

THE DAGPO EDUCATIONAL FUND
ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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FOREWORD

We are happy to offer you this annual report. 2016 has mainly been in the spirit of the heating project for the monastery. We have contacted the Technical University in Delft, the Netherlands, for a thorough research into the possibilities of a sustainable heating system in the monastery. In consultation with them, we have widened the research. Finally, a research was carried out on a) technical means to renovate and heat the existing buildings and b) the possibilities of sustainable new construction methods in the area.

Furthermore, a change of direction has taken place. Mrs E. van Weelden has resigned as Chairman and Mr. L. A. Tjiptobiantoro as General Member. Mr. J. Jhampa Gyamtshog and Ms M.M.H.L.T. Van der Bom-Tjoa were respectively appointed as chairman and general member.

For the activities and developments in 2016, we invite you to read the report.

INTRODUCTION

In the annual report 2016 you will first find general information about the TDEF Foundation and the organizational structure. Next, the activities and main developments in 2016 will be listed and explained, after which a brief conclusion will be given.

GENERAL

The Dagpo Educational Fund (TDEF) Foundation was established with the purpose of supporting the cultural, educational and philosophical aspects of the Buddhist traditions of the Dagpo Shedrub Ling monastery university, wherever in the world, so that these traditions can survive and be shared with those who are interested. The TDEF uses its financial resources for this purpose. The TDEF is not for-profit.

The objective of the TDEF Foundation has an implicit social aspect because people who live according to the traditions of Dagpo Shedrub Ling will, where necessary, contribute to education, health care and other forms of humanitarian aid.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Board composition by February 2016

- Chairman: Mr. Lopsang Jhampel Jhampa Gyamtshog
- Secretary: Ms. P.C.G. Hendriks
- Treasurer: Mrs. L.H.F.M. Teunissen-van den Ende
- General Members: Mrs. M.H. van den Eijkhoff and Mrs. M.M.H.L.T. van der Bom-tjoa

The aim is for the board to meet at least once a year. In addition, contact is held throughout the year via meetings by email and telephone.

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN 2016

Contact with donors

In 2016 another losar-card was sent to all donors for the Tibetan New Year 2143, this time with the image of two young monks of the Thoasam Lingschool. This school has added a subject to its curriculum this year: the fundamentals of philosophy and logic.

Visit to the monastery University Dagpo Shedrub Ling in Kullu, India

This year there was no teaching of the Venerable Dagpo Rinpoche. However, in October there were teachings from the Venerable Ganden Tri Rinpoche. No one of the board has attended these teachings. However, in connection with the heating project, one board member has visited the monastery in November together with the students and supervisors of the Technical University from Delft. See more under 'projects'.

The number of monks in the monastery has again grown this year. There are now 180 monks living in the monastery of which sixty-nine are in primary school age. The aim is to gradually grow up to three hundred monks.

The school Thosam Ling

The new director of the school did not meet the needs and was fired. At the moment, there is a search for a good successor. It is still difficult to find good teachers. This is really necessary because the number of students is still growing. The four teachers who are now connected to the school do their utmost best to give the children the best possible education.

Retreat- and study center

The status of the retreat and study center project has not changed yet. The official transfer of the land is still not completed. As already mentioned in previous annual reports, this has to do with the bureaucracy of governments at all levels such as municipality, province, department and state level.

Healthcare

From April 2016, a medical post has been made in one of the garages located under the school. It is yet another very modest, minimally furnished temporary accommodation. A retired doctor is holding consultations for the monks and locals twice a week. He is assisted by a monk who has followed a short medical course.

To give this medical post a full-fledged function, currently research is being undertaken regarding the possibilities of new construction on a piece of land outside the monastery in front of the school. (see more under 'projects').

Heating Project *(and a new multifunctional health center as examples for sustainable construction)*

The heating project has undergone major developments this year. After discovering that India has little or no information about heating systems, the Technical University in Delft was approached. There have been several conversations with Ir van Bennekom of the department of Architecture, Complex Projects. In these discussions it was decided to give the heating project a wider social purpose. The students were given the task of researching possibilities for sustainable building and heating in the whole Kullu Valley in India (rather than just for the monastery). This research should result in two designs:

- a. One for the renovation and heating of the Thoasam Ling school. This will be the test case for renovating and heating the entire monastery.

b. One for a new sustainable health and information center. The function of this building will be tailored to the needs of the monastery and surrounding inhabitants.

Both designs should serve as examples for the entire region.

At the beginning of October, 12 students and three supervisors from the Technical University Delft started their research. From 15 to 22 November, they undertook a field research and stayed in the monastery. One of the board members was also present to co-supervise the research. The students will present the conclusions of their research on the 1st of February 2017.

Starting March 2017, a second group of students (Crew 2) will start their work. They will do further research and move the project towards implementation. In the beginning of July 2017, they will present their conclusions.

The biggest challenge remains to find green and sustainable techniques for the construction and heating system that can be applied in this region.

The money that is needed to realize the doctor's post is raised by the Kadam Chöling Foundation. They are developing several activities in order to generate the funds. The “Wild Geese Foundation” will support the project.

MEETINGS

The board has held two in person meetings. Furthermore, the board has held contact throughout the year by telephone and e-mail.

CONCLUSION

Looking back at the year 2016, we can see that the number of donors has grown gradually. Much energy and time has been invested in setting up and supervising the study of sustainable heating / cooling system of the school and the monastery and the sustainable new construction of a doctor's post. We will continue these activities in the year 2017. Only when all (sustainable) possibilities for both active and passive heating systems have been researched, we will start the construction of a heating system. The same applies to the doctor's post.