



NEWSLETTER and REPORT **WORKING VISIT December 2013**

Foundation Kansarmen Sri Lanka

To all who contribute a financial warm heart to our Foundation or who show special interest in the work of our Foundation we would like to inform those people about activities and developments in the past half-year.

Presentation/actions in 2013

One by one the actions have been very successful with lots of enthusiasm and good results. Different schools from the Netherlands made a walk for water and others have committed themselves to "Wandelen voor Water". From each event you can read a report on our website.

Realized

By now already the 4th contract with Wilde Ganzen is in progress. Without the financial support of private donations and sponsors, this was not successful. We are therefore pleased that we have been able to realize 14 water- and sanitation projects.



Working visit November 2013

Chaminda Fernando and Jan van der Steen again paid a work visit to inspect the projects. Accompanied by Hans Schraven, director from Atlantic beds Wijchen en Energy Collectors Europe, below you can read his report.

"What do you do nowadays? ", I asked two months ago to Jan van der Steen who visited my company Atlantic to buy a new waterbed. Jan who I know for many years says: "I am quite active in running development projects. Among other things we take care of water supply projects in the very poorest areas from Sri Lanka. There are still so many schools and families with children without water "

"Heey that sounds interesting Jan, and. ... do they have also solar panels?": I asked curiously, because I am having with my second company Energy Collectors a lot of interest in Europe as well. Jan tells me about the presence of solar panels, but the local know-how is still missing. Because of this missing know-how the expensive plants soon become worthless. "But possible you can personally look at that", joked Jan. "I now travel around the world for the various solar and energy exchanges. So a trip to Sri Lanka will not be a problem", I joked back. Now I'm just like Jan a man of word and deed: on 6 November 2013 I sit next to Jan in the plane on the way for 3 weeks of help in Sri Lanka.

On arrival we were taken care of by Mr. Chaminda Fernando. Chaminda turns out to be of tremendous value for the Foundation of Underprivileged in Sri Lanka and the Wilde Ganzen Foundation. He has emerged as a great leader to 8 workers in practice. He also manages the parents and teachers of the schools who actually work the wells, water towers, water supply and sanitation. Together with Mr van der Steen they form a world-class team, as they will prove me later.

Right after the rather exhausting flight we went within an hour on our way to the first job. The inspection and control of a school where the men were working on a water well to deepen it. Chaminda had made a very precise calculation so that this school also in the dry season has sufficient drinking and rinsing water for all the children there. The first sight of the toiling people at a depth of 11m1 at the bottom of the well was very impressive to see. This put me firmly on the Sri Lankian soil. Wow what collaboration, and that with all the simplicity of materials and consultation. And very



striking all with a smile. I thought at first that this scene was an exception, the next 3 weeks I learned that this way of working together with the children, teachers and parents for Chaminda and Jan is the most normal thing in the world.

The next few days, the calendar became clearer and pressed firmly in our precious time that we had to plan for both visiting new locations as well as the control of the now planned and realized water works. With the day I got, as far as I had not already, more and more respect for Chaminda and Jan and their approach. The flawless tailor made approach per school or community conducted even before the start of each project were all small wonders. The way in

which a school principal was spoken to on the existing facts of overdue maintenance filled me with respect. A first calculation made on scrap paper and subsequently the way help was offered was stunning.

A total of 17 new projects we visit: we see one school after another and all that at a frantic pace. You cannot really speedup on the dirt roads. There is no infrastructure in these parts of the country. For this Chaminda is indispensable. He steers his heavy cross-country vehicle to all corners of the jungle. Across the narrow slippery paths of the

thousands rice fields. With help of locals we are always able to reach our destinations. Also the people of the Government have now found the way to Chaminda and Jan. Through these channels come more and more requests for help of these experts.

So much expertise in a nutshell with a grandiose cooperation. A whole, region where thousands of children with their parents in the dry season normally sit a couple of months without pure drinking water are now taken care of!

