

## Minutes of the annual meeting 2010, March 27<sup>th</sup> 2010 Musée d'Ethnographie, Neuchâtel

### Agenda

	<b>Time</b>
1. Welcome address and Annual report 2009 by the President	10.30-10.40
2. Nomination of the Vote Counters and the Minutes Taker	10.40-10.45
3. Minutes of General Assembly 2009	10.45-10.50
4. Presentation of accounts 2009, Audit report (available at meeting)	10.50-11.05
5. Nominations / elections	11.05-11.25
6. Activities around exhibition Rietberg 2010	11.25-11.30
7. Strategy 2010 and beyond	11.30-12.00
8. Approval of the Budget 2010	12.00-12.08
9. Book "Far apart, close together"	12.08-12.10
10. Address of HE Ambassador Yeshey Dorji	12.10-12.20
11. Lunch	12.30

### Participants

Allgoewer Erik & Carole	Koenig Erwin	Rohrbach Christian
Bratschi Dieter	Koestler Christa	Rothacher Daniel
De Montmollin Gérald & Marceline	Külling Werner	Rüegg-Bachmann Ueli & Catarina
Ditzler Rolle Christoph & Ilse	Menk Julia	Stern Otto
Frei Christof & Marie-Noelle	Menzi Martin	Tettamanti Patrizia
Frey Richard & Rosmarie	Moser Peter	Trad Ilham
Grossenbacher Fabienne	Müller René	Treier Hannes
Guenat Dominique	Oltramare Adrienne	Vogel Patrick & Dechen Wangmo
Hösli Hanspeter	Perrenoud Michel	Widmer Walter
Kobler Tarnutzer Pius & Andrea	Roder Theres	Zingg Frei Claudio & Marianne

### Excused

Biland Thomas & Susan	Isler Ruedi	Reinhardt Ernst & Annegret
Caminada Leo	Liebherr Sabine	Rettich Markus
Dürsteler Urs	Loppacher Fritz & Brigitte	Rhomberg Franz
Engi Christian & Sigrid	Maurer Peter	Scartazzini Claudia
Favre Lise	Meijer Martina & Pieter	Schätti Thomas
Furrer Walter	Mottet Christian	Treichler Gisela
Gähwiler Franz & Brigitte	Oberholzer Erich	Uhlenhoff Dorji Roswitha & Kinley
Geiger Mariann	Pflugshaupt Kurt & Claudia	Wild Markus
Gilg Rainer & Nadine	Rauh Christoph	Wirth Urs
Güller Peter & Ursula	Reichmuth Hanspeter	Zürcher Dieter

<b>For further information regarding the following topics see presentation</b>
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### 1. Welcome address by the President – Annual Report 2009

Highlights (for details, see PowerPoint presentation)

- Donation of 500 copies of the book "Far apart, close together" to Ministry of Education, Bhutan, on December 4, 2009
- 30 new members
- Website improvement (<http://www.bhutan-switzerland.org/>)
- Promotion of the book: successful campaign in partnership with Helvetas, etc.; there are still about 1'000 copies of the book available in Switzerland; is the book available in electronic form?
- Planning of activities for 2010, strategy

## 2. Nomination of the Vote Counters and the Minutes Taker

Vote counters are: Christa Koestler and Christian Rohrbach

Minutes taken by Dominique Guenat, board member

## 3. Minutes of General Assembly 2009

Approved

## 4. Accounts 2009, budget 2010

Accounts 2009: audit report by Rosmarie Frey and Catarina Rüegg is available for the members; the situation has improved, and there is a profit of approx. 17'000 CHF. Proposal how to use this profit is presented. The accounts are approved by the assembly (unanimously). Before approving the budget, some members want to hear about the Shemgang project before approving the budget 2010.

The budget 2010 includes a proposal how to use the profit of approx. CHF 17'000:

Items	Amounts
Shemgang project	10'000 CHF
Reimbursing debts of the society	3'880 CHF
DVD «SMS from Shangri La»	400 CHF
Advertisement	1'500 CHF
Reserve	1'486 CHF
<b>Total</b>	<b>17'266 CHF</b>

## 5. Nominations / elections

Resigning board members:

- The President thanks Ernst Reinhart for his contribution to the society after having been chairman, then vice-president, and simple board member. Ernst has resigned from the board but remains at disposal of the society for special projects.
- She also thanks Dieter Bratschi, treasurer of the society who also resigns from the board.

Re-election of board members:

The following board members are re-elected by the assembly

- Marianne Frei
- Dominique Guenat
- Erwin König
- Julia Menk
- Patrick Vogel

New board members

- Rosmarie Frey presents herself as new board member and treasurer, and is elected by the assembly.
- Werner Külling presents himself to the assembly and is also elected.

