Dear friends of Bhutan,

As the world marches toward Copenhagen for the December United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Bhutan suffered a small glacial lake outburst flood or (GLOF), as well as the effects of Cyclone Aila, causing severe floods across the country. The floods left a number dead, caused landslides, wiped out sections of highway, and damaged other infrastructure. One of the districts most severely affected was Gasa in western Bhutan. Floods devastated the area, damaging schools, basic health units, bridges and roads, and parts of Jigme Dorji National Park. Important infrastructure at the Hot Springs, a natural and cultural landmark, was also washed away. At the Bhutan Foundation, this is a harsh reminder of the effects of climate change, but it only strengthens our resolve to support Bhutan in its environmental efforts and to assist Gasa as it rebuilds.

In fact, the Bhutan Foundation is more committed than ever to all of the programs we support for the benefit of Bhutan. We continue to make progress this year on our core mission of supporting Bhutan’s development philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH) through programs that support all four pillars of GNH: Conservation of the Environment, Good Governance, Equitable Development, and Preservation of Culture. As you will see in the following pages, several programs have had major developments in recent months. Here are a few examples:

This July, as a follow-up to the standards of best practice work we developed last year, the Bhutan Foundation held the first-ever Civil Society Organization Development Workshop to provide emerging Bhutanese nonprofit organizations the business expertise to succeed in their missions.

The Emergency Medical Services Program started a series of “First Responders” training programs to improve Bhutan’s capacity to respond to medical emergencies.

The Education for All Abilities program delivered a six-day conference in which 190 teachers and administrators from across Bhutan were introduced to new approaches to teaching and ways to identify, evaluate, and support children with learning disabilities.

The last few months have also been very eventful for the Bhutan Foundation. We were honored to accompany two Bhutanese delegations for briefings on Capitol Hill with senior staff of the US Senate and US House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committees, Senator John McCain and Senator Joe Lieberman, and a meeting hosted by Congressman Brian Baird to talk with fellow representatives and senior staff. The Bhutan Foundation also sponsored a number of events, including a symposium on the Four Pillars of GNH at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, a talk on Bhutan’s democracy at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and a seminar on GNH and Bhutan at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

Looking ahead, a number of critical programs still require funding, from supporting the environmental and restoration work in Gasa and the Jigme Dorji National Park as mentioned above, to expanding the Emergency Medical Services Program to a national program, to improving the quality and reach of education in Bhutan. The efforts of the Bhutan Foundation are only possible through the continued interest and generosity of supporters. We continue to look forward to your involvement with Bhutan and the Bhutan Foundation.

Tashi Delek!

Dr. Bruce W. Bunting
President
A core trauma team, consisting of two doctors, three nurses, and one instructor from the Royal Institute of Health Sciences, attended an intensive one-month training at Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow, New York, in April 2009. The core trauma team was developed by the Ministry of Health and will be based at the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital in Thimphu, Bhutan. They are the first group of doctors and nurses from Bhutan to be trained in emergency medicine.

The team took the First Responders course and the Train the Trainers course to be able to teach others in Bhutan to be first responders. They took additional intensive classes and were certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Prehospital Care, and Basic Trauma Life Support. The team worked in a simulated hospital room with computerized mannequins, provided treatment in a simulated ambulance, and practiced real-life crisis scenarios. Phelps Memorial Hospital Emergency Training Center provided all training materials and courses at no charge. The Bhutan Foundation covered the airfare and associated training costs.

The doctors were also certified in Advanced Trauma Life Support and observed emergency departments in Boston under the guidance of Metro West Emergency Room Specialist and Bhutan Foundation Health Advisor, Dr. Katherine Morley. The core trauma team training is a component of the Bhutan Foundation and the Ministry of Health’s Emergency Medical Services Program. The program aims to decrease the incidence of disability and death due to trauma in the country through prevention programs, prehospital care, capacity building, and improved health systems.
Police and Firefighters Attend First Responders Workshop

The recently formed core trauma team from Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital in Thimphu hosted the first First Responders Workshop for traffic police and firefighters in Bhutan. “First responders” are individuals who are certified in prehospital care for medical emergencies and can provide life-saving skills at the scene of an emergency.

“In Bhutan, people normally die of preventable causes, such as uncontrolled bleeding or injury to the spine,” said Dr. Gosar Pemba, who recently received emergency medical training in the United States. He said the time factor—until a patient reaches the hospital—is a critical period to save a person’s life. Medical personnel refer to it as the “golden hour” (Kuensel).

