



The NYEMA Sun

NYEMA Projects' semi-annual newsletter on humanitarian projects in eastern Tibet

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Photos:

Top: Nun from Kala Rongo Monastery ©2002 Yakov Platt
Bottom: Aerial view of Korche Monastery ©2002 Yakov Platt



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Monastic Initiative: Kala Rongo Palchen Gön

Kala Rongo: The Monastery Matures

Kala Rongo has been a thriving practice place for nuns for over ten years. The recent addition of the shedra, or monastic college, has made it a fully equipped monastery that now offers women the unprecedented opportunity to engage in all aspects of practice and study available within the Kagyu tradition of Tibetan Buddhism. (Please see the [Spring 2002](#) issue of the *NYEMA Sun* for details about the Kala Rongo shedra). The shrine room in the shedra now has a new floor, and the entire college is completely furnished. All nuns' rooms in the shedra have recently been equipped with wooden meditation boxes, the traditional and preferred seats used for study and meditation practice. The second class of nuns will be entering the shedra in December, 2002.



In the past six months, NYEMA has been able to fund further improvements to the shedra as well as to the main monastery and the retreat house. A copper roof similar to the one at Korche Monastery, complete with the traditional goldleaved ornaments, is being installed on the main monastery building. To further support the nuns' health and comfort in the coming winter months, NYEMA has purchased three new stoves that burn wood and yak dung.



To cut down on the nuns' secular workload, we are responding to their request for clean running water. Currently a great deal of time and effort must be expended in order to carry water from an external source to the main monastery, shedra, and retreat facility. Materials for a water project similar to the one at Korche have been purchased for Kala Rongo.

A second stupa at Kala Rongo is nearing completion. It contains a prayer wheel filled with one hundred million each of Dorje Sempa, Amitabha, Chenrezig, and Guru Rinpoche mantras. Both the retreat facility and the shedra at Kala Rongo have received solar panels and generators this year, and the nuns are thrilled by the improvement in lighting.

Yaks Saved

A hundred and fifty male and female yaks have been saved from being slaughtered for meat by generous NYEMA sponsors. They are now living at Kala Rongo and are cared for by the nuns there, who in turn benefit from the milk and cheese the yak cows produce.



Photos:

Top right: Nuns in Kala Rongo's shrine room ©2002 Yakov Platt

Middle left: New stupa at Kala Rongo ©2002 Nyema Projects, Inc.

Bottom right: Kala Rongo retreat nuns with new solar panel ©2002 Nyema Projects, Inc.

