

2011 March 3

Well... we're here. The changes in just two years are all too obvious. Water is still in short supply. The 'load shedding' (i.e. they tell you when you **won't** have electric power rather than when you will) schedule is now off for 16 hours and on for 3 +5 hours per day. Running a hotel or business on generators is increasingly expensive by the day as fuel costs go up. We've seen tailors working by the light of a tiny candle. You do wonder about product quality at that point.

The posters everywhere announce

- tourism brings employment
- employment brings prosperity
- Prosperity brings peace.

I hope to see more tourists soon.

Our trip went smoothly with snatches of sleep. 5 hours in Doha airport in the middle of the night is exciting. The only thing the two of us could have done would have been to shop for Gucci or gold. Neither of us was really interested. So far Nancy Ghazar has joined Danielle and me, and Dr Bhaby (a Filipino Ob/Gyne working here in Nepal, so we did some sightseeing yesterday in between sorting out paperwork and supplies for the project. the rest of the team arrives tomorrow.

I confess I'm edgy this time. Alfred Aguilar, the Filipino head OR nurse who usually is the major organizer, problem-solver and go-to person isn't going to be here and I'm missing my security blanket big time!

Do keep us in your thoughts!

Alison