



# Himalayan Project

A Danish NGO dealing with Development Aid in Nepal

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## Project Report

17. November 2012

Submitted to:

**Sydthy Rotary Klub, Club No. 25185, District 1440, Denmark** and  
**Padborg-Kruså Rotary Klub, Club No. 10184, District 1460, Denmark** and  
**Rotary Danmarks Hjælpefond** and  
**Rotary Club of Kathmandu, Club No. 16204, District 3290, Nepal** and  
**Rotary Club of Sydney Northbridge** and  
**Ian Millhouse, Tasmania** and  
**Himalayan Education Initiative (HIS) with Don Worsham, Kathmandu**

**Project: Reconstruction of Shree Ringmu Lower Secondary School**

**Location: Ringmu, Takshindu ward 8, SoluKhumbu District, Nepal**

by Kurt Lomborg, Skivehus Rotary Klub and Himalayan Project

Ringmu School was visited on 17. November 2012 to monitor the progress of the reconstruction, which was initiated in February 2010. The reconstruction process has been very prolonged due to difficulties in finding workers in the local area, as they are engaged in the tourism developing areas in Lukhla and Namche. Even it was hard to find workers at the price mentioned in the budget. Also finding wood for the project took long time, as wood was in high demand in Namche, and therefore rather exported in a high price than used locally. But now the work is almost coming to an end, and only last transfer from Sydthy Rotary Klub shall be initiated, so the remaining work can be done. But anyhow new reports can be expected in the future, as new projects are coming up at the school. Those new projects will also be run under the monitoring of Himalayan Project. First of all a project from Rotary Club of Sydney Northbridge is supplementing and in some extends replacing elements of this current project. Furthermore Himalayan Education Initiative is now in the initial stages of constructing Community House close to the school with Library and Communication Center.

We gave permission to the Contractor, Phu Gyalzen Sherpa, to exclude some elements in the project, as the budget did exceed the described budget. There were several well justifiable reasons to this exceeding. First of all the difficulties to find workers and building materials due to the competition from the rich tourist areas, which did increase the expenses and time lapse, which has added some inflation to all prices. Last year we approved the much more expensive but long lasting stone slate floor in the two new rooms instead of cheap but short lived wooden floor. At the same time we approved changing wall at the back side of the sanitary complex from normal stone into more expensive iron-concrete wall, as the complex is built upon a steep slope which isn't stable. The excluded budget parts is the point E: supplying library books, science equipment and other educational materials, and C.3: Furniture in Science Lab. Both are included in the project proposal from RC Sydney Northbridge in a more complete and full version.

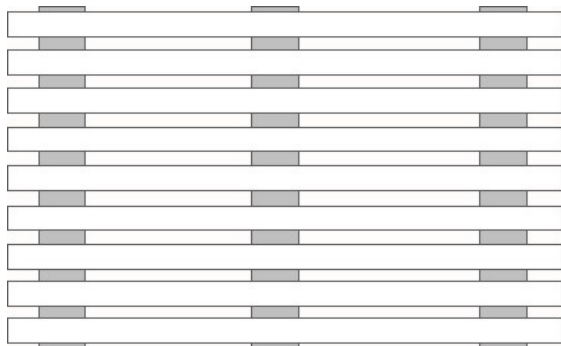
Going through the elements of our project we can comment the following on our findings:

### Sanitary Complex:

The very building is strong and very well built. The fundament is very deep meeting firm ground and in the weak corner around the urinal it is built with iron-concrete as well as the urinal walls. All walls are well built and strong. The opening towards the urinal is too high leaving the boys too less privacy in the urinal. A nicely carpentered wooden panel shall be fit into the south and west opening 20 inch above bottom frame. There shall be a strong nail to hang the toilet brush on.



The water outlet pipe from floor shall be well cut and the cement shall be cut a little down to let water float out properly. The two toilet rooms are fine and even a new idea has been implemented; to have a water tank with water tap at the corner of the room for personal cleaning and for room cleaning. We can just hope that the student will not pollute the water in the tank. But there need to be established an  $\frac{1}{2}$ " overflow outlet pipe from the tank, as overflow otherwise will go into the septic tank. The corners between wall and floor have not been rounded as described, making cleaning difficult. It shall be cut rough and a cement rounding shall be made with a final cement-sand punning on rounding and on floor. There shall be a strong nail or hanger for toilet brush.



