Uri Peter Trier the father of Swiss - Bhutanese collaboration in Education passed away

On June 25, 2019 our member and good friend of Bhutan Prof. Dr. h.c. Uri Peter Trier passed away at the age of 91. Uri Peter Trier initiated 1989 together with Walter Furrer (Director of the Zurich Teacher Training College) the collaboration in education with Bhutan. At this time Uri was the head of the Pedagogical Department of the Zurich Education Ministry.

Between 1989 and 2003 a Partnership in Teacher Training (PITT) between the Colleges of Education in Paro and Samtse and the Zurich University of Teacher Education brought together teachers and lecturers from the two countries. Uri visited Bhutan on several missions. The close collaboration resulted not only in fruitful professional outcomes, they were also the starting point of long-lasting friendships.

On his last visit to Switzerland in April 2018 one of his close friends Jigme Zangpo (at that time Speaker of the Parliament) visited Uri in Zurich. This was the last direct contact to Bhutan. However, in his heart and mind Bhutan was always present. When Uri had to move to a home for elderly people he had to leave back part of his library, but for him it was important to take along all the documents and books about Bhutan and the projects he had initiated.

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