

Our Sister School Project in Lamidanda, Nepal (poster 1)

A school project in Nepal – why?

„We attach particular importance to an education that encourages our students to act in a public-spirited way and to show solidarity.“

Cooperation with a development aid group like CCODER in Nepal is based on this guiding principle from the school programme of the Johannes Kepler Gymnasium.

A first personal encounter in 2002 led into a series of contacts which culminated in a contract of cooperation between the J. Kepler-Gymnasium and the Community school in Lamidanda, on the occasion of the visit of a larger German delegation in Lamidanda. The last visit of a group of Kepler parents, students, members of the Nepal club and the school administration took place in October 2010. Further visits are planned.

Nepal: survey of facts

Size: 140.800 square kilometres (Germany is 2,5 times as large)

Climate: cool summers and severe winters in the north
Subtropical summers and mild winters in the south

Topography: flat river plains of the Ganges river in the south, central mountain region, high mountains (Himalaya) in the north
Eight of the highest summits in the world (including Mount Everest, 8.870 m)

Resources: water power, timber, only few mineral resources, agriculture, beautiful landscape

Ecological problems: deforestation, air and water pollution, endangered species.

Living conditions

Nepal is a wonderful country, but one of the poorest in the world, too. Because of its lack of mineral resources it is of no importance for the international community of states, so it urgently needs help from abroad. Most people make their living in agriculture, many just produce enough food for their own subsistence. The service sector and especially tourism provide two additional opportunities to earn money. Tourism however suffered considerably due to political unrest during recent years, and is only slowly recovering. The annual income averages 568 US dollars, unemployment is at 43 %.

Long term objectives of the Kepler-Gymnasium

As a school community we see our mission to act in a public-spirited way and to show solidarity in supporting the children on the spot. Illiteracy is very widespread, at around 45 %. In rural areas, and especially among women, the rate is much higher.

To offer the opportunity of a good school education to children from poorer families, to boys as well as girls, is our prime objective.

For further information: www.nepal.kepler-gymnasium.de