### Grating for Bathroom

In bathroom a bench and some hangers for clothes and towel are still remaining. The glass of the window shall be with blurred glass for privacy. A curtain will sooner or later ruin and will become dirty. Two wooden gratings shall be made to put on the floor in dressing room and in shower room to prevent the users from feeling cold feet on the cement floor. They shall fit from wall to wall and be 3-4 feet wide.

The forecourt is having wrong slope so water can't lead out. It shall be cut rough and cement-sand punning shall be laid with a slope guiding the water towards the outlet pipe.

All pipes seem to be well dimensioned. From forecourt it is  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " internal measure, from bathroom 1",

from washing sink  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", from urinal  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", from urinal floor 1" and from toilet pans  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ". The pipe from urinal leads to a 200 liter urine collecting tank which is still not set up, to utilize the urine as fertilizer in the school's garden, which will be established soon. The urine tank will be placed on a cement fundament still to be produced. All water outlets will together led down to the bottom of the slope. Only pipes from toilet pans lead to the septic tank. A 200 liter water collecting tank will be set up at the water source up the stream, and a 500 liter water tank will be placed at least 2 meter above the roof of the roof.

Septic tank is big enough for many years of utilization if the school can make students understand that it shall only be used for feces and urine from girl's toilet and not for cleaning materials like paper, leaves, stone or other slow or non-degradable items. It is 3 x 5 feet internal measure and 7 feet deep in soil which is quite loose making the seeping of liquid fast and efficient. The tank is covered with a strong cement lid with ventilation.

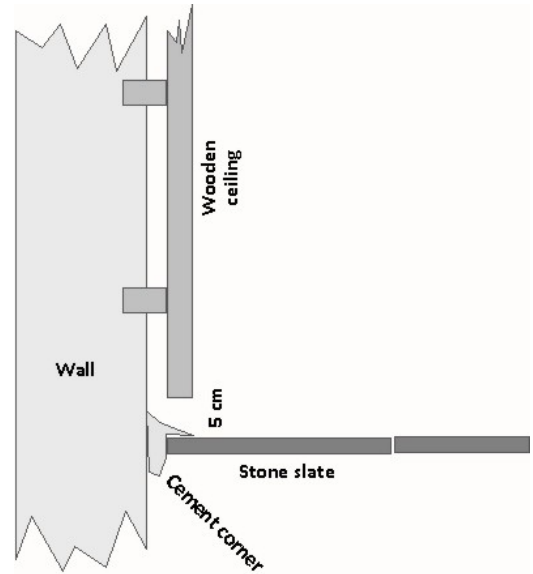
The stairs between the sanitary complex and the school is not strong enough. It will be built with cement and stone slate topping laid in the wet cement.

To prevent from muddy rain water to enter the forecourt from behind the new building, mud will be cut behind the building.

