

Newsletter Golog Support Foundation

January 2008

This is the first newsletter from the Golog Support Foundation. Since our official start, back in June 2007, many things happened. At the same time we still have to do a lot of work before we can start operations of our first medical unit in the autonomous Tibetan region Golog. Most of all we still need to collect a considerable amount of money on top of the nice amount we collected so far.

Fund raising.

We are happy with our first enthusiastic fundraisers who started to collect money for our first medical unit from September. That unit will cost around 50,000 euro during the first two years of its operations. With that amount we could cover the cost of initial investments plus operations. So far we collected around one third of that sum. A splendid result, but it is still not enough.

To guarantee continuity we need revolving, periodic inflows, like monthly donations. We are still looking for a volunteer to start up these kinds of activities on a more professional basis.

A few examples of the gifts we received. Somebody organised a collection during a big anniversary party, with a successful result of 800 euros. Another person volunteered to give teachings in a company, which resulted in a donation from the personnel fund of almost 500 euros. A company in Oudewater did a very nice donation. During a wedding ceremony in Luxemburg more then 250 euros were collected. Various individuals donated smaller or bigger amounts. Sometimes it was five euro, sometimes a few hundreds. We are happy with all donations, small and large. Many small donations make up for a big amount!

Organisation in China.

In the mean time we made a few important steps forward in China. It is not always transparent which formalities we have to fulfil and how to get the necessary permits to start our activities. Our activities are located in the Chinese province Qinghai, of which the Golog region is a part. We are in a very positive and intensive conversation with the Qinghai Charity Association, which can help us to get through all the formalities. These contacts are very constructive and we are confident that everything will be in place within a reasonable period of time. It is not at all surprising that we encounter all kind of issues, like the language (Chinese, English, Tibetan, Dutch) but also cultural differences. The Tibetans have a 'direct action' approach, the Chinese have a 'top-down' approach with a lot of (as such good) planning. And we, the Dutch, prefer to have initial conversations with all parties and stress local participation and ownership. Regularly we need to check if all players are still on the same track. The vision and persistency of some local people from the Golog region are of big practical and moral support to all of us!

Cooperation with other organisations.

For a long time there have been several organisations active in this extended region. Before we started our own foundation we asked ourselves whether it was the best approach to set up our own organisation. Alternatively we could have joined one of the existing NGO's. Conversations with different parties made us clear that a combination of the two would provide us with the best road forward. We are happy with the support from parties like The Bridge Fund and the Surmang Foundation. Our focus area is geographical quite a long way from activities of the other organisations. And also we try to find additional sources for fund raising. By starting our own

foundation and at the same time learning from others, we can start quickly without reinventing the wheel.

Education

Apart from the health care project we are busy in the area of education, more specifically by teaching English to children at primary schools. There is quite some demand for English teachers from the region. Our first teacher, Hannemeis Peters, terminated her first term of six months. This was a big success for the children, the schoolteachers and for Hannemeis. We plan to have a successor in place for Hannemeis after the winter period and we seem to be successful.

Schools in The Netherlands

We would like to involve one or two schools in the Rotterdam region into our project. We have the possibilities to provide a contribution to the learning experience of those schools. From their part the students could start a project to collect money for Golog. We have a few people who actively develop the material ('leskist'). Now we need to find the right schools!

Actions, suggestions and questions

Do you have questions or suggestions? Do you want to start activities to raise funds? We can assist you to make it reality. So please, let us know!

Contact and website.

The internet address is <http://www.gologsupport.org> . This site is still under construction, but it will be operational step by step. Our e-mail address is info@gologsupport.org .

If you don't want to receive this newsletter in the future, please send us an e-mail with 'no news letter' in the subject line.