

TOTEM Trainer's perspective



Two trainers of the TOTEM training course, Miguel Angel Garcia from Spain and Roy About Habib from Lebanon, give us their impression of the Second TOTEM Seminar, which took place in El Minya, Upper Egypt, in November 2005.



Roy About Habib

"After a long trip THAT LASTED 8 months, the five Indians were very happy to meet again in Egypt, El Minia to work on the building of their second TOTEM Training."

"This time, there was a new situation and it is the participation of the wise man (chief of the tribe) during the whole construction. Each Indian has his own Character and his own way of doing and the five Indians plus the chief were working so hard, spending lots of time trying to find the best shape of the TOTEM; sometimes it was easy, sometimes it was harder. Each Indian lived this experience differently. As a Junior Indian, I went through many levels: sometimes I was confused, sometimes I was happy, there were moments of anger, stress and also frustration, other moments where full of joy and fun. All Indians, along with the chief, were working for the sake of the TOTEM Training. When the final product was accomplished, some of them were happy, some not. Personally, I am satisfied and I think that this experience was helpful for the future TOTEM construction in Poland."

Miguel Angel Garcia

"The TOTEM 2nd Seminar lead me further... My trip to El Minya could be a metaphor of the phases and feelings I got during the Seminar. Train - regular speed and stability: reconnecting the community, introduction, ... Plane: looking at things from above, with a certain perspective: Evaluation of the previous phase, EuroMed today, Socio political developments in Egypt... Four hours in the middle of the night waiting alone in the platform of the train station: "discomfort", discovery and challenges: immersion, gender, conflict, religion, participants workshops... And taking the train again to look ahead: follow-up, evaluation and introduction of the next phase."

"The difference between a tourist and a traveler, among other things, is that the traveler does not plan the way back home. It is probably the same in terms of learning: a certain risk, challenge and adventure is needed. Back home I am somehow somewhere else and certainly richer."