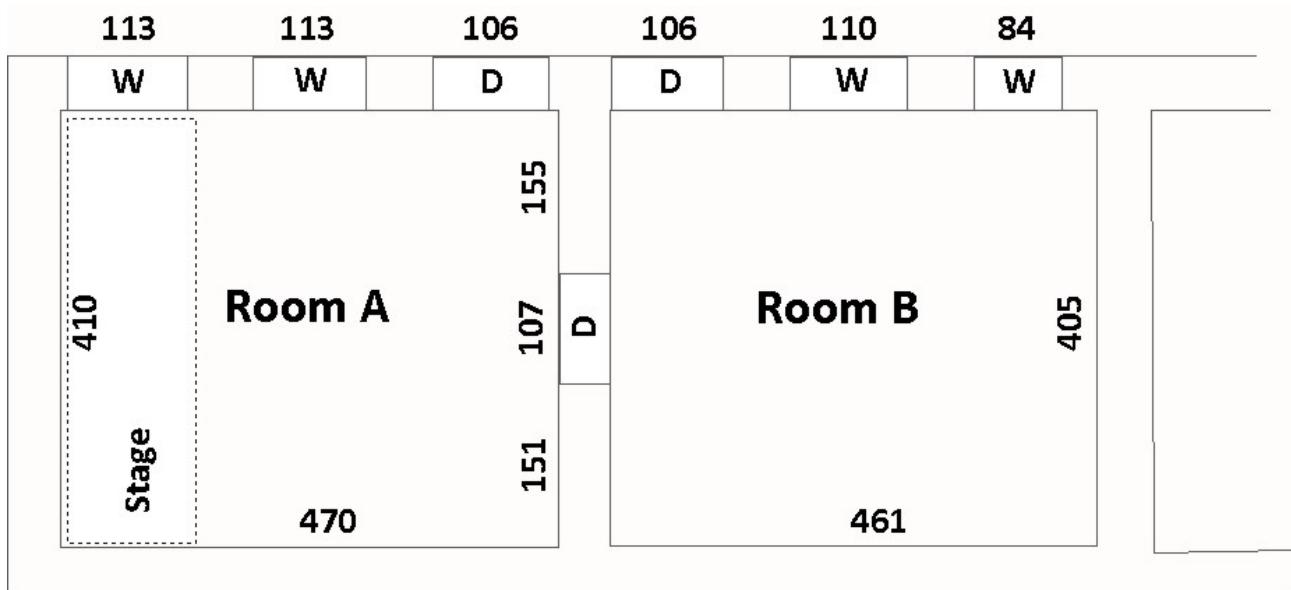
**The new building:**

The high fundament towards sanitary complex is very heavy, deep and strongly built in iron-cement. Also walls are well built. The windows are good enough although there are some old wood reused in the construction, and even one window is an old window reused. It should be considered to make proper and new windows in such a new building. The windows shall be easily opened and closed again to give proper ventilation in the rooms. The sills under windows are not completed. Cement sill shall be made which can lead water away from window frames.

The stone slates on the floors of the two rooms are very well laid and looks very attractive. Also the wooden ceilings are well set up. The shafts up for the skylight plates are quite small. If they had been made with more wide openings towards the rooms it would have let more light in. But it is fine enough. The ceilings are touching the floor and it can already be seen that the wood is soaking up humidity. All the ceiling bottoms shall be cut 5 cm above the floor to give ventilation to the lower end of the wooden planks. Soil shall be scraped up between stone slate and wall and a cement rounding shall be laid to keep the slate on place and to make sweeping and cleaning easier. All ceilings shall be given varnish.



Room A is planned to be used as Nursery Class Room. There should be build a stage at the end of the room which can support some insulating soft mattresses, so the small children can play comfortably there. Room B is planned to be used as Class Room for class one. Necessary furniture shall be made for the two rooms.



**The old buildings:**

All roofs have been taken down and a new roof construction has been constructed. New red tin plates have been attached. Instead of putting up the cheaper and shorter plates, the more expensive and difficult to transport full length plates has been purchased. As the plates will corrode in the overlay this is prevented this way, so the roof will be more long lasting. The upper parts of the walls are repaired, but especially on the back side, but also some places in the front, are not well enough made. And even at back side corner a roof beam is not supported. It shall be done properly. Even it isn't included in the project and the budget, the contractor has completed all classrooms in the old buildings with wooden ceilings. But some of the ceilings is planned to be taken down and build up again, as they are not satisfied with the result, as the planks are not put properly together with groves and as one third of the planks are old planks. In the old buildings it is

