

Wednesday, 06. May 2015

Last night I did not sleep well because there were many planes flying over the house until 2 O'clock. That was obviously a good sign. This showed more aid was coming into the country. I also took this opportunity to write my reports in this time.

Kritan and his father Krishna drove all the way to Chabahil to pick up a motorbike that we were offered yesterday generously by a LIONS member.

Today firstly we met Thomas from Ganesh Nepalhilfe e. V. Along with Thomas was Hari, a Nepalese social activist and a very good friend of Thomas. The meeting was in Hotel Mandap in the tourist district of Thamel. We discussed about the present situation and about what we could do to help the people in crisis, we also discussed about plans for the future. We



basically thought that, if one could quickly build model houses that are earthquake-safe and could be built for a relatively cheap price of a maximum of 2,000 euros per house, that would really be great for the people who lost their houses in the earthquake. Thomas is an architect by profession; he worked for several years on the models of such houses. We planned to discuss about this more in details in the coming days.

With Hari, I talked about the biosand filter. We could definitely take this as a good project, which would be a great thing to provide pure drinking water to people around. We could immediately start this project if we are able to find a production possibility in local level.



Kritan and I wanted to go to a nearby hospital to see if there were any drugs urgently needed for the victims but we couldn't do this because Thomas was invited by the German Embassy in Kathmandu for a meeting and he asked Kritan and me to come along as well. So we got the opportunity to participate in the midst of sleep-deprived workers, at the third meeting (Third Coordination Meeting with INGOs / NGOs). So I could also inform the activities being carried by the Gesinas Foundation along with this, we could also obtain valuable information and contacts.

Some of the reports presented there did really surprised me, for example an organization reported that, some of the people were taking this time of despair as a nice opportunity to traffick ounge girls to India offering them to study nursing for free, so that they could help the sick people. But the truth is that the girls end up in some red light areas in Indian. GESINAS wants to be very active in the field of prevention of such kind of activities too and so I'm wondering how one could decrease the trafficking, may be by trying to educate the girls little more about such things would definitely decrease the trafficking rate.

Despite the emotional burden here during such crisis situation, to make the life even more difficult there comes several questions such as: where assistants would be needed in the next few days, and how could one decide where the aid has been already provided and where it is still needed.

The large organizations such as the THW and the German Red Cross are of course in the foreground for the rescue and relief work. Having said this, what I feel is, even a small charities could also make a difference in such a crisis situation. In particular, with networking with local helpers, for example the GESINAS Foundation which is flexible in its activities already made a small difference after two days.

Axel from the Workers' Samaritan Federation gave us the clue to the website www.humanitarianresponse.info and stressed that we should follow the site for before carrying any rescue or relief works. Here we could make an update of the activities that have been done at a particular place. For example, if we were in a village, we could report on what we did and whether any additional help is needed.



We also discussed about our major problem at present, the transportation of PAULs which were still stranded in the airport and there was no way to get them transported. The embassy wanted to issue us a document which would help us to facilitate the customs clearance. When I was drinking my coffee, there I met a helper of Maltese and I spoke to him spontaneously. He gave us the phone number of the Maltese Centre in Cologne and already in two hours later we were in contact with Maltese Centre. It actually is a pity not to have PAUL until now, hopefully we get them soon.

All the information and messages that we collected at the embassy, we took them to Ulrich and Christian. They were staying in neighborhood of high rise Sunrise buildings, which still look fine from a distance. Thomas and Ulrich (both architects) explained a little bit how to identify the problem in house after such earthquakes. They think that the





still the stronger aftershock could cause a serious damage. They still think it makes sense to demolish these skyscrapers, which otherwise if gets collapsed with the quakes, would cause lots of casualties

We had a meeting in house of Man Bahadur, who also supported us in our endeavors. Ulrich and Christian were staying there. We discussed for few hours on how to get the PAULs to Kathmandu, where we were going to install them and what we could do in the meantime until PAULs arrives.

The focus for the next few days would be health camps, which will be organized by local doctors and paramedics. We would support these projects with the drugs that we brought, give cash donations and actively take part in such activities. We would want to be to be in close contact with the earthquake victims and try to find out the acute needs through active communication.

Translator: Kritan

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