



# TOPtoTOP

GLOBAL CLIMATE EXPEDITION



## Annual Report 2010



Always attached with nature



cycling trough Tibet and China



Kala Patthar 5700 m



smily in thin air



Clean-Up Everest Base Camp



Our home on 5400 m



Clean-Up the Himalayas



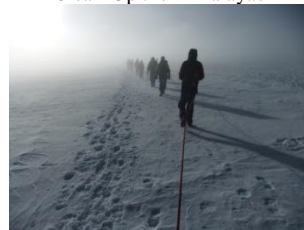
World Expo



Great Media Coverage



Everest in the back



collecting the impacts



Andaman Sea



TOPtoTOP on Everest



10 years TOPtoTOP



Drawing contest West Bengal



TOPtoTOP Award Expedition 2010



Clean-Up in Bali



from Kolkata 6'000 km to the Pandas



thanks to Victorinox and SGS

This year TOPTO TOP visited eight different countries: Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Nepal, China and Switzerland.

In Bali, Indonesia, we turned cleaning the mangroves into a major event, with 500 students participating, and for the first time on the Expedition we visited a school with deaf children. Our presentation was simultaneously translated into sign language.

We made contact with Mimi of the Rotary Club Nusa Dua and environmentalist Supardi Asmorobangun, both of whom were of great assistance to us. Jeffrey Anderson of Rip Curl introduced us to the surf. In the Nikko, Conrad and Westin Hotels we made a grand occasion of events for the staff. Shortly before crossing the Java Sea, we were thrilled to receive a visit from Sabine's parents – this was the first time that they had been able to visit us since the start of the Expedition in 2002.

In Borneo we were privileged to assist with the protection of Orang Utans. It was here, too, that Annemarie's Puppet Theatre was presented for the first time.

'Swissnex' in Singapore not only organised for us to give presentations at universities and the 'Clean Energy Expo Asia', but also a placement for Salina and Andri in the Swiss School. At a dinner with Swiss Ambassador Jörg Reding we met the Indian Ambassador and received important contacts for our next major destination.

Thanks to our privileged location at the first pier in the Raffles Marina, we were able to bring the trend setting technologies of the *Pachamama* to the public and many students. The Marina was also the perfect place for holding events with the Swiss Consulate, SGS, Victorinox and Katadyn. We were escorted through the Malacca Strait by a submarine, and were glad to have our strong Matteo on board, in case of pirate attack. Thanks to Swisspro providing contacts in Malaysia, we were also able to optimise our drinking water filtration system on board.

After a chance meeting on the beach with Swiss pensioners, we were joined at a 'Clean-Up Action' in the Thai Islands by Swiss Television '10vor10' on the *Pachamama*, and were energetically assisted by them. During the journey through the Andaman Sea, Noé, despite antibiotic therapy, developed a kidney infection and, thanks to the Rega (Swiss Air-Rescue), was able to be repatriated to Switzerland. Sabine used the time in Switzerland between Noé's two operations for lectures and readings.

In the meantime, Dario was guest speaker at the 'Brightest Young Climate Leaders Conference' in Delhi, and cycled with Matteo, Fabrizio and Vitterano from the coast near Kolkata to Kathmandu in Nepal, and then onwards until the road ended near Jiri. Special thanks to TVSICS and ITIL for their support in India and Nepal from the mouth of the Ganges River to its source!

The consequences of Cyclone Alia, which swept through the Sunderbans, South of Kolkata, were impressive. The witnesses reported that the situation is always precarious as a result of sea level rise and the increasing number and intensity of cyclones. From Jiri we had to continue on foot to Lukla, where Sabine, the children, Jacqui, Margrit, Vreni, Alexander and Peter Locher joined us. The 'Clean-Up Everest Expedition' was completed after a total of three months, and was a big success.

During the school visits and various 'Clean-Up Actions' between Kolkata and Everest, we not only collected large amounts of waste, but also had stimulating discussions with tourists and local people. Noé was the youngest in Everest base camp at an altitude of 5400m, and none of the children experienced any problems thanks to careful preparation and optimum

acclimatization (never more than 300 hm/day). We thank Susi Kriemler, expert in altitude and paediatrics, for her competent advice and support. We congratulate Alexander, who was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May with the TOPtoTOP flag on the 'Roof of the World'.

Dario kept his promise of only continuing his ascent of Everest while optimum climbing conditions prevailed, thus respecting nature. At 8000m he received a forecast of extremely bad weather conditions for the Summit, and therefore made the decision not to ascend any further. Instead, with the assistance of Air Zermatt, he participated in the recovery of two unfortunate climbers who had lost their lives.

During this time, Sabine looked after the children without any luxuries or comfort. Salina attended school in the Sherpa village of Khumjung (at an altitude of almost 4000m), Noé took his first steps, and Andri spent entire days climbing around in the rocks that surrounded the village.

In Kathmandu the Swiss Ambassador Thomas Gass honoured the volunteers who had participated in the recovery of the unfortunate climbers, after which we headed off by bike on our trip through Tibet and China for the World Exhibition in Shanghai. In Tibet it was mandatory to be accompanied by a support vehicle. In Lhasa we encountered the challenge of making our presentation to blind children. From there we were not permitted to travel any further due to the road travelling through a zone that was prohibited to foreigners. So, instead, we had to travel by train to Chengdu. In Kathmandu we had been assured that we would be able to extend our Visas in Chengdu, however, we discovered that this was not the case. Thanks to the efforts of Consul Rene Seiler in Shanghai, not only was a solution reached, but we also formed a friendship: Consul Rene kindly invited us to stay in his house during the time we were at the World Exhibition. Ric from Australia accompanied us on the trip to Shanghai. As a result of the highest rainfall in a century in South and Central China, we had to push the bikes through mud for three days.

