



Kyegu Relief Fund

KYEGU RELIEF FUND INC

Annual Report 2009-2010



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Director’s Overview.....	2
Management and Organisation.....	3
Report Against Objects.....	5
Frequently Asked Questions.....	7
Appendix 1 – Example of General Communication Sent.....	8
Appendix 2 – Audited Financial Statements (attached).....	9

DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

On 14 April 2010 at 7:49am local time the Tibetan region and people of Kyegu (also spelt Gyegu, Jeigu or Jyekundo, and known as Yushu in Chinese) was changed forever.

The region was hit by a 7.1 magnitude earthquake. To date, approximately 10,000 people have died, 20,000 injured and 100,000 homeless and destitute. More than 90% of the buildings have been reduced to rubble. Many survivors have no family left. Thousands have been cremated at the local Kyegu Monastery.

On 24 April 2010 I travelled there with Australians Peter Tooth, William Penhale and David Yeats. We went to assist the victims, inspect the damage and talk with local organisations about the aid requirements. The devastation was heart-wrenching. The locals were an inspiration, in the midst of their loss, grief and tragedy, they were still engaging in their traditional practices of putting others before themselves. To me, this photo uncaptured the sentiment:



A survivor extends her heart out to every sentient being

While the Kyegu Relief Fund (the Fund) was in the process of being formally established, personal donations were made to the Kyegu victims and through this generous support 65 truckloads worth of supplies were delivered between April and June 2010.

The Fund was formally established on 29 April 2010 – just after my return from that region.

The rest of the report explains the activity of the Fund since establishment. I commend the work of the people involved in the Fund's activities. I express my heartfelt condolences to the victims of the quake who have experienced unimaginable grief and I offer this pledge of support: the Kyegu Relief Fund will not tire of its work to assist you.

I am pleased to present the Fund's first annual report.

Aenpo Kyabgon Rinpoche
Director
15 December 2010

MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION

Kyegu Relief Fund Inc was incorporated as an association in New South Wales, Australia, under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 by the Office of Fair Trading on 29 April 2010.

Management Committee

The Kyegu Relief Fund Rules stipulates that the committee is to consist of:

- (a) the office-bearers of the association, and
- (b) three ordinary members.

The office-bearers of the association are to be:

- (a) the director
- (b) the deputy director
- (c) the treasurer, and
- (d) the secretary.

The Fund is administered by persons who, because of their tenure of some public office or their position in the community, have a degree of responsibility to the community as a whole. The committee includes a member of the clergy, a retired member of parliament, a doctor of psychiatry, two accountants and other professionals. Details of the persons holding these positions during 2009-2010 are as follows:

Director

H.E. Aenpo Kyabgon Rinpoche: the Head of the Kyegu Monastery, the largest monastery in the earthquake affected region, he has decades of experience in running training institutions in Tibet, India and Australia.

Deputy Director

Caroline Butler: consultant and facilitator with her own business, who runs leadership programmes worldwide including under the auspices of the United Nations in Australia.

Treasurer

Charles Scott Read: a registered tax accountant with his own business which also provides ongoing mentoring and training for small businesses.

Secretary

Chris Black: a senior public servant with strong experience in public policy, governance and law reform.

Ordinary members

Dr Tony Richardson: an internationally renowned doctor of psychiatry and somatic psychotherapist.

The Hon Richard Jones: a member of the NSW Legislative Council from 1988-2003 who was the first convenor of Friends of the Earth, co-founded Greenpeace and founded the Fund for Animals.

David Yeats: a scholar of Asian studies, language and religion, he was President of the Mitra Youth Buddhist Network of Australia in 2007-2008.

The inaugural committee meeting was held on 22 May 2010.

Sub-committee

The committee may delegate functions to one or more sub-committees (consisting of such member or members of the association as the committee thinks fit).

'Knit for Tibet' was created soon after the tragedy and has been administered by Jo McAlpine.

