



The electronic newsletter of the Himalayan Light Foundation

Issue III

CHARGED!

August 2003

Welcome to Issue 3!

Here is the third issue of CHARGED newsletter of the Himalayan Light Foundation. All had much awaited! Hoping the newsletter to come earlier. At last, after a long wait we are here to serve you with much fresh and updated information on HLF activities. We hope you will enjoy reading the ingredients of this issue. For any suggestions, please write to HLF at; info@hlf.org.np

Tri-Ratna Thangka Painting School got more colors in the school...

The Tri-Ratna Thangka Painting School of Kot-timal, Kavre which was first started in December 2000 with the initial support from Virtual Foundation, Japan received the continuation interim fund from Solar Development Foundation, USA and Triodos Fonds, Netherlands which will keep the school sailing till September 2003.

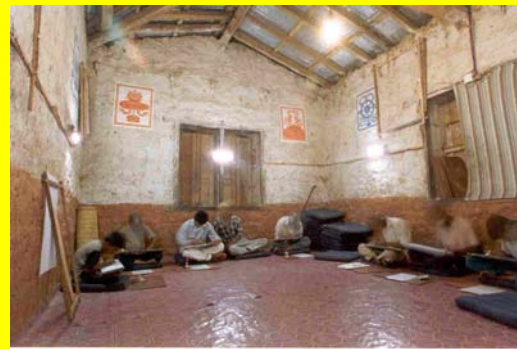
The school has two levels of students. One level is called Regular Students Group and the other is Advance Level

! Special News!

HLF has opened its HELP™ E-shop from July 1st 2003. Kindly visit the E-shop to bring lights into the lives of remote dwellers

FROM BUYING THEIR PRODUCTS
www.hlf.org.np/shopping/index.asp

Group. In the Regular Students Group there



Solar Electricity in the Thangka Painting School helped the students to learn painting in the evening too.

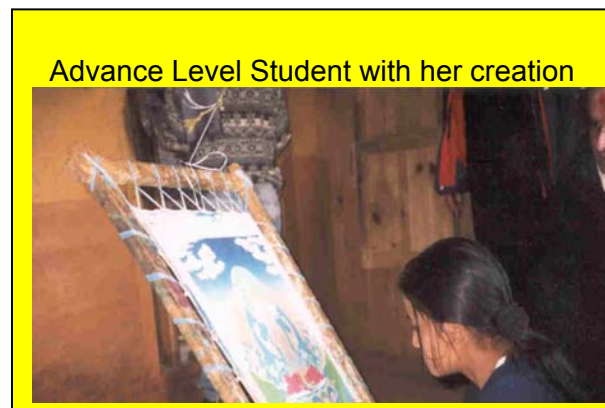
are 35 students who are undergoing training in sketching thangkas in the Tri-Ratna Thangka Painting School for last 31 months. In the Advance Group there are 20 students who had in hand skills in painting thangkas.

Within the period, the school was able to hold 1-3 level examination for the 21 students from the Regular Group. Among them a best artist student of the year was chosen for his outstanding skills in painting Thangka. He is the first artist student who received solar home system from HELP mechanism. Visit our site; www.hlf.org.np/help.htm to know more about HELP program.

With the interim fund HLF had provided three 36 watt SHS to the best three students of the Advance Group Level who can work at home and pay back the system cost as per HELP™ mechanism. From these three advance students artists have received 16 thangkas of which eight had been already sold in the market.

Likewise, two 75 watt solar panels were installed in the school so that the students can attend the training class at early morning or evening depending upon their free time. It also allowed school to schedule the class in three shift/day i.e. morning, afternoon and evening.

The visit of The Virtual Foundation, Japan group in July 2001 has agreed to support the school with a satellite uplink so that the students can have a direct market linkage with the Japanese buyers. The



Japanese will write an e-mail in Japanese and that will be translated into English or Nepali which the recipient can read it and can communicate directly. This is in the process for which HLF is working on with HMG/N to obtain the user license. But due to the unrest political situation in the country this program had been delayed. However, in our recent contact the Japanese counterpart they have agreed to support the uplink in the school in a near future once they finalize and test the uplink technology.

