



*Improving the quality of life of the people of Bhutan*

**2008 Highlights**

## **Democracy, Monarchy and Coronation**

### **Honorary Patron**

Her Majesty the Royal Grandmother  
Ashi Kesang Choeden Wangchuck

### **Co-Chair Persons**

Her Majesty the Queen Mother  
Ashi Tshering Pem Wangchuck  
Hon. Frank G. Wisner

### **President**

Dr. Bruce Bunting

### **Vice President**

Mrs. Lisina Hoch

### **Secretary**

Mr. Michael Mars

### **Treasurer**

Mr. Brian Menkes

### **Members**

Mrs. Lucy Goelet,  
Mr. Marcos De Moraes,  
Mrs. Joy Greenway  
Mrs. Gina Lin Chu  
Mr. Edward Pope  
Hon. Timothy E. Wirth  
Ambassador Lhatu Wangchuk  
Mr. Sangay Rinchen

On 26<sup>th</sup> March 2008 the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa won the country's first National Assembly elections with a landslide victory securing 45 out of the 47 seats in the National Assembly. The People's Democratic Party with two seats was declared as the opposition party. The Chief Election Commissioner Dasho Kunzang Wangdi said that more than 79 percent of the voters turned up to take part in the country's first National Assembly election. He attributed the success of the parliamentary election to the voters who turned out in large numbers to vote, the hard work of election officials, security personnel, presiding and polling officers. 52 National Observers and 42 International Observers attended the Elections. Additionally 124 media personnel from 71 international broadcast and print media agencies covered the elections.

The first session of Parliament opened on May 8<sup>th</sup> with His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck delivering a very emotional speech in which he stated "*I hereby return to our People the powers that had been vested in our kings by our forefathers one hundred years ago*".

His Majesty the King, elected representatives of the 47 constituencies and members of the National Council signed the Constitution on July 19<sup>th</sup>, validation of all laws was an important step in the evolution of Bhutanese polity.

To complete this year of transition, His Majesty, was formally coronated as the 5<sup>th</sup> Druk Gyalpo on November 6<sup>th</sup> in the chamber of the Golden Throne at Tashicho Dzong, when the fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck, offered the Raven Crown to His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck. The Coronation celebrations conveyed strong messages that the strength of the Bhutanese system is drawn from the fidelity between the Monarch and the people.

The American ambassador to India, Mr. David Mulford, said that the Coronation ceremony was something he would remember for the rest of his life. "I bring the greetings of the American people, President Bush, President elect Obama and we are deeply impressed by the democratization process, which has been going on for a long time.

## EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Bhutan Foundation Centenary Trauma Project



Trauma represents approximately 11% of the global burden of disease in low and middle-income countries. Moreover, death and disability resulting from trauma is greatest in younger, productive age groups. The impact of trauma in all its various forms – road traffic accidents, falls, work place injuries, intentional injuries, and burns – will grow unless steps are taken to improve accident prevention and delivery of care for trauma victims in both urban and rural settings. Concern by the Ministry of Health about the growing burden of

trauma in Bhutan thus led to the development of the trauma prevention and treatment program.

The Bhutan Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Health will launch the trauma program as a centenary project to commemorate a hundred years of monarchy and the coronation of the Fifth King. The main program areas are human resource development through staffing and training of emergency medical providers, organization and administration of the trauma system based at Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital, and improving physical resources by providing necessary equipment and supplies. In particular one fully equipped EMT ambulance will be provided for the National Hospital. Ms. Lisina Hoch and family, who have been longtime friends of Bhutan and the Bhutan Foundation, have provided the EMT ambulance as a gift on the occasion of the coronation and centenary of the monarchy.

### E- Education

The Bhutan Foundation, Ministry of Education and Ministry for Information and Communications have initiated a new e-Education program that will bring high quality education materials to rural areas of Bhutan.

Working with the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Hyderabad, the program aims to enhance education for rural children in remote communities and address the lack of quality teachers in the country. It includes introducing digitized math and science curriculums to remote schools and community information e-centers with support from IIIT. Additionally it includes specialized training for local teachers and IT personnel, customizing content, provision of equipment and infrastructure, and awareness on the program. For the first pilot phase Phuyum Higher Secondary



School and the Menbi Community Information Center have been selected. Both are located in Lhuentse, a remote district that has seen very little development. The long-term plan is to replicate the program nationwide in later phases of the project.

## Educational Opportunities for Children with Special Needs



The Bhutan Foundation and Youth Development Fund (YDF) launched the Enhancement of Educational Opportunities for Children with Special Needs, a program

to empower physically and mentally challenged children. The project specifically aims to improve educational facilities and professional expertise in special education given the current limited capacity in the country.

