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UMN ews

United Mission to Nepal



"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Building on experience

After a long process of collecting information, analysing issues and scanning the environment in which UMN works, we are finally at the point where we can really start looking at the future. The impressive bulk of data gathered in a collective effort throughout UMN is a goldmine for the next step in the Change Process - to decide what UMN will be and will do in the next five to ten years. A set of Strategic Directions were identified in June, setting the boundaries for a new Five-Year Strategic Plan.

We have found inspiration, and what we believe is a message from God for UMN's situation in Nepal today, in the words of the prophet Micah. The people of God are urged "to do justice and to love compassion and to walk humbly with your God". These words provide the framework for our new Strategic Directions and what we believe God wants us to do in the future.

While going through the Change Process, we have been encouraged to see the amount of experience there is throughout the organisation, an asset that will be invaluable when we face tomorrow's challenges. The Engineering and Industrial Development Department (EIDD) has been a precursor of some of the features by which UMN will be characterised in the future. Key words in future strategies will include "partnership", "secondment", and "capacity building", areas in which EIDD has many years of accumulated knowledge and experience. EIDD has also recently itself adopted a new strategic plan for the department, emphasising Enterprise Support and Development.

For these reasons, we want to highlight some of the achievements and challenges of EIDD's work in this issue of UMNews. It all started in the early '60s, when Odd Hoftun realised the need for skilled masons, welders and other workers while building Tansen Hospital, and consequently initiated the Butwal Technical Institute in 1963. The activities quickly grew and spread out. Almost 40 years later we see the fruit of Hoftun's and his colleagues' pioneer spirit in the successes of the many UMN-related companies, in the bustling industrial activity in Butwal, and the new opportunities for many Nepalis through the provision of electricity from hydropower plants.

UMN has always sought to be a pioneering organisation, to reach out into new areas, both in terms of geography and of new fields of work. We want to keep breaking new ground in the future and we keep seeking God's guidance in doing so. We thank you for your interest and support in this endeavour, and we hope you will enjoy reading the stories in the pages that follow.

Jennie Collins

Jennie Collins
Executive Director

Engineering

Tansen Hospital & YUHP awarded

For many years the National Tuberculosis Programme has used the World TB Day for awareness raising and advocacy but now there is an additional component. In 1999 the fund Dixa Daxa Sewa Puraskar Kosh was established. Each year it gives awards to individuals, organizations or institutions which have made a significant contribution to TB eradication and control in Nepal.

On March 24, 2002 Dixa-Daxa shields for "Spectacular Services Provided in the Field of TB Control" were awarded to Tansen Hospital and the Yala Urban Health Programme (YUHP), for its innovative community integrated approach and high

rates of treatment completion.

The Speaker of the Parliament, Shree Nath Ranabhat, awarded the prizes. Christine Preston received the prize on behalf of YUHP and Shiva Acharya on behalf of Tansen Mission Hospital.

Christine Preston receiving the Dixa-Daxa shield on behalf of YUHP.

Once BTI apprentice – now a UMN leader



Starting as an apprentice at Butwal Technical Institute (BTI) in 1972, Raghu Sharma has climbed many ladders of success in UMN during the last 30 years. Raghu has worked in different institutions, companies, projects and programmes and has held different positions in different organisations. Currently, he is working as Deputy/Acting Director at the Engineering and Industrial Development Department (EIDD), UMN Headquarters. He did his Masters in Development Management at the Asian Institute of Management, Manila.

● *How did you begin your career with UMN?*

I joined BTI way back in 1972 after finishing school. After I got a Diploma in General Mechanics, I was offered a job at BTI as a trainer/instructor. This is how I began my career.

● *In which fields have you been involved over these years?*

Well, I was involved in many fields. Between 1976 and 1977 I was a trainer/instructor in BTI. From 1977-1991, I was working for UMN's Development and Consulting Services (DCS) in Butwal in the areas of micro hydro, training and promotion, and business and administration. I also served as a Business Manager in DCS and as Company Manager for Butwal Wood Industries (P) Ltd. (BWI). I was managing both the Promotion and Training and the Business & Administration divisions of DCS for some years. As requested by EIDD/UMN, I then moved to UMN HQ office in 1992. I am at present holding the position of Deputy Director (and Acting Director now) for EIDD at UMN Headquarters.

● *Which positions did you enjoy most?*

Well, I enjoyed working in all the positions that came along with my career development. However, I enjoyed the most working as team leader of the Micro Hydro Programme (MHP) in DCS, and teaching BTI apprentices. I also enjoyed working at Gyang with AKWUA where my role was as consultant.

● *Why?*

Because this is something I was involved in since the beginning and I had the theoretical and practical experiences in those fields as well. During my studies in Manila, I did my thesis on AKWUA and therefore it was relevant for me to assist the project. I also enjoyed travelling many hills and mountains of Nepal to help rural people make their lives easier.

● *How did UMN's work with Engineering and Industrial Development Department develop?*

As you know, Nepal is a poor developing country with subsistence agriculture. Many people here are farmers and are illiterate. And even many of those with education are jobless. The education system does not produce people with practical skills. So, it was felt that there should be a skills development programme and engineering and industrial development work in partnership with Nepali organisations to enable development of a sound and just economy. Historically, EIDD has served Nepal through the much needed development of successful Nepali organisations – institutions and companies – which, through both commercial and non-profit regimes, provide services and develop products which make it possible for the people of Nepal to secure their basic needs. Today, it is involved with some 10 Nepali organisations, most of which were “born” in UMN.

Nepal Hydro and Electric Pvt. Ltd (NHE), Butwal Power Company Limited (BPC), Himal Hydro and General Construction Limited (HH) have become reputed national companies and have greatly contributed to infrastructure development in rural areas. UMN, through these organisations, built Tinau (1 MW), Andhikhola (5.1 MW), Jhimruk (12 MW) and Khimti (60 MW) hydropower stations.

EIDD has brought significant change to the lives and economy of people. For example, many of my colleagues at BTI hold senior posts in many organisations or have established their own industries in Butwal.

