

HISTORICAL EXCO VIST TO BHUTAN

At the invitation of the Chief Justice of Bhutan, the Honourable Lyonpo Sonam Tobgye, the LAWASIA ExCo, led by President Isomi Suzuki, made a brief visit to the Kingdom of Bhutan where it offered a day-long seminar, attended by members of the Bhutan judiciary, legal profession and police force on 1 April 2014.

The occasion was hall-marked by the warmest and friendliest of welcomes and by a mutually stimulating exchange of information where ExCo members shared experiences from their home jurisdictions, in return gaining insight into the unique legal landscape of the host country.

Topics for discussion included independence of the judiciary and profession and the structures, roles and responsibilities of bar associations and law societies in the Asia Pacific region.

For the ExCo members, the opportunity to learn more of the history and development of the legal system in Bhutan was a privilege, enhanced by the evident interest offered by the host jurisdiction in this cross-cultural knowledge exchange.

The visit included an occasion to see the new Royal Court of Justice complex in Thimphu, which is near completion. The complex is built in traditional Bhutanese style, reflecting the history and philosophies that underpin Bhutan's legal structure.

The ExCo took advantage of the collective presence of its members in Bhutan during the two-day visit to hold one of its regular meetings.

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