From the Editor

On the joyous occasion of the 86th Birth Anniversary of our beloved Third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, the President of the Tarayana Foundation, Her Majesty The Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck graced the inaugural session of the 11th Tarayana Annual Fair on 2 May 2014 at the Clock Tower Square, Thimphu.

Her Majesty expressed Her deep appreciations for the collective efforts and support rendered towards the Foundation in achieving its mission. We are proud to mention that since our involvement in the rural communities, our activities and projects have covered 102 villages in 10 Dzongkhags. The greatest satisfaction we generate is when we see our communities becoming self-sufficient and independent after our interventions.

The Tarayana Annual Fair provides a platform for rural communities to showcase their products. It is also a moment for people from different parts of the country who have been beneficiaries and supporters of Tarayana to come together to share their experiences, challenges and to reflect.

We are happy to know that participants at the Fair have been increasing over the years. It shows that the Foundation has been able to bring onboard and engage growing number of people in its charity provision to the fellow citizens in dire need. Importantly, it shows the impacts of the Foundation’s initiatives on the lives of the common and ordinary.

Also, we were greatly honored to have Mr. William Leong, who is a generous individual donor of Tarayana Foundation, as guest at the function. One of the important highlights of the event was Her Majesty presenting Special Award of Appreciation to Mr. William Leong for supporting charity initiatives of Tarayana Foundation.

Concluding on 4 May 2014, the Fair saw the largest number of participants and highest sale of community produce. Undoubtedly, the event was the most successful one among 11 Fairs held thus far.

Happiness...

“I believe compassion to be one of the few things we can practice that will bring immediate and long-term happiness to ourselves”

Dalai Lama

Tarayana Annual Fair

Tarayana Foundation celebrated its 11th Annual Fair from 2nd to 4th May under the theme “Rural Development in Action”. The President of the Foundation, Her Majesty The Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, graced the occasion. The event was also attended by our hon’ble board member Her Royal Highness Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck along with Mr. William Leong, the recipient of Tarayana’s Annual Award for the year 2014.

Other guests included Hon’ble Prime Minister of Bhutan, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Government officials, and Delegates from various Agencies.

According to the event coordinator, Mr Pema Gyalpo, this time the Fair represented the highest number of stalls with highest sales record compared to the past years. The Foundation showcased about thirty five stalls, including the food stall run by Bhutan National Legal Institute as a volunteer service, community representatives from different sites sold products that are produced by their groups. The games stalls, as usual were manned by the PGDPA trainees from the Royal Institute of Management (RIM). Other stalls included Jumble Sales, Silent Auction, Green Technology and the Buzip donation drive. Like every year, face painting was the most popular especially among the youth population. The event was also supported by Hotel Tashi Taj and Hotel Druk in sponsoring the three days lunch for the volunteers, and community participants. Other financial supporters include Druk Green Power Ltd., DHI, BNB and BDBL.

Besides, Tarayana organized series of discourses on “Rural Development in Action” represented by community members and the field staff. The forum was an opportunity to discuss the impact the Foundation made since our involvement with the community members. The forum also provided good opportunity to exhibit photos of Tarayana activities, projects and programmes to the public. Participants expressed great satisfaction.

It is a tradition that our Hon’ble President grants audience to the community participants and spends time discussing issues related to the marketing of their crafts. Her Majesty also gives soelra to all and thanks each one of them for taking part in the Tarayana Annual Fair. Through such events, once in a year, our community members get an opportunity to express their sincere gratitude to Her Majesty for making their lives better and self-sufficient. Some of the participants said, this is their first visit to Thimphu and getting an opportunity to meet Her Majesty in person will make their trip even more memorable. Her Majesty also wished them safe journey back home.

Mr. William Leong, is the Managing Director of Leong Poh Kee Group of Companies, which is a well established Watch industry based in Singapore. Apart from running the business, Mr. Leong is also involved in Charity projects and holds leading positions in trade and charity organizations.
Upcoming Events

June, 2014

- Completion of Helvetas project in Kengkhar, Monggar
- Feasibility study of water availability, use and demand as well as project climatic change impact on water sources in the proposed areas
- Planting Bamboo at Kalapong site, Monggar
- Buzip monitoring visits in the Centres

Support Tarayana

We invite you to be a part of reaching out to the most vulnerable members of our society through your support to Tarayana. We operate with financial support of individuals and organizations, without which we would not have the opportunity of helping so many families help themselves. Tarayana complements and supplements the initiatives of the Government in empowering rural communities towards sustainable livelihoods.

The Foundation maintains its accounts in accordance with accepted financial norms and is audited annually by the Royal Audit Authority of Bhutan. An audited financial report and an annual progress report are published every year and is available for all interested individuals and organizations.

Please contact us for more information.