

simonsen®



Dynasty Update 2015

Dear family, dear colleagues, dear friends!

Amazingly, it is now already time again for Klaus and I to get inspired for the annual preparation of the Dynasty Update, our recollection of events, milestones and topics of the past year, now 2015, which is approaching the end.

And what a year it has been. Nobody foresaw or predicted a more or less collapse of the LME prices, at time of writing even lower than during the financial crisis in 2008/2009.

An abrupt halt of the growth and activity in China and devaluation of the Chinese currency. And as a consequence the casualties are now apparent. Closure of smelters and pot-lines at a level also not seen previously and no doubt more to come.

And when smelters are closing and facing difficulties, so will the entire food chain, and repercussions will be seen at the supplier side also, which we represent.

So much for analysts and experts. Such a catastrophic development for a global industry and a metal, which is the cornerstone in all our normal lives and nobody was able to see this coming.

But the Dynasty Update is an annual way to express our relationship towards this industry being the only one with which we as a company are dealing. Approaching our 32 years of existence I want to use the wise words of our founder, my late father Jorgen Simonsen:

"Do not worry too much, it will all be fine and work out in the long run".

The below sentence is the essence of our company and philosophy:

Stay positive, always do your best and go beyond what is expected of you.

That is what we at *simonsen* always strive to and what all our partners, suppliers and customers have come to expect. So in face of adversity stay positive, aluminium is the metal also for the future.

Now is the time of the year to stay with your families and enjoy the festive season. We thank you for all your support and friendship and look forward to the challenges of the future.

If you don't believe animals can be funny, have a look around in Dynasty Update and see for yourself!

Happy reading, hope you will enjoy!



Morten Simonsen
Managing Director

Christmas Card - Resting sledge dogs



The Cover



With the time of the year in mind the annual photos for the envelope and Christmas card are from Greenland. As always taken from the wealth of pictures in our library by our father Jorgen. At least in Greenland they enjoy below average temperatures and a real winter feeling!

The cover is equally winter but from our beautiful Limfjord surrounding our island Mors.

The birds are the national bird of Denmark, the graceful swan.

Envelope 2015



Our family

Sara is still very much into animals even if she has realised that unfortunately it will be more than difficult to get a job in a zoo. However, she decided to go back to school in order to get an education enabling her to work in stores which are dealing with various items for animals and especially items for horses. During the past 6 months she has been working as a trainee in a chain of shops specialising in just that. She is still living next door to Klaus and Sanne and has limited her own "private zoo" down to one dog and one cat. She is always 100% committed to work with animals anyway possible.

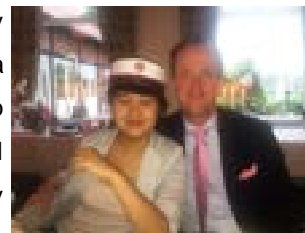
Frederik is now on his 3rd year at the university in Aalborg and still studying geography and geology. He is still enjoying his life but is considering moving to the larger university in Aarhus after this year. Firstly to get more possibilities for specialising but also as most of his friends are studying in Aarhus. He still gets together with the family on most weekends involving F1-races, as this is still of great interest to them. During his high-school period he was part of a group forming the first local American football team. Even though not playing since then, he still enjoys watching the National Football League games (NFL) shown on TV on Sunday evenings together with Klaus. On the diving side they had the possibility to do this together in Borneo this year. (Diving is always better when the water is +25°C!)

Nikolaj is now fully on the way studying for a higher diploma degree in commerce. He is doing very well even though he is not quite sure what he would like to do when finishing his studies in a little more than 18 months. However, the family firmly believes that it will be something involving cars in one way or another. In his spare time he is still studying at the local music school playing drums and keyboard. These skills he is also using when playing in a local band. Beside this he is still playing badminton and on a weekly basis he has joined Klaus playing soccer locally. Nikolaj of course also joined Klaus and Frederik on their mutual diving experience in Borneo.