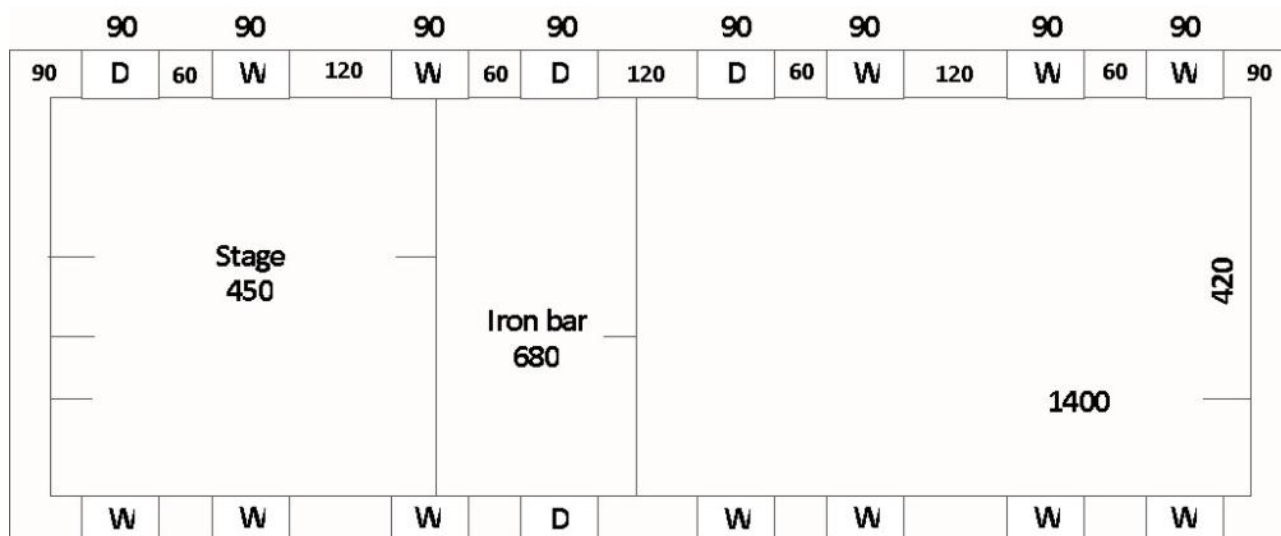
not necessary to cut the bottom of the planks, as they meet the wooden floor and therefore don't take up humidity. The old buildings appear very attractive both inside and outside. The stone slate plinth (peti) in front of the buildings is not set up. The slates are purchased, so only the work is remaining. In the proposal of RC of Sydney Northbridge it is planned to make a pathway from office building all the way down to the toilet block and filling in the gap between the two buildings with stone slates. So probably the contractor will wait with making the plinth until it can be done together with the pathway as an integrated whole.

RC of Sydney Northbridge has included in their project proposal to set up iron grill in front of all windows towards the school yard to protect from broken window glasses from wild foot balls. For their ease, we did measure all window sizes.

Building B from West					Building A from West			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
84 x 116	83,5 x 117	82 x 116,5	85,5 x 114,5	84 x 115	82 x 111,5	110 x 142	110 x 142	110 x 142
Building C from North								
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
84 x 115	86 x 115	84 x 115	83 x 116	84 x 116	85 x 115	110,5 x 144	110,5 x 144	

### The Office Building:

In our proposal we suggested to use one of the new rooms as science lab, but now RC of Sydney Northbridge is planning to arrange a part of the Office Building for that purpose and even add a computer lab. We are welcoming that idea, as the office is big enough in the half space, and the building is quite secure with iron doors and iron bars in front of windows. For their planning we took measures of the building.



### ACCOUNTING:

As the project is performed with a contract with Contractor Phu Gyalzen Sherpa, Ringmu, it was quite easy to make a statement on expenditure. As Phu Gyalzen is a very social minded person who only had the wish that the school of his village shall appear as well as possible, he had no intention to create personal benefit from the project, and even he was ready to bear over-expenditure by his own economy. Therefore he gave the work on contract basis to the Constructors on the condition that they would perform their work in a perfect way. Therefore demolishing the old building and constructing a new, purchasing roof tin and building roof, and constructing the sanitary complex is completed per the given budget, and even it was done with improvements included. As Phu Gyalzen himself are owner of forest and already is a businessman on wood, he could provide the wood much cheaper, so he within the budget could set up ceiling in all the old class rooms too. In consent with us, he did lay stone slate floor in the two rooms instead of wooden floor, so in this case the expenses exceeded the budget. But we approved that he could take the budget from science lab furniture and educational materials, as Rotary Club of Sydney Northbridge will do that part even more extensively than we had budgeted. Stones slates for the

plinth around the buildings was purchased, but the work was not done. And furniture for the two new class rooms was not produced. So we could set up a budget 125.750 NRS on remaining work which will be done during the winter or at the same time as the new project of RC Northbridge will be started. Phu Gyalzen said that even there will be more expenses than available budget, he will bear those expenses from his own personal economy. Sydthy Rotary Klub has transferred 100.000 DKR through Rotary Club of Kathmandu, who has transferred for the school only withdrawing bank charges 1.310 NRS for the transfer from the bank account of the club to the bank account of the school. So now I will recommend that Sydthy Rotary Klub will transfer the last budget transfer on 10.000 DKR right after New Year, and by then we can consider the economic part of the project to be completed, and only a last monitoring report from Himalayan Project Nepal can be expected, when the work is completed as well.



