

Activity Report
Bhutan Film Trust
1 January – 31 December 2015



still *Lo sum Choe sum*, by Dechen Roder

INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

1. *Organisational structure* - the Strategic Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory committee are in place since end 2014 and offices in the Netherlands and in Bhutan are in place since the beginning of 2015. Two board members, Mrs Lem van Eupen and Mr Peter Schrurs accepted the position of board members.
2. *Technical Advisory Committee* – the committee members assessed 13 applications received in the three application rounds in 2015. They advised the Board of Trustees accordingly and also advised on in between issues.
3. *Board of Trustees* - The present board members assessed applications received in 2015 and granted support to two short films (productions, postproduction and promotion: 2x 5000 Euro's) and a 4-fold to be worked on in 2016. Support was also granted to one director joining the *international crossing boarders, crossing dreams workshop for producers* in Indonesia, and four directors attending their premiers abroad. One director was supported to extend his regional network and report back to the Trust on possible networks and regional opportunities. The board endorsed the Bhutan Film Trust strategy plan April 24, 2015 and assisted the staff members with professional advice and feedback.
4. *Office Bhutan* – Ms Karma Luday, liaison officer in Bhutan assisted the Technical Advisory Committee members during the three application round. She assisted Henk de Jong during his work for the Trust in February 2015 in Thimphu. She maintained and enlarged the Bhutan Film Trust network in Bhutan. She is in contact with the Bhutan official departments, film organisations (Bhutan Film Association and Cine Bhutan), and producers and attended meetings with government officials and film professionals discussing the Bhutan Film Commission Policy, commercial production in Bhutan. She participated in the MOIC and Korean organised workshop and the National Film Commission formation task group. She met with the proposal submitters on clarifications and had general discussions and met with young filmmakers, Druktin Animation Company, Pawo Choni Dorji, besides the directors and persons who are in the BFT portfolio. She conducted an assessment on the need for a Legal Contracting training among the film industry, which had positive responses. Ms Luday supported the staff in The Netherlands with information and advice and followed up on all actions related to the Trust work.
5. *Office The Netherlands*: Mr Ray Seif, media and entertainment management graduate, supported the Bhutan Film Trust staff in the Netherlands from 1 June to 1 October 2015. He received a grant (startersbeurs) from The Hague Municipality. Ray updated all films in the Trust portfolio at *IMDB* and *Withoutabox*, made an inventory of all internationally relevant film festivals and installed Instagram.
6. The staff members continued to set up the administration, network in Europe, select film festivals and advised and supported Bhutanese Film Professionals.
7. The strategic plan was signed and endorsed by the Board of Trustees.
8. A brochure for the Bhutan Film Trust was finalised with information about the Trust, introduction of Directors and methods of support at the beginning of the year. The Brochure 2016 was prepared in December 2015.
9. Bhutan Film Trust Website and Facebook page were further developed. Bhutan Film Trust YouTube channel was created as well as Instagram page.
10. The staff prepared launch of the Bhutan Film Trust at the Buddhist International Film Festival at EYE, Amsterdam, October 3, 2015.
11. Staff and board met three times, (March 24, May 22, November 2) and exchanged information through mail and telephone. Strategy paper, applications, professional network and general issues were discussed.

TRAVELS AND NETWORKING

- Henk de Jong was accredited to the International Film Festival Rotterdam, January 2015
- Henk de Jong visited Bhutan from 4 February / 2 March 2015. He met with relevant people and organisations in the Bhutanese film industry and authorities. Meetings were held with the Bhutan Film Association, local filmmakers and a formal presentation was held with all involved stakeholders. A number of films in progress were discussed and viewed. The Trust contributed financially to the Bhutan International Film festival, 14 – 23 February 2015. Henk attended screenings and met with organisers during the International Film festival and was officially accredited the Bhutan National Film Award ceremony in Phuntsholing, a yearly event organised by the Bhutan Film Association.
- Erica Sluyters attended the Dutch Mountain Film Festival on 28 March 2015 to attend screening of *The Red Door*.
- Henk de Jong attended the meeting with the Honourable Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay in Brussels on 2 June 2015. He informed HE about the Bhutan Film Trust and handed over the first copies of the Bhutan Film Trust Brochure to HE the PM and the Ambassador of Bhutan in Brussels.
- Henk de Jong attended the International Kurzfilmtage in Winterthur, Switzerland from 5 - 8 November and attended it's film industry days. He extended the Bhutan film trust network.