Early this year a team from the Ministry of Education and the Youth Development Fund visited institutions for children with special needs in New York area. Following this visit, five schools were selected in different parts of Bhutan to participate in the program.

Selected teachers from these schools will receive training at the University of New Castle, Australia starting in early 2009.

The five schools have also been evaluated and basic equipment and facilities required for children with special needs will be provided.

The project is a five year program and is being implemented by YDF along with the Department of Special Needs under the Ministry of Education.

## Scholarship for Medical Doctors - Young Presidents Organization

The Bhutan Foundation is working with the Young Presidents Organization (YPO) in the Philippines to develop two scholarship programs for Bhutanese. The first will be a two-year Diploma scholarship in forestry and environmental studies at the University of the Philippines Los Banos and the second will be for Bhutanese medical doctors to get post medical training in areas such as surgery, internal medicine and other specialty areas at selected medical colleges in the Philippines. The Bhutanese Ministry of Health and the Bhutan Foundation will be

traveling to the Philippines in early 2009 to finalize the medical school program.

The scholarships were the outcome of a four-day trip to Bhutan this fall of nineteen members from the Philippine YPO lead by Mr. Vince Perez and his wife Mrs. Leigh Talmage-Perez. Dr. Bruce W. Bunting, the president of the Bhutan Foundation accompanied them on their trip to Punakha, Thimphu and Paro where they visited Dzongs and monasteries, camped on the bank of the Mo-chhu and tried their hand at traditional



archery and darts and rafted the river.

## Educational Grants

Students from different regions of Bhutan received educational grants through the Bhutan Foundation. Kinley Wangmo from Trongsa received a grant to study at the Bard College in Simon's Rock. She is studying Journalism as her major. Another student from Trashigang received a grant for a diploma course in communication and journalism in India. Sangay Maurer from Bumthang also received a grant to study medicine in the Philippines.

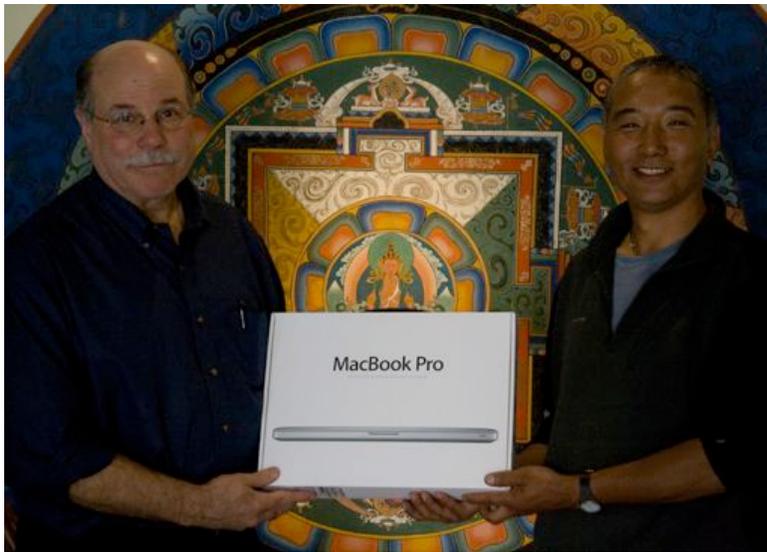
## PRESERVATION OF CULTURE

### Smithsonian Folklife Festival

The Bhutan Foundation was proud to sponsor Bhutanese participants in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, featuring Bhutan, Texas and NASA. The two-week event displayed all facets of Bhutanese culture including weaving of textiles, the national game of archery, traditional medicine, art and the natural environment, Bhutanese food, sacred dances and monastic life.



### Support to the Voluntary Artist of Thimphu



Dr. Bruce Bunting, President of the Bhutan Foundation presents a MacBook Pro to Kama Wangdi, founder of VAST on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

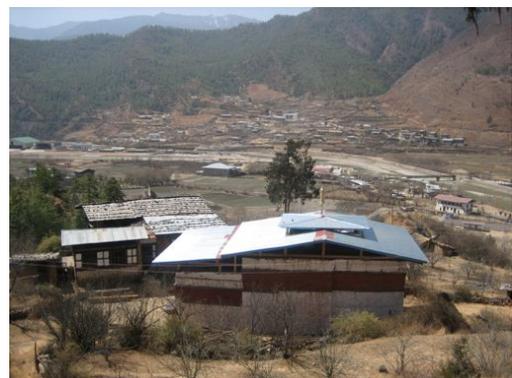
### Bhutan Nuns Foundation

As monastic life is an integral part of Bhutanese culture, the Bhutan Foundation raised funds for the Bhutan Nuns Foundation (BNF) that is a non-profit organization, established under the patronage of Her Majesty Ashi Tshering Yangdon Wangchuck. The Bhutan Nuns Foundation was created to help improve the well-being and education of nuns in Bhutan, so that they in turn will have the ability to contribute to the cultural and spiritual values of the larger society.

