

PUPILS

Our 22 boys are doing well!

In August the first five of our pupils will finish their education at Hellabeem and be on their own feet. These months we have been counselling them on their way to this very special moment. We have helped them formulate their wishes about the type of business they would like to start and we asked a consultant to help us. The pupils are now writing a business plan and they have used their April holidays to make their marketing plans. We will help them with the construction of a workshop and we will provide them with a computer and/or tools so that they will be able to get started. From August on, the moment their own business is there, they have to send us monthly reports to tell how business is going. And we will visit them every three months to see the development ourselves.

This is what we are doing our work for! Giving the boys all possibilities and help, so that they can be independent here in Sri Lanka, something that is not a common thing for disabled people in this culture. Most disabled people remain dependent on their relatives all their lives.

As far as educational achievements are concerned, all boys are doing well, they have all just passed their exams.



SRI LANKAN NEW YEAR

Here we celebrate New Year in spring. This year we celebrated this special day combined with a parents day with all kinds of new year's games. Everybody participated enthusiastically in old folklore games like: running, guessing the number of pips in a fruit, blindfolded breaking pots hanging on a rope, biting at rolls, pillow fighting, blowing up balloons, elephant pricking, tug-of-war, wheelchair racing etc. The boys had organised everything themselves. The people from the neighbourhood were welcome as well and the day was a big success! It is nice to see that Jan and I have been accepted in the community. Whenever there is something special going on in the temple or at the primary school in our neighbourhood, we are always invited as well.



STATUS PROJECT

We have had an extreme drought. It has been so dry that the well couldn't supply us sufficiently any more and we had to make do with just a little bucket of water. Not very comfortable in a place

where the temperature rises to 32 to 33 degrees Centigrade with a humidity of 90%. This experience made us decide to install two more wells.



During the past months no courses have been organised. We are going to do a home garden-project for disabled people, though, with AMURT. We provide the accommodation and facilities and they select the students. We will tell more about this in our next newsletter.

Jan and I have donated the plot of land next to our site to the Hellabeem Foundation Sri Lanka together with a tea land in the mountains. Now we have four hectares of land in Ibbawela and one hectare in the mountains, where there is a small house that still has to be finished. These plots of land will be used for a future project. We are developing a plan for sustainable biological agriculture and horticulture. As we received a substantial legacy we can now realise this plan. The idea is to earn money with this plan and in this way see to the exploitation of Hellabeem, together with the donations.

FINANCE

Our list of contributors is getting longer. We now have 62 contributors who authorised us. To guarantee the exploitation we would like to have a number of 100 contributors for the time being. Are you going to help us achieve this target number? You can do so by authorising the treasurer for a contribution on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis. You can also sponsor a small project. For information about this you can contact our treasurer in the Netherlands, Sonja van de Walle, phone 0031 35 693 78 92, e-mail sonjavdwalle@hotmail.com.

Sponsors

We thank everybody for their gifts to Hellabeem! A special thank you for the Liliane Fonds and The Lakeland Fonds for the construction of more electricity. All gifts, great and small, too many to name them all, we are very grateful for all of them! It feels good that so many people help us building Hellabeem.

NEWS FROM THE DUTCH BOARD

Benefit concert, by Welmoet Kok, secretary

On the 30th May the Dutch board organised a benefit concert for Hellabeem. The young Russian pianist, Liszt competition laureate, Evelina Vorontsova and the well known double bass player Hans Roelofsen from Bussum, our hometown, gave a wonderful concert in a little church in one of Bussum's most beautiful residential areas. They played a romantic Russian programme, which was enjoyed by a 110 people. Refreshments were served during the interval in the garden of the church on a wonderful night. Even the weather supported us!

This first benefit concert had a result of 2500 euro. This result and the audience's enthusiasm stimulate us to make a tradition out of this and organise a yearly benefit concert. We will keep you informed!

Ambassadors, by Welmoet Kok, secretary

In March the Dutch board organised a meeting with a number of people who had expressed their enthusiasm for Hellabeem in the past. They worked at Hellabeem as a volunteer, visited the school

or are about to do so or they organised a special activity to raise money for Hellabeem. We exchanged ideas and thoughts about plans we can think of to make even more people enthusiastic about Hellabeem, to generate more money and bring in more contributors. In doing so these people have become ambassadors for Hellabeem. We keep each other informed about successful activities, think of new plans and together do our utmost for Hellabeem. The board highly appreciates this cooperation and hopes for good results!

Successful behind the scenes, on behalf of the board, Peter van Steensel, chairman Those who closely follow the development of Hellabeem will have noticed. The foundation is clearly more active generating money for the support of the good work Jan and Helène are doing in far away Sri Lanka. A more professional look of the website and newsletter have seen to an important quality effect. This has not so much increased the number of contributors, but the board of the foundation has been very active during the past months with service clubs, schools and other generous contributors. The Hellabeem story catches on that much, that the amounts of money donated are at a remarkable higher level. Roughly this effort has led to a rise of income of more than 10%, whereas the costs for this have remained more or less the same. Considering the present economic climate, this is no bad result at all and we are very happy with it. In short, we are on a good professional way and we strive after a continuation on this way for the coming years. I am sure we will succeed, seeing what activities are planned. All honour to my fellow board members, who have been working very hard behind the scenes to realise all this.



Dinja Buitendijk

VOLUNTEERS

Three times at Hellabeem in nine months ... an impression by Dinja Buitendijk

The first time I visited Hellabeem I was very much impressed by the complex, the facilities and all the plans for the future. Unfortunately this was not the best moment for a visit, the boys being away for their holidays.

I wrote about my experiences during the second visit in a small article for the website. What enthusiasm, the boys', the staff's and of course Jan's and Helène's! It was hard to say goodbye after this second visit and I promised to be back soon.

Last April I was back!

As a travel guide in India, it is a bit easier to plan a visit to Sri Lanka than it is from the Netherlands. After having finished my tours there, I travelled from India to Sri Lanka.

Things had gone on at Hellabeem! A lot had been done for the agricultural plans, new wells were being dug, but most of all, there were more boys! Since October four new boys had arrived and it looks like the group will be getting bigger during the coming months. Really super to see that the newcomers already feel at home so much and even take up the brush to help with the painting. I had a very good time and moreover, I this time had the privilege to attend to the Sri Lankan New Year's festivities. A very nice day with games like elephant pricking and a wheelchair race. What should I say, again my visit to the project was very impressive and so inspiring! And yes, visit number four is on its way



Well, you are informed of the latest developments at Hellabeem. We will report again in our autumn newsletter. Meanwhile we wish you all a nice and warm summer.

Kind regards,

Helène Heijen and Jan van Beek and the Dutch Hellabeem board

Our address: Hellabeem Sri Lanka, Postbox 11, Weligama, Sri Lanka. E-mail: helene@hellabeem.org.