In June 2003, HLF had two volunteers from Engineers without Border, students of University of Colorado in Boulder, supported the school with a laptop computer and a 50 watt SHS (power pack for the computer) so that the students and the instructor can learn and use the computer for sending e-mail message and other reporting and documentation work.

"Paper & Power" program received new market linkages....

The "Paper & Power" project under Home Employment and Lighting Package (HELP™), which was again funded by UNDP GEF/SGP program after SOVED, Bongadovan in Lekhani VDC of Baglung district has recently been completed. The project was started in September 2001 and was official ended in March 2003. The project has three main objectives:



- **Reduction in carbon emission:** The project was run under the GEF focal area Climate Change. Under this program 92 solar home systems had been installed and the carbon emission had been reduced since the solar lighting replaced kerosene as a primary lighting source.
- **Reduction in use of dry cell batteries:** The villagers had been using at least 3-4 pairs of dry cell batteries per month just to run the radio. Installation of the solar system had help to reduce the use of dry cell batteries in the village as well help to improve the environment of the village, soil and streams as they used to throw the used dry cell batteries lavishly.
- **Local employment generation:** The project was successful in establishing Community Cottage Industry in the Lekhani village itself providing direct benefit to 90 families of the village both on local employment generation and obtaining Solar Home System on their home. The project is

producing various handmade paper and paper products by using Lokta "Daphne" and other agriculture waste products locally.

For the marketing of the products like; handmade crocheted bag of SOVED Bongadovan, Paper products from Lekhani and Thangkas from Kavre, HLF had been marketing conventional way of these products through contacts and participation in various national and international trade fairs. HLF has come with an agreement with the organization called "**The Organic Village**" and signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with it to market HLF's HELP products through them.

The Organic village carries the products that are made in the presence of RETs or organically grown products. The Organic Village will use its own registered brand "**Enviro-Guard™¹**" to certify all the products it carries through its outlets ensuring all such products are made in the presence of clean energy and are organically grown products.

For further details about "Paper and Power" program, please visit www.hlf.org.np Home Employment & Lighting Package (HELP™).

Electro Bus a subject of controversy at last got black plate ...

HLF has developed a "**Four Wheeler Electro Bus**" by using local technicians and technology was a subject of great controversy both in some governmental sectors and other private concern regarding its registration. Despite, so many hurdles the project had to bear, finally it was successful to get registered its newly developed Electro-Bus as public transport.

Since the program is for demonstration of its technical and financial viability, the bus is still in research and development (R&D) phase as it has to ensure some technical verification in motor rewinding locally, and for other configurations. Electro-Bus has been plying



around the Kathmandu valley collecting data to establish the commercial viability of the new EV 4 Wheeler for the Kathmandu valley. Very soon it will be seen running in the street of Kathmandu valley picking and dropping off passengers from Golphutar to Ratnapark route.

The bus accommodates 14 people including bus driver.

Solar Sisters Program brought more Solar Sisters and Brothers in the villages.....support received for regional expansion.....

Within the period three volunteers from USA, participated in the Solar Sisters program who installed totaling 236 watt SHS on the different community building.

Recently, HLF received funding from The Threshold Foundation, USA for **Solar Sisters Program™ Volunteer Outreach Program Replication and Awareness Raising** Improving Remote Lives by building International community bridges in South and Southeast Asia. Solar Sisters® will be replicated in Sri Lanka, Bhutan and India and possibly in Mongolia.

¹ "**Enviro-Guard™**" determines non use of pesticides or other harmful chemicals

HLF partner with Global Village Energy Program (GVEP)

The Global Village Energy Partnership brings together developing and industrialized country governments, public and private organizations, multilateral institutions, consumers and others in an effort to ensure access to modern energy services by the poor.

This Partnership of partnerships aims to help reduce poverty and enhance economic and social development for millions around the world. Its work will be carried out under a 10-year "implementation based" program. The Partnership's objectives are to:

- Catalyze country commitments to village energy programs and guide policies and investment in this area.
- Bridge the gap between investors, entrepreneurs and energy users in the design, installation and operation of replicable energy-poverty projects.
- Facilitate policy and market regulatory frameworks to scale up the availability of energy services.
- Serve as marketplace for information and best practices on the effective development and implementation of energy-poverty projects/programs.
- Create and maintain an effective coordination mechanism for addressing energy-poverty needs.

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