

1. Atma Update :

HAPPY 2nd BIRTHDAY ATMA MUMBAI!

It's hard to believe that it has been 2 years since Atma Mumbai was founded, and it makes me so proud to bring you this birthday edition of the newsletter!

Our second birthday has brought a lot of development of Atma Mumbai's operations, processes and professionalism of the Mumbai Office. We are blessed to have a highly experienced and supportive Supervisory Board based in The Netherlands. This month, financial consultant and Atma Supervisory Board member Hans Valkenburg, visited India for 1 month, as an external consultant guiding Atma towards our next stage of development.



Hans also facilitated a workshop for all Atma Mumbai Partner NGOs focused on proposal writing. The process for our Partner NGOs to officially request funding from Atma is also finalized. It was a wonderful workshop in which Hans' knowledge of NGO operations and finance was an amazing learning experience for all our Partner NGOs.

This month we also welcome new volunteers Arun (India) who will be working with CHIP & Sandra (the Netherlands) who will be working with Muktangan.

On Atma Mumbai's Birthday, we again reflect and highlight our vision:

Quality education should be available for children of all caste, gender, religion and background.

It is this vision, which drives the work of Atma Mumbai, and we look forward to keeping you all up to date with the work of Atma Mumbai this year!

Warmest Regards,
Lee Bolding
Director of Operations

2) From the Board in the Netherlands

The Board in the Netherlands has had a rewarding month behind itself and is in anticipation of some big breakthroughs. Major decisions have been made and others remain on our agenda. The whole 'package' will be reviewed during a Board Weekend coming up in March.



Atma Mumbai Board – The Netherlands

Where Adrienne has been working hard in India with Hans on the finances in India, Bart (Treasurer) on his end worked relentlessly on the finances in the Netherlands. Both will be combined and shared with the world through our Year Report 2007.

Jaklien (Acquisition) came back from India with exhilarating enthusiasm. She was in the support team of the Marathon and is now working together with the rest of the team to wrap this very successful event up. A big thank you to the runners, the support team and supporters! Additionally, work is underway to appeal to more and more funding; both persons and organizations are addressed together with Alexa (External Relations). The latter

has also assured us of new opportunities; partnerships with websites and orations at different organizations.

Floor (Communications) has picked up the portfolio of "Events" after Astrid decided to strengthen her focus on professional work and hockey. Next to finalizing the communications plan for Atma (mainly awaiting the Weekend), Floor focuses on the events in the near future; among others a new sponsor diner coming up in April.

Accordingly, the Board is looking for enthusiastic candidates for the open Event Manager position!

In the Secretary portfolio, I have been working on a new structure for Team Atma. Since our organization is growing at a steady rate and more and more people become engaged in the activities of Atma Mumbai, some restructuring is welcome.

Additionally, Atma is being contacted more frequently every day from literally all over the world. It's this support/enthusiasm/interest/encouragement/etc together with the rewarding partnerships in India which works as a fuel for the work we do. Communicating with all of you always is grand pleasure!



Do you have experience in Events?
Atma Mumbai is seeking a new Events
Portfolio Board Member

Thank you sincerely and please stay in the loop; there is some fabulous new developments up ahead!

Very best regards on behalf of the Board in the Netherlands!

Joop Joost Hietbrink
Secretary



ATMA MUMBAI

Partners in educational development

ATMA MUMBAI VOLUNTEERS 2007-8

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THANK YOU!



4)NGO In Focus: Where in the world is Nareshwadi?

Nareshwadi is full of energy. The 10th standard students are gearing up for March board exams, the 5th to 10th Standard students completed their final Unit Exam the second week of February and are participating in a Personality Development workshop later in the month.

Since the Atma Mumbai set foot on Nareshwadi soil the ongoing action, developments and changes on campus would make a returning visitor question if they were even at Nareshwadi anymore!

Infrastructure changes have included:

- Classroom and building painting
- Building of a new modern science laboratory
- New kitchens in the Balak Ashram and General Hostel Dining Hall reducing the use of firewood
- Hand washing Area including connecting elevated pathway to dining hall
- Over 75 new Toilets and Baths
- Sport fields with basketball, hockey/football and new playground equipment
- School Health Centre with on campus staff nurse
- Vegetable gardens dedicated to provide students weekly supply of needed vitamins and minerals



New Horizens for the children of Nareshwadi

Organizational changes include:

- New school logo designed through workshop held for all students and final design made by 7th standard Nareshwadi student with accompanying motto, "To find the way you must look for it!"
- Vision and Mission for school developed by multi – disciplinary group of teachers, staff, management, engineers and farm staff
- First annual Summer Camp Held, with volunteers from Atma Mumbai, included trips to Mumbai, nearby treks and daily sport/art activities
- Fulltime School Counselor and School Nurse hired
- Trainings for teachers in new methodologies, counselor training in new child counseling techniques, workshops for teachers and students on various health topics, workshops for management and staff in fundraising and proposal writing
- Numerous systems and budget improvements
- Name change – now known as – Nareshwadi Learning Centre!



Stacie with the Nareshwadi girls!

This in no way means the work is done; there are so many remaining improvements to be made. As Atma Mumbai grows, evolves and matures so do its Partner organizations. The professional development efforts, resource allocation from financial to human, and the ongoing cheerleading and emotional support are responsible for so many of these positive changes at Nareshwadi. Thank you Atma Mumbai.

Stacie Shelton
Rural Health Coordinator
Nareshwadi Leaning Centre



5. NEEDS: LAPTOP COMPUTERS

We currently have an urgent need for laptop computers that can be used by our project staff and volunteers. If anyone has an old laptop that could be donated to Atma Mumbai we would be most grateful. Technology is a great gift for allowing offices and work to be carried out at our partner NGOs. Laptops are an easy and portable donation that you can make today.

To ensure that this technology is able to be used to the best advantage here. Atma Mumbai requires laptop computers that are:

- In good working order, with adequate hard-drive space.
- Minimum Pentium 3.
- Equipped with Windows operating system.
- Working CD or DVD drive & USB port.

We frequently receive visitors from the Netherlands, Australia, and other parts of the world who can transport these computers. Please email contact@atmamumbai.org if you are able and willing to assist.



Volunteer Inka with a donated laptop

COMING UP

5th March: Atma Trustees NGO visit MMC & CHIP

15th March: Adrienne Returns to the Netherlands

19th March: Supervisory Board Meeting

28,29,30th March: Dutch Board Weekend

CONTACT INFORMATION

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