



Bhutan Film Trust report - Locarno 2016

The Bhutan Film Trust became official partner of Festival del Film Locarno Open Doors programme early 2016. Henk de Jong and Erica Sluyters were accredited and attended the festival and industry programme at Locarno from 6 to 10 August 2016, representing the Bhutan Film Trust.

Tashi Gyeltshen, together with his producer Kinley Tshering, attended the Open Doors Hub 2016 with *The Red Phallus*. They received the Open Doors Grant (20,000 CHF). Jigme Lhendup, one of the four fold filmmakers, attended the Open Doors Lab. All three attended workshops, network meetings and gained experience through the Open Doors programme.

Henk and Erica also attended the premiere of *Hema Hema sing me song while I wait* and met with the Pawo Choyning Dorji, producer and crewmembers. *Lo Sum Choe Sum* – Dechen Roder, *A forgotten story* – Tashi Gyeltshen, *Monk in the Forest* – Karma Wangchuk, were screened at the Open Doors and were well attended.

The Open Doors team and workshop facilitators noted similar experiences regarding the quality of the Bhutanese films and skills of the film makers as encountered by the Bhutan Film Trust team over the passed few years. Knowledge and experience in budgeting, pitching, preproduction development, PR, and knowledge about distribution are still at an infant stage. However, films like *Hema Hema*, Dechen Roders new feature *Honeygiver among the dogs* and Tashi's new feature *The Red Phallus* will greatly contribute to a different way of story telling in international film making.

Although the contribution of the Bhutan film trust to the Bhutan film industry is modest we are happy about what we have achieved so far. The Bhutan Film Trust has been instrumental in creating international networks, has supported film makers and assisted in terms of networks and expertise. Compared to three years ago the independent Bhutan Film Industry made a huge leap on the international film arena. We are grateful to play a small role in this development.

On 1 and 2 August meetings were held with Marianne Frei – chair person of Society Switzerland - Bhutan, and Dieter Zurcher – chair person film days Switzerland 2017 in Uster and Kyburg, Switzerland to discuss the Bhutan film event to be arranged in January 2017 in Switzerland and possibilities to create a network of support to the Bhutan Film Trust in the future.

Meetings Locarno

Carlo Chatrian - artistic director – Festival del film Locarno
Sophie Bourdon – Head Open Doors & Industry Developments
Sarah Schliesser – program coordinator Open Doors
Paolo Bertolin – Open Doors consultant and Correspondent Programmer for the Venice International Film Festival
Sybille Kurz - pitching workshop facilitator
Delphine Jeanneret – film curator
Inke van Loocke – coordinator CineMart & Rotterdam Lab
Tashi Gyeltshen, Kinley Tshering, Jigme Lhendup
Pawo Choyning Dorji, producer *Hema Hema*, and crewmembers Sadon Lhamo, Tshering Dorji and Thinley Dorji

Meetings Society Switzerland - Bhutan

Marianne Frei and Rosmarie Frey
Dieter Zurcher

Géraldine Zeuner – Head Team Culture and Development Swiss Confederation

Erica Sluyters
Ellecom 30 august 2016