

Newsletter
Edition 4
March 2018

LEGO® FOR NEPAL



LEGO® for Nepal, how it all begun.

In September 2017, Linda Ris and Angela Wellink started the initiative of bringing some LEGO Technic parts to Nepal to let Nepali students get acquainted with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and the magic of LEGO®. After the kick-off we noticed the enormous impact on the students and teachers and this inspired us to develop a larger project. And so, the project “LEGO® for Nepal” was born.

With the help, not only from *FIRST*® LEGO® League partners, teams, and coaches but also from *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) and *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) teams, we collected LEGO MINDSTORMS® NXT sets and old challenge mission sets. Due to all the positive responses, we decided to create the Edulent Foundation and joined forces with Volunteer Society Nepal. Together, we have established the kick-off of the project at the CBIA school in Katmandu Nepal. On April 14th the *FIRST* LEGO® League team “Casimir Tech” from Eindhoven, The Netherlands is going to Nepal to share their FLL knowledge and experience. With this great network we will and can inspire the Nepali students to design, build and program their own intelligent robots. This will allow the Nepali students to not only understand technology, but to become masters of it. And therefore, aiding to create a better opportunity for the future.

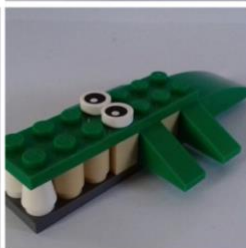
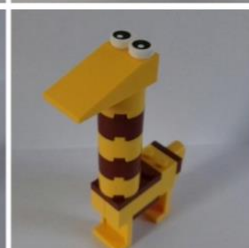
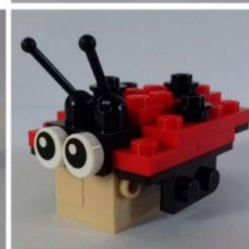
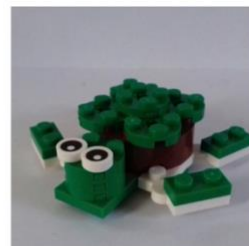


Casimir Tech

Casimir Tech is working very hard on their assignment for the “LEGO® for Nepal” project. They formed project teams, created lessons for their program, and they are fundraising for their trip to Nepal. To make this trip accessible for all team members, the team needs some financial support from sponsors. The rest of the funds are being financed by means of personal contributions and various fundraising activities. An example is the selling of bags made from old *FIRST*® LEGO® League challenge mats and all kind of LEGO animals. These objects are sold at several events.

If you would like to support the team, your donations are more than welcome. Your donation can be deposited to account number: NL10 SNSB 0705 8386 17 Stichting Edulent. Please indicate that it is for “LEGO for Nepal - Casimir Tech”. Information about their trip and what they are going to do can be found on the Edulent Foundation website. ([newsletter 3](#)).

Do you want to share your FLL knowledge and experience? Go to the website of Volunteer Society Nepal: <http://volunteersocietynepal.org/projects/lego-school-exchange/>




LEGO voor Nepal

Supporters LEGO® for Nepal



The HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht

The HU is an ambitious university in dynamic surroundings. As a university of applied sciences, they provide education and conduct research. They train future professionals who are highly in demand in the labor market, and are inextricably tied to the Utrecht region.

The University offers, among others, a Bachelors of Technical Teacher Education program. It is a four-year degree program that educates the students in a deep understanding of the teaching and learning principles and theories needed in teaching technical skills.

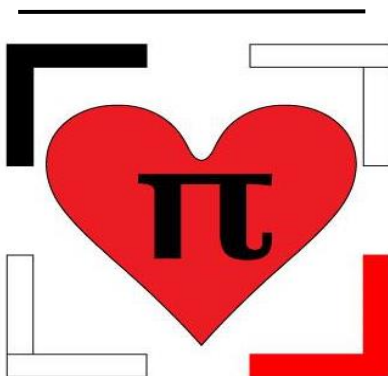
Another program worth mentioning is the Bachelors of Mechanical Engineering. It is also a four-year degree program that centers on the design, manufacturing and maintenance of products, equipment, machines and installations and the control of processes.

The project "LEGO® for Nepal" is also investigating if it is possible to establish a collaboration with the University to set-up an internship at the Volunteer Society schools, so students can teach the Nepali teachers. This will be an amazing, exciting opportunity for both students and teachers!

Specials thanks for the donation!

The HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht department: Mechanical Engineering donated 14 NXT sets to our project. Unfortunately, some of the LCD screens of the LEGO MINDSTORMS® NXT bricks had a small defect which is a known, common problem with the NXT. However, a parent of a team member from the Casimir Tech has succeeded in resolving the issue and now we have all 14 LEGO MINDSTORMS® sets ready for Nepal!





We love Pi

In September 2017 we got a mail from Bhawani Sapkota, native Nepali and FLL/ FTC coach. He lives in San Francisco Bay area USA. A friend of his forwarded a post on “LEGO® for Nepal”. He indicated that he and FTC team “We love π” were very interested in helping out. We Love π are 9 middle and high school kids from Fremont, San Francisco. In February 2018 they attended the The Daly City tournament at Jefferson High School and took home the Connect Award, Finalist Alliance award, 3rd place for Inspire Award, and 3rd place for Motivate Award and went to regionals. During the NorCal regionals they came in as 3rd place for the Motivate award! Furthermore, they support other FLL add FTC teams and are working on community outreach all year round.

Special thanks for the support!

Kathleen (Klimas) Bourn, donated the legacy of her late husband Bill to the “LEGO® for Nepal” project and shipped the package a large package of donations to We love π in San Francisco so they could send it Nepal. The team, however, found out that shipments to Nepal are very expensive (over \$4,000) so they had to find other ways to get the package to Nepal. It turned out that the best and cheapest way, was to ship the package to The Netherlands where volunteers can take it to Nepal in their luggage. A friend of “LEGO® for Nepal” Henk van de Wal from FRC team Impossible Robotics learnt that “Force Fusion”, an International FRC team, based in Eindhoven, would be traveling to San Diego this month to attend the Ventura and Aerospace FRC Regionals. Karen Mahoney from San Francisco and Head Referee at this event was asked to take the package from We Love π to hand it over to Force Fusion during the regionals, so they could take it with them to The Netherlands. And so, *FIRST* Teams, coaches and even referees are working with us to get the LEGO to Nepal. We would like to thank Henk, Karen, We Love π, and Force Fusion for their help!



Special thanks you to our individual sponsors

We like to sincerely thank you all our generous sponsor for having such a caring and giving heart because, without their financial support for this project, it would not be possible to give the Nepali children this tremendous opportunity. Together we can make a difference in our community and in the world!



As already stated in former newsletters, FIRST is a non-profit organization which aim is, by using mentor-based programs, to teach science, engineering and technology skills and to inspire, interest and innovate within the next generations of youngsters. They organize four different competitions – Jr. FLL (Junior First Lego League), FLL (First Lego League), FTC (First Tech Challenge) and FRC (First Robotics Competition). FLL and FTC are common in Europe and, therefore, popular in the Netherlands.



Force Fusion

Force Fusion is the connection between San Francisco and The Netherlands. Force Fusion is a young rookie team which was formed in 2017 and is currently stationed in the Netherlands. They consist of students - both Dutch and international, from a University and a local High School in the area of Eindhoven. 2018 is their first year in the competition.

The FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is the highest level of the four competitions and it is almost fully based in The United States. There are around 4500 teams participating worldwide, 10 of which are based in Europe. At the beginning of the year (first weekend of January) FIRST reveals the game for this season. From that point on, every team has 6 weeks to build and design a robot from scratch plus prepare to compete in one of the regionals. This is a small-scale competition between different FRC teams where an alliance of 3 teams can qualify for the world finals. Different events like it happen all around the United States and a few other countries such as Australia, Israel and China. Force Fusion is registered for the San Diego Regional this month. If they qualify for the world championships in Detroit they have to go back to America to compete against the top teams. Up until now, however, the competition is still mainly stationed in America, which makes it very hard for non-US international teams to join.

Gracious Professionalism is part of the ethos of *FIRST*. It's a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. Demonstrating community outreach is there for a very important aspect in several Awards during the competition. We thank Force Fusion for your help. As a result of your efforts, we now can go on with our mission to inspire students in Nepal to learn more about science and technology.



Contact

Angela Wellink, Managing Director
Edulent Foundation
Linda Ris, Partnership
and Social Media Manager
Volunteer Society Nepal

stichtingedulent@gmail.com
Stichtingedulent.wordpress.com
linda_ris@yahoo.com
volunteersocietynepal.org

