**Activities Report 2016**

We managed to raise Euro 21,076.97 in 2016, again a significant effort, as the year lacked the big events we normally organise during the year (Geshe Pema Dorjee visit did again not materialise and we had to move our annual fund raiser event from October 2016 to January 2017) and we did not have a one-off campaign like we had in 2015 for the
victims of the two massive earthquakes in Nepal.

During the year we had a number of events again to raise funds for our school project for young girls in Lumla, Arunachal Pradesh, in the North East of India. We had fewer events in the year but underlying fund raising through entrance fees, donations, and sale of goods remained flat.

Our achievement would not have been possible without the help of our core group of volunteers, who continue to contribute so much of their time and effort in making the activities of the Tara Bodong Foundation a success.

I would like to thank you, all of our friends and supporters who participated in the events we organised, bought our merchandise and donated generously, as well. Without you we are not able to help these young girls and give them education, and a hopefully better life.

Our sponsor program is a huge achievement for our foundation and it’s a great feeling to actually see that we are achieving something. All 8 girls we have in school today are thriving and we can clearly see that we are making a marked impact on their lives! In 2016 we have expanded our sponsorship program and the total number of girls for whom we have found a sponsor now stands at 14 (from 8 in 2015). The new girls are being selected by our local committee, and should start in the new schoolyear (which starts 1 April in India).

Our building is now nearly complete and at the end of March 2017 the girls will move into their new premises. They will continue to be enrolled in the Tsongkhapa English School in day school and receive their primary education according to the Indian curriculum. However, the girls will live in the new building where they will receive some additional classes in Buddhism (according to the local traditions), and other courses not being taught in their day school.
Our local committee has already hired a care-taker to take care of the building and a “house mother” to take care of the girls. This lady herself is an orphan and worked previously at a local school. She is currently having additional training in English and computer skills in Delhi, India, and will be ready to receive all girls into their new home soon.

In 2016 we have made again transfers to the Choeling Bodong Committee, our local partner in the girl's school / nunnery project. The funds were used for completing the building, and to pay for the school and lodging expenses for the girls in our sponsor program. Please see our gallery for up to date pictures.

**Events**

* The traditional visit of Geshe Pema Dorjee to the Netherlands did again not happen the past year. Getting a new passport for a Tibetan refugee in India has turned out to be very cumbersome and to date Geshe Pema Dorjee has not been able to get one. However, there seems to be some progress and we have good hopes that we might get a date for a visit to the Netherlands in the latter part of 2017. This will be Pema la's fifth visit to the Netherlands and we hope that his teachings will again be very much in demand.
* As mentioned before, we now organise sponsorship for 14 young girls. From the end of March 2017 all girls will again be enrolled in the Tsongkhapa English School in Lumla, but in day school. (The school is run by a Tibetan monk, a friend of Geshe Pema Dorjee). The Tara Bodong Foundation pays each 6 months in advance for the girls. Sponsors get regular updates on how the girls are doing in school and how they are developing physically and socially.
* On the 19th June, one of our friends, Yoshimi Kawai, an accomplished pianist, organised a piano concert and donated all proceeds from entrance fees to the Tara Bodong Foundation. We were allowed to organise a champagne bar during the break and sell merchandise. We had more than 80 people turning up for the concert in an iconic studio in Hilversum. After some costs, we raised Euro 1771.30. A fantastic achievement!
* The husband of one of our volunteers, Mr George Pedra decided to climb the Killimanjaro in October. He set up an online challenge and managed to raise (net after costs) Euro 4,907.00 in sponsorship. George managed to reach the top of the Killimanjaro on 10 October.
In December 2016, we received the fantastic news that his company (Intertrust NV) will match the amount euro-for-euro! We expect the money to come into our account somewhere in Q1.
* At the end of the year we always attend Winter / Christmas markets. This year we did a community fair in Hilversum, and a Christmas fair (the Violenschool International Christmas Market). We managed to raise Euro 382.07.
* During the summer holiday 2016, one of the students, Millie Scarbourough passed away. Her parents organised a memorial service on the 29th October in a local church in Hilversum. Instead of flowers they asked people attending the memorial service to donate to the Tara Bodong Foundation. In addition, the family has expressed the wish to perhaps sponsor one of our girls. Everyone at the Tara Bodong Foundation would like to express their profound thanks and gratitude to the Scarborough family. Such a huge gesture!
* We decided to move our big annual event from the end of October to January 2017. Revenue in 2016 include early ticket sale for this 2017 event and we had ample champagne sale at the end of the year.

January 2017,
Tara Bodong Foundation