



## A Daughter of Nepal Sets a Shining Example

While we are doing our best to mobilise our global sisters and brothers to support Nepal by means of NRN-initiatives, and while the concerned agencies of Nepal are restlessly involved in attempting to promote Nepal all over the world, a very remarkable story of a single person confirms that “where there is a will, there is a way”:

This the a success story of a Buddhist nun, Ani Choying Dolma, born in 1971 in Nepal, who entered the Nagi Gonpa at the age of 13. She was very fortunate to receive her education and spiritual training under the supervision of Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche. She was trained in Buddhist meditation, chants, rituals and ceremonies, and quickly advanced to the position of chant master.

Ani Choying soon decided to use whatever capacity she had to benefit other beings to the greatest extent possible. Her desire was to create more opportunities for nuns of Nepal. For this she founded the Nuns Welfare Foundation in 1998 and opened Arya Tara Nuns School later in 2000, where girls receive a secular and religious education ([www.choying.com](http://www.choying.com)). In order to raise funds for the foundation and the school she began international performances and recordings of traditional Buddhist chants and hymns. By now she has recorded three CDs with Buddhist music. Last year she came out with spiritual songs in Nepali language with her CD “Moments of Bliss”, followed by her new CD “Smile” this year. There is hardly anybody who by now has not heard of “phoolko aankhama phoolai samsar...”, the most popular song of the year in Nepal. She has received a series of national and international awards and been recognised as a great artist worldwide.

It is widely known that Ani Choying sings not to become a pop star (although she already is!) but that she uses her performances to raise funds to support the future of the nuns of Nepal. She is today the most popular Nepali singer in Europe and the USA. Since 1998 she has performed around 400 concerts all over the world. Wherever she performs, audiences stream into the halls. Not only is her voice beautiful, clear and soaring, but her message is also sacred and cannot be misunderstood. With her blissful voice, she has the capacity to command the audience. Her gentle expression and demonstration of love for her

motherland Nepal and her plea to the audiences to visit Nepal are extraordinary and noble.

So her concerts have helped to raise funds to realise her dream, as well as to promote Nepal in the world in such an authentic and natural way, of which promotion agencies can only dream of. She has become a hidden global cultural ambassador of Nepal and source of inspiration to global Nepalis.

*Presented by Mr. Ram Pratap Thapa, who is an executive member of the NRNA International Coordination Council from Germany. ◆*