The Royal Bhutan Police personnel are usually the first to arrive at the scene of an emergency in Bhutan. By training the police as first responders, they will be able to provide prehospital care such as giving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), controlling bleeding, applying splints, using safe and proper transport procedures for injured victims, applying other first-aid techniques, and calling for advanced medical help. The use of these skills at the site of an accident can significantly reduce the number of preventable deaths.

The Ministry of Health and the Bhutan Foundation plan on continuing First Responders Workshops for other groups in Bhutan, such as taxi drivers, boy scouts, and nuns.

Volunteer Opportunity in Bhutan for Emergency Medicine Physicians

The Bhutan Foundation has partnered with Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) to recruit emergency department physicians to volunteer in Bhutan. The volunteers will assist in the emergency department of the National Hospital in Thimphu, Bhutan, as well as improve emergency medical services by teaching health care providers while on site. A major goal of the Emergency Medical Services Program in Bhutan is to develop a clinical curriculum for various levels of providers.

CPR training equipment donated by the Bhutan Foundation

Volunteers will teach as well as work on developing clinical guidelines for emergency services. Volunteer assignments are for a minimum of four weeks in Bhutan, and longer terms are preferred.

If you are board-certified in emergency medicine or a primary care specialty with significant experience in emergency medicine, are interested in teaching, and would like to volunteer in Bhutan, please contact the HVO office to speak to a recruiter at 202-296-0928, e-mail HVO at info@hvousa.org, or visit

http://www.hvousa.org/whereWeWork/special.html.
Conservation Specialists Meet To Protect Bhutan’s Rare Species

On July 6 and 7, the Bhutan Foundation supported an in-house meeting of park managers, wildlife researchers, forest department officials from the Nature Conservation Division, and representatives from conservation nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the University of Montana to discuss the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment’s (UWICE’s) role in researching and monitoring rare and endangered species. During the meeting, specific research gaps in monitoring of tiger, snow leopard, Asian elephant, and Bhutan takin were discussed. UWICE plans to start research on these species in 2010.

The Bhutan Foundation will support UWICE and other partners in using noninvasive genetic methods as an effective way to assess and monitor populations of rare and elusive species, starting with snow leopard, tiger, and Asian elephant. With other partners, the Bhutan Foundation will support an international conference on conservation genetics to be organized by UWICE in 2010. The conference will serve as a platform for knowledge-sharing on the best current practices and making them relevant for conservation in Bhutan. The Bhutan Foundation will also assist UWICE in other long-term research of key species led by Bhutanese researchers, which will lead to better conservation decision-making.

Let There be Light! Solar Power Comes to Athang Gewog

The Bhutan Foundation is partnering with the Tarayana Foundation on a project that will bring solar lighting to all the households in the Athang Gewog villages. Adopting the “Barefoot Engineers” approach, in which village women are trained in fitting and maintaining solar lighting sets, Tarayana Foundation will provide solar lighting for all 55 households in the villages. This project is anticipated to reduce carbon emission, improve public health, provide longer light hours, and enhance the productivity of the villagers.

The villages, subsistence hamlets of Lawa, Lamgang, Thaphu, Samthang, Migtana, and Kashijeko in Rukha (Athang Gewog), sit deep inside Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park in central Bhutan. Like many remote communities in Bhutan, these villages rely on kerosene oil and resinous wood for lighting their homes. In addition to emitting noxious fumes and soot, these fuels are an added expense of money and time. They also emit greenhouse gases.

According to surveys by the National Environment Commission (NEC), Bhutan is already a carbon negative country. Two main reasons for this are that the forests act as carbon sinks, and carbon emission is relatively low in Bhutan. Still, Bhutan cannot escape the impact of climate change; fast-receding glaciers, droughts, flash floods, and erratic weather patterns are becoming more common. The Bhutan Foundation supports Bhutanese partners who implement community-based initiatives such as this that have an overall impact in reducing greenhouse gas emission and achieving other socioeconomic goals for the beneficiary communities.
**DEVELOPMENT**

**Education for All Abilities Conference Takes Teachers to School on Learning Disabilities**

The Bhutan Foundation, the Youth Development Fund, and the Ministry of Education collaboratively developed training for teachers and administrators on how to support education for children with disabilities. They jointly conducted a series of workshops for approximately 190 teachers and administrators. During the six-day conference (July 3 to 8, 2009) entitled “Education for All Abilities,” teachers learned to identify, evaluate, support, and teach children with learning disabilities. The workshops covered topics such as the range of disabilities, learning disabilities, identifying students at risk, customizing lesson plans for students based on their abilities, and using creative approaches to instructional methods. Four specialists from the United States and the United Kingdom were brought in to facilitate this training.

