



BCN organizes get together and interaction program

Venue: Keukenhof, Stationsweg 166, 2161 Lisse

Date: 16 May 2010

Time: 9.30-16.00 hrs

A group of Bhutanese people from different provinces living in the Netherlands attended BCN's get together program organized at Keukenhof.

The total participants were 46 individuals; 36 above the age of 11 years and 10 children of less than 11 years. The participants had been a mixed group of men and women.

Activities:

In the beginning, all the participants were received at Keukenhof premises. Then after all the participants were served with samosa and pakauda. The participants were then handed with packets of juice and water to drink during the trip. Subsequently, BCN provided each participant with an entry ticket.



The weather was not enthusiastic. Therefore, the program could not proceed as foreseen.

However the participants made best out of the day. People were seen getting around and mixing up. People had been discussing with their colleagues over the developments in the Netherlands and the difficulties encountered. There was an ample opportunity for people to get introduced and share their living in the Netherlands.

After a short trip around the flower garden the participants were guided to the glass house. Waiting for the rain to stop, BCN took opportunity to get closer with the participants to understand their situation.



Identified and reported developments:

1. People in all the provinces – old and young are busy with their inburgering (integration classes). Some of the people have made significant progress. At least 5 individuals are already planning to appear, the iron-gate of Dutch language - the staatsexamen with in a few months.



2. At least one resettled Bhutanese got a fulltime job – the first person to get absorbed in the Dutch labor market in a short period of time. BCN's congratulations!! Other people were inspired to hear this.

3. School going children are found to be doing very well. Both the parents and children are satisfied with their progress.

4. Youths not following regular classes are facing challenges to improve their language because of limited preparation and contact hours.

5. Senior Bhutanese are enthusiastic to follow the language program. However, they wish that the program is more intensive with more contact hours.

6. The newly arrived people are getting help from fellow Bhutanese and are doing ok.





Significance of this program:

Bhutanese people in the Netherlands are scattered all over the country – from Friesland to Limburg. It is not possible for these people to come together on their own - due to financial and management difficulties; due to their health and literary status. Therefore, BCN intended to bring these people together and let them share their thoughts, difficulties and lessons learnt in their new home country. This program is directed to keep their spirit high by giving them opportunity to share themselves and cope with very difficult culture and values in the Netherlands



Outcome

This program gave moral boost to the Bhutanese in the Netherlands. It contributed to giving homely feeling and gave extra energy to cope with new things. Through this program, BCN came to understand how Bhutanese are doing in the Netherlands – in other words, how is it with their integration process. This has facilitated BCN to plan the nature of its our future programs. Ultimately, the program assisted Bhutanese in the Netherlands to remain psychologically connected. Newly arrived people expressed their gratitude for organization of such a program and making get together possible.





Discussion/recommendations:

Not all the Bhutanese could attend the program. The main reason was financial constraint – inability to pay travel cost. Participants expressed if some mechanisms can be developed to cover all the interested people in future programs.

Conclusion:

Finally all the participants gathered to end the program formally. The program organizers briefed the participants over the finance of the program and support extended by GHRD. Participants thanked GHRD and appreciated BCN's such program. All participants wished for similar programs in future.

This program was supported by the Hague based international human rights organization – Global Human Rights Defense



Supporter and organiser:

