



KFK - IMEC Join Forces For Porters

Kathmandu, Nepal

Mountain Fund Member Agencies Karing for Kids-Nepal and International Mountain Explorers Connection are executing a memorandum of understanding that will greatly add to the services delivered to porters in Nepal.

Karing for Kids (KFK) operates a health clinic in the rural Tamang villages of the Rasuwa District. International Mountain Explorers Connection (IMEC) has been a global leader in porter assistance programs since 1996.

Under this agreement, KFK and IMEC have moved into space together in Thamel, Kathmandu and will begin immediately to cooperate on programs for porters. KFK's nursing staff will offering free annual health check-ups and health advice for porters. Both KFK and IMEC will be co-teaching English classes and first aid.

The text chosen for the first aid classes comes from another Mountain Fund Member Agency, IPPG and Treksafe. Jim Duff and Jim Gormly authored this much needed trail-smart first aid guide. Pocket First Aid and Wilderness Medicine is published in Nepali making it an invaluable teaching tool.

KFK and IMEC are seeking donations to purchase enough copies of Pocket First Aid and Wilderness Medicine to ensure each class participant has a copy of their own. If you can help out and purchase a few copies, please e mail us at Mtnfund@mountainfund.org to make arrangements to purchase a copy or two. You may also logon to www.treksafe.com.au and take a look at the book for yourself. It is published in English, Japanese and Nepali. You shouldn't be in the wilderness without it !

Porters work very hard, they are paid very little and often taken advantage of by unscrupulous operators. In many locations around the world, trekking and climbing would not be possible for a great many people without the hard work these people do. If you would like to learn more about the plight of porters please see the following **Mountain Fund Member Agencies** websites

IMEC at www.hec.org

IPPG at www.ippg.net

Porters Progress at www.portersprogress.org

Kilimanjaro Porters Union at www.kilimanjaro-union.com

PS - The picture on the right was taken near Annapurna. That is a real porter at work. The man did not pose for this e-mail.