This effort supports the Ministry of Education’s goal to provide adequate education for all children in Bhutan by 2015. The Ministry of Education stated that the special learning needs of children with learning disabilities were not being addressed until now and that further training is needed to develop education for children with severe disabilities. Consequently, the conference addressed implementing innovative and effective strategies to provide quality education for all children, whatever their abilities. In his opening address, donor Ruedi Laager said that the project would also reduce the number of students dropping out of school and improve the level of education for all students.

The conference is being followed up with additional on-site teacher training and specialists modeling developed programs, such as Complete Literacy. Providing an excellent literacy program, especially in the early years, is the key to helping children at risk for learning disabilities. A Literacy Conference is being developed and implemented through the fall and winter 2009-2010.

The Bhutan Foundation in collaboration with the Youth Development Fund and the Ministry of Education, is sending two teachers to the College of New Rochelle, New York, for graduate courses in special education for this fall’s semester. The teachers will bring back great exposure and knowledge to share with the schools in Bhutan, furthering the efforts of this project. Training teachers is a priority for education both by bringing teachers and administrators to the United States and by working with volunteer specialists in Bhutan. Education specialists and experienced classroom teachers can apply as volunteers to assist with this program.

**Interested volunteers please contact:**

kim.maccormack@bhutanfound.org
bhutanfoundation@bhutanfound.org

Minister of Education Lyonpo Thakur, Secretary Aum Sangay Zam and the Hoch family at the opening of the Education Workshop

Teachers from different schools at the end of a series of workshops with volunteers Laurie Levine and Jessica Falk
**Bhutan Foundation Film Screened at Green International Film Festival Taiwan**

In June 10 and June 13, the Green International Film Festival Taiwan (GIFT) screened The Middle Path to Happiness, a documentary on Gross National Happiness. GIFT sponsored Kuenga Gyaltshen, Program Officer at our Bhutan office, to represent the Bhutan Foundation at the environmental film festival. The festival was held in Yilan, about a two-hour drive from Taipei. The initial screening began with Mr. Gyaltshen giving an introduction to the Bhutan Foundation, followed by the screening and a question-and-answer session at the end.

The organizers of the festival said that the Foundation’s film had the most number of people staying for the question-and-answer session. The documentary was so popular that it was chosen as the closing film for the festival. Past GIFT screenings include Leonardo DiCaprio’s documentary on global warming, The Eleventh Hour.

**Bhutanese Youth Zoom In on Garbage**

“YOUNG ZOOM on Garbage” a Voluntary Artists’ Studio, Thimphu (VAST), initiative, engages youth in uncovering and exposing waste problems in the capital. The digital photography and garbage awareness project spanned from June 6 to August 30, 2009. Sixty participants, age 10 to 25 years, were coached on artistic approaches in basic techniques of digital photography and in advocacy for behavioral change to address the waste disposal problem in urban areas.

In June, participants were trained in digital photography and were introduced to the growing garbage problem by the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN), Thimphu City Corporation (TCC), and the National Environment Commission (NEC). In July, participants got into action, shooting pictures of garbage around the capital. The project ended with an exhibition and campaign on behavioral change, funded by the Bhutan Foundation. Facts, visuals, findings, and information were displayed through all mediums of art.

Engaging young people in spreading awareness about a growing environmental and social problem while showcasing their creativity was the key objective.
GOVERNANCE

WORKSHOP GIVES BHUTANESE NONPROFITS TOOLS TO SUCCEED

The Bhutan Foundation conducted the first-ever Civil Society Organization (CSO) Development Workshop in Thimphu in early July. Under the Bhutan Foundation’s Good Governance programs, the initiative supports the timely and successful development of the emerging CSOs (or nongovernmental organizations [NGOs]) in Bhutan.

The four-day workshop was held at the Youth Development Fund complex. Mrs. Lina Hogg, a human resources (HR) consultant who owns an HR company in London, led a three-day workshop covering important foundation-building topics, including communication skills development; performance, time, and conflict management; effective presentation skills; and HR manual development for nonprofit organizations. On the fourth day, Bhutan Foundation staff introduced the QuickBooks accounting tool to the organizations. The Bhutan Foundation will be providing the software free of cost to its partner CSOs who attended the workshop.

The workshop, attended by 12 local and international CSOs, was made possible through a restricted grant for CSO development from the World Wildlife Fund in Washington, DC. The goal of such workshops is to support capacity-building by training professional personnel to deal with the growing needs of CSOs in Bhutan. We believe that a well-managed CSO with well-trained professionals can cope better with the changing needs of the people it serves. The Bhutan Foundation hopes to be able to continue to offer such opportunities for local CSOs through collaborative efforts between organizations.

