

MS. MAUREEN LIEBL'S REMARKS

We are very happy to present our Vision Document for the next ten years. Some of you have seen this in preliminary form; there are only small changes in the final version. It will be uploaded to our website within the next few days. Please do let us know if you would also like a hard copy.

This document has been created with the input of all our officers and project directors, as well as with thoughtful suggestions from several Trustees. It follows an intensive series of Zoom meetings during the last few months, during which various Task Forces, as well as Advisors and interested friends and colleagues debated and discussed the issues. We hope the final document represents all the conclusions accurately.

Within, you will find concise summaries of our major focus areas to date, and our plans for how to proceed with them from here on. We also touch on some of the new areas with which we are becoming involved. We are constantly growing, imagining, dreaming. Just in the last few months, for instance, we have built upon the successful tree plantation past efforts in UP's Azamgarh, and begun to expand it to other project areas, especially Barmer. We have also responded to the current times of crisis by partnering with some other groups and individuals for relief efforts in our project areas. This has required intensive coordination and supervision from Delhi, as well as untiring work by our field representatives. We are constantly pushed by the Visions of our Chairman, our Trustees, our officers and our Advisors. There is, indeed, very little sitting-on-laurels!

My own feeling is that over and above the specific project areas, there are two main needs, both touched on in the first pages of the Vision Document. One is to keep consolidating our activities, making sure that everything accomplished will be sustainable on a permanent basis. We all know of too many well-intentioned efforts that begin with high hopes and then peter out. ITRHD does not intend to ever be in this group; we want to make sure that everything we manage to do will have permanent impact.

The second really great need is for expansion of our professional and administrative infrastructure. So far we have managed to implement our projects and activities

with the purely voluntary (and often more than full-time) involvement of our officers and project directors, with the professional consultants we can afford to take on occasionally from specific project budgets, and with our small salaried (but underpaid) admin office staff. We also operate from a reasonably comfortable but increasingly cramped rented office.

In order to make the Vision presented in this Document a reality, we need to expand the basic foundations. For this, of course, funding is needed. The Ministry of Culture had enough confidence in us to award a corpus grant of Rs. 5 crores, but more is needed. Project budgets take care of direct specific expenses, but only a healthy corpus will provide the income to enable us to plan, consolidate, expand, run a truly efficient and professionally staffed organisation, and to continue to dream into the future. As you read our Vision Document, please do think of how you can help us to achieve this.