At the Swiss Pavilion at the World Exhibition in Shanghai, we were 'stars' in China after a press conference that resulted in over 200 media reports. Thanks to 'Präsenz Schweiz' and 'Swissnex' we were able to hold several more events on the stage and in the VIP Lounge that were, thankfully, translated by Jessie. After nearly a month in Shanghai we travelled to the TOPtoTOP Climate Solution Awards 2010 in Switzerland.

The TOPtoTOP Camp celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Expedition began at the end of July at the Maloja Campsite in the Engadine Valley, with many friends and children present. Following that, the seven winners of the TOPtoTOP Climate Solution Competition from Chile, Australia, Japan, Singapore, India and China travelled in a climate-friendly manner by foot, bicycle, sailing ship and often on public transport to visit the very best examples of climate protection in Switzerland. Also with us was Zofie, from ICS TV in China, who produced 10 reports for an audience of 20 million viewers. At the award ceremony at Victorinox in Ibach the winners showed many good examples, for which they are now honoured as "climate ambassadors" back their own countries.

This year there were also highs and lows to navigate. The high points were the 'Clean-Up of Everest', over 300 media reports, including reports from CNN and ICS TV China, the appearance at the World Exhibition in Shanghai and the TOPtoTOP Climate Solution Award in Switzerland. A low blow was the birth defect suffered by Noé, but which could thankfully be corrected by good doctors.

During the 3500 nautical miles and 6650 bicycle kilometres we travelled this year, we once again encountered very good climate protection projects. The number of people who have



attended out presentations since the beginning of our expedition has increased to 50 000, and in that time TOPTOTOP has collected an incredible 23 tonnes of waste.

Without the generosity and hospitality of people encountered on our journey, and your support, our mission would be unthinkable. We give sincere thanks to our major patrons, 'Präsenz Schweiz' and 'UNEP', and also to both our major sponsors 'SGS' and 'Victorinox'. Thanks also to all patrons and all those who support our project with top products and services, such as Mammüt (see 'Supporters' at [www.toptotop.org](http://www.toptotop.org) ).

A special thank-you to members Jessie, Jacquie, Annemarie, Jacqueline, Ric, Matteo, Fabrizio, Vitterano, Rosi, Ernst, Eveline, Werner, Peter L, Vreni, Margrit, Alexander, Macarena, Tiffany, Chris, Mohit, Debbie, Gao, Zofie, Roland, Gabi, Nicole, Stephan, Ottavia, Elisabeth, Hansjörg, Thomas, Vandy, Priska, Sarah, Eva, Simon, Andrea, Stefan, Wanja, Lucia, Dario, Lia, Brigitte, Tilou, Armanda, Flurina, Luana, Mael, Mercedes, Seline, Chantal, Leo, Luca, Mirco, Michael, Morena, Nico, Kara, Anne, Uwe, Fabienne, Daniele, Ray, Santosh, Neethi und Ursina, who actively participated in the Expedition.

We would also like to thank Ambassador Thomas Gass, Ambassador Jörg Reding, Ambassador Philippe Welti, Consul Peter Zimmerli, Consul Rene Seiler, Silvia Hostetter, Suzanne Hrabá-Renevey, Flavia Schlegel, Karen Undritz, Jacqueline Kaiser, Jeffrey Anderson, the Bruggmann family, Mercia Inkiriwang, Supardi, Bipan Kapur, Michael Burchett, Cresenciano Maramot, Tan Mei Ling, the Zimmerli family, Marco Preisig, Jacob Cherien, Thomas Schmocker, Peter Käsermann, Anurag Verma, Ishani Chattopadhyay, Lhakpa Gyalzen Sherpa, the Gass, Reding and Seiler families, Angela Chang, Anne-Sophie Cosanday, Richard Shentu, Heidi Zhang, Peter Tschertter, Prakash Reddy, Miss Joe and Miss Wendi.

Special thanks, too, to Gabi, Thomas, Vandy, Peter Storm, Hanna and our family, who have been working like little elves taking care of administration, website and accounting.

And so we go forward: by the end of 2010 we will be in India and South-East Asia, and at the 'Clean Energy Expo Asia' in Singapore. Then we will visit schools in the Indian Ocean, before concentrating on Africa in mid-2011. There we will focus on providing adaptation assistance in order to respond to the new climate situation for humans and the environment. In August 2011 we plan to implement several 'Clean-Ups' on Mt Kilimanjaro and along its ascent. Prospective helpers and anyone who is interested, please contact Dario ([dario@toptotop.org](mailto:dario@toptotop.org)).

The Annual Report is also available via download in 'News' at [www.toptotop.org](http://www.toptotop.org).

**Please submit Membership Fees for 2010 by the end of September 2010 at the latest.**

<b>Children:</b>	CHF 20.-	<b>Schools:</b>	CHF 75.-
<b>Adults:</b>	CHF 50.-	<b>Families:</b>	CHF 75.-
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