

Contents

Let this be our tribute to the visionary leaders, late Majesty, 3rd King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck and his son, the 4th Druk Gyalpo, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the 5th Druk Gyalpo, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and late Fritz von Schulthess, the architects who shaped the Bhutan-Swiss friendship.

The beginning of a friendship-inspired co-operation has stood the test of time. It stands as solid as the Alps and the Himalayas. At present, the area of co-operation has diversified and matured. Bhutan and Switzerland share tremendous good will and friendship and stand as equal partners in the community of nations.

Society Switzerland-Bhutan /
Bhutan-Swiss Friendship Association

We acknowledge sincerely the financial and technical support of Helvetas, Swiss Development Cooperation, the family von Schulthess, the members of the Society Switzerland-Bhutan, the Bhutan-Swiss Friendship Association. We would also like to thank all those who have contributed texts, photographs or given interviews or helped us with relevant information.

A very special word of appreciation goes to Thomas Biland for his informative, concise german summaries.

And last but not least, we would like to thank Dr. Saamdu Chetri for his endeavours to compile the information on numerous projects.

Forewords	4	Forestry	85	Initiatives and impacts	163
Bhutan by the newly elected Prime Minister	4	Forest development	86	Right from the beginning	164
Switzerland by Micheline Calmy-Rey, Foreign Minister	5	Forestry programme	88	Bhutan? Bhutan! A letter to my niece	168
		Bhutan Forest Service – Close to nature, close to people	90	Being consistent in meeting the needs	172
Gross National Happiness	7	Education and Culture	93	Views on the development projects 1984	173
The philosophy of Gross National Happiness	8	Education for all! – Education for what?	94	Change and continuity in Bumthang	174
Leaders	12	PEP, PITT and STEP	96	There's a whole lot more to say about that...	178
A timeline of political changes since 1950	14	Teacher Training – Working together	98		
The Constitution of Bhutan	15	Looking back and forward	100	Challenges ahead	183
		Products	101	A unique journey through time	184
Far apart and close together	17	College of Education, Paro	102	The Bhutanese media – guiding change	186
Bhutan and Switzerland	18	Traditional dyeing methods of Bhutan	104	Switzerland and its Democracy – a view from inside	188
Key indicators	22	Folk Heritage Museum, Thimphu	105	What makes development cooperation work?	190
Bhutan – where women (almost) always have their say	28	Museum of Ethnography Neuchâtel MEN	106	Switzerland-Bhutan: Dependable partners	192
		Public Health	109	Pillars and approaches of Swiss Development Cooperation	194
Strategic lines in development	33	Public Health	110	The friendship associations	195
Development philosophy of Bhutan	34	Dorjee and 11 Swiss doctors	112		
From Switzerland to Druk Yul via Nepal	36	Health – the little big project	114	Vote of thanks	196
Aid policy – from sectors and agents	38	New Bumthang hospital	116		
Why Swiss Assistance took roots in Bumthang	40	Building technologies and materials	117	Epilogue	199
Dangbo dingbo Bumthang o	42	Rural Infrastructure	119		
		Rural infrastructure for one-way or two-way traffic?	120	Credits	200
Transitions in Cooperation	45	Hardware	120	Photo Credits	200
Friendship from the beginning	46	The building sector in Bhutan	121	DVD Gross National Happiness	200
Our contribution to the development of Bhutan	48	Tashi La – the first and only ropeway in Bhutan	122		
The Foundation Pro-Bhutan	54	Trail bridges – key elements to rural infrastructure	124		
Change of Guard to Helvetas	58	Linking people and communities	126		
		Bridge construction – a participatory process	127		
Development Programmes. Essentials	60	Puna Tsang Chhu bridge, Wangdue Phodrang	128		
Renewable Natural Resources Development	61	Report of the supervising engineer	130		
Integrated natural resources management	62	Small Enterprise Development	133		
Agriculture – life vein of the country	64	Workshop management – Concept and financing	134		
Brief account on agriculture and livestock development	66	Agro-Mechanical and Vehicle Workshop	138		
College of Natural Resources, Lobesa/Wangdue	68	Sawmill and Carpentry Workshop	139		
About respecting Bhutanese architecture	71	Milk and fruit processing plants	144		
RNR research systems	72	Bio Bhutan – a pioneer business case	146		
RNR Research Centre, Jakar	74	Beekeepers' Association	148		
Rural Development Training Centre, Zhemgang	75	Swiss Bakery and Tenzing	150		
Swiss potato and its impact on poverty alleviation	76	Clock Tower	151		
Once upon a time a humble potato tuber...	78	SCAP – Evolution of an idea to an institute	152		
Rural Development Training	80	Groundwork for Good Governance	157		
Farmers from Pemagathsel and Bumthang in Switzerland	82				