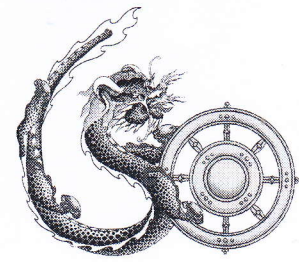




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Department of Multilateral Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Royal Government of Bhutan



MFA/MD/6/2772

PRESS RELEASE

A delegation from the Royal Government of Bhutan, led by Secretary of the National Environment Commission, Mr. Sonam P. Wangdi, is attending the United Nations Conference on Climate Change Conference of Parties 24 (COP 24) in Katowice, Poland. The COP 24 is in its final week and will conclude on today.

The Leader of the Delegation made a statement at the High Level segment of COP24 on December 12, 2018. The delegation urged countries to be flexible, open and constructive to agree on Rule Book for effective and robust implementation of Paris Agreement. Bhutan's extreme vulnerability to the effects of climate change on account of being land locked and its fragile mountain ecosystem, and the high dependence of the economy on hydropower and agriculture were also highlighted.

The delegation expressed concern over the lack of consensus to consider scientific facts presented at the Conference; and cautioned that if the concerns of small and vulnerable states like Bhutan were not taken into consideration, climate change threatens to derail the significant economic gains Bhutan has made; and may even prevent its goal of graduating from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) status by 2023. The delegation highlighted the important pledge made by Bhutan to remain carbon neutral in 2009 and the ongoing efforts to build resilience to climate change.

On the sidelines of COP24, the Leader of the Delegation held bilateral meetings with the leaders from Luxembourg, Japan, Suriname, and multilateral agencies such as the Global Green Growth Institute, International Institute for Environment and Development, Climate Analytics, and YASAVA Solutions SA.

As endorsed by the Election Committee of the LDC Group during the additional Subsidiary Body session held in Bangkok in September 2018, the Chairmanship of the LDC Group comprising 47 countries will be formally taken over by Bhutan from Ethiopia for the term 2019-2020 at the end of the conference in Katowice.



14th December 2018
Ministry of Foreign Affairs