BHUTANESE YOUTH AIM VIDEO CAMERAS AT SOCIAL ISSUES

Earlier this year, the Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy (BCMD) launched its media literacy program at Motithang High School and the Youth Development Fund’s media club in Thimphu. The media literacy programs are designed to educate youth about being informed media consumers. Through these programs, Bhutanese youth learn the importance of media in society, the difference between fact and fiction, and ways to make educated judgments about what they read, see, or hear through various media.

BCMD also conducted its first 10-day film program to teach the youth in Bhutan different ways of using media as a tool. The children at the film-training camp used Flip video cameras, provided by the Bhutan Foundation, to document and tell stories that they thought were important. The results were films such as Youth and Videogames, the Effects of Television, Arts Stream, Taxi Driver, Garbage, and Teenagers in Love, all of which had important stories to tell about social issues in Bhutan. The goal of this program is to foster discussions on issues related to the preservation of culture, the promotion of democracy, and the understanding of media as more than just a source of entertainment.

The participants of the film program screened their masterpieces at the Children and Youth Festival held on July 5, 2009, by the Department of Youth and Sports in Thimphu.
EVENTS

San Francisco, California, USA: Bhutan’s Four Pillars of Gross National Happiness

Coinciding with the “Dragon’s Gift” exhibition at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, the Bhutan Foundation cosponsored a half-day symposium on Gross National Happiness (GNH) at the Samsung Hall of the Asian Art Museum on April 18, 2009. Over 250 people attended the symposium.


The Chicago Council on Global Affairs: President’s Circle Program featured the presentation, “Bhutan: Democracy’s Dawn in the Last Shangri-la” at the Chicago Club on April 20, 2009. The Bhutan Foundation with the Council on Global Affairs, and the Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communication, Dasho Kinley Dorji, presented the talk. Dasho Kinley spoke about Bhutan’s development philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH) and talked in detail about one of the four pillars of GNH, Good Governance.

Washington, DC, USA: Learning from Bhutan: Preservation, Heritage, and Sustainability

Ms. Dorji Yangki, Chief Architect and Head of the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites at the Department of Culture for Bhutan, gave a presentation on Bhutanese architecture at the National Building Museum on June 15, 2009.
On April 22, 2009, Dasho Kinley Dorji spoke about Gross National Happiness and Bhutan as the world’s youngest democracy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. The talk was organized by the Fletcher South Asian Society and was moderated by Professor Alan K. Henrikson, Director of Diplomatic Studies at the Fletcher School. The talk was well received by students and faculty and was followed by dinner with long-time friends of Bhutan, Michael Hawley and Nina You.

**Medford, Massachusetts, USA: Presentation at the Fletcher School, Tufts University**

On April 23 and 24, 2009, the Bhutan Foundation participated in the first-ever meetings by a Bhutanese delegation to Capitol Hill to meet with senior members of the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator John McCain, who visited Bhutan in November 2008. Ambassador Lhatu Wangchuk, the Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the United Nations, and Dasho Kinley Dorji, Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communication, introduced Bhutan and discussed the changes in the country as it transitioned from a monarchy to a democracy in 2008.

In July, the Bhutan Foundation joined Bhutan’s Foreign Minister, Lyonpo Ugyen Tshering and Ambassador Lhatu Wangchuk in Washington DC for additional meetings with Senators John McCain and Joe Lieberman and for a lunch hosted by Congressman Brian Baird attended by a number of members of Congress and senior staff who were interested in Bhutan.

**Washington, DC, USA: Meeting at Capitol Hill**

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**Washington, DC, USA: Meeting at Capitol Hill**

Ethnomusicologist Dr. Janet Herman and photographer Jane Hancock of the Music of Bhutan Research Center presented a multimedia lecture exploring Bhutan’s rich soundscape of monastic and secular music. The presenters highlighted legendary singer Am Nimchu Pem, an elderly rice farmer whom they recorded in Bhutan as part of a crew led by renowned musician and composer Kheng Sonam Dorji.

**Bhutan: “Music from the Mountains of Bhutan”**
Flooding in Gasa: Disaster Relief and Recovery Project

In response to the recent flash floods that devastated the district of Gasa, the Bhutan Foundation is raising funds to support the Bhutanese Government’s efforts to help the communities restore and rebuild a cultural and natural heritage site. It is estimated that damages from the flood will cost the Bhutanese government approximately $14 million. The Bhutan Foundation hopes to raise $2 million for Gasa, one of the most remote districts affected by the flood. Funds raised will also support the restoration work of the historic Gasa Dzong that was severely damaged in a fire in January 2008, and the Gasa hot springs known throughout Bhutan for their medicinal value. Both the Dzong and the hot springs attract people from across the country, contributing to the livelihood of the people of Gasa.