*Family visit at Thula-Thula: **Sanne** and **Klaus** together with **Frederik**, **Sara**, **Nikolaj** and **Tove***

Laura finalised her upper secondary education this summer. It was a very special and wonderful day. After 12 years of constant schooling Laura decided to take a sabbatical year with focus on body and mind, and to meet new young people. After a holiday in Japan she was so fascinated by the country that she chose the International Japanese sports academy Bosei in Sjælland (Sealand), Denmark and she has daily lessons in Japanese culture and history as well as martial arts (including Goyu Ryo karate), so she will be a very fit grown-up woman, who can defend herself.



Morten and Laura

Laura will probably spend another semester at the school, however during this period as a youth teacher for new students. Hereafter she plans to start university in September to study international relations.

Olivia is at her second year at the local gymnasium in the theatre and music line learning how to perform and prepare shows as well as attending ordinary lessons, so she is busy. At the same time she has moved to campus, luckily only 5 minutes away from home. Having to buy groceries and cook dinner herself makes her highly appreciate coming home and have good home cooked meals. Olivia is a very independent and mature young woman and she really enjoys life in campus.



She is still working as an office girl in the company a couple of afternoons each week, since she needs to make money, as living alone is costly, as she has realised!

So all in all a big change was made to our lives as both girls, Laura and Olivia, decided to leave home exactly at the same time. Not so easy to realise but we thoroughly enjoy the girls for being independent and living and exploring life and all the fantastic opportunities lying ahead for two bright young girls.

***Olivia, Marianna and Laura** enjoying Tokyo*

Sally, the grand old labrador, now almost 13 years old, is doing relatively well despite her age. Unfortunately, she is no longer joined by her best friend for life - Morten and Marianna's Monik - that passed away this spring, 15 years old and tired after a long, full speed and very charismatic life, to say the least.

Sally was lonesome for a while but now as being NUMBER ONE and center of attention, she takes full advantage hereof and rightfully so!



Our STAFF

As per October 1st **Michael Wang** (Zhi Yong Wang) was employed as an all-round office assistant. Before that he went through a 3 months period of Danish language training in our company. Michael has previously studied English at Dalian University of Foreign Languages in China.

Welcome to Michael!



"Hello everyone! My name is Zhiyong Wang, you can call me Michael. I am 36 years old and come from Fushun China, which is 7,500 kilometers away from Nykøbing Mors. Why am I here? Because my ex-wife is Danish, we have two lovely children and all of us are happily living on this island. I joined simonsen in October 2015 and started as an office assistant. Working with a group of professional, friendly, helpful and beautiful colleagues makes me learn a lot. I have also started my Chinese lesson in the office, Maria is my first student and she is doing well. I enjoy cooking, drawing and playing football and basketball."

"大家好，我叫王智勇，英文名字叫迈克尔，我来自中国-抚顺，这个城市离这有稍微有点远，7500 公里之外。为什么我会在这里？是因为我的前妻是丹麦人，她来自尼克宾，莫斯。我们有两个可爱的孩子，大家都高兴的生活在这个小岛上。我荣幸的在2015年10月份正式加入了西门森公司，任职办公室助理，和一群专业知识和美貌并存的同事们在一起工作。我从他们身上学会很多，我也在公司里开始我的中文课程，玛丽娅是我第一个学生，他很聪明，一切都进行的很顺利。我喜欢烹饪，运动和绘画，它们是我放松的方式。"

Approvals

In November we had the usual 3-year ISO re-certification and we are very proud to say that no deviations were found nor were any remarks given. Likewise, we are also pleased again this year to receive a AAA Silver Diploma from Bisnode D&B (Dun & Bradstreet) as a proof of our high creditworthiness.



Celebrating 25 + 10 years



Connie

Also in 2015 we celebrated double jubilarians in our company and this year it was somewhat special, as we were proud to celebrate our 25-year jubilarian: HR Manager **Marianna Simonsen** on January 2nd as well as 10-year jubilarian Shipping Assistant **Connie H. Møller** on February 14th.



Marianna



*Back then:
Marianna standing
number three from
the right*

Last year Marianna completed and passed her coach training specialising in Business Coaching and Life Coaching and this year she passed at a higher level and received her Master Coach diploma.



News from Shanghai

"Hello again our friends in the industry!"

