Memorandum of Understanding

between Bhutan-Swiss Friendship Association
and Druk-Switzerland Thuendrel Tshogpa

PRELIMINARY
The members of the two associations are committed to strengthening and expanding the existing cooperation between the people of the two countries in line with mutually agreed priorities. The focus of this association will be 'people to people'. The activities thereby undertaken by the two associations will not overlap or duplicate other existing bilateral development cooperation. Notwithstanding the fields of cooperation identified in this Memorandum of Understanding, the scope of activities may be broadened with the consensus of both the associations in the coming years.

Farmers Training
1. Young Bhutanese farmers can be selected on the basis of their proven commitment to be farmers in Bhutan. They will be selected and sent to work and stay with host families in Swiss farms with a view to augmenting their skills and knowledge in crop, dairy and forestry production and processing.

Sports and Cultural Cooperation
2. Activities which promote culture and heritage of Bhutan in Switzerland and that of Switzerland in Bhutan will be facilitated by the two associations. This may include support to the preservation of cultural projects, and artists such as musicians, dancers, artists, craftsmen etc. Bhutanese sportsmen, especially with expertise in archery, can visit Switzerland to promote traditional archery. Similarly, Swiss arts and culture could be promoted in Bhutan through visits of their artists and organisation of exhibitions.

Exchange of Media Personnel and Academic
3. A well functioning media is particularly important for the growth of civil societies. Training of media personnel as well as academics from autonomous agencies will be a focus of cooperation between the two associations. For the promotion of understanding between Swiss and Bhutanese people, exchange of visits between media and academics will be promoted. There could be institutional partnership between such bodies.

City Partnerships
4. Urbanisation is taking place in many places in Bhutan. Some cities of Bhutan may be linked with cities in Switzerland in order to seek technical and financial assistance. The two associations will look into the possibility to establish a linkage programme.

School-to-School Friendship Linkage
5. Certain schools in Switzerland and rural Bhutan can be linked via e-mail and correspondence as sister schools. Students of the two countries can embark on a programme to write to each other sharing news and opinions, thus building awareness in other countries of their respective societies. In order to enable the Bhutanese students to undertake this information sharing and friendship building exercise, the school in Switzerland could consider funding the modest cost of correspondence and communication, which would otherwise hinder the Bhutanese students from doing so.

Funding Arrangements
6. The two associations will endeavour to explore various sources of fund, including foundations, subscription fees of members, and individual benefactors to implement the mutually agreed activities.
Signed in Thimphu on 12, November, 2001

Ernst Reinhardt
President
Bhutan-Swiss Friendship Association

Pema Wangchuck
Chairman
Druk-Switzerland Thuendrel Tshogpa