● *Why did EIDD start the Enterprise Support Programme (ESP)?*

EIDD, in the past, was basically involved in the development of the hydropower sector in Nepal. Now there are capable companies working in the hydropower sector and foreign companies are also interested to come to Nepal to work in this sector. So EIDD redirected its focus to enterprise development. EIDD believes that with the availability of skilled people, institutions, technology and infrastructure, there is a great potential for enterprise development. Through enterprise, people get employed, receive products and services, and can utilise local raw material and resources.

● *What is EIDD's vision for the future?*

Generally EIDD's vision is to fulfil the UMN vision – “Individuals and communities will be able to secure their basic needs in a sustainable manner through participation in effective and self-reliant

Nepali organisations, including Nepali Christian organisations". Specifically, EIDD seeks to be a catalyst in promoting sustainable Nepali enterprises. It plans to work in the areas of skills development of individuals, capacity building of partner organisations through secondments, technology disseminations and infrastructure development at local level. I strongly believe that skills development of people (vocational education in particular) makes a difference to employment opportunities, micro enterprise creation, and contributes to meeting the basic needs of the citizens.

● *How has the current political situation of Nepal affected EIDD?*

At this particular time when the whole country is adversely affected, EIDD is unquestionably affected too. Due to lack of security, our partner organisations are badly affected as they work in rural areas in different projects. The training and other programmes are also affected due to degrading national economics.

● *With your education and experience in UMN, weren't you ever offered other lucrative jobs at any other INGOs?*

Oh, yes, I was offered jobs many times. But I declined simply because I started my career working for UMN and I am enjoying my work and environment here. I am very much indebted to UMN for all the career development opportunities (through several scholarships) in the past and in the near future, for which I am very grateful.

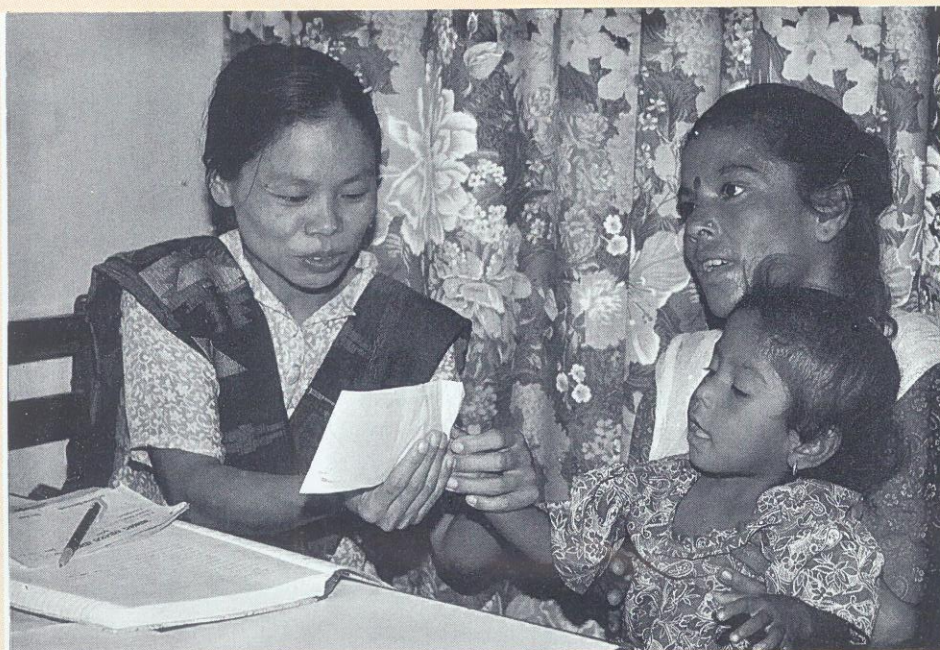
I also believe that I can contribute my best to the development of Nepal through UMN. Job satisfaction means more to me than more benefits. And I have not thought of joining any other INGOs in the future either. I plan to attend a refresher course in Development Studies and work with UMN for some more years until I retire. And I am happy and committed to do it.

Rishi Ram Paudyal

Care for those who cannot pay

In UMN circles, Butwal has always been known for its engineers and industries. But there is more to it than that. Over the years, several of the engineers' spouses have been doctors or nurses, and a small health clinic is now giving care to the poor in Butwal who cannot afford the expensive health care otherwise available.

"Many people came to the expatriates' houses to ask for medical help, so Diana Heindl took the initiative to open the 'Ananda Swastya Kendra' four years ago", explains Heather Cox who is working part-time as a doctor in the clinic. Katrina Butterworth and Bethsaba Nafziger are other UMNers working there part-time. The Community Medical Auxiliary, Tara Rana, is the only full-time employee.



Tara Rana seeing a patient in the health clinic.

The clinic is open five days a week, and between 150 and 300 patients are seen every month. There are fees for the services, but those who cannot pay receive subsidies. Many of the patients have long-term problems, come on a regular basis, and become familiar to the staff. It is more difficult to determine if occasional visitors can afford to pay or not. The clinic is set up on Christian values and some visitors

choose to talk about their spiritual health also.

There are, of course, huge differences between Nepal and the west when it comes to health care. Many patients' poverty is maybe the most obvious one.

"People come and say 'I stopped using my medicine because I had no money'. Those times, it feels good that we can be of help to some," says Heather.

Stefan Östman

Reconstruction in Jhimruk and Andhikhola

The Jhimruk (12 MW) and Andhikhola (5.1 MW) Hydropower Stations were severely damaged by Maoist attacks in April. The attacks appeared to be part of a strategy to destroy infrastructure throughout Nepal. The offices of the Jhimruk Industrial Development Centre (JIDCO) were also vandalised and looted, but no one was injured.

Repairs have now been completed at the Andhikhola plant, and electricity is again provided to Palpa, Syangja and Gulmi districts. Funding has also been granted for repairing the Jhimruk plant, but that will take longer to complete.

JIDCO is still suspended due to the security situation.

Pico Hydro – light for rural communities

Imagine life without electricity. No light after sunset unless you have a smelly kerosene lamp. No radio or TV to keep in touch with the outside world. Hours spent each day to fetch firewood for cooking and heating water on a smoky indoor fireplace.

