

UNDERCURRENTS

news & gossip from the world of paddling..



DESPATCHES FROM NEPAL

It is fantastic to see how many tourists are back in the country again. Hotels are full, planes to the mountains are overloaded with trekkers and the villagers are again witnessing crowds of rafters and kayakers coming down their rivers. It is now festival time in Nepal and the busiest tourist season since 2000. The whole country is celebrating more than ever - there is peace in the country and the kingdom's most important industry, tourism, is thriving. After all the years that I have spent in Nepal, it makes me so happy to see all this happening.

The political situation in Nepal is not yet completely resolved, although the outlook for the future is brighter than it has been for many years. An election was supposed to

have been held in November but has been postponed. As the Maoist party along with some other parties want to make Nepal a republic, the king himself is subversively interfering with the election. Talks between the seven ruling parties are being held continuously but at the moment it is not clear when elections will be held.

Personally I have just finished guiding 2 treks. One to the more pristine area of Ganesh Himal, a cultural 12 day- camping trek and shortly afterwards one of the most popular treks in the world to the Everest Base Camp - a 14 day tea house trek to an altitude of 5500 meters above sea level. Finally it is time for kayaking. On the 15th of November a Swedish group is



flying in for a paddling trip and of course we will have a team Sweden joining the PEAK UK white water challenge on the Bothe Koshi on the 17th-19th November. We are expecting a lot of competitors this year, both Nepali and western.



Further info:

For a number of years top Swedish paddler Inka Trollsås has been running trips to Nepal through her company Faraway Adventure <http://www.faraway-adventures.com/> and she is also one of the organisers of the DaFlo festival held in Dala Floda Sweden every year, which includes the Master of Water paddling competition.