A Remote Village in Need: Shingkhar Lhakhang Initiative

The village of Shingkhar, located within the northern borders of the Thrumsingla National Park in the Bumthang District, consists of 32 households and is accessible by a dirt road from the national east-west highway. With its remote location, Shingkhar has remained devoid of much development activity. Shingkhar survives as a rural community revolving around the activities of its two significant Lhakhangs (Buddhist temple). Recognizing the importance of the cultural influence on the community and the dilapidated condition of the Drogri Rinchen Jungney (Garkhai) and Dechenling Lhakhangs, the Bhutan Foundation has agreed to assist with a grant to restore the Garkhai Lhakhang. The project also will include community outreach.

Eco-Friendly Car for the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and the Environment (UWICE)

In an effort to showcase examples of eco-friendly use of renewable sources of energy, the Bhutan Foundation will be providing an electric car for use at UWICE. The car will be used by staff and visitors of UWICE and will help demonstrate the use of renewable and clean technology in Bumthang. The car will also be used to assess energy and cost efficiency. The Bhutan Foundation will look at other demonstrable forms of energy for use at the Institute, in build-up to the international climate summit at UWICE in 2011.
The Right Stuff: Training and Materials for Teachers

As the importance of education is acknowledged, the training of teachers to support the goals of the government is essential. Funding is needed immediately for training abroad as well as within Bhutan. These funds will go toward the cost of airfares, living expenses, and workshop training materials. Also, funds to purchase resources for the schools are greatly needed, such as a literacy program with teaching materials and books.

Transforming Bhutan’s Educational System — A Global First!

Bhutan’s leaders have made a remarkable commitment to transform the country’s educational system so that it will nurture students’ innate care for the natural world and for others, imbue them with the wisdom and practices of their profound ancient culture, create innovative and sustainable economic opportunities for all Bhutanese, and cultivate good citizenship that will strengthen the country’s governance.

These goals reflect the “four pillars” of Gross National Happiness (GNH)—Bhutan’s development philosophy ever since the Fourth King in 1972 declared that “Gross National Happiness is more important than Gross National Product.” It is the first attempt by any government to apply holistic and contemplative educational principles fully to a national educational system. This project will be launched in Thimphu, Bhutan, on December 7 through 12, 2009. Participants will include some of the world’s top educators, thinkers, innovators, and practitioners in five learning approaches identified as highly consistent with GNH principles—holistic education, eco-literacy, contemplative education, indigenous knowledge, and critical thinking. If this educational transformation is successful, not only will the principles and values of GNH be embedded in the consciousness of the Bhutanese people, but Bhutan will be a powerful model for other countries.

The total budget for the first year-long phase of this multi-year project is $250,000. This includes extensive research, preparation of source materials, briefings with Bhutanese educators and officials, workshop organization and delivery, participant travel, and preparation of a full implementation plan, including curriculum design, development of classroom materials and activities, and teacher education. Donors will be invited to visit Bhutan in December 2009, as official guests of the government, and to attend this groundbreaking workshop as observers. More details are available on request by writing to colman@gpiatlantic.org and pannozzo@gpiatlantic.org.

To support any project, please visit:
www.bhutanfound.org >> Projects to Support
About us:

Those of us connected to Bhutan know that the principle of Gross National Happiness is supported by four pillars: Conservation of the Environment, Good Governance, Equitable Development and Preservation of Culture. At the Bhutan Foundation, we are mindful of those important foundations as we work to improve the lives of the Bhutanese people while conserving their rich natural and cultural heritage. In addition, the Bhutan Foundation seeks to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of Bhutan in the United States and around the world.

Donate Online!!!

www.bhutanfound.org

USA Office:
Suite 525
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037
USA
Phone: +1-202-609-7363
Fax: +1-202-787-3943
E-mail: bhutanfoundation@bhutanfound.org

Bhutan Office:
Nazhoen Pelri
P.O Box 255
Thimphu
BHUTAN
Phone: +975-2-335613
E-mail: info@bhutanfound.org

Main Partner Organizations

• Bhutan Health Trust Fund
• Friends of Tamshing
• RENEW (Respect, Educated, Nurture and Empower Women)
• Royal Society for the Protection of Nature
• Tarayana Foundation
• Loden Foundation
• Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation & Environment
• VAST (Voluntary Artist Studio of Thimphu)
• WWF (World Wildlife Fund), Bhutan
• Youth Development Fund
• Bhutan Nun’s Foundation
• Center for Media and Democracy