Jo McAlpine is an executive coach and educator and has been successfully running her own business for the last ten years.

The project achieved the following in 2009-2010:

- recruited over 150 Knitters to knit in 100% pure Australian Wool
- received donations of over \$4000.00 worth of 100% Australian Wool
- began a global recruitment drive with 70 people in 10 countries knitting for the project
- increased awareness of the plight of the earthquake victims throughout not only Australia but in each state in the United States as well as Europe, New Zealand and Japan.
- interviewed by Adam Spencer on ABC 702 on the 7 June 2010
- received pledge of 800 items of brand new Children's winter clothing on the 7 June from a highly regarded children's clothing manufacturer in Australia;
- published story in the Manly Daily Newspaper on the 10 June 2010.

REPORT AGAINST OBJECTS

The objects of the Fund are:

- (a) to provide relief to persons in certified developing countries and to receive public gifts to enable the carrying out of this object
- (b) to provide relief support and assistance to people in emergency situations affected by natural disasters.
- (c) to focus on development and/or relief by providing aid in a professionally competent manner
- (d) to ensure that development activities seek to improve the conditions of communities in a sustainable way
- (e) to ensure that development activities work in partnership with local communities
- (f) to seek to improve well-being of those in need regardless of race, religion, culture or political persuasion
- (g) to actively involve its constituency to promote the objects of the association and to encourage new supporters
- (i) to promote the association's Australian identity to donors/supporters and beneficiaries
- (j) to promote the associations development philosophy and relief objectives
- (k) to ensure procedures are in place to interact and coordinate activities in each stage of a project cycle
- (l) to undertake activities with indigenous organisations
- (m) to set up public relief fund/s for the development or relief activities undertaken.

In the two months that the Fund was operational in the 2009-2010 financial year, the following activities were undertaken pursuant to the objects:

- **Communications established:** the Fund's website, emails, telephone and fax numbers were established. Communications via general and individual email, phone and in person were made to actively involve the Fund's constituency to promote the objects and to encourage new supporters. The Fund's Australian identity has been promoted online, through communications and to regional partners;
- **Project policy work commenced:** work began to develop policies and procedures to ensure that mechanisms are in place to interact and coordinate activities in the region in each stage of a project cycle. These policies will be further developed in the following financial year before funds are expended;
- **Partnerships established:** work began to develop formal partnerships with the local community. Just prior to the formal establishment of the Fund, the Director and members of the Fund travelled to the region to inspect the damage, talk to the locals about their aid requirements and understand the nature of the involvement of government and other officials and NGOs to assess what further aid is required;

- **Accounts:** relief fund accounts were established for the development or relief activities undertaken and formal paperwork to establish the organisation's charitable status and tax exempt status were completed;
- **Help a child:** a campaign commenced to identify those orphaned and disadvantaged children that need disaster relief aid and to match them with sponsors to enable their needs to be met, such as schooling, clothing, medical and shelter;
- **Knit for Tibet:** a campaign commenced whereby people from all around the world are knitting woollen scarves, beanies, jumpers and other garments for the victims as part of disaster relief aid;
- **Building a Medical Centre:** planning work begun to establish a medical centre in the region to train medical professionals and provide ongoing, sustainable care to the sick;
- **Build a family a more stable house:** planning work begun to establish a program whereby donors can help build families more stable temporary housing to better protect them from the harsh winter weather (average minus 20-30 degrees celsius) and cold sicknesses until permanent houses are fully rebuilt;
- **Quake Aid: Concert for Tibet:** planning began for a concert for victims 'Quake Aid: Concert for Tibet ' on 27 November 2010 at Dee Why Beach in Sydney. The event features international artists, Tibetan dancers, kids activities and food stalls;
- **An Evening with Simon Tedeschi for Earthquake Victims:** work began for an evening with this internationally renowned classical pianist on 10 July 2010 to support victims;
- **Donations:** as at 30 June 2010, an amount of \$42,921 was received in public gifts (refer to Auditor's report at Appendix 2) to enable the carrying out of the Fund's objects in future years.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How much of my donation reaches the project?

