

Programme Report

Event Title : Royal Highlander Festival
Place : Laya, Gasa Dzongkhag
Date : 16th – 18th October 2016

1. Background

As a part of Queen's Project, the Royal Highlander Festival was held in Laya from 16th to 18th October 2016 to promote the sustainable livelihood of highlanders, showcase highlanders' innovation and exhibit the Highlands as a pride of Bhutan.

The Festival was also a landmark activity of Gasa Dzongkhag's vision of Good to Great Gasa (GGG), which is a vision inspired by His Majesty's passion to make Bhutan Great.

The Bhutan Kidney Foundation's participation in the festival came with the invitation to create awareness of respective CSO activities, reach out to highlanders at grassroots level and to identify target groups for possible future projects and collaborations.

2. BKF's Activity & Outcome

The BKF organized awareness programme through talk on kidney health and screening of documentary film titled "Kidney Health in Bhutan" to the highlanders.



The BKF's founder trekking for the festival as a kidney transplant recipient promoted physical activity and objectified possibility of leading normal life after kidney transplantation.

- ✓ His Majesty personally conveyed an important message to the BKF on possibility and scope of starting kidney transplant programme in Bhutan in 3 to 4 years;
- ✓ The CSOs presence and contribution for the festival was vividly noticed and was highly commended even by His Majesty;
- ✓ His Majesty separately granted audience to the CSO participants and conveyed appreciation for the voluntary services facilitated at the festival;
- ✓ Strengthened networking amongst the CSO participants.
- ✓ The officials from His Majesty Secretariat recorded the list of CSO participants and their activities during the event.

Submitted by: Karma Tobgay, Program Officer