Difficult to imagine for westerners, but reality for most people in Nepal's hilly regions. The national electricity grid does not reach far, and most people could not afford to buy power from it anyway. For them to get electricity, other solutions are needed. That is why Nepal Hydro and Electric (NHE) chose to start researching the potential of low-head pico hydro systems, very small-scale hydro generators needing only a water drop of two to three meters to produce electricity for small communities.

The production of "micro hydro" and "high-head pico hydro" systems is fairly well developed in Nepal by now, but low-head solutions have hardly been explored at all. Engineer Jonathan Cox, UMN secondee to NHE and responsible for their product development and research, sees a big potential in this technology. He believes it can make a huge difference in the lives of many Nepali families and communities.

"Children can do their homework at night. Girls can be freed up to go to school instead of having to fetch firewood for cooking rice and boiling water. Families can use the electricity to get an income from small enterprises," says Jonathan with enthusiasm.

Many, many hours have been spent in NHE's laboratory to develop the technology and fine-tune it for Nepali settings, making it safe, reliable, easy to operate and requiring minimal maintenance. It is a long process to develop the final product. First a prototype was developed and tested in the lab. Then it was tested in the field, in order to identify problems in real life situations. Valuable lessons were learnt, and now NHE has moved on to the next phase, with four demonstration sites where the units are shown to the public and remaining problems analysed, technical as well as social.

"People will see the potential of pico hydro and hopefully demand it. The demonstration phase is incredibly important. It also helps us to see socially if it fills the need of the community," explains Jonathan.

Three different sizes of generators are being developed, 200 W, 1 kW, and 5 kW. Jonathan and his colleagues at NHE expected that the smallest one, with an output of only 200 W, would be suitable only for single families, but the testing showed that even those small units were preferred by communities of up to 15 households, with one energy saver tube light each. The villagers found it unfair if some families would benefit, and others would not.

The main usage of pico hydro systems will probably be for lighting, but Jonathan hopes that communities will also discover

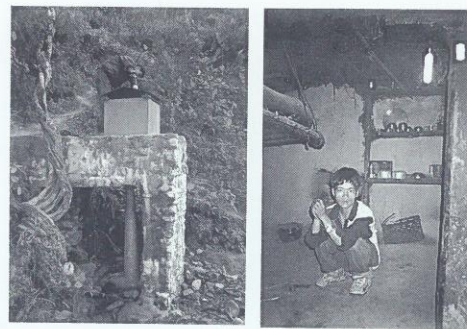
the big advantage of using electricity for heating water. It saves valuable time

that is otherwise spent on fetching firewood, and it also decreases deforestation, a growing problem in many parts of Nepal. He also thinks that the electricity will be used for leisure; listening to radio and watching TV. The larger units of 1 and 5 kW can provide additional opportunities to rural communities. They can be used for pumping water for irrigation, for agro-processing, mainly mills, and for small workshops. Jonathan suggests that villagers could even get an income from selling power to the national grid, if the location is suitable.

NHE is, however, still far away from large-scale production of pico hydro units. The research has not been completed yet, even though commercial production of the first ten 200 W units has started. The production cost is still an issue. The price per unit is 195 US dollars, which is a lot of money for most rural communities. In addition are the costs for civil construction, house wiring, transport etc. But Jonathan is hopeful that micro-finance installment plans will allow villagers to make the investment. For the implementation, NHE is co-operating with the "Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal". It is a Nepali NGO with the aim of "promoting appropriate technologies that will respond to basic needs of the people and create opportunities to improve the quality of life and economic condition of the people".

Jonathan emphasises that NHE is a commercial company that needs to make a profit out of its products, and that the pico-hydro systems must be sustainable for all parties, from the villagers up to NHE. He is encouraged that NHE has invested a lot of time and money in research for pico-hydro solutions. The management knows that it will take a very long time, if ever, to recover the money spent on research and development through sales of the final products. But there is another long-term benefit that the company is mature enough to recognise. While developing the pico-hydro technology, the Nepali engineers' capability in product development is built up. That is precisely Jonathan Cox's main role as a UMN secondee to Nepal Hydro and Electric.

Stefan Östman



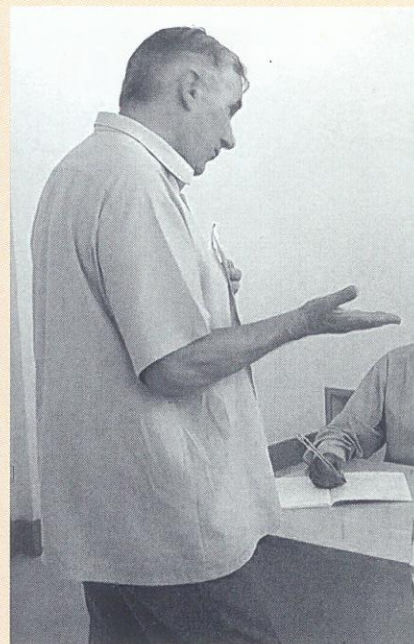
A low head pico hydro systems gives electricity to a villager in Lamjung.



Jonathan Cox and Purushottam Panthee in NHE's Product Development Section.



Students arriving for classes in the morning.



UMN secondee John Cannell

Kathmandu University (KU) recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. Compared to the traditional universities in the West which have been in existence for 200-500 years, KU is an infant. But it is developing at a good pace. In a short span of time, it has been able to gain credit as a quality university in Nepal and has already granted affiliation to 11 colleges.

KU is an autonomous, non-profit, self-funding, public institution created through private initiatives. It is an institution of higher learning dedicated to maintain high standards of academic excellence. The vision is *'to become a world-class university devoted to bringing knowledge and technology to the services of Nepal'*.

The University operates through its six schools of Science, Engineering, Management, Arts, Education and Medical Services.

Helping the poor

UMN has been involved with the University since its inception, initially through the Education Department. Besides teaching, the UMN secondees are involved in some of the students' projects which are actually helping poor people in remote areas. This includes things like installing electric light in homes which don't have electricity and installing efficient smokeless wood burning stoves to save fuel, thereby reducing forest depletion and giving the people clean air inside. The partnership between UMN and KU is fruitful, as one of KU's objectives is to help in the development of the people in Nepal, in line with UMN's objectives.

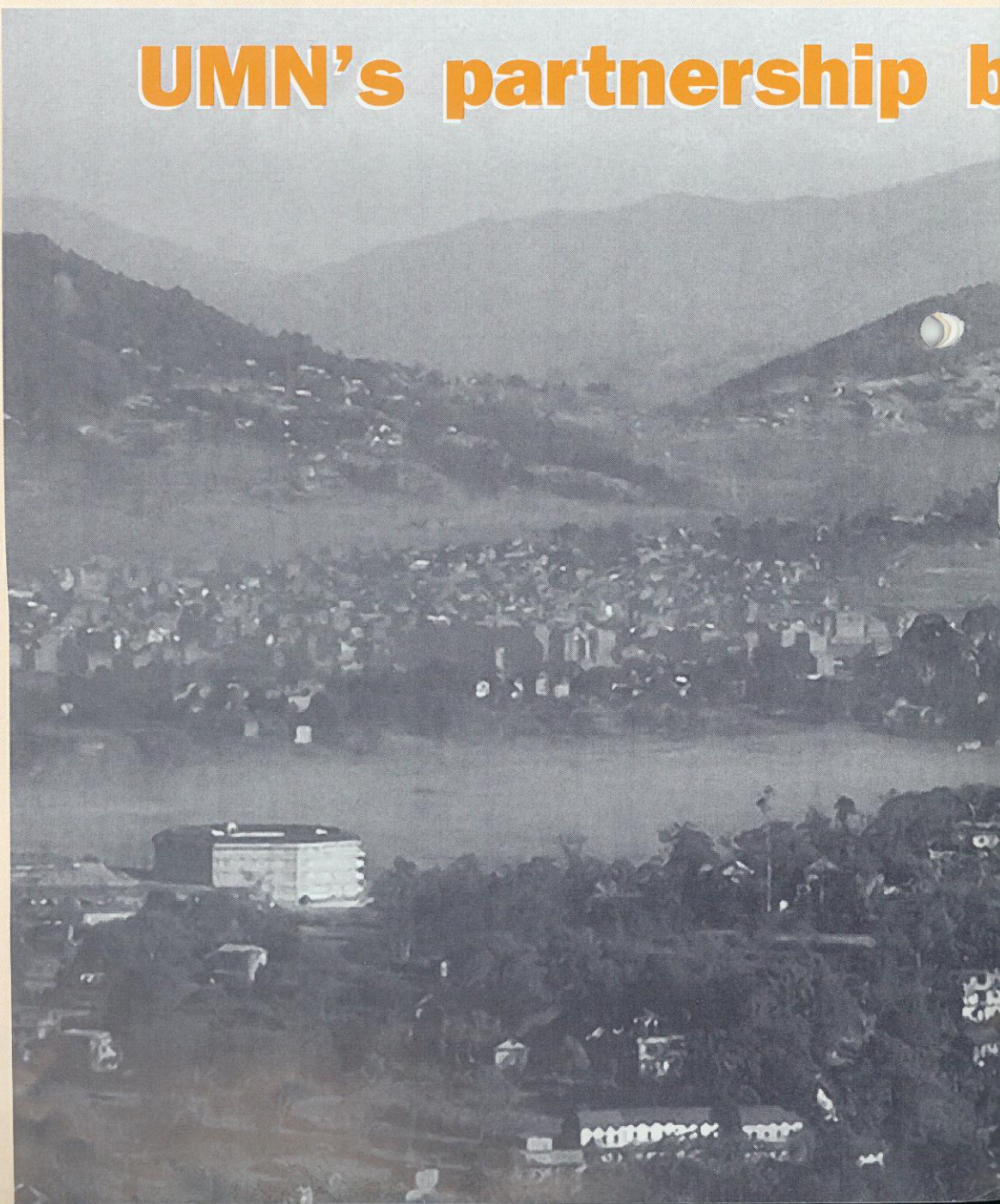
To start with, UMN provided funds for building construction, expatriate professional specialists and a

scholarship fund for economically disadvantaged students. Since the start of the university, 367 students have benefited from the scholarship programme. In 1994 the School of Engineering was opened and at the outset a range of different undergraduate level programmes in Computer Engineering, Electrical and

Electronics Engineering, a were launched.

There has been some the Mechanical Engineering couple of years. A Masters the fourth year student pro

UMN's partnership b





teaching engineering students.