Firstly as promised at the same time of last year, I would report you that this year we have upgraded our SIM-G graphitized cathode blocks to SIM-Gd, meaning that we have achieved densified bottom blocks by modifying the process and process control in our plant QXC. Thanks to the industry friends, we start to receive more orders on our new quality. On the other hand, our sidewall blocks manufacturing continue practicing well. Our plant in Shanxi today produces steady quality of full range of carbon sidewall blocks. We had over 10 batches of inspections to the finished products and made our own SPC report, those will be available soon upon your request. Again we received nice orders by our industry friends. Thank you!



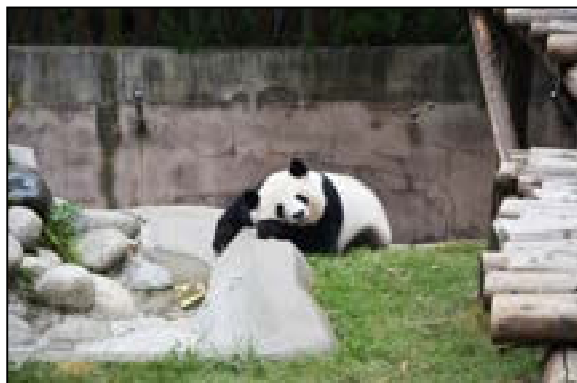
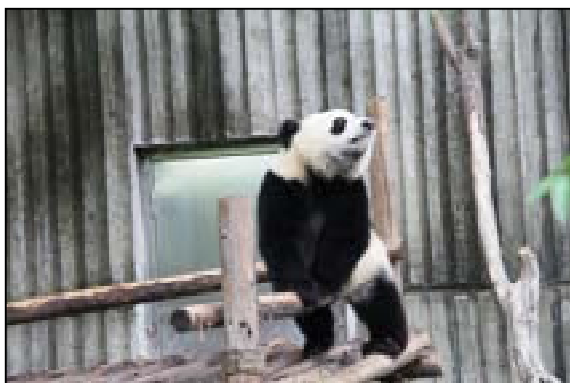
But the industry was not performing well in the previous year, so were in China, too much overcapacity, productivity and low metal price. Quite a lot of smelters were cut off. What to do?! Trust this turbulence still brings opportunities to the player, who keeps improvement, not only to the jumbo metal maker but also the small fish, like us.

At the end, may this short letter bring you happiness, healthiness and peacefulness. Wishing you a beautiful New Year and see you in 2016!

Ruanbo from Shanghai"

SICA News

We are happy to inform that SICA is doing very well indeed at the Chengdu Panda Base, as you will see from the letter just received in November! Please also enjoy some of the recent photos sent to us:



"Dear Mr. Morten Simonsen

How time flies, it is almost end of year 2015; I hope everything is fine with you and thanks for your continuing sponsor of SICA.

Now, I am going to tell you of your baby SICA. She is living in sunshine nursery house and doing well. She weighs 105 KG. She does have good appetite as normal. Her daily menu contains 30-40 kg fresh bamboo, (some times fresh bamboo shoots), one portion of apples and one portion of panda biscuit. She is enjoying everyday here.

The year 2015, which is significant for SICA, she gave the birth of twins and these twins are so lovely and healthy. According to her keepers, this mating season (in February) she has the sign of fall in love, so our professors manage the marriage for her as well as successful of pregnant. At 2 August, she gave the birth of twins, two boys. One birth weights 174.1 g; another is 180.4 g, two boys so lovely and strong. You know, these two boys become the shine star in our panda base as well as receive the love from all over the world, so our panda base was holding the Name Collection Campaign and the final name will be known at this coming Chinese New year. So let's forward together. This year is also the significant for our panda base, besides SICA, there still have 6 more twins to be born; it is called twins year of panda base. These pictures were shot this morning; SICA is enjoying the peaceful and ease morning. Hope you like it.

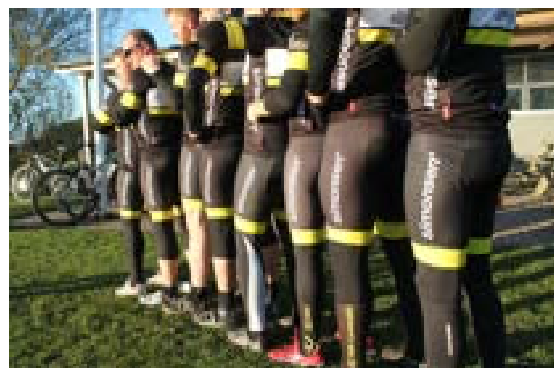
Best regards

Jingjing"

The names of these two beautiful baby boys have not been decided yet. The unanimous votes here are the names Morten and Klaus. Let's see if the panda base accepts this...!