This year, due to the very short timeframe between the establishment of the Fund in late April and the end of the financial year in June, over 95% of the donations were expended. The balance of the donations received, being 4.2%, were expended on bank charges, legal costs, registration fees etc. Given this is the first financial year the Fund has been in operation, and costs were associated with its establishment, this result is an anomaly. Funds received are expected to be expended in future years. It is noted that the Fund has no employees, all members undertake their activity on a voluntary and pro bono basis. The costs associated with office space, computers, telephones and website are all provided by donation. There are other expenses, such as those costs related to fundraising, which were met by way of donations.

2. How do I know that my money gets there?

We are accountable to the people of Kyegu and to our donors and partners. In turn, we expect our partners to be accountable to us and we are developing policies and procedures to enable this to occur. The Fund is independently audited by Sotherton's Chartered Accountants.

3. How are projects chosen and how are they designed?

We are working with local community members and partners on campaign projects based on what is needed most. Therefore, we are working directly with the locals to identify needs and their causes; identify the positive and sustainable outcomes communities would like to achieve; assess how this can be accomplished; and then develop a detailed project plan. We have unique links to the community given that the Director of the Fund is the head of the largest monastery in the region. However we are ensuring every step of the way that aid is delivered equally and without any bias based on culture, religion or political persuasion etc.

4. How will it be determined whether a project is effective?

Campaigns and projects will be continually monitored and evaluated to determine their impact and effectiveness. We will do this through financial and project reporting, regular monitoring visits and evaluations. We give particular emphasis to feedback from community members when assessing the success of our work.

5. Are the projects sustainable?

Our development aid projects, such as building a medical centre and training professionals, are designed to empower community members and improve their capacity to meet their own needs so that after we leave the benefits of projects continue. Our disaster relief projects, such as sponsor a child, are aimed at providing relief support and assistance to people in emergency situations affected by natural disasters

APPENDIX 1 – EXAMPLE OF GENERAL COMMUNICATION SENT

Sent 24 May 2010:

Dear friends and supporters

I write to update you on the latest information from the earthquake-devastated eastern Tibetan town of Kyegu (Yushu in Chinese).

People like yourselves from around Australia, Singapore and all around the world opened their hearts and donated generously - the equivalent of approximately \$1,080,000 Chinese yuan was donated in the 10 days following the earthquake before I went to Kyegu on 24 April 2010. I have attached a collage of photos of the earthquake and from the visit.

The funds are able to provide approximately sixty-five 30 tonne truckloads worth of supplies. I say approximately because some supplies cost more than others, for example vegetables and tsampa (traditional freshly-roasted barley flour) costs more than water and packaged foods.

Peter Tooth and William Penhale have put together a film of the visit, they accompanied me to the region. There will be an upcoming DVD Night to show it - stay tuned for details.

In the meantime, the Kyegu Relief Fund (KRF) web site is up and running - **www.kyegurelieffund.org** - and I encourage you to share it with your friends and email contacts.

The funds provided so far have made a difference. But ongoing support is still required.

I have been in constant touch with the locals there to determine what is the best way to provide the aid that is needed.

To that end, KRF has initiated a campaign to raise funds for orphaned and disadvantaged children. These children require disaster relief aid most urgently as they have no one to care for them - their parents are either deceased or injured.

KRF is collecting the number and details of children requiring assistance and establishing a sponsorship scheme whereby donors are linked with children to provide schooling, accommodation, food and clothing.

To find out more information on KRF or how to sponsor a child please email **info@kyegurelieffund.org**

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming DVD Night.

Yours sincerely
Aenpo Kyabgon Rinpoche
Director

Kyegu Relief Fund Inc
www.kyegurelieffund.org