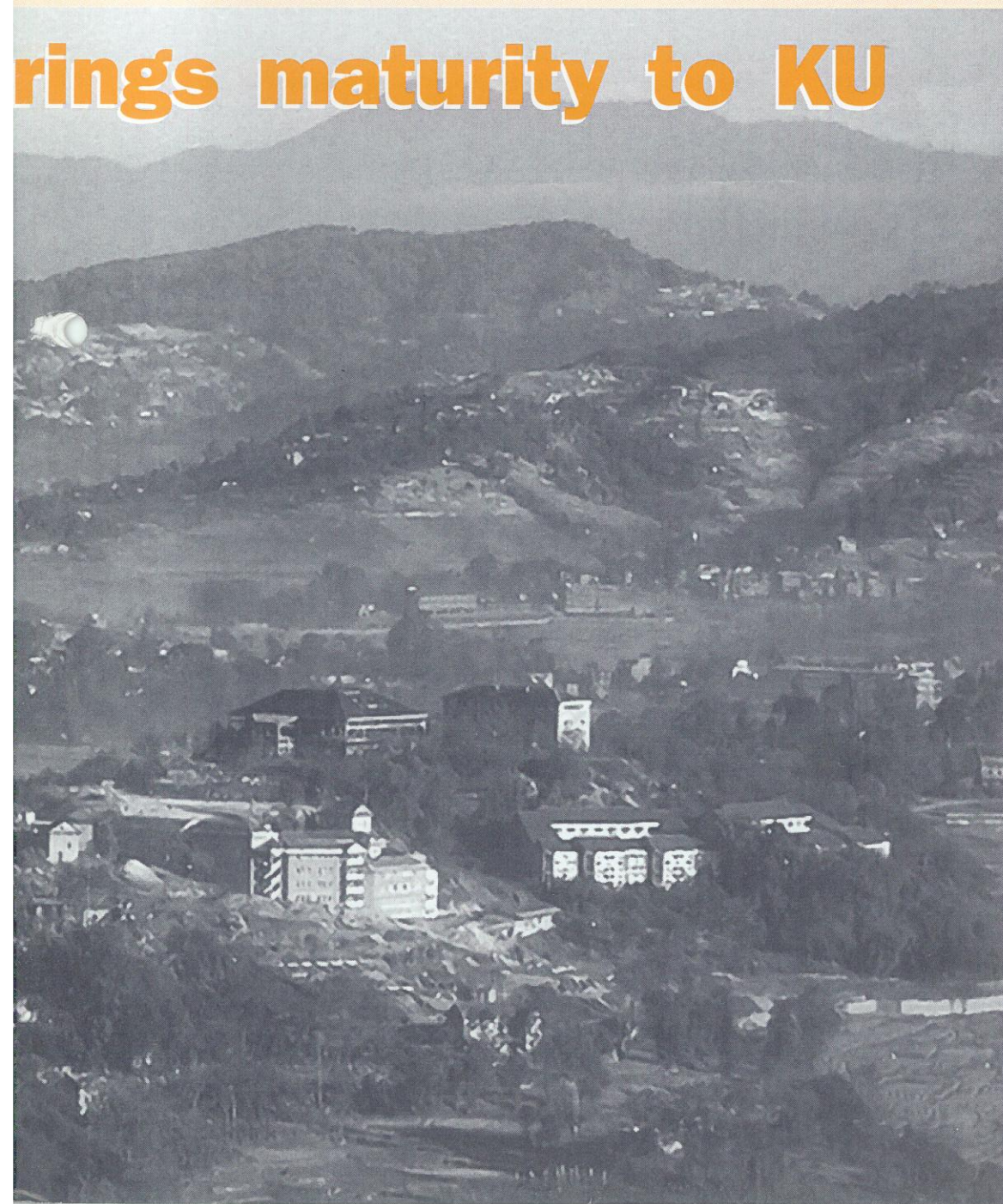
Two students working on a solar water heater project.

and Mechanical Engineering
 Significant improvements in
 Department during the last
 programme has been started,
 projects have been substantially

strengthened and funding has been secured to enable
 undertaking even more ambitious projects. The
 Engineering and Industrial Development Department
 (EIDD) became involved in August 1995 in the
 establishment and development of the School of
 Engineering on the new campus site near Dhulikhel,

about 30 kilometres east of Kathmandu. Funding from
 Norway has been channelled through UMN for this
 purpose. This has enabled the setting up of workshops,
 laboratories and library facilities and the secondment of
 academic personnel for teaching and management of
 the Departments of Mechanical, and Electrical and
 Electronics Engineering.

Brings maturity to KU



Practical work

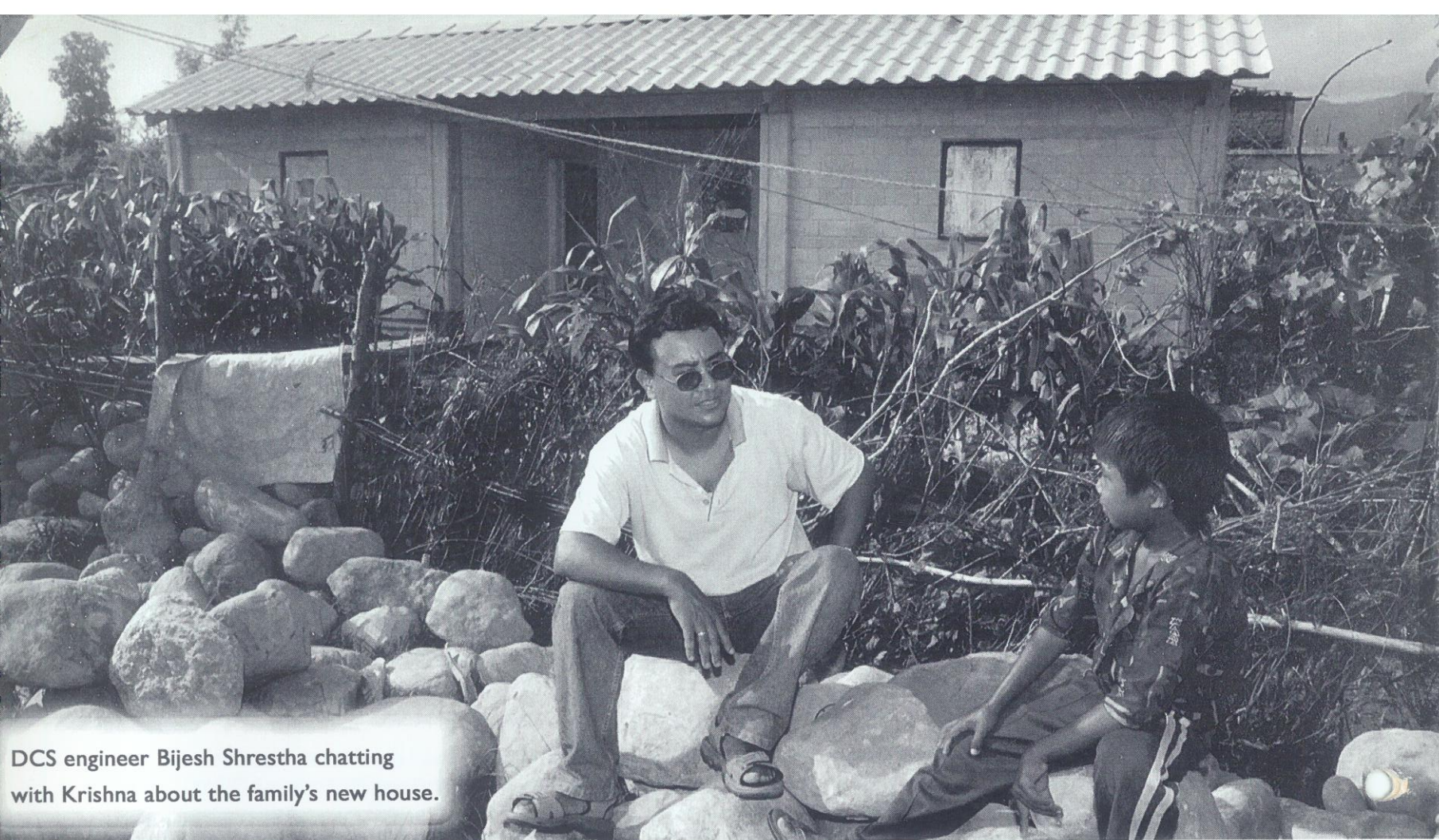
Currently there are five UMN
 secondees involved in Mechanical and
 Electrical Engineering. Two will leave later
 this summer. Thus this autumn there will
 be three UMN secondees. They are
 lecturing, promoting research and running
 some practical projects.