On a different level we are also sponsoring the local mountain bikers including Susanne from our shipping department - (4th leg from the right!)



Visits in Nykøbing



In September **Allan Højdorf** from our supplier of various castables, Calderys, visited us here at our premises and we had a constructive meeting.

Allan Højdorf, Klaus and Susanne



*To the left:
Klaus and Morten in front of the simonsen office
together with Ruanbo and his wife Qi Xiaoli*

Also in September our long-term business partner **Ruanbo** came to visit and this time he brought his wife for her first trip to Denmark.

In the evening we all had dinner together with our staff at a local inn, Gullerup Strand Kro, which is particularly known for their speciality dish: fried eel.

Evening view from the inn



Meeting Danske Bank

On a glorious first summer day we had our regular meeting with our Danish bankers, Danske Bank. This is an event we have every 6 month, where we mix general discussions with enjoying good company and good food.

This mid year event is always on our premises and we enjoyed a great lunch with our friend *Jens Peter Skov* at Sallingsund Færgekro.



Our financial manager **Lisbeth, Jakob Thingvad Nikolajsen, Allan Aagaard** (both Danske Bank) and **Jens Peter Skov**

Many of you will know the inn and Jens Peter, as all our guests are always staying there enjoying the entertainment from JP.

Please as many of you come and visit soon again!



GAD 2015

We were pleased to be joined by several of our partners and suppliers for the annual Gulf Aluminium Dinner GAD at this year's venue: Doha in Qatar and we are delighted to be associated with GAD as key partner and sponsor.

The dinner provides an excellent opportunity for us and our exclusive partners to show our dedication to the industry in the Middle East and to meet key persons from the industry.

It is always a very good dinner and evening followed by interesting excursions the following day.

We look forward to the next GAD in Dubai in 2016.



From left: **Klaus, Rüdiger Pfaar, Helge Jansen** (Refratechnik) and **Uwe Balshüsemann** (Techno-Physik)



Morten together with **Adele Carolissen**, the event organizer from Gulf Aluminium Council

Updated Product Information

Carbon Cathode Blocks



During the past years we have had a very good cooperation with QXC (SPIC Qingxin Carbon Co. Ltd) in China. Based on our cooperation and the feed-back from the market we have - based on our original



cathode block - developed a densified cathode carbon block named SIM-Gd. This new and updated quality is already now being introduced to various smelters around the world.

Carbon Sidewall Blocks



Over the last years we have indirectly been working with Shanxi Jinyang Carbon Co. Ltd through our supplier of SIC materials (LIRR) on the supply of our SICACOM blocks (SIC + C). However, within the last year we have made a more formalised cooperation with Shanxi Jinyang in order to try to develop the market for carbon sidewalls. This has now resulted in the fact that we have developed a full-range of carbon sidewall blocks, i.e. blocks with a graphite content from 15% up to fully graphitized sidewalls.

The newest edition to our range of sidewalls is a block with a graphite content of 10% enabling us to keep the thermal conductivity at a very low level. However, within a short period of time you will receive a more official introduction to our wide range of sidewall blocks.

Refractory Blocks

Approx. 20 years ago we introduced our quality of refractory bricks ALUBAR 1100 from Burton (today Refratechnik) into the aluminium market. The first years we mainly produced and supplied our material in standard sizes. However, gradually we learned that as installation and especially installation time became a greater issue with the smelters, we had to develop fully automated production capacity for larger - and thicker - sizes of material. That was the time we developed the size 500 x 500 mm and introduced thicknesses of material up to 152 mm.



250 x 250 mm

500 x 500 mm

750 x 500 mm

Based on the fact that installation time is still becoming a more important factor for the aluminium industry, we have with our supplier of the ALUBAR 1100 material now developed an even larger refractory block. We are today capable of supplying blocks measuring 750 x 500 mm in standard thicknesses of 64 and 76 mm. It is even possible to have blocks glued together enabling an even quicker installation. Due to size and weight of material, installation will have to be performed with lifting equipment equal to our OCTOPUS.

