



TASHICHHODZONG
THIMPHU, BHUTAN

Dear Dr. Edahiro,

As we approach 2015 the international community, led by the United Nations, is urgently searching for new development frameworks that would best serve to guide public policy as well as personal action. We are witnessing an unprecedented surge of interest and concern in civil society, in the academic community, and among the general public throughout the world, with a shared understanding of the global challenges that confront us today.

We welcome the growing consensus on the need for a coherent, practical and holistic framework for social progress that will replace the existing systems that have not and cannot lead to sustainable development and the happiness of human society. Today's urgent need is the promotion of sustainability on one hand and wellbeing and happiness on the other, in a pragmatic and wise balance between the two.

The Kingdom of Bhutan will submit to the UN General Assembly one report in 2013 and another in 2014, proposing a new development paradigm inspired by the concept of Gross National Happiness. The reports will include detailed recommendations for public policies in an international setting. It is our intention that the proposals be characterized by a profound balance and connection between the multiple dimensions of development, wellbeing and happiness. The reports will build on the principles of Gross National Happiness to advance public policies.

Through the wide circulation of the reports, we shall call for compassion, commitment, generosity, and courage from decision makers and society at large. We shall promote a reorientation of public policies, drawing on support from children and parents, from workers and businessmen, from students and teachers, from civil society and the media, from sportsmen and artists, from spiritual, social, economic and political leaders.



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It is with this profound hope that the International Expert Working Group was formed. The Steering Committee of the International Expert Working Group has identified you, as a distinguished member of the International Expert Working Group, knowing you have something distinctive and valuable to contribute. Through constructive engagement, I have no doubt that the collective wisdom of the Expert Working Group will be greater than its parts. And I am confident that the reports will be a vital force in turning the direction of change toward our common goal. It is in this spirit and in the traditions of our cultures that I ask you to dedicate your contributions to the benefit of all sentient beings.

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Jigme Khesar
King of Bhutan

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