One of the strengths of the curriculum
 studied in the School of Engineering at
 Kathmandu University is the importance
 given to practical work. Laboratory/
 workshop classes support all the theory
 taught. Also students complete a project
 each semester during their four-year
 programme.

UMN secondee Torger Lode gives
 three reasons why even today UMN's
 involvement is desirable. One reason is that
 most of the faculty at KU just have
 bachelors degrees. In Nepal there are not
 many qualified Nepalese with higher
 degrees. So there is a need for qualified
 lecturers to increase the academic level.
 The second reason is that it is always good
 to have an exchange of ideas and
 experiences. The third reason is that most
 of the faculty are very young with little
 experience, so long-experienced and
 qualified lecturers are very useful to bring
 maturity to the University.

Rishi Ram Paudyal

UMNews/13/2002



DCS engineer Bijesh Shrestha chatting with Krishna about the family's new house.

Safe houses for the poor

Krishna is home alone when we come for a visit. He looks at us with curious eyes as we approach the house. His house. His family's house. It is not big – two small rooms and a veranda – but it is far more than he, his five siblings and his mother could ever have dreamt of a couple of years ago. Krishna's mother, Parbati, lost everything when her husband fell sick and died. All the money was spent on medical treatment, and the only thing left was a small piece of land.

But Parbati was blessed. As a widow, earning minimal wages sieving sand by the river, she was selected as one of twelve beneficiaries when Development and Consulting Services (DCS) started its Safe & Low-Cost Housing research project.

Many Nepalese families live in very poor houses, vulnerable to natural disasters such as flood, fire and earthquake. They cannot afford to strengthen their homes against such disasters. Hundreds of homes actually collapse each year during the monsoon or in the dry period immediately following. DCS decided to address this issue, by researching technology for constructing safe housing that also would be affordable for rural families.

Traditional houses in Nepal are often built using mud, timber, or wattle and daub. According to Bijesh Shrestha, engineer at DCS, the dream house for most Nepalese is made of reinforced concrete with fired clay brick masonry. The common quality standard of these houses is, however, often low. In addition, safety features to strengthen load-bearing masonry walls or reinforced concrete structures against earthquake forces are commonly omitted. DCS set about to research, design and test a building structure that would be safer than these "dream houses", but also inexpensive to build. The result was a frame structure of columns and beams with walls as in-fills, not as load bearing. The components could easily be manufactured and erected at site.

Beneficiaries and entrepreneurs were selected and trained in the technique needed to build the houses, partly at DCS, partly at the construction sites. Now, twelve houses have been erected

in Rupandehi district. Each house cost between 32,000 and 45,000 rupees to build, depending on if, and where, a veranda was included in the structure. DCS also provided the entrepreneurs with knowledge and moulds for the pre-cast components to help them set up their own enterprises. Bijesh is confident that entrepreneurs can reduce the cost further when they build on a commercial basis. He recognises, however, that it will take some time, maybe a monsoon or two, before villagers will be convinced that the houses designed by DCS are stronger than they look at first sight.

EIDD now seeks to develop the DCS concept with an INGO or other agency that could apply it in large-scale housing projects. Bijesh mentions the landless Kamaiyas, who were recently set free by the government from their bonded labour, as one group that could benefit from such a project.

For Krishna and his family, life is still hard. But now at least they can sleep well at night, protected by walls and a roof that are resistant and will keep them safe.

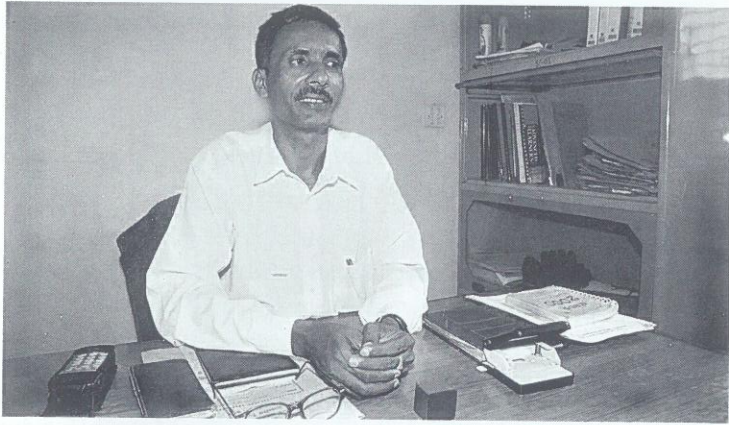
Stefan Östman

Lalitpur Nursing Campus first to be accredited

Lalitpur Nursing Campus received full accreditation for five years for its three-year certificate programme from the Nepal Nursing Council in January 2002. It is the first nursing school in Nepal to achieve this award. The Nepal Nursing Council began evaluating nursing education institutions giving certificates in nursing in 2001. Accreditation involves an assessment of the quality of an institution in such areas as campus leadership, faculty number and preparation, adequacy of classrooms and hostel, extracurricular activities, facilities for clinical practice, and library services.

It is difficult to estimate how much UMN's involvement has contributed to the development of Butwal as a town and industrial centre in the Terai. Land that was covered by fields 40 years ago, is now accommodating scores of industrial companies and other enterprises.

It started with Butwal Technical Institute (BTI) in 1963, established to teach young Nepalis technical skills, through apprenticeship training. BTI offers a two-year basic course and another two years' advanced course. On average, 20 percent of the graduates start their own enterprises. Currently, 18 of the 46 companies providing apprenticeship placements to BTI trainees are run by BTI graduates. Shiva Adhikary at Nepal Machine and Steel Structure is one of them.