### **Postscript:**

During our stay in Ringmu a big ceremony was arranged to celebrate all the development activities around Ringmu School with students, parents, school committee, construction workers, teachers and local dignitaries. The ceremony was broadcasted live by Radio Himel FM. And I was dressed up in the traditional sherpa male dress chuwa-tetung. For four hours there were many expressive speeches and dance performances by school girls. And finally we all took part of the common dance. It was a very happy and joyful celebration, as we all was very happy with the performance of the project. And especially Phu Gyalzen was praised from all sides for his leadership. Really the people of Ringmu are something special with their commitment and frank and happy attitudes. I am very satisfied with this project even it has been long under way. All work has been done properly, sincerely and even in higher quality than projected. And now Rotary Club of Sydney Northbridge will even upgrade the educational quality and children friendly environment. And Himalayan Education Initiative will add even more to the school and to the village with the planned community building. How lucky the people of Ringmu are – and they deserve it.

On behalf of the village of Ringmu I will express a warm gratitude towards Sydthy Rotary Klub, who so readily has taken this project, even it is only a small club. And even though they had just one year before completed their project with reconstructing Loding School only half a day walk from Ringmu. The villagers of Ringmu asked me to give you their warm invitation to visit Ringmu, where you will be received as honoured guests.

And also a warm gratitude to Padborg-Kruså Rotary Klub with “Helene & Bonnik Hansens Fond” and to Rotary Danmarks Hjælpefond because you was so ready to add your support to Sydthy Rotary Klub. And to Rotary Club of Kathmandu for always being so ready to support our projects in Upper Solu. Ringmu really is a hotbed of international Rotary cooperation.



	Contract	Allocation from to	Account 17. Nov 2012		Budget of RC-SN		
			NRS	13,7 NRS/DKR	88RS/\$	RS/\$	
A	Taking down old - building new	150.385 done		150.385	10.977		
	Stone slate plinth (Peti)	83.700 NOT done	+32.000	32.000	2.336	\$600	52.800
B	Roof & Tin	510.815 done		510.815	37.286		0
C	Ceiling 2 Rooms	99.000 done + 6 rooms		99.000	7.226		0
	Wooden Floor	15.500 stone slate	+112.500	138.000	10.073		0
	Science Table, Cupboard, 5 chair, 2 bench	12.500 NOT to do	-12.500			\$1.300	114.400
	6 Student sets, 1 chair, 1 table	5.750 NOT done					0
D	Toilet	365.170 done		365.170	26.655		0
E	Library, Science, Educ.mat.	132.000 NOT to do	-132.000			\$9.000	792.000
		<b>1.374.820</b>		<b>1.295.370</b>	94.553	\$10.900	<b>959.200</b>

Already spent according to Contractors Account: **1.489.170**

Budget on small remaining: **50.000**

6 Student sets, 1 chair, 1 table **5.750**

Budget on PETI: **70.000**

**TOTAL budget on construction Account: 1.614.920**

			actual NRS/DKR	
<b>7. Oct. 2010:</b>	Arrival from Sydthy Rotary Klub:	<b>461.634</b>	12,82	<b>36.000</b>
<b>9. Feb. 2012:</b>	Arrival from Sydthy Rotary Klub:	<b>494.641</b>	13,74	<b>36.000</b>
<b>7. Sept. 2012:</b>	Arrival from Sydthy Rotary Klub:	<b>408.669</b>	14,60	<b>28.000</b>
	Income on old tinn roof:	<b>80.000</b>		
	Rest budget from Sydthy Rotary Club:	<b>150.000</b>		<b>10.000</b>
	<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>1.594.944</b>		<b>110.000</b>

**Overexpenditure: 19.976** which Contractor will bear personally

Solar Heater: **30.000**

Transportation: **10.000**

Set-up: **5.000**

Present from Himalayan Project: **45.000** when the project is completed

