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Department of Multilateral Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Royal Government of Bhutan  
Thimphu



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**PRESS RELEASE**

Bhutan observed the **International Day of Happiness (IDH)** on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 with the lighting of a thousand butter lamps at the Semtokha Dzong in Thimphu. The commemoration was led by Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs and participated by senior officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan, representatives of the diplomatic community, international organizations and civil societies.

The IDH was first observed in 2013 after the declaration of March 20 as the International Day of Happiness by the United Nations General Assembly on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The resolution was inspired by the UN General Assembly resolution 65/309 titled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development", which was initiated by Bhutan and adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly in July 2011.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Thimphu