BTI graduate becomes industrialist

It is not always true that people with high education become successful in their careers. Sometimes people with only a little education can soar to success if they get an opportunity to be trained by a good institute, and if they work hard and take their jobs seriously. Mr Shiva Adhikary, in Butwal, is a good example.

Mr Adhikary earned a four years' graduate degree from Butwal Technical Institute (BTI) in 1976. After that he worked at many places and projects. In the first year he worked in the mechanical engineering field. Then he worked for Hetauda-Narayanghat Road Project and an irrigation project before he accepted the job at Thapa Engineering, which was run by another BTI graduate. He worked there for nine years.

After working so many years with different projects he felt confident that he could establish an industry by himself but was a little apprehensive about whether he would make a loss. However, he didn't let fear overcome him, so he established a company by the name of 'Nepal Machine and Steel Structure' in Butwal in 1986.

Since he had already built good public relations working with other projects, he was fortunate enough to get an order to make four micro hydro turbines to begin with.

It was a good start, although it sometimes demanded 12 hours work days from him.

The financial return was enough to support his family and to pay off some of his investment loans.

He brushed aside the problems that came along but continued working hard. And soon his

business was thriving, allowing him in 1997 to buy a piece of land for his industry.

Currently, he is employing twenty workers and has been providing training to BTI apprentices for the last fifteen years. Besides this he has also given training to some of his home-town young boys so that they could get jobs and be independent.

This is not the end. He is not satisfied with where he is now. He says he wants to grow, like BTI, imparting skills to many people so that they can contribute to industrial development and would help creating job opportunities for other people as well.

He attributes his success to BTI and wishes to have continued co-operation with the Institute.

"Whatever BTI has done is great. If there were no BTI, I don't know where I would be and what I would be doing," he says. "Not only me, but all the Nepalese should be grateful for what BTI and UMN has done."

Rishi Ram Paudyal



Dilip Thapa, BTI, and Shiva Adhikary inspecting the work of a young employee.

An Orange Road to Enterprise

In an agricultural and landlocked country like Nepal where the concepts of entrepreneurship and development are unknown to many people, the Enterprise Support Programme (ESP) is doing both of these - helping people to explore better ways to make a living and providing expertise and advice for becoming entrepreneurs.

Before ESP came into existence UMN ran an Enterprise Development Programme in Galyang that lies between Pokhara and Tansen. In the seven years of its existence it assisted in setting up several successful, still operating, small enterprises.

ESP, a new programme that started in October 2001, is drawing on this experience. It is initially planned for two years. During this period, ESP wants to find out how UMN should be involved in Enterprise Support in the future.

"We want to help change people who feel they have very little to offer into people of value," says Roydon Chesswas, Technical Advisor at ESP.

ESP is involved in needs assessment, motivation, training, product and process development, marketing and networking with NGOs, the Government's Department of Cottage and Small Industries and other offices, banks, UMN projects and others.

ESP began with orange juice production to extend the market for oranges in co-operation with Development and Consulting Services. The quantity of oranges is growing every year and if nothing is done, there would be a surplus of oranges on the market in the future. Furthermore, juice production would help the farmers and the entrepreneurs involved to achieve financial security.



Dale Nafziger and Roydon Chesswas in the orange production lab, where sugar, acid, vitamin C contents are tested.

The juice produced by ESP is different from existing juices on the market in that it is a freshly squeezed juice that has been pasteurised and bottled, whereas all other juices are made from juice concentrate.

Although the orange juice industry is still in the early stage the juice production has been very successful.

To buy oranges from those who wouldn't sell by the kilo but would rather sell by quantity was a nuisance. To wash, process, and pack, took some time. But the efforts paid off. Out of about 9000 bottles of orange juice produced, not a single bottle needed to be kept in the store due to lack of market.

The challenge now is to find and help an entrepreneur to take on the juice production business. One problem is that the season for producing orange juice is only six weeks, which is not enough to make an enterprise viable. Therefore, ESP is exploring other possible uses for the juice processing machine, such as tomato, sugarcane, guava and pineapple juice.

Up till now, ESP has mainly looked at food processing opportunities for enterprises, since the programme has started on a small scale with two food technologists, Tirtha Adhikari and Roydon Chesswas. In the future, ESP will get involved in other areas as well, as per demands by the public.

Rishi Ram Paudyal

DCS closes its operations

Development and Consulting Services (DCS) will close its operations at the end of the financial year in July. The staff will be encouraged to start new enterprises as a result of their experiences in DCS.

"There is a change in general attitudes to research in appropriate technology from donors and from the market. The demand has shifted towards importing technology that has already been developed elsewhere, and make it appropriate for installation in Nepal," says Raghu Sharma, Acting EIDD Director.

DCS has a 30-year long successful history of developing technologies appropriate for Nepal, and of building the capacity of entrepreneurs. Its many innovations include the Sundara oil expeller, bio-gas technology and fabrication of roofing tiles.



Jennie Collins thanked the staff members in Achham for their hard work and commitment, here Gyaanu Pokhrel and Sher Bahadur Khatri.

“YES - Nepal” takes over in Achham

On 5 June 2002, Jennie Collins, Executive Director, and Karen Stoufer, RDD Director, travelled to Nepalgunj where they were able to meet with the staff of CODE-Achham. CODE officially began in January 2000. The premature closing of CODE in May 2002 due to the unstable security situation in that district is indeed a sad and disappointing event for the staff, for the communities of Achham and for all of UMN. Built upon the learning of the past ten years in Surkhet, Ramechhap, Dhading and Okhaldhunga, CODE had planned to run its empowerment and awareness programme until July 2003 in one of the neediest districts in all of Nepal.

However, the closing was also an opportunity to celebrate a new beginning. The former CODE-Achham staff have formed their own NGO named YES-Nepal for Youth in Empowerment Service. They plan to spend the next few months solidifying their organisation; getting registered, opening a bank account, developing proposals for community work in Achham district. During this time, the staff will be working voluntarily at their own expense to develop their own organisation, which gives some indication of the depth of their commitment to serve their communities.

