



NEWS FROM MOUNTAIN SPIRIT

Supporting Mountain Communities & Environment

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

Dear Members and friends of Mountain Spirit,

On September 12, it will be a full year since our 11 members Jumbo Executive Committee as on the helm of MS. The past year has been quite fruitful despite everybody's busy schedule and inability to give the adequate time to the organization.

In addition to our regular projects in Udayapur, Chhyangmiteng and Taplejung, we have managed to organize several mountain awareness programs with our partners TMI, Eco Himal and DNPWC. The highlights have been the Beyul Workshop, Bumpa distribution program and the Eco-walk 2009. We must thank all those who have

contributed to the success of these activities.

The Annual General Meeting 2009 will be held on September 19th and 20th 2009. Make sure to mark these dates on your calendar. Your

participation will be useful in planning our future better. Hopefully coming years will be more productive. Look forward to seeing you.

Tashi deleg

Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa (PhD)



Dr. Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa
President

1. INTRODUCTION

Mountain Spirit is a non-government and non-profit organization established in 1996.

It is an organization of a group of like-minded people from different mountain communities. Mountain Spirit envisions prosperous mountain communities with basic services, infrastructure, amenities, and conserved bio cultural diversity.

Mountain Spirit aims to improve livelihoods, protect environment and conserve mountain culture through capacity building, empowerment, awareness, and sustainable development initiatives with participation of local communities.

Objectives:

1. To empower mountain people and communities through advocacy, social mobilization and information and capacity building.
2. To conserve mountain environment; and promote and preserve cultural heritages through awareness, education, and research.
3. To improve mountain livelihoods through participatory needs identification, resource mobilization and implementation of sustainable development initiatives.

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE YEAR

2. NEW MS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORMED



MS Executive Committee Members

12th AGM of MS held on 13 September 2008 in Kathmandu nominated an 11 Member Executive Committee for a two-year term. The AGM also approved the progress report and financial report presented by Secretary and Treasurer. The new committee members under the leadership of Dr Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa were greeted with khada and outgoing chair Mr. Mingma and his team were thanked for their contributions.

3. NEW MS WEBSITE LAUNCHED

With the objective making the electronic media the main means of communication between its members and partners, the new Committee rebuilt the MS website and made it functional. Mr. Gelu Sherpa, the Vice President of the organization led this initiative.



Students of Tatne Balkanya School

4. UDAYAPUR SCHOOL SUPPORTED

We have been supporting Balkanya Primary School of Udhayapur since 2006 with financial support from our German partners MSD. Members of the Executive Committee met with the three members of the School Committee in Kathmandu on April 2009. With request from the School, we funded two-class room building. The School Committee has reported the completion of the block, which is used for a class and office. The building is of high quality and well lit and local contribution equivalent of Rs. 20000 have been received.

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

5. MOUNTAIN AWARENESS WORKSHOPS HELD

MS actively participated in a two-day workshop on Sacred Sites, Conservation and Livelihoods on 4-5 December 2008. The workshop was jointly organized and supported by Mountain Institute, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, and Eco Himal. The workshop explored the linkage between sacred natural sites and environmental conservation in the Himalaya. 11 members of Mountain Spirit and its associated forum, the Himalayan Voices participated in the workshop.



Participants during the workshop

6. MOUNTAIN SPIRIT BRINGS MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Mountain Spirit and the Himalayan Voices in collaboration with Eco Himal organized an interaction workshop of mountain community members in which over 100 people from 12 districts participated. The venerable Tengboche Rinpoche distributed the Sacred Tendrel Nyesel Bumpa to different Himalayan Communities during this occasion. Members of the Himalayan Voices Khenpo Ngwang Woser, President of MS Dr, Lhakpa Sherpa, Tengboche Rinpoche and MS Member Secretary, and Mr Norbu Gale from Dolpo Janajati Bikash Kendra spoke during the interaction program. Participants came from different mountain districts of Taplejung, Sankhuwasava, Solukhumbu, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa, Gorkha, Manang, Mustang,

Dolpo, Mugu, Jumla and Humla.



Bumpa



Orientation cum talk program participants

7. ORIENTATION AND LECTURE PROGRAM ORGANIZED FOR MS MEMBERS

A half-day Orientation and talk program was organized on 31 January 2009 in Kathmandu with the objective of introducing the MS to its new members. Besides a number of experts were called on to deliver on important issues relevant to mountain people. Dr Lhakpa Norbu, President of MS, spoke on Global Climate Change and its impact on mountains. Dr Krishna Bhattachan was invited to speak on indigenous rights issues including ILO-169 and UN Declaration. Mr. Pasang Sherpa, MS member delivered on social inclusion and Mr. Lhakpa Tenji Lama introduced Mountain Spirit to the participants.

8. ECO-WALK 2009 ORGANIZED AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

MS organized a Eco-Walk to celebrate the World Environment Day 2009. Eco-walk this year was organized on 13 June in the Shivapuri National Park located in the Kathmandu Valley Rim. Activities included a walk to the source of Bhagmati River, talk program at Nagi Gonpa, and cleaning campaign. The nuns of Nagi Gonpa prepared the lunch for the 90 participants and MS handed over a litterbin to the Gonpa. Ms Chhing Lamu Sherpa (MS Advisor), Dr Ghana Gurung (Member of Himalayan Voices) and Ms. Ang Dawa Sherpa (CA Member from Solukhumbu) spoke on the occasion.