### Community Strengthening

Community is the core of Bhutanese tradition, culture and way of life. In a rapidly developing scenario with increasing urbanization, the loss of community structure is a growing concern. As each individual becomes more involved in the quest for individualism and material wealth, community values are in danger of erosion.

A project designed to encourage community life and volunteerism was piloted in the village of Chang Namkhar in Paro. The grant supported the local community's efforts to revive local festivals and provided materials for renovating their monastery while the community provided the necessary labor.



## Symposium on Gross National Happiness

The Bhutan Foundation in partnership with the Asia Society hosted a symposium on Gross National Happiness titled “Dragons, Kings, and Politicians” on June 19th 2008 in New York City. The event was opened with remarks from Dr. Vishaka Desai, President of the Asia Society and HRH Dasho Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, Prince of Bhutan. The trailer of the documentary “Bhutan: Taking the Middle Path” was shown to provide background information on Bhutan’s unique development philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH) and the emerging issues facing Bhutan today.



## Masked Dance Performance at Asia Society



The Bhutan Foundation organized an evening performance of Bhutanese masked dances and traditional songs at the Asia Society auditorium in New York City. The masked dancers from Royal Academy of Performing Arts in Bhutan performed four sets of Cham dances such as the dance of the four stags, dance of the Lords of the Cremation. The performance held on June 19th 2008 following the panel discussion was open to Asia Society members, guests of the Bhutan Foundation, and the general public. The auditorium, which seats 200 people, was filled to maximum capacity.

## Tamshing Monastery

The Tamshing Monastery in Bumthang is one of the oldest Buddhist monasteries in Bhutan. The Bhutan Foundation supported by the Friends of Tamshing based in Seattle has been extending help in the construction of the Buddhist school attached to the old monastery. The building is complete and will provide classrooms and improved housing to the monks of Tamshing.

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## CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

### Environment Institute

The Royal Government of Bhutan established the Ugyen Wangchuck Environment and Forestry Institute (UWEFI) in order to advance forestry and environmental education and research.

The institute was formally opened on August 13th 2008. Support for the Institute was

provided by the John D. and Catharine T. MacArthur, the Royal Government of Bhutan, WWF Bhutan and Bhutan Foundation. The Bhutan Foundation focused its support on developing the Institute’s library and research facilities including the provision of reference books, broadband internet, online access to research publications, journals and other reference materials.

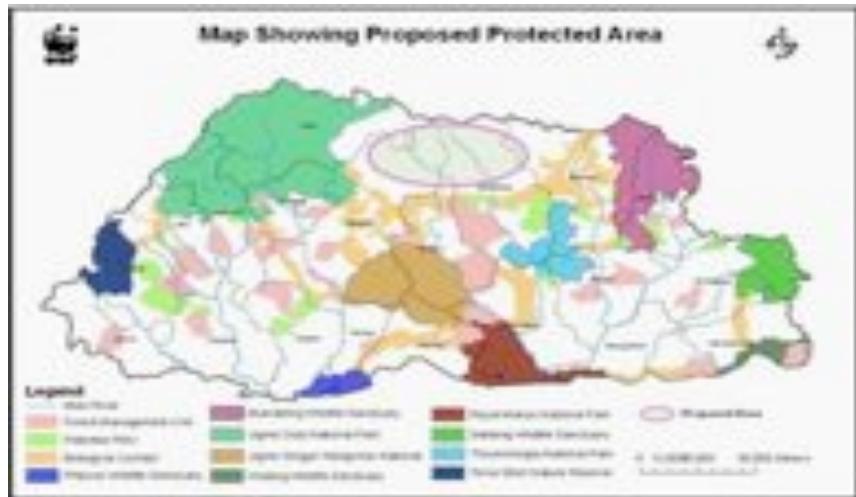
Much of this was made possible through the generous support of Mrs. Sukey Wagner.



## New National Park

A new National park has been declared by the Royal Government of Bhutan to commemorate a hundred years of Monarchy. The 3,737sq km park is located in the north of the country. This area is an important natural conservatory of glaciers, alpine meadows and scrublands, subalpine and temperate conifer forests and major rivers. It is home to many species such as the takin, snow leopard, blue sheep, Himalayan black bear, marmots, red panda, tiger and several species of wild flowers and medicinal plants.