PROJECT SUPPORT

- Financial support granted to Bhutan International Film Festival 14 - 18 February 2015
- Financial support offered to *The Bow* by Kinley Tshering and *The Precious Stone* by Tashi Dorji, who did not use the grant in 2015.
- Financial support granted to Arun Bhattarai for travel to Indonesia to attend Crossing Borders/ Crossing Dreams workshop from 1- 6 September 2015
- *Lo Sum Choe Sum* – Dechen Roder: was included in the Bhutan Film Trust portfolio. The film premiered at the 65th Berlinale 11-25 February 2015. The Trust supported Dechen Roder's travel to attend the premiere and work on her professional network in Europe. The film was screened at the Environmental Film Festival in Washington DC, March 2015. A DCP was made and sent to Palm Springs International Short Film Festival 16-22 June 2015 and Melbourne International Film Festival 30 July – 15 August 2015 for screenings. Lead actress Dechen Zangmo went to Korea to attend the screening of *Lo Sum Choe Sum* at the Seoul International Film Festival in June 2015 where the film entered the short film & video competition, with support from the Bhutan Film Trust.
- *The Red Door* - short art film by Tashi Gyeltshen; the Trust supported his travel to Jaipur International Film Festival 1-5 February 2015 and PR. Assisted the Dutch Mountain Film Festival 23 February – 1 March 2015 with screening format and PR info about *The Red Door*. *The Red Door* was also screened at the Environmental Film Festival in Washington DC, March 2015.
- *Opera Bhutan*. The first opera ever in Bhutan, October 2014, was documented by TGMI (Bhutan) and bhutan+partners (producer). Finalising postproduction process in attendance of a possible performance of the opera at Holland Festival 2017
- Karma Deki, Dechen Roder and Loday Chophel among others were supported with juridical advice on international distribution and rights regulations.
- Purchased rights of *Girl with the Red Sky* for post production and distribution, had the original format digitalised
- Bhutan Film Trust registered the Bhutanese film productions in its portfolio at the IMDB film database (<http://www.imdb.com>) and Without-a-box (<http://www.withoutabox.com>) and filmpeople.nl to promote Bhutan art films and to introduce Bhutanese filmmakers to the international arena.
- Assisted Pelden Dorji with press kit for feature film *Norbu, My beloved yak* and Dechen Roder with a press kit for *Lo Sum Choe Sum*



- Assisted Karma Deki regarding PR feature film *Kushuthara*, supported her travel to US to attend the premiere of *Kushuthara*.
- Acquired global distribution rights (except for SAARC countries) for the feature *Prophecy* by Zuri Rinpoche and submitted the film to various festivals
- Assisted Karma Dhendup with advice on translation and editing of the English edition of the first Bhutan animation film *Ap Bokto*

IN BRIEF

The Bhutan Film Trust accomplished the following in 2015

- assessed 16 film proposals for support
- assisted and supported 12 filmmakers with production, distribution, information, networks and legal information
- advised 9 filmmakers on scripts and post-production
- supported 2 filmmakers with the post-production of their films
- supported 1 filmmaker in attending International Crossing Borders workshops in Indonesia
- entered Bhutanese films for 8 international film festivals
- supported 4 filmmakers in attending screenings of their films at international film festivals extending their networks and exploring opportunities
- supported one filmmaker to travel to a regional international film festival to extend his network and advise the trust on regional opportunities
- assisted 7 international film festivals with screening formats and PR
- assisted and supported 2 filmmakers with promotional materials: brochures, posters and flyers
- supported and attended the Bhutan International Film Festival in Thimphu, February 2015

FOCUS BHUTANFILM TRUST - 2016

- extend professional network to assist Bhutanese filmmakers
- extend network among patrons / benefactors
- submit *Prophecy* by Zuri Rinpoche to international film festivals
- re-edit and submit *Norbu my beloved Yak*, by Pelden Dorji to international film festivals
- support Tashi Gyelthsen with his next productions *The Red Phallus*
- support Pelden Dorji and his team to produce their four-fold shorts including *Barcelona Tsip*
- support post production of the documentary film *Inseparables* a collaboration between Arun Bhattarai (Bhutan) and Dorottya Zurbó (Hungary)
- assist Karma Atang with distribution of his animation *Ap Bokto*
- support animation films which are currently 'work in progress'
- continue to promote Bhutan films at international film festivals
- assess opportunities to open a video on demand channel for art house films from Bhutan

Karma Luday, Liaison Officer Bhutan
Henk de Jong and Erica Sluyters, The Netherlands
March 1, 2016