joint project on Social Inclusion funded by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Draktso Vocational Training Centre, Ability Bhutan Society and Disabled Peoples’ Association of Bhutan are the other local implementing partners of this project. As part of Tarayana’s commitment to the project, a survey to identify and register people with special needs was carried out in all the 15 gewogs of Samtse Dzongkhag.

The survey was carried out from 25th of February to 15th March, 2015. The team acknowledges all the support received from Dasho Dzongda and the Dzongkhag Administration in the facilitation of this survey. They also acknowledge the pivotal role played by both the Kidu Officer & the Gewog Administrative Officer. The survey team was led by Ms.Wangmo, Programme Officer. The number of clients from these 15 gewogs is quite alarming. A total of 532 people with different disabilities have currently registered.

(Read More : http://www.tarayanafoundation.org/?p=1296)

International Women’s Day Celebrations at Lhuentse

On the 8th of March the Tarayana club from Lhuentse Higher Secondary School celebrated the International Women’s Day (IWD) with the theme “Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity.” The event emphasized brought into focus violent crimes committed against women in the form of domestic violence and sexual harassment/assault/ rape. The Club used the opportunity to raise awareness of their fellow students and the local community on the dangers of violence against women in its varied forms.

It also gave the School Counselors the opportunity to talk about gender equality, gender based violence and also to share information about the existing National Programmes and NGO activities in the country for empowering women. The Club members performed a brief cultural programme for all the guests and some documentaries on gender equality and gender based violence were screened.

Surgical Camp

Tarayana Foundation will be organizing a restorative surgical camp in collaboration with Dr.Jack Demos, Surgicorps International and Ministry of Health from 25th April till 5th May at Paro Hospital for the Correction of cleft-lips, cleft palates, burns and also for people mauled by wild animals. Anyone wishing to avail of the opportunity is requested to register with the Foundation at the earliest to ensure proper registration and planning.

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Upcoming Events

March 2015

March : Implementation of REAP
March 15th-20th : Wadah Global Gathering

Support Tarayana

We invite you to be a part of reaching out to the most vulnerable members of our society through your support to Tarayana. We operate with financial support of individuals and organizations, without which we would not have the opportunity of helping so many families help themselves. Tarayana complements and supplements the initiatives of the Government in empowering rural communities towards sustainable livelihoods. The Foundation maintains its accounts in accordance with accepted financial norms and is audited annually by the Royal Audit Authority of Bhutan. An audited financial report and an annual progress report are published every year and is available for all interested individuals and organizations.

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The Second Wadah Global Gathering (WGG) took place in Yogkarta, Indonesia from the 15th-20th of March, 2015. The gathering was attended by Ms. Sonam Pem (Program Director) and the Tarayana School Club members, Kinley Zangmo and Tshering Tenzin Dorji selected from Kharsadrupchu Middle Secondary School and Yangchen Tshogyal and Ngawang Rabzel Wangchuk from Yangchenphug High School. Youth from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, India, the Philippines and Indonesia participated in various activities and field visits organized for the pre-event camp.

The participants from Tarayana Foundation, Wadah Foundation, Indonesia and Raise a Village, Philippines were called “Dreamers from Afar”. The other groups were “Abandoned No More”, “Jewels of the Bustling Cities” and “Victors Through and Through”. The main event was held on 19-20th March, where the different groups participated in panel discussion based on the theme “Education: Building Blocks of a Better Future”. CNN Heroes Puspa Basnet, Nepal and Efren Penaflorida, the Philippines also participated as moderators of the sessions along with our very own Sonam Pem. The audiences comprising of donors, friends and supporters of Wadah Foundation came from 17 different countries around the globe.

The Fund Raising Workshop

A three day training on Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IWRMP) and River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) was organized by the National Environment Commission Secretariat (NECS) with technical support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The training was held at the Khangku Resort in Paro from 23rd to 25th March, 2015 and Mr. Jamyang Phuntsho, Programme Officer attended the training.

The primary key area identified for its implementation was the Wangchhu River basin in Thimphu. The team comprising of various Technical Advisory Committee from various ministries along with the Gups who were appointed as the water committee leaders from their respective rivers attended the training.

(Read more : http://www.tarayanafoundation.org/?p=1265)