The commitment and hope for the future were evident throughout the speeches and closing activities. Indira Karki, AGNW representative, spoke about the achievements of CODE as well as the regret at not being able to achieve all they had wanted to achieve and praised UMN for the importance it places on gender

equality. A farewell card from the CODE staff to all of UMN was presented to Jennie Collins as Executive Director. Bharat Rawal, Staff Association Chairperson, shared how he did not really know himself or what he stood for before working with CODE and acknowledged what he had learned about himself and his values through his work with his colleagues in CODE. He spoke about the importance of UMN's values, not only in the work, but in the individual lives of the staff, and thanked UMN for the opportunity he had to develop personally through his work.

Tej Upadhaya, newly elected Chairperson of the ad hoc committee for the new NGO, spoke about the future and being on the road to true self-reliance. Keshab Pokharel, Project Director, gave a closing speech remembering and appreciating Winfried Brugger, who had already returned to Germany, the donor and the member bodies of UMN for their support. He thanked them all for their prayers for peace and security in Nepal and then wished all the staff the very best of luck wherever they go in the future.

The final closing words were shared by Karen Stoufer, RDD, and Jennie Collins, Executive Director. “Tokens of love” were presented to each of the staff on behalf of the Project as remembrances of CODE. One of UMN's newest project has now come to a close, but the vision of working with the most marginalised people in Achham lives on with the commitment and hopes of the staff.

Karen Stoufer

“RIMS” continues work in Dhading

The Dhading Resource Management Project (DRMP) will soon complete activities in Dhading District, after a four-year project period. In line with UMN plans to implement project activities through NGOs, the DRMP staff have formed RIMS- Nepal (Resource Identification & Management Society). RIMS has already started a small medicinal plant programme in DRMP's working area and is also implementing some of DRMP's activities. Funding has been secured for RIMS to give post-formation support to Forest User Groups (FUG) formed during DRMP, focusing on forest management and institutional strengthening. UMN will continue to support RIMS through the Nepali Organisations Unit.

Recently, an evaluation of DRMP's work was completed. It highlighted the significant contribution DRMP has made to development in Dhading District. Even during the present State

of Emergency, staff have successfully continued field activities in highly sensitive areas.

A few achievements of DRMP:

- ♦ 140 FUGs formed with 4526 hectares of community forest handed over to local communities.
- ♦ 42.6% females on FUG Committees compared to less than 20% national average.
- ♦ 11,276 beneficiary households involved in DRMP activities.
- ♦ 82 drinking water systems installed for 2,891 households.
- ♦ Many income generating activities and training for poor and marginalised focus communities, who now have more confidence and skills to work together, taking active roles in FUGs and committees.

Finlay Hodge

Mark Gill new EIDD Director

Mark Gill has been appointed new director of UMN's Engineering and Industrial Development Department from July 2002. Mark is from Northern Ireland, 43 years old, married to Ali, and has two children, Sara Maya and Daniel.

He has a long experience of working with UMN. He first came to Nepal in 1983 to work on the construction of the Andhikhola Hydropower plant. He moved on to the hydropower projects in Tatopani, Jhimruk and Khimti before he left Nepal in 1997. His involvement in these projects has included both civil and environmental engineering and project management in UMN's partner company, Himal Hydro.

What made you come back to Nepal, in this time of instability?

We as a family felt called by God to come back. It was not really a difficult decision. We have many friends here, and we might as well be with our friends in Nepal in these difficult times, rather than far away. We have had similar problems of unrest in our own country, which maybe makes it easier to understand how the Nepalis experience the situation.

When you were here last time, you were mainly involved in large hydropower projects. Now EIDD is redirecting its focus towards small enterprise. What do you think of this development?

We are in an interesting time of transition in EIDD. We have been privileged to see the building of capacity in the companies



On the "Odd Hoftun Road". Mark Gill builds on past experiences when he leads EIDD into the future.

involved in the hydropower projects, and now Nepalis are running them successfully themselves. This process has taken 20+ years, starting small-scale with Tinau in Butwal. Now we are looking at small enterprises again. Who knows? They might also grow into big companies or industries to meet the needs of the growing population in Nepal. You need to have a long-term perspective. That is also why we need people in UMN committed for a long time.

What do you think your contribution to EIDD and UMN will be?

UMN has always been pioneering. We can still contribute to the development of Nepal in a pioneering way, and I hope I can play a role in doing that. My experience has been to start projects and get them up and running. Then others have taken over, either expatriates or Nepalis directly, so I hope to be able to facilitate pioneering work in capacity building and partnership and personally to fulfill God's calling to serve the people of Nepal in the name of and spirit of Jesus Christ.

Stefan Östman

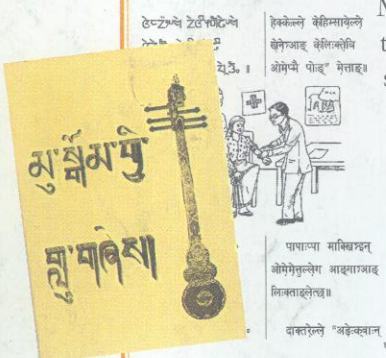
UMN pioneers books in Mugom language

The Mugu Education Project (MEP) has printed books in the Mugom language for the first time in Nepalese history: a booklet of stories, one featuring the establishment of Mugu village and another booklet of traditional Mugom songs, using Tibetan script.

The Mugom people live in the eastern part of Mugu district, which is in the Mid- Western region of Nepal. In addition, the Mugom have settlements in Jumla, Kathmandu, and Manali in India. There are about 7,500 speakers of the Mugom language.

All Mugom people are not fluent in Nepali. In a linguistic survey conducted in 1998, it was found that "although the Mugom are multilingual, most Mugom are not beyond a basic 'survival' or 'conversational' ability in Nepali or Tibetan." And this is a fact for 95% of the women.

MEP has been able to continue its work in a low key way, mainly in the district centre Gamghadi, despite the Maoist insurgency. The District Development Committee recently awarded the project an appreciation letter, for being the best Non-Government Organisation in the education sector in the district. This is the second time MEP has been awarded since its inception in 1999.



United Mission to Nepal is a co-operative effort between the people of Nepal and 29 Christian organisations from 12 countries. Its main areas of work are Education, Engineering and Industrial Development, Health Services and Rural Development.

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