On the 1st of August as a tradition in Bhutan celebrating the Swiss national day amongst the friends of the Swiss Community and Bhutanese who benefited from the friendship, an icy-chilly sadden news of the passing away of our dear friend Annemarie Huber-Hotz dropped to us. As Buddha stated “Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared”, to the great legacy of Annemarie’s work shall go into eternity in serving humanity.

Annemarie was a great friend to Their Majesties The King and The Queen, a well-wisher to the country, and a true-passionate supporter to Bhutan at all times. She was a mother to many, nurturing every human being possible, a leader to the great achievements she leaves behind, a mentor to any followers in need of guidance, and a humbled-kind soul. Annemarie’s great support to Bhutan and many young Bhutanese are evident today. Her enslavement to Bhutan goes back to early days of the year1998 when her husband Charles Erik Huber started to train young Bhutanese in analog and digital photography with his great partner the former Prime Minister of Bhutan, His Excellency Dasho Tshering Tobgay, the then Director of National Technical Training Authority (NTTA). Through many projects that she financed and also through her great networks brought in financial supports and know-how to Bhutan. She visited Bhutan the very first time as the Federal Chancellor of Switzerland and continued to personally finance the training of young Bhutanese in the field of media, a program her husband co-founded in Bhutan “Bhutan Institute of Media”. Her infectious passion to support Bhutan besides the key focus in education was also in supporting many livelihood programs in the communities. She was also a member of the Society Switzerland-Bhutan, a friendship association.

After she resigned as the Federal Chancellor of Switzerland and became the President of the Swiss Red Cross she continued to support Bhutan to fulfill one of the obligations to the Geneva Convention to establish a Red Cross National Society. Since 2008 in cooperation with His Majesty's Secretariat, Annemarie in her capacity as the President of the Swiss Red Cross and ex officio vice-president to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent played a very instrumental role in putting the foot foundation of the Bhutan Red Cross Society. Her commitment as the President of the Swiss Red Cross assured that the establishment of the youngest national society received the best of any resource supports possible. She not only supported the institutionalization of the Bhutan Red Cross Society but also supported in grooming the key figures of the national society. Today we see the youngest national society developing and this goes with great gratitude to the great commitments of Annemarie. Those special memories of the great and feverish work of Annemarie will always bring a smile to every face, joy to every soul, and harmony in every society.

Dragyel Tenzin Dorjee