Presidency

- Marianne Frei is re-elected as president of the society

## Auditors

- Rosmarie Frey resignation as auditor is accepted
- Catarina Rüegg is re-elected as auditor
- Christian Rohrbach is elected as auditor

## 6. Activities related to the Rietberg exhibition 2010 (July 4<sup>th</sup> - October 17<sup>th</sup>)

Exhibition, panel discussion and concert & film tour for promotion, Bhutan evening with Bhutanese speakers, events at Volkshochschule Zürich, special programme at Songtsen House Zürich

## 7. Strategy 2010 and beyond

Presented by Erwin König; strategy is based on outline presented in 2009, on agreement of cooperation SSB / SBS signed in December 2009 in Thimphu, and on fact finding mission in January 2010 (E.König/P.Vogel):

- ➔ Cooperation strategy: focus on “people to people” and “people’s initiatives”

We have to avoid that the society becomes “just a donor” for Bhutan, therefore it is important to emphasize the “people to people” approach.

E. König presents the fact finding mission in Shemgang and Bumthang. The methods used during that mission included group discussions, interview of resource persons, workshops and other participatory approaches. The aim was to identify priorities of the people (in Bhutan) and to select activities that can be implemented with support of SSB (according to our statutes)

### School support

- ➔ Internet access for schools in upper and lower Kheng
- ➔ School to school exchange (CH – BHT)
- ➔ Schoolchildren scheme ➔ child sponsorship for SSB / SBS members (Shemgang)

For internet access, there are earmarked funds from Swisscom (CHF 5'000), school to school exchange does not require much, and the last point should be funded through private sponsors

### Community based tourism

- ➔ Send CH tourists along Manas trekking route (stay in villages)
- ➔ Master plan for Gonphu hot springs (accessibility, infrastructure, services)
- ➔ Orchard diversification (vegetables, other cash crops)
- ➔ Develop and coordinate further activities (rural infrastructure improvement, products development in tourism, etc. with partners (e.g. Helvetas)
- ➔ Replication possible in other areas

Budget: starting 2011 with less than 15'000 CHF and less than 25'000 CHF in 2012

### Small scale industry development

- ➔ 2<sup>nd</sup> hand material and equipment from Switzerland
- ➔ Training and consulting activities for tourism sector
- ➔ SME and MoEA capacity building Shemgang

### **Further initiatives**

- ➔ Town planning Panbang
- ➔ Gravity ropeway (need further review)

**Communication and fund raising strategy:** people to people (again), central role of members, cooperation between both societies, fund raising strategy to be coordinated between CH and Bhutan societies

### **Discussion**

Use of funds must be transparent, e.g. how was the fact finding mission funded?

- Individual costs paid by the persons themselves (EK, PV) including flight, accommodation, etc. No costs paid by the society!

How is the security situation in Shemgang region?

- It is important to take some precautions,
- Bhutan Govt. intends to open Manas for tourists

### **8. Approval of the Budget 2010**

Budget approved

### **9. Book “Far apart, close together”**

New sales' price: general 49CHF, members 45CHF, booksellers 37CHF

### **10. Address of His Excellency the Ambassador of Bhutan to the United Nations in Switzerland, Mr. Yeshey Dorji**

(see document on SSB website)

#### **Discussion**

Gross National Happiness (GNH) is based on 4 pillars: environment / culture / good governance / economic growth, i.e. GHN is a holistic approach.

GNH as a main focus of policy in Bhutan; GHN will be mainstreamed in school curricula in Bhutan, and GHN is getting growing attention from the international community, especially after the financial crisis of 2008/09. The discussion continues on what are relevant indicators for GNH (e.g. beyond economic indicators).

SAARC summit to be held in Bhutan in 2010; China will attend as an observer, as well as other SE Asian countries (S.Korea, etc.)

About the position of Bhutan towards its neighbour in the North: “well, Bhutan cannot change its geographic position!”; borders with China are not officially finalized, but talks are taking place. Relations with China are good.

Mc Kinsey: what are the proposals from their side? They are making proposals in several areas (e.g. tourism, where they suggest increasing the number of tourists to 100'000 per year, which is worrying many people!); also in education, some people are rather sceptical about proposals from Mc Kinsey.

## **11. Lunch and Cultural Program at the Museum d'Ethnographie (MEN)**

Cultural Program: Presentations

- Marceline de Montmollin, conservatrice honoraire de la collection bhoutanaise due MEN
- Olimpia Caligiuri Cullity, conservatrice adjointe
- Marc-Olivier Gonseth, directeur / conservateur

Minutes by Dominique Guenat, board member, 27.03.2010