News from simonsen shipping department

This autumn we got a new male colleague: office assistant Michael Wang from China contributing to us being even more international in future. Michael will mainly assist Maria with the Chinese suppliers. We have a mutual agreement that we will do our best to teach Michael Danish and he will introduce Chinese to Maria.

The shipping department is the "epic centre" with simonsen. We are a team of experienced employees, who daily have a wide contact surface. We constantly try to develop and improve ourselves. This year we have participated in "public speaking" and team coaching among other things.

During 2015 it has been exciting to follow the freight situation globally, as the rates from Asia to Northern Europe have been unusual. This summer these rates were totally forced down. The shipping lines have struggled to fill their vessels and in the middle of June, the spot index (SCFI) from Shanghai to Northern Europe hit the lowest rate ever. The many new giant vessels put pressure on the market and can have large consequences for the container shipping lines in future.

We look forward to the future co-operation with customers, suppliers and forwarding agents and hope that you will give us a lot of exciting challenges in 2016!

Greetings from Michael, Nora (replacing Ulla during her maternity leave), Maria, Hanne, Susanne and Connie.



Hydro Technical Meeting

During May this year we were once again invited by Hydro Aluminium for a technical meeting in Høyanger. We were invited together with Refratechnik, our supplier of the alubar 1100 bricks.

We had a great evening at the Hydro guesthouse and some very interesting discussions took place during the meeting next day.



*In front: **Morten, Eirik Hagen, Marvin Bugge, Stanislaw Jarek, Guilherme Mota and Rune Breidvik***



Even during the month of May driving in Norway can still be cold and snowy, as you can see.

Floating Aluminium Bridge vs. Electric Ferry

Approx. 5 years ago the Norwegian Public Roads Administration decided to investigate how to improve the connection between Kristiansand in the South with Trondheim in the west. This should be done by a fixed-link as an alternative to the present seven remaining ferry crossing the “Sognefjord”. The main problem is of course that “Sognefjord” is probably the largest fjord in the world with a length of 205 km, 3,700 meters across and no less than 1,300 m deep.



After the first feasibility study on the project, the people involved came up with the idea of a floating aluminium bridge with a submerged floating tube in the middle. This would enable trucks and cars to cross the span and at the same time allowing ferries to go in and out of the fjord.



There are of course a lot of safety issues that has to be addressed, such as what would happen if a vessel missed the opening but this is presently being discussed. However, as the technology is well proven from the off-shore industry (for which Norway is world famous), there is a lot of confidence in this project from all sides.



An alternative to the aluminium bridge crossing the “Sognefjord” is the possibility for using battery powered ferries. During the technical meeting with Hydro in May, Morten and Klaus (on their way to Høyanger) had the pleasure of being transported across “Sognefjord” on the worlds very first 100% fully battery driven car ferry from Oppedal to Lavik and this was

quite an experience. The ferry carries a max. of 120 cars and 360 passengers. The ferry is of course completely silent and on each side of the fjord - upon arrival at port - it will automatically be “plugged-in” to the electric power supply. On the ferry they did inform that in case something drastic should happen, the ferry has a small diesel engine installed.

English is a funny language

An oxymoron is usually defined as a phrase in which two words of contradictory meaning are brought together:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Clearly misunderstood | 6) Act naturally |
| 2) Exact estimate | 7) Found missing |
| 3) Small crowd | 8) Fully empty |
| 4) Pretty ugly | 9) Seriously funny |
| 5) Only choice | 10) Original copies |

and the mother of all: Happily married

Simonsen / LIRR 1996 / 2016

2016 will be a very special year as LIRR/Simonsen will be celebrating 20 years of cooperation and friendship. A unique relationship between two strong partners being the world leaders in production and supply of SIC sidewall quantities, our

SICATEC-75

SICATEC-95

SICABOND

The celebration will take place both in Denmark and in China and, we hope, together with our partners from the aluminium industry with special invitations for the event.

At the same time we will also inaugurate the opening of the new LIRR production plant in Northern China in Yinchuan in the Ningxia Province.

