

**Annual General Meeting
BODHI Australia, Inc
Campbell Town, Tasmania
22 June 2008**

Open. 1pm.

Present: Susan Woldenberg Butler, Colin Butler, Jane Hudspeth, Kulottam Chakma, Tim Smith, Alison Wild, Denis Wright

Apologies: Graham Ranft, Angela Douglas, Kabita Chakma

Minutes of last meeting: Presented as read Tim Smith proposed, Colin Butler seconded.

Business arising from minutes of last meeting. Brief discussion of the following:

1. **Privacy policy.** Should be on receipt/begging slip. Permission to thank in newsletter. Mailing confidential. Susan to amend begging slip. DONE. Denis to put on website. DONE.
2. **MoU with Gaden Relief Projects.** Good chance for BODHI to grow. Support health project in Tibet. TDS provision for donations and GRP donation landing page. GRP wants secure online donations
3. **Project strategy.** Build on what we've got. Wary of branching out too much. Good not to have unsolicited requests. Nepal: some correspondence; physical safety a problem for Bangladesh Chakma students; donation from Australian Chakmas; money spent on checking a problem but needs to be done.
4. **Growth strategy: employ someone?** Employed Susan for \$250 per month. Colin suggested a raise at some point.

Welcome to Alison Wild and Tim Smith, who have moved to Campbell Town, much to BODHI's benefit. Alison's administrative help is invaluable. Both she and Tim are nurses who have worked in developing countries. They have been to Mizoram, NE India to evaluate HIV education.

Presentations by attendees. Mr Kulottam Chakma to discuss UN's employment of Bangladeshi soldiers in peace-keeping missions in Africa; Mizoram health project; and PBM, SKS and Sneha.

Kulottam provided booklets from SKS (Bodhicariya Senior Secondary School) in Kolkata, India and an Amnesty International report in the late 1980s about human rights violations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in Bangladesh.

Kulottam provided some historical background information about the Chakma people in Bangladesh and the movement of displaced persons to India and Mizoram. Kulottam states human rights abuses are still occurring to the Chakma people coupled to a recent increase in Bengal settlers in traditional Chakma areas.

PBM has been funded by BODHI for two years. Although there have been several requests for reports, unfortunately none have been forthcoming. BODHI is aware of some issues, including the departure of the PBM secretary and poor computer and Internet access. Due to these issues, BODHI only requests a modest yearly report.

ACTION: Kulottam and Colin to write to PBM requesting a report. If no report forthcoming money allocated to PBM will be reallocated to another Chakma project.

Proposed Mizoram Health Project

There are approximately 100,000 Chakma living on the border of Bangladesh and Mizoram with many people lacking education and healthcare. The border is now fenced which has resulted in Chakma people being denied access to the river and associated lands. The Chakma community in Australia wants to assist Chakma people living in Mizoram.

Potential Projects

1. Mizoram Health Care, utilising Dilip Chakma and possibly Chakma Mahila Samity (CMS). Susan noted that Dr Bhagadatta Chakma suggested requesting Project Proposals from both.
2. Mobile medical clinics in remote areas of CHT, Bangladesh
3. School at Kotar, Burma. Colin initially suggested that \$5,000 be donated. Susan suggested \$2,000 initially with potential further funding after initial reporting. Might be an opportunity to link with Burmese refugees who are being placed in Launceston.

To Do

- Kulottam suggests contacting Dillip to investigate other organisations which might either work with CMS or independently. It has not been decided to work with CMS. BODHI is aware that CMS has difficulties accessing the Internet, opening bank accounts, speaking English, etc. This is not a reason not to work with them, but requires the presence of an intermediary.
- Kulottam suggests maintaining contact with Dilip pending feedback from Mizoram. Kulottam states he has received positive feedback regarding Dillip and his performance from the founder of SKS.
- To investigate if other organisations might be able to assist.
- Tim and Alison to be involved in the Mizoram project.
- Dr Bhagadatta Chakma to be invited to join the newly formed Mizoram Health Committee [Susan emailed Dr Chakma the next day, and he accepted immediately.]
- Kulottam to provide DVD on financial situation for Chakma people.

Reports presented. Jane Hudspeth nominated; Kulottam Chakma seconded.

Director of Electronic Communications.

President's Report.

Medical Director's Report.

Treasurer's Report

Election of office bearers. Nominated Tim Smith, seconded Kulottam Chakma

President. Susan Woldenberg Butler

Vice-President. Jane Hudspeth

Secretary. Denis Wright

Treasurer. Colin Butler

Selection of committee members.

General Committee. Luiz Ribeiro, Dr Shanti Raman, Kabita Chakma, Kulottam Chakma and Emilia Della Torre.

Mizoram Health Committee: Dr Bhagadatta Chakma, Kulottam Chakma, Tim Smith, Alison Wild and Susan Woldenberg Butler.

Human Rights Committee. Susan Woldenberg Butler, Kabita Chakma, Kulottam Chakma, Emilia Della Torre, Dr Marty Rubin, Scott Trimmingham and Dilip Chakma

Appointment of auditor: Greg Harper, Cameron's

Date of next AGM: To be determined. Location: Canberra, with a meeting in Campbell Town, Tasmania.

Meeting closed 3:15pm