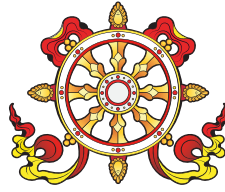


ཇིང་མུན་ འབྲུག་གི་ཚོགས་པ།



**German-Bhutan
Himalaya Society**

40 YEARS

BHUTAN DAY

Saturday, 30 May 2026

Gustav-Stresemann-Institut, Bonn

1986–2026 | 40 years of DBHG

Friendship. Exchange. A shared future.

Photo: Department of Tourism Bhutan

Programme Bhutan Day, 30 May 2026

Please note: The General Meeting of the German Bhutan Himalaya Society (DBHG) e.V. will take place on Saturday, 30 May 2026, from 10:00 am. Non-members are very welcome. Presentations and speeches will be translated from English to German and vice versa.

Time is Central European Summer Time;
[Bhutan Standard time is 4 hours ahead]

11.00 Welcome

[15:00] Reinhard Wolf, DBHG

11:15 Keynote Address: 40 Years of Development in Bhutan

[15:15] H.E. Lyonpo D. N. Dhungyel,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and External Trade*

11:45 Welcome and Address

[15:45] Ambassador Tshoki Choden,
Embassy of the Kingdom of
Bhutan/Brussels

12.15 Lunch break

[16:15]

13:30 40 Years of DHBG

[17:30] Highlights & Encounters

13:45 Beginnings that bring us together:

[17:45] The early years of the DBHG

Ram Pratap Thapa, Founding member
and former managing director of DBHG

14:15 Distress and Concentration, [18:15] Buddhist Theory and Evidence from GNH Survey

Dasho Karma Ura, currently at
the Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin

15.00 Coffee break

[19:00]

15:45 Research on Bhutan in Germany

[19:45] Prof. Dr Dagmar Schwerk,
University of Leipzig

16.15 Panel discussion

[20:15] Young Bhutanese in Germany

16:45 Final discussion

[20:45]

17.00 End of Bhutan Day

[21:00]

18:30 Reception hosted by the Mayor of [22:30] Bonn, Guido Déus, at the Old Town Hall, Address: Markt 2, 53111 Bonn

*online from Bhutan

Participation in
Bhutan Day is
possible both
on-site & online.



Speakers



H.E. Lyonpo D. N. Dhungyel

*Minister for Foreign Affairs
and External Trade*

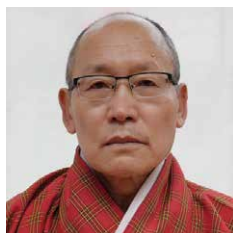
His Excellency Lyonpo D. N. Dhungyel is Bhutan's Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade and represents the Phuentshospelri-Samtse constituency in the National Assembly. Prior to this, he served as Minister for Information and Communications from 2013 to 2018. Born in 1966, he studied economics in Bhutan and completed an MBA in India. Before entering politics in 2008, he held senior positions in the private sector, including in Bhutan and Singapore.



Tshoki Choden

*Ambassador of the Royal
Bhutanese Embassy in Brussels*

Tshoki Choden has been ambassador for the EU and several European countries since 2022. Prior to that, she headed the bilateral affairs department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and worked in various roles for the ministry, as well as for the Royal Bhutanese Embassy and the Permanent Mission of Bhutan to the United Nations in New York. She holds a master's degree in international relations from SIPA at Columbia University.



Karma Ura

*President of the Centre for
Bhutan and GNH Studies*

Karma Ura has been President of the Centre for Bhutan and GNH Studies (CBS) since 2008; the centre researches and promotes Bhutan's development philosophy of Gross National Happiness. He was a member of the drafting committee for Bhutan's first constitution and was awarded the honorary title of 'Dasho' by the Fourth King in 2006. As an author, he has published several works on the history and culture of Bhutan, including 'Bhutan, the Unremembered Nation'. He is also a visual artist,

with works on display at the Dochula Temple and the British Museum, amongst others, and a visiting scholar at institutions such as Oxford.



Ram Pratap Thapa

*Founding member and former
managing director of DBHG*

Ram Thapa was a founding member and, until 2000, managing director of DBHG. Today, he is Honorary Consul General of Nepal in Cologne and Chairman of the German-Nepalese Society e.V., and is actively involved in other NGOs promoting German-Nepalese understanding. As a co-founder of the Non-Resident Nepali Association, he also represents the interests of the Nepali diaspora. Until his retirement in 2015, he worked at Stadtparkasse Köln.



Dagmar Schwerk

Professor, University of Leipzig

Dagmar Schwerk is a tenure-track professor of Tibetan Studies at the University of Leipzig. Her research focuses on Tibetan and Bhutanese Buddhism, religious literature, and the relationship between religion and politics in the Tibetan cultural sphere. She is currently focusing on Bhutan's identity and nation-building in a global context, as well as on climate issues from a Buddhist perspective. Her work has been supported by, among other things, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship; she has also received the Khyentse Award and conducted research internationally.

Young Bhutanese in Germany

take part in a moderated discussion to share their experiences of living between two cultures and offer personal insights into the challenges and opportunities they face, as well as their perspectives on Germany and Bhutan – an authentic exchange on identity and international solidarity.

40 YEARS

40 Years of the German-Bhutan Himalaya Society

**1986–2026 | Friendship. Exchange.
A shared future.**

There are places that move us and change the way we see the world. Bhutan is such a place. When a small group came together in Germany in 1986, it was this shared fascination that united them: for a country where spirituality, nature and the common good are in harmony, and which follows its own path – the 'Middle Path' between progress and mindfulness.

For four decades, the German Bhutan Himalaya Society (DBHG) has accompanied Bhutan on this journey. Through the annual Bhutan Day and Thunlam magazine, the DBHG raises awareness of the country in Germany and has also supported numerous projects in Bhutan. With the Bhutan Day 2026, we would like to celebrate this friendship with you, deepen our exchange and look ahead: to what unites us and to our shared future.



Photo: Kaun-Feederle



Registration

We kindly ask you to register for Bhutan Day latest by May 18, 2026.

Just send an email to info@bhutan-gesellschaft.de.



Photo: www.acb.de

Venue:

**Gustav-Stresemann-Institut,
Langer Grabenweg 68, 53175 Bonn-Bad Godesberg**

The Gustav Stresemann Institute (GSI) in Bonn has been one of the leading institutions for political education in the Federal Republic of Germany for over 70 years. It is a meeting place for people who come together to seek solutions to the key issues of our time.



**Deutsche
Bhutan Himalaya
Gesellschaft e. V.**

Reinhard Wolf (President), Dr. Irmela Harz (Vice-President), Brigitte Eisenack (Treasurer), Dr. Uwe Dräger, Sven Kaun-Feederle, Deki Wangmo, Sangay Zangmo; Honoray President: Prof. Manfred Gerner
Sparkasse KölnBonn, IBAN: DE89 3705 0198 0016 4122 80, BIC: COLSDE33XXX