**Made in Bhutan**

Screening of the documentary “Made in Bhutan” with a panel discussion in presence of Mr. Dorji Tashi

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2014  
Time: 18.30 – 20.00  
Venue: Unitobler Bern, Lerchenweg 36, 3012 Bern, Room F 021

The 32 minutes documentary film “Made in Bhutan” by Hirondelle Chatelard portrays the emergence of entrepreneurship in Bhutan. The screening of the short documentary will be followed by a discussion on topics like “current trends, challenges and opportunities for entrepreneurship”, “entrepreneurship and youth unemployment in Bhutan” etc. The screening and the discussion will be followed by an apéro. Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji (Minister of Agriculture) and representatives from the Embassy will honour us with their presence.

**Speaker Background**

Mr Dorji Tashi is the Executive Director of Loden Foundation and currently pursuing his Master in Business Administration since 2013 at the University of Lincoln in the UK. Mr Dorji has been the key driver of the Loden Entrepreneurship Program who has been literally on ground with the entrepreneurs. He joined Loden as their first core-staff in 2007 as country co-coordinator. He served as one of the first imminent member to the board of Civil Society Organization Authority in Bhutan and worked for Bhutan Broadcasting Service and Ministry of Information and Communications before he joined Loden. He is currently working on a research on “entrepreneurship challenges and opportunities, a case study in Bhutan.”

The event is hosted by the Society Switzerland–Bhutan and the Bern Linguistics Institute.
About Bhutan
Bhutan is a small Himalayan kingdom with a population of about 745,461 sandwiched between the world’s two largest countries, India and China. The total size of the country is about 38,394 (Square KM) with the GDP of $1.780 billion with the GDP growth rate at 4.4 % in 2013 according to the World Bank. Bhutan achieved 86.1% of literacy rate and stands at 33rd position in terms of corruption rate out of 176 countries around the world according to the Corruption Index by Transparency International, 2012. Poverty stands at 12% and has youth unemployment of 7.3%, which have become a national concern. Agriculture, hydro-electricity and tourism are the main sources of national revenue. The inflation rate as of 2012 stood at 10.9%.

Entrepreneurship in Bhutan
Private sector in Bhutan is still at a nascent stage and entrepreneurship in particular is fragile. A significant people in the country including young graduates barely understand what the entrepreneurship is all about. Unlike the developed nations, priority for the young graduates has been always to find a job in public sector and not a many graduate opt for entrepreneurial ventures. Eventually, rural-urban migration and youth unemployment has been on rise resulting to social threats in the urban areas, which is one of the key concerns in the country. In an attempt to combat these issues that have been on rise, entrepreneurship has become one of the top priorities in the country.

Loden Foundation
The Loden Foundation is a registered national non-profit organization that has been actively promoting innovative enterprises particularly amongst the youth since 2008. Many other stakeholders including the central government today look up to the organization as a model for their impressive track record over the years. Total of over two thousand entrepreneurs have been trained on the basic fundamentals of entrepreneurship. Sixty-three entrepreneurs were helped with soft loans ranging from £1000 to £15000 to start their projects, which are spread across the country. Two entrepreneurs supported by Loden received International Award from the Global Entrepreneurship Competition organized by Princes’ Youth Business Internationals in the UK. Maitri Trust has been the key supporter since 2010.

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