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Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Royal Government of Bhutan

MFA/PPD/M-2/134

20<sup>th</sup> December 2017

## NOTIFICATION

### **Subject: Holding of International Meetings and Conferences in Bhutan**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is aware of the contributions of hosting international and regional conferences in the country in strengthening our relations with the international community and promoting Brand Bhutan. While the Ministry acknowledges the benefits, it is also informed of the growing concerns the tourism industry has over the increasing number of such events being held during peak tourist seasons as the tourism infrastructure especially hotel accommodation and airline seats are stretched to its limit during the peak tourist season months of March-April-May, September-October-November.

Therefore, all ministries, constitutional bodies, autonomous agencies, corporate and private sectors are requested to avoid hosting of large (above 30 international participants) international and regional conferences and other such events during the peak tourist seasons.

Further, in conformity to the Economic Development Policy, 2010, the Tourism Council of Bhutan have incorporated in the Tourism Rules and Regulation 2017, the provision relating to foreign MICE participants, whereby participants are exempted from paying Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) for additional two days besides the actual duration of Conference and Meeting.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on its part, will take into account the timing of these events when according clearance for conferences/meetings to be organized in Bhutan.

A minimum of 30 days' notice must be given to the Foreign Ministry when applying for clearance to host any regional or international events in Bhutan.

This Notification shall be implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

(SonamTshong)  
Foreign Secretary



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Royal Government of Bhutan

Copy to for kind information:

1. Hon'ble Ministers, Ministries, Thimphu
2. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Prime Minister
3. Hon'ble Secretaries, Ministries, Thimphu
4. Heads of Constitutional Bodies in Bhutan
5. Heads of Autonomous Agencies in Bhutan
6. President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry