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DEPARTMENT OF BILATERAL AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

MFA/BDA-33/100/3948

22nd November, 2013

PRESS RELEASE

His Excellency Mr. Patrick Michael Suckling, Ambassador of Australia to Bhutan, presented his credentials to His Majesty King at the Tashi Chhodzong this morning. After the presentation of credentials, His Majesty the King granted an audience to the Ambassador. Ambassador Suckling also called on Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay and Foreign Minister Rinzin Dorji.

Prior to his appointment as the Ambassador of Australia to India, his previous overseas assignments include Washington (2003-2007) and New Delhi (1997-1999). Between 2009-2011 he managed international issues for two Prime Ministers of Australia, encompassing foreign, economic and international aid policy. This included Australia's active participation in the establishment of the G20 as the world's premier global economic forum and expansion of the East Asia Summit to strengthen regional architecture. In 2007, Mr. Suckling was Adviser to the Australian Foreign Minister.

Australia is one of Bhutan's major development partners with their assistance focused on human resources development and in agriculture. The Ambassador will be awarding certificate to 44 Bhutanese students who are recipient of Australia Award (scholarship) for this year. Formal diplomatic relations between Bhutan and Australia was established in September, 2002.

Ambassador Suckling succeeds Ambassador Peter Varghese as the new Ambassador of Australia to Bhutan.

