

So this week I was invited by some of the Panauti club members to go and see their housing project in Melamchi. They are building 69 houses, a school, shops etc where the whole village was destroyed by the quake. It's a fascinating endeavour. They have taken some of the men from the village and given them specific training on how to build these earthquake-proof houses, given them the tools, materials and plans and they are doing it themselves! Each village gets to say how they would like the layout of each house to be. On top of that, the plan is to furnish each household with solar panels, bio gas boilers and one cow. This whole area was badly affected in the earthquake and it's good to see some building work going on next to the "temporary" houses.

We then went across the river (via a 300 meter long suspension bridge, which was fun) to another village where 50 houses have already been built for the fishermen and their families, and now they are waiting for 2 bio gas plants to be built. We had a village meeting here to explain how the bio gas will replace the wood fires that they currently cook on meaning no more trips to the forest for firewood. This will slow the deforestation and empower the women to do other things with their time.

The Rotary meeting this week was, as always, interesting. With the president away then any past president should take the meeting, so despite the president elect being there we couldn't start till a PP showed up. When the meeting started there were 7 members and 2 guests and the meeting lasted no more than 20 minutes.

Hope you have all been enjoying the sunshine,

Regards,

Paula