Participants during 2009 Eco-Walk to Shivapuri

9. SUPPORTING THE CHHYANGMITENG VILLAGE CLINIC

MS was requested to provide additional one-year support to the Chhyangmiteng Village Clinic built by MS. Support was extended for one year until November 2009. As part of this support MS provided health worker's salary and medicines with funding from Mountain Spirit Deutschland. Mr. Phuri Lama visited Chhyangmiteng to build local capacity and develop a phasing as well as monitor the programs. Now this clinic has been registered at Solu District Head quarter for future sustainability of the programs.

10. ORGANIC VEGETABLE FARMING INITIATED AT TAPLEJUNG

Based on previous field visits and trainings, MS has sent a planning team to Bungkulung village of Hangdewa VDC in August 2009 to develop an action plan for promoting organic vegetable farming to market in Taplejung township. The program will be launched as soon as technical reports and plans are received from the team led by MS member Mr. Ang Tenjing Sherpa. Mr. Murari Subedi from Sunsari provided valuable inputs.

11. MS MEETING WITH ITS PARTNER MOUNTAIN SPIRIT DEUTSCHLAND

Series of formal and informal meetings were held between Mountain Spirit and MS Deutschland during the year to improve the future cooperation between the two organizations. On May 23, 2009, an Appreciative Inquiry exercise was conducted to identify positive aspects and strengths of the two organizations and its members to develop a better understanding. This was attended by Mr. Wolfgang Henzler, President of Mountain Spirit Deutschland, Dr. Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa, Ms. Chhing Lamu Sherpa, Mr. Lhakpa Tenji Lama, Mr. Nono Lama and Coordinator Tuka Chheki Sherpa of Mountain Spirit.

12. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RENEWED

The Mountain Spirit and its main partner, Mountain Spirit Germany, has renewed its MoU for collaboration for a further period of five years, which will expire only in 2014. Both organizations hope to carry out interesting and effective activities in the future.

13. FORESTRY PROJECT IN KHUMBU BEING DEVELOPED WITH CESVI

CESVI and Italian NGO CESVI and MS jointly submitted a proposal for launching a 'Community-based land and Forest Management Project' in the Sagarmatha National Park. Funding has been approved and CESVI and MS will soon develop an implementation modality and inception plan to implement the project. The project is expected to last for 30 months once it is launched.

14. VOLUNTEERS AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

German Volunteer: Ms. Tanja Maria Jochenning from Germany came to Nepal and worked with Mountain Spirit from October 2008 to January 2009. During this period she visited Udhayapur School, the Chhyangmiteng Village Clinic with Mr. Nima Lama (Associate Member) and Mr. Phuri Lama (General Secretary).

15. FULBRIGHT RESEARCHER

A Fulbright researcher Ms Lindsay Skog from Portland State University will be conducting her Masters Thesis research in Khumbu on Beyul. Dr. Lhakpa Sherpa has agreed to work as her field supervisor and Lindsay will be collaborating through MS.

16. CALENDARS DISTRIBUTED

As usual we have printed a limited numbers of Nepali paper calendars and sent to Mountain Spirit Deutschland to be distributed to its members.

17. PEMBA LAMA MOVES ON

MS Offices Assistant Mr. Pemba Lama left to open a new business opportunity of selling bottled water. He should be doing well in this business in Kathmandu. We wish him all the best with his business.

18. PLANNING WORKSHOP TO PREPARE FOR 13TH AGM HELD

One day planning workshop was organized on 8 August 2009 in Kathmandu with the objective of reviewing organizational strategies and developing plans. The workshop discussed on organizational strategy, reviewed annual plan and prepared one-year plan for 2009/10. Mr. Prakash Pokhrel facilitated the workshop. We thank all those members who have contributed their time to support the organization.

19. LOSS OF A MEMBER

Long time Mountain Spirit Mr. Ngima Dawa (ND) Sherpa passed away on 20 April 2009 at the age of 37. He is a founder secretary member and Ex President of Mountain Spirit. MS family greatly misses his presence and support.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

MEMBER'S ACHIVEMENTS

MS MEMBER WINS FULBRIGHT POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

The US Education Foundation awarded a Fulbright Post-doctoral Fellowship to Dr. Lhakpa Sherpa. He will be joining Yale University as a visiting fellow soon to work on Federalism and Natural Resource Governance.

MS MEMBERS WIN MINGMA NORBU SHERPA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. Lhakpa Tenji Lama (Sherpa) and Ms Laxmi Gurung were winners of the Mingma Norbu Sherpa Memorial scholarship. They both happen to be members of Mountain Spirit. They will be joining the Lincoln University in New Zealand soon for masters and post graduate programs.

MS MEMBER BECOMES DOCTORAL CANDIDATE

Ms Pasang Yangji completes her MA in anthropology and now accepted for a doctoral program at the Washington State University in USA.

MS MEMBER HONORED BY IFA

Nepal International Indigenous Film Festival 2009 honored Ms. Chhing Lamu Sherpa for her contribution in rural development sector.

MS MEMBERS PUBLISHES BOOKS

Mr. Gelu Sherpa produces publication on "Sherpa Phonology & Orthography." This was publication was launched at Nepal Tourism Board by the Sherpa Media Group Nepal.

Note: Please send your news. We love to share it through our website.

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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			Home	Office		
1	Dr. Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa	President	4-720183	4-419356	98510-55609	lhakpa.norbu@gmail.com
2	Mr. Gelu Sherpa	Vice-President	2142072	-	9741-112408	mrgelusherpa@gmail.com
3	Mr. Phuri Sherpa	General Secretary	-	-	9841136657	phurilama_sherpa@yahoo.com
4	Mr. Tsewang Tashi Lama	Secretary	4-484766	-	9841-471590	tsewanlama@hotmail.com
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