

Saturday, 23. May 2015

Through Werner Mays from OPAM, we got a contact with a Buddhist monk Metteyya Sakyaputta who traveled from Canada to Nepal directly after the earthquake.

Although it was the rest day in Nepal, he called us and then two hours later we met him in the park of city hall, Pragma Bhawan, Kamladi. The monk there together with his helpers had set up a camp where they stayed. From there they planned and operated different rescue and relief operations for the earthquake victims. There they had also a tent for the drugs and a tent for logistics.



I was very impressed when I heard about the locations that he and his team were operating the relief works.



While we were talking, they were busy collecting the food and medicines for the next day for relief works in some location. A pick up car just parked near to us, it had 80 sacks of rice each of 25 kg.

Instead of packing the rice and other logistics items in a plastic bag, they packed rice, medicines and other items in a plastic buckets with lids. This was different from what we did during our relief works with LIONS club and I2We team of GIR Hospital. The idea of putting things into bucket and later distributing it was great because the people could use the bucket later for different purposes.





They also had set up an office under a tarp and they cooked their food in open air.



A few hours later, after I did all these, there was a terrible sand storm followed by thunderstorm in Kathmandu. I am sure that, it might have caused some damage to their camp.

What would the earthquake victims do during the monsoon? At least a stable accommodation for the transition phase; the galvanized corrugated metal plates could be a possible solution to this. Metteyya told us that 12 such panels i.e. 30 square meters costs only about 55 Euro. From this one could build a stable community apartment for minimum of 10 people.

Many Nepalese people are having difficulties in building their houses with the difficult changing landscape in hilly regions. Instead of natural colored mud-brick houses with thatched roofs there are now tarpaulines and tents with different colours shining in the sunlight, which looked like spots of colours on the hills. But of course the priority is to provide some practical solution for their living.

If everything worked fine in the airport custom, tomorrow we plan to bring PAUL system that OPAM had donated over GESINAS.

Metteyya will then have access to clean drinking water on site, because since yesterday they were buying the water in plastic bottles every day for a few hundred people. After about 6 months, the PAUL system would be brought into a location which is in the south to Lumbini.

GESINAS along with help of OPAM and Metteyya plan to produce BioSandFilters directly in Lumbini for the community there.

Translator: Kritan

More information: [www.gesinas.net](http://www.gesinas.net)