The Bhutan Foundation secured funding from the Blue



Moon Fund for initial surveys, boundary demarcation and development of a management plan for the Park. The project is being implemented by WWF Bhutan and the Department of Forestry. Additional activities are planned for 2009 including establishment of park and field offices, capacity building for park staff, and Integrated Conservation and Community Development projects supporting local communities in the area.

## Stewardship of Community Resources

While the challenges of wildlife crop damage and livestock predation in Bhutan are enormous, subsistence agriculture remains the major source of livelihood for the rural farmers. For biodiversity conservation to be successful, it is critical that such issues are addressed appropriately and that local people are considered part of the effort.

The Bhutan Foundation and the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN) Stewardship of Community Resources project aims to

promote wise use of resources while dealing with wildlife management issues. The pilot areas identified for the project are located in Wamrong and Kangpara in Eastern Bhutan. These communities are very representative of the difficulties faced by rural communities in Bhutan as the villages are local adjacent to forest areas and their farming plots are located nearby where there is high vulnerability to damage by wild animals.

Proposed activities to reduce human wildlife conflict include

developing a land use system that will have less conflict with wild animals, building green fencing systems, studying wildlife behavior, population and carrying capacity and building capacity for local communities to develop solutions to resolve human wildlife conflicts.



## Voice for the Environment

Tshewang Wangchuk is currently enrolled in the Wildlife Biology Program at the University of Montana and working on his PhD. He is an environmental activist who frequently writes about pressing environmental issues such as threats of glacial lake outbursts, the destruction of takin winter habitats, the destruction of warm broadleaf forests, and the privatization of important public areas. He is involved with the Bhutan Foundation's program on Voice for the Environment.

## The Golden Mahseer Study

The Golden Mahseer is an endangered species of fish that is protected in Bhutan's rivers. The Bhutan Foundation is currently supporting an ecological and management study of the Golden Mahseer, which was conducted recognizing the potential importance of the Mahseer to the local economy, as well as an indicator to the health of the ecosystem.



## Animal Welfare Project

Working with the Royal Government of Bhutan, Thimphu City Corporation, RSPCA, Jhangsa Animal Trust and the Tourism Council of Bhutan, the Bhutan Foundation is supporting a program developed by Humane Society International (HSI) to improve the welfare of stray dogs in Thimphu and eventually other urban areas in Bhutan.

While a complex issue in Bhutan the ultimate goal is to provide good care for the stray dogs while achieving zero population growth and becoming a rabies-free country through a national program of sterilization and vaccination.

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## GOOD GOVERNANCE

### Center for Media and Democracy

With Bhutan's transition to a democracy the Bhutan Foundation supported the establishment of the Center for Media and Democracy, in order to ensure that the culture of democracy as well as political ideology and philosophies are developed. The Center's objective is to lay the academic and intellectual foundations for a democratic Bhutan. The success of the new political system will depend largely on a public that is educated to think about political issues as well as independent media that can educate and continue to inform the public. The Center will create a public space where issues can be discussed and information disseminated so that the electorate can make informed choices about its own collective future.

In August, the Center held its first Creative Non-fiction Writing Workshop enabling fifteen writers to look beyond perceived



boundaries. James R. Bettinger of Stanford University, with 20 years of experience as a journalist and trainer for American reporters, headed the workshop. In addition the Center is in the process of completing a national media survey and has provided workshops to members of parliament on media related issues.



## Partners' Meeting & Best Practices for Civil Society Organizations

The Bhutan Foundation held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual partners meeting in Thimphu on Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup> 2008. An overview and strategic direction of the Bhutan Foundation was presented to the Foundation's partner organizations. Dr. Bruce Bunting, President of the Bhutan Foundation, announced that the Foundation would provide a challenge grant of up to \$10,000 to each of the partners. This was made possible through a \$1 million grant that was pledged to the Bhutan Foundation from a major donor.

The main focus of the meeting was to review and discuss draft standards and practices for civil society organizations in Bhutan. Partner civil society organizations of the Foundation were presented with the draft document "Best

Practices for Civil Society Organizations" that was developed by the Bhutan Foundation. The standards and practices will complement the Civil Society Organization Act and set the bar for all CSOs in Bhutan. Best Practices identifies and outlines key areas of a nonprofit organization that needs specific policies and procedures. The draft document also covers basic practices that would support organizations in effectively delivering their services. The idea behind developing standards is that emerging Civil Society Organizations in Bhutan are representative of the sense of personal responsibility between citizens, their success, and proof of their commitment.