The new plant will be a very vital part of the LIRR production, as this plant, based on LIRR technology from Luoyang, will be next to the main raw material and is in the constant efforts to be a strong partner and to produce this highest benchmark quality as effectively as possible.

We look forward to welcoming as many of our friends as possible and more details will follow in the first months of 2016.



Tomago Aluminium Company

We were honoured also in 2015 to be invited to the annual TOMAGO SUPPLIER AWARD dinner and evening and Morten was delighted again to be participating in this very special event.

2015 marks the 10th anniversary of the TAC supplier awards and what an achievement. This event is truly unique:

Tomago invited local as well as international suppliers for an evening of recognition of the relationship the past year. In every tier (category) suppliers are nominated and rated and finally a winner is awarded.

Selection from a rigid point system where all parties from TAC have to nominate during the year, being from all areas of the smelter.

This award is very important for all suppliers. It is the only smelter and group globally which constantly recognises the value of a strong cooperation between supplier and TAC.

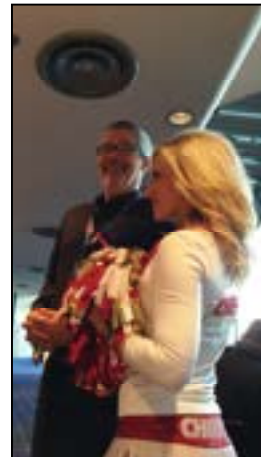
We have been nominated, been finalists but not yet winners. And even if the spirit of the Olympics is not winning but participating, we will still again in 2016 strive hard to be not only nominated but also the winner!

Deep respect for TAC to organise and invest in this event even in a year of difficulties, we are proud to be part of this!

NFL at Wembley

During early 2015 Klaus managed to get hold of 4 tickets to a regular game at Wembley, London between the American National Football League teams Kansas Chiefs and Detroit Lions.

On November 1st Frederik, a good friend of him, Klaus and Nikolaj went to see this game at Wembley together with +86,000 other people.



This was an absolute fantastic experience maintained in a truly American spirit and as you will notice, Klaus did also have a good time with some cheerleaders.

Visit to Panama

Morten had the very first visit to Panama in March to meet with our close friend and representative for Venezuela, **Mr. Guillermo Garcia**.



It was a very interesting visit and naturally included a tour to the famous Panama canal. It is an impressive facility to say the least.

The fact that the locks are made of wood and that NO machine or electrical power is used for the operation, purely water, is indeed fascinating.

Canal no. 2 is under construction. It will be completely modern but working from the same principles.

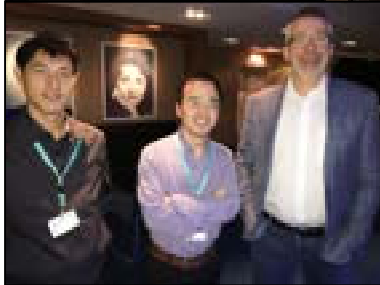


Panama is a great, peaceful and safe country and more visits are to be expected.

ALILAB



In November Sintef and ALILAB celebrated 30 years anniversary and also together with Tekna organised the Norwegian seminar: *Ildfaste materialer i aluminiumsindustrien* (refractories within the aluminium industry).



Wu Jiguang, Huang Zhigang and Klaus



We enjoyed being a part of the special Norwegian atmosphere and were delighted to have our friends from LIRR - Mr. Huang Zhigang and Mr. Wu Jiguang - make a presentation on new developments of the SIC brick production.

As always a special close event of which we are happy to be sponsors and partners, as we have been since the very first conference.

This year the event was held in Haugesund and old friends also took part and above you see **Christian Schøning** (Sintef), **Alf Harry Bådsvik** (former Hydro) and **Ole-Jacob Siljan** (Yara).



Visiting Trimet:

Till Reek, Marco Bettger, Klaus, Huang Zhigang and Wu Jiguang

After having participated in the ALILAB seminar Klaus and our two friends from China went to visit Trimet in Essen in order to meet and discuss on various products supplied. As usual we received a very kind reception by all TRIMET people involved.

Finally, they all ended the tour here at our premises in Nykøbing, where they also had discussions and met with some of our staff. Also a fine opportunity for Michael to "brush up" on his Chinese!



