

JOINT STATEMENT
ON THE BIENNIAL HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATION BETWEEN
THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK
THIMPHU, 30 AUGUST 2011

The Biennial High Level Consultation on Bilateral Cooperation between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of Denmark was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, on 30th August 2011. The Bhutanese delegation was headed by Mr. Daw Penjo, Foreign Secretary, and the Danish delegation by Mr. Martin Hermann, Head, Department of Asia and the Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

The two governments attach great importance to the High Level Consultation as it provides an opportunity to review bilateral cooperation and exchange views on issues of mutual interest. This year's Consultation is significant as it is the final consultation in the present format, prior to phasing out of Danish programme country assistance to Bhutan.

The High Level Consultation endorsed the "Framework for Continued Danish-Bhutanese Partnership". The Framework provides for cooperation in fields of mutual interest including global security, democracy, good governance, human rights and rule-based international cooperation; environment and climate change; and economic, cultural, commercial and educational cooperation, including through private and institutional partnerships. The Framework will be submitted for final approval to both Governments and subsequently signed at the Ministerial level at a mutually convenient date in the near future.

The delegations of Bhutan and Denmark expressed profound satisfaction at the excellent relations between the two countries, which had been further strengthened by the visit of H.E. Lyonchhoen Jigmi Y. Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan, to Denmark in October 2010.

The two sides expressed deep satisfaction at the significant achievements made by Bhutan in the key sectors of health, education, good governance, environment and urban development through the generous bilateral assistance from Denmark. Total Danish assistance from 1989, when Bhutan became a programme country for Denmark,

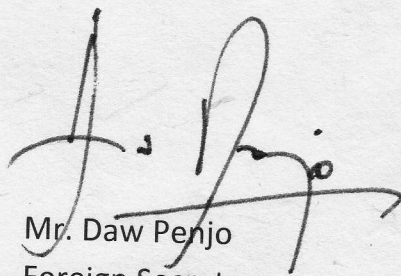
until the end of the 10th Five Year Plan, amounts to more than 1.9 billion Danish Kroner making Denmark Bhutan's second largest development partner.

The Bhutanese delegation expressed its appreciation to the Government of Denmark for its final commitment of 50 million Danish Kroner for the Transition Support Programme for the period July 2011 to June 2015 which will contribute to the consolidation and sustainability of results achieved so far.

Both sides reiterated the strong ties of friendship, goodwill and mutual understanding which exist between the two countries, and a shared aspiration for continued close relations and partnership for mutual benefit.

Thimphu, 30th August 2011

For the Royal Government of Bhutan



Mr. Daw Penjo
Foreign Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Royal Government of Bhutan

For the Government of Denmark



Mr. Martin B. Hermann
Head, Department of Asia & the Pacific
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of Denmark