Like Jan had told me before I saw with my own eyes that the various solar installations did not work. For example, one installation was placed partly in the shade... The many broken solar panels spoke volumes. Maintenance and sharing knowledge are here indeed vital. Plants that are built with the best of intentions turn out to be worthless. Jan was right, quick action is needed here. I also was able to convince the gentlemen to place solar installations in areas with no electricity. In this way they are still able to run an electric installation to provide for running water. I promised to look into this matter on returning home in the Netherlands.

Days pass too quickly. We want to start our visits at 06.30 because of the heat in the afternoon in the classroom and also because some of the schoolchildren have to walk for fifteen kilometers to go home. In time of migration of the elephants they have to be very careful. Around 4 o'clock these really gigant elephants come from the dense jungle where they take shelter and sleep during the day and on the flatter land they look for water. I also now know that you should not make

wisecracks about this. Some of these elephants are very aggressive and what I didn't know is that they can draw a short sprint with the speed of a racehorse. No wonder Chaminda was awake when Jan and I went for a walk in the evening. In the morning I realized how dangerous it could be ... an elephant attacked one of the teachers when he wanted to scare away the animal with torches. A flight in a solid tall tree has saved his life. I suggested that the best man also easily could have taken refuge in the school building on the first floor. Had he done that the elephant would have pushed over the whole school building. Well, in this respect you will learn quickly what to do in case of emergency in Mother Nature.



A drawing from the Sint Jozefschool Holland

Every day had its new surprises. We arrived at schools where a dancing welcoming committee of sometimes dozens but also hundreds of children welcomed us. They were all dressed up like a king was coming. . In all simplicity there was Jan on his blue sweet Crocs, Chaminda in a local outfit and me in Rambo style enjoying all the attention we got as a mini world team. We were treated with local delicacies, Jan was often looking for the simple biscuit. As a drink one often served tea with lots of sugar. Never mind, you'll get used to everything.

At the beginning of the second week our actions with the Government were not gone unnoticed. From one day to the next we got an invitation to dine with the Chief Minister Dayasiri Jayasekara. This top board member of the North Western Province follows with several ministers, the work of the Foundation Kansarmen en Wilde Ganzen very

closely. As a token of appreciation we were invited to dinner. It is clear that Jan and Chaminda have a head start with their expertise in the development of organizing clean drinking water in relation to the Government. The government is looking for cooperation. Later we had another meeting.

The end was getting near and Chaminda and Jan were updating the administration, reports and photos. Personally, I have enjoyed it from the first to the last minute of this simple and yet at the same time impressive working visit! "
With kind regards Hans Schraven.

The best thing of our visits!

A note from Jan:

Building toilets or building a school is fairly simple, but realizing clean and sufficient drinking water can be very tricky. For 8 years I have been in Sri Lanka and I have never seen the Government busy with providing for a drinking water supply at a rural school. They do build some toilets here and there though. Hans wrote all about our meeting with the Chief Minister and it got a sequel! On the last but one day we again met with the Chief Minister Mr. Dayasiri and the director Provincial Education Department Mr. Thilakarathe. Subject of consultation is the drinking water problem on the many rural schools. It is clear that the government do not manage to realize sustainable drinking water facilities in rural schools. The desire for cooperation is clear to us, they have respect for our highly efficient method. Appointment is to address this problem TOGETHER. We have the highest confidence as foundation from the directors of the NW Province and they will tackle, as the first province from Sri Lanka, the problem of drinking water in the rural schools!

This new approach offers opportunities for the many depressed rural schools across Sri Lanka!

Travels to Sri Lanka

Would you and your children like to visit a Sri Lankan primary school, or would you like to spend the night in a remote fishing community and go boating on these rivers and spending the night in the jungle? You will visit locations where tourists are seldom seen! We provide for a 100% reliable driver/guide and a van with AC. For further information please look at our website (button *Privé reizen*).

Thank you very much!

Without contributions and volunteers we can't realize drinking water and sanitation projects. For this reason we would like to thank all donators and the many volunteers, who make it possible for us to give the most underprivileged of Sri Lanka a better existence.



COLOFON

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