Maria, Huang Zhigang, Wu Jiguang, Michael, Susanne, Birthe, Annalise, Hanne and Connie

Funny Danish Expressions - and how to use them

A guidance of how to use and understand some of the strange sayings in Denmark...:

- ⇒ **Tak for kaffe** - "thanks for the coffee" can also mean "Oh, my god".
- ⇒ **Spis lige brød til** - "eat some bread" in fact means that you need a time-out to calm down.
- ⇒ **Hyppe kartofler** is the Danish saying for "earth-up potatoes" meaning that someone is pushing their own agenda.
- ⇒ **Op på lakridserne** - "up on the liquorice" means that you are busy and full of energy.
- ⇒ **Hænge med røven i vandskorpen** - to have your "bum in the surface of the water" means you are stuck in a tight corner.
- ⇒ **Det blæser en halv pelikan** - "blowing half a pelican" - then we are talking about a very windy day.
- ⇒ To get things moving in the right direction you just need to **få hul på bylden** - "lance the boil".
- ⇒ When things are going well without problems, there is **ingen ko på isen** - "no cow on the ice".
- ⇒ **Håret/skægget i postkassen** - if you find yourself with "hair/beard in the mailbox" then you have a tricky problem or you are about to be found out. Both could maybe be avoided if only you had "stuck your finger in the soil" - **stikke en finger i jorden** - to get the measure of the situation before you took action!

Jorgen Simonsen



The Jorgen Simonsen Foundation was officially introduced during 2014 and is now up and running. At present the foundation is supporting mountain gorillas, giant pandas, orangutans, polar bears, tigers, wolves etc. However, due to the severe poaching of rhinos and elephants, the foundation has decided to go more into the support of these animals.



As of today rhinos and elephants are being poached and killed at a rate of approx. 2 to 4 species of each animal per day. In South Africa it has been calculated that if the killing continues at this rate, it will not be possible to find neither species as wild animals by the year 2020.



As a result of this, more and more game reserves in SA are developing their own orphanages in order to try to protect the babies which are left alone after their mothers have been poached. In the game reserve Thula-Thula - run and owned by Francoise Dalby, wife of the late Lawrence Anthony (The Elephant Whisperer) - they have started their own rhino orphanage. As this is rather costly, and as most of this work will be done by volunteers and paid for by donations and sponsors, the foundation has decided to support this orphanage financially during the next years.

This will involve both the build-up of the facility and the already planned expansion.



Foundation



The orphanage is housing 3 rhinos at the age of 3, 6 and 10 months old. All of them have arrived from various game reserves to the Thula-Thula orphanage after the mothers were poached and killed. The plan is to keep the rhinos in the orphanage until they reach the age of 3 years after which the plan is to return the animals back to their origin for living as wild animals. During the stay at the orphanage the rhinos will be raised without any human contact except for the keepers taking care of the animals.

At present Thula-Thula has two full grown rhinos of their own in the game reserve. Due to the heavy poaching it has been necessary for them to employ guards to follow the rhinos around the reserve 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Even though these guards are fully armed, one of the rhinos has already taken a shot in the foot from a poacher.



See you next time!



Through the website of the "Jorgen Simonsen Foundation" it will be possible to enter the website of Thula-Thula and thereby you will also be able to follow both the development of the orphanage and the development of each single animal.

Simonsen Walk Challenge

Over a 30 days span in March/April the ladies in our office were equipped with pedometers and they all took part in an internal competition. In total they covered 1.816 kilometres corresponding to 2.793.567 steps.

Top 3 list: Sanne, Marianna and Nora - well done!

Workshop



From left: **Rikke Bach, Birthe, Maria, Hanne, Nora, Susanne, Annalise, Connie and Lisbeth**

In September our staff participated in a 4-hour workshop conducted by Team Coach Rikke Bach and centring around the *simonsen* values. A day of inspiration.

Ladywalk 2015



From left: **Maria, Susanne, Annalise, Birthe, Christina, Nora and Lisbeth**

For the 8th time some of the ladies in the office participated in the annual Ladywalk held in different cities all around Denmark. Totally 42.513 ladies were walking. This year the weather was very bad in Agger, where they participated. Cold, rainy and with a strong wind but still high spirits as you can see.

