

STATUTES FOR THE NORWAY-BHUTAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

§ 1 The name of the organisation is: Norway-Bhutan Friendship Association (NBFA).

§ 2 The objective of the NBFA is to promote mutual understanding and knowledge about Bhutan by:

- a) stimulating interest and co-operation by sharing information,
- b) being a source of information for those who might be interested in studying, or conducting research in Bhutan,
- c) giving information to Bhutanese who wish to visit Norway,
- d) promoting meeting points (physically or through internet) for members in both countries in order to create ideas of activities to improve the co-operation.
- e) promoting Bhutanese culture in Norway through organising cultural events.

§ 3 The NBFA is a politically and religiously independent non-profit organization.

§ 4 Membership

Membership in the NBFA is given to individuals, organisations and businesses who accept the objectives and statutes of the NBFA. Membership requires registration and payment of a membership fee. Members may be excluded from the NBFA according to the conditions and procedures described in §7 of these statutes.

§ 5 The Annual Meeting (AM)

- a) The AM is held before the end of March annually, and is the highest authority of the NBFA. The Board determines place and time.
- b) The AM lays down guidelines for the plans and activities of the NBFA.
- c) Any member, as defined in §4 above, who has joined NBFA and has paid the membership fee prior to the commencement of the AM, can participate in the AM with full rights.
- d) An organization or business that is registered as a member of the NBFA and has paid the membership fee prior to the commencement of the AM, may elect one representative who has full rights at the AM. This representative is not required to hold an individual membership of the NBFA.
- e) Any AM participant with full rights may address the AM and vote.
- f) To determine the outcome of a vote, only a simple majority is needed - unless the AM has decided otherwise before the voting begins.
- g) Notice of AM shall be sent to all members at least four weeks prior to the event itself. Proposed additions to the agenda must be in the hands of the Board at least two weeks prior to the AM. The complete agenda for the AM - including all documents and all proposals to be discussed and voted on - must be made available to all members of the NBFA at least one week before the AM
- h) The tasks of the AM include the following:
 - the annual activity report from the Board
 - the accounts and auditor's report for the period since last AM
 - the budget for the period until next AM
 - membership fees
 - submitted proposals
 - electing the Board, according to § 6
 - Any participant with full rights may run for the Board
 - electing a Nomination Committee with 2 members
 - electing an auditor

§ 6 The Board

- a) The Board consists of at least the following: A chair person, a treasurer, a secretary, a member and 2 substitutes. All Board members perform their duties voluntarily, and shall not receive any remuneration for this work. It is desirable that both genders are represented in the Board.
- b) The Board constitutes itself every year.
- c) Board decisions are made by simple majority vote when at least three of the Board members are present.
- d) Board members are elected for a period of 2 years with the possibility of re-election. Elections are held every year. At each election, only two members of the Board stand for election to ensure continuity in the work of the Board.

§ 7 Disciplinary measures

Any member can be excluded from NBFA under the following conditions:

- The member is proved to have used assets of the NBFA without permission from the Board.
- The member has made public statements on behalf of the NBFA without permission from the Board.
- The member is proved to have harassed another member of the NBFA.

If the Board decides to exclude a member, it must immediately inform the member about this decision. The member has the right to appeal the decision to the next AM. This is done by making a written statement to the Board within one month after having been informed. The exclusion is valid from one month after the member receives notice from the Board, unless the member appeals the decision, in which case the exclusion is not valid until it has been approved by the AM.

§ 8 These Statutes may be amended at the AM by a 2/3 majority vote.

§ 9 Dissolution

- a) Dissolution of the organisation requires a statement at the AM to this effect by minimum of a 2/3 majority vote, to be confirmed at an Extraordinary AM 3 months later also by at least a 2/3 majority vote.
- b) In the case of dissolution, any remaining assets of NBFA shall be donated to activities of general benefit for the people of Bhutan, in accordance with the purpose of NBFA.