The guidelines in the proposal have been designed to contribute to fostering an environment among the civil society sector of Bhutan where

future CSOs would be expected to maintain high standards. The Bhutan Foundation also proposed the idea of establishing the Bhutan Association of Civil Society Organizations to encourage development and implementation of these standards.

The meeting was attended by the Bhutan Foundation, and representatives of the Youth Development Fund, Tarayana, WWF-Bhutan, Center for Media and Democracy, RENEW, Royal Society for the Protection and Care of Animals and our newest partner Loden Organization. It was also attended by representatives from the Welfare Fund for Patients, Gross National Happiness Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Legal Division of the Ministry of Home and Culture.

## Capacity Building for Partner Organizations

In line with the Bhutan Foundation's strategy to assist the development of civil society in Bhutan, we co-funded Masters programs for Tshering Lham from Royal Society for the Protection of Nature at Future Generations

Graduate School of Applied Community Change and Conservation and to Tshering Choden from the Youth Development Fund for a masters in Public Administration at the



## EVENTS

### Fall Dinner at the River Club

Bhutan Foundation's fall dinner hosted by Mrs. Lisina Hoch at the River Club in New York on September 22<sup>nd</sup> honored the Prime Minister Lyonchhen Jigme Yoedzer Thinley and the Foreign Minister Lyonpo Ugyen Tshering's visit to New York for the UN General Assembly. The dinner brought together old friends, change makers and supporters of Bhutan. Major supporters of the Foundation and senior delegates also attended the dinner from Bhutan.



### The Dragon's Gift: The Sacred Arts of Bhutan



The traveling exhibition on the sacred arts of Bhutan, organized by the Honolulu Academy of Arts and the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan opened at the Rubin Museum

of Art in New York on September 19, 2008. The Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lyonchhen Jigme Thinley inaugurated the exhibition that features rare religious Buddhist art and ancient ritual dances of Bhutan. The objects have been collected from different temples and monasteries of Bhutan and are accompanied by Buddhist monks who will remain at the Rubin Museum over the course of the exhibition performing ritual observances as is performed at monasteries and temples in Bhutan.

Besides the exhibition, the Rubin Museum is showing films on Bhutan, talks on various relevant topics by scholars and weaving demonstrations by a weaver in residence from a remote village in Eastern Bhutan.

The exhibition will next move to the Asian Museum of Art in San Francisco in February 2009.



### Bhutan – Finalist at the National Geographic

On October 15, Ms. Tshering Denka of the Bhutan Foundation received the certificate on behalf of Bhutan for innovative tourism-related projects that promote a country's natural and cultural heritage while supporting the well being of the people. Mr. Charlie Brown, Executive Director of Asoka's Changemakers, Mr. Jonathan Tourtellot, Director of the National Geographic's Center for Sustainable Development, presented the certificates and awards.

## GRANTS

(1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY TO 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008)

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Nu.</b>	<b>US \$</b>
WWF Bhutan	3,572,741.70	78,819.46
Animal Welfare Project	714,109.00	18,362.89
Community Project	60,180.00	1,250.00
Tarayana	258,082.75	6,660.20
Ugyen Wangchuck Environment & Forestry Institute	198,160.00	4,921.03
Centre for Media and Democracy	1,997,500.00	50,000.00
Bhutan Agro Industries	399,500.00	10,000.00
Voices of the Environment	21,225.00	500.00
Traditional Music Project	701,175.00	15,348.32
Tamshing Monastery Project	129,886.00	3,118.50
Journalism Scholarship	285,856.00	7,130.36
Scholarship for Blind Student - Youth Development Fund	85,840.00	2,141.18
Medical Scholarship	209,850.00	5,000.00
Capacity Building - Youth Development Fund	184,668.00	4,400.00
Capacity Building - Royal Society for Protection of Nature	184,200.00	4,000.00
YDF	5,310,674.00	126,535.00
IT Project	76,362.00	1,700.46
RSPCA	1,481,541.00	35,300.00
Culture Project	1,948,808.37	42,319.40
Trauma Project	112,500.00	2,443.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,932,858.82</b>	<b>419,949.80</b>

*Stay connected to Bhutan...*

*Support the Bhutan Foundation.*

**WWW.BHUTANFOUND.ORG**

### **Mission**

The Bhutan Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life of the Bhutanese people by supporting efforts that preserve the natural and cultural heritage of Bhutan and benefit human development and good governance.

The Bhutan Foundation will also promote the broader understanding and knowledge of Bhutan in the United States and throughout the world and increase the mutually beneficial association between Bhutanese individuals and organizations in both the public and private sectors.

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