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Dutch nationals thrill Ramche residents

BY RISHI RAM POU DYAL

SINDHUPALCHOK, March 15 - It was a day of merriment and pleasure for residents of Ramche VDC, east of Chautara, the district headquarters. It was the inauguration of the newly constructed local school building. Moreover, they were to welcome and felicitate Dutch guests who made it happen.

Exited youth, children and adults alike converged at the premises of the posh building of Saraswati Secondary School (SSS) in the morning. Several gates were erected along the way leading to SSS with welcome messages for Maarten Olthof, the Chairperson of Holland Foundation and Leo Dercksen, a Dutch volunteer teacher.

Every villager is proud at the sight of a modern school building in their locality and ever thankful to the donors. "Those Dutch citizens are angelic indeed! Thanks to them, our children can now study in a nice school," said an elderly villager.

Moved by the plights of SSS children studying in an ill-equipped hut-like structure, Holland Foundation in association with Bajra Foundation, its sister wing in Nepal recently constructed the two storied, modern school building at a cost of Rs. 1,856,000. The building has 10 spacious rooms.

"Now that the school building is ready, skilled teachers are needed for quality education and you need to manage that," said a content Olthof.

The District Education Office (DEO) has approved the school up to primary level and the villagers have been running it to secondary level on their own.

SSS is the fourth school constructed by Bajra Foundation under the aegis of Holland Foundation in the district, according to Ram Kaji Poudel, the Chairman of Bajra Foundation.