Greetings from the ladies in the office:



European Golf Tour

In August Denmark was for the very first time the host of the European Golf Tour, after many attempts to attract the golf elite and tour to make a "swing" around Denmark. The golf club - Himmerland Golf & Country Club - was the venue and is only one hour drive from our offices.

It was a successful tournament with record visitors, great weather (not given....) and very happy professionals praising the organisation and venue. As this is part of the Northern Denmark, the course is almost like a links course, very open and long, so generally a challenge to say the least.

Our Crown Prince Frederik played the pro-am teamed up with our most famous Danish player, Thomas Bjørn. The tournament will be played for the next 3 years as a minimum.



Mammal Rediscovered

You could call this one of the world's longest game of hide and seek!

For more than 20 years, the Ili pika, a type of tiny mountain-dwelling mammal with a teddy bear face had eluded scientists in the Tianshan mountains of north-western China. People have seen only 29 live individuals of the Ili pika, since it was discovered by accident in 1983 and pronounced a new species. Little is therefore known about the ecology and behaviour of the up to 250 gr. and 20 centimetre long animal.

But last summer a curious pika emerged from a gap in the cliff face and a group of scientists having set up camera traps snapped a few photos.



Due to among other things air pollution the Ili pika living at high elevations on grasses and herbs is considered an endangered species and hopefully this rediscovery may result in conservation areas being created.

Who could turn down a face like that?

Oh no, they found me!

Visit to the land of the rising sun

For a long time Morten have had the plan to make a family visit to Japan to visit our lifelong friends and associates: Mr. Koichiro Mashio-san and Mr. Kensuke Fujinami-san and their families.



Marianna in Tokyo

This visit was made in April over the Easter holiday and in time for the blossoming of the famous cherry trees and it was indeed a beautiful sight.

We spent time with all families and privately and it was a great, memorable visit!

Our relation and friendship with the two gentlemen goes back many years. Most of you will know Mr. Mashio, retired specialist for the aluminium industry, used to work for Mitsubishi. As he describes his position today: backseat driver!



Mashio is very much involved with smelters worldwide as a private consultant and naturally also associated with our company.

Mr. Fujinami is not involved in the aluminium industry but within ships and shipbuilding. He has his own private company, LGE Japan, very much in the same matter as ours, based on family and with family and sons/daughters working together. We are proud to be a shareholder in his fine company.

Both Mashio and Kensuke were close friends of Jorgen and as you can see from the photo this goes many years back.



Jorgen flanked by Kensuke and Mashio

Danish Island Weddings

If any of our readers are contemplating getting married (or re-married...) it could be suggested to visit yet another small island, Ærø (Aeroe) that has specialised in fairytale weddings especially for international couples.



Almost 2500 foreign couples a year are getting married in Ærø and the number is growing. Very special is the old, beautiful and historic town of Ærøskøbing (Aeroeskoebing), as you can see.

The first Dane in Space

It was an exciting early Wednesday morning September 2nd when a big part of the Danish population watched the very first Danish astronaut take off into space to the International Space Station.

ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Andreas Mogensen took off from the plains of Kazakhstan in a Russian Soyuz module and completed a successful 9 days journey and stay at the International Space Station before returning safely to mother earth again.



A big event for Denmark but not quite as "breaking news" in Russia, where the launch of manned modules with international crews is an almost monthly affair, so this was all business as usual.

An English professor wrote the words:

"A woman without her man is nothing"
on the chalkboard and asked his students to punctuate it correctly.

All of the males in the class wrote:
"A woman, without her man, is nothing".

All the females in the class wrote:
"A woman: without her, man is nothing".

Punctuation is powerful.



National Cultural Event

Enjoy these mood photos from Nykøbing where the cultural event is held every year in August. This event is getting bigger every year with a lot of debates on various subjects, music and art and even goes on right outside our offices, as you can see.



*It ought to be plain how little you gain
by getting excited and vexed.
You'll always be late for the previous train
and always in time for the next.*

- a Piet Hein grook



Finally, we wish you and your families a happy Christmas and a prosperous 2016.

Warmest regards,
Morten

Klaus

