

Press release

Strengthening Education in Bhutan – Her Majesty the Queen Mother of Bhutan and Wolfgang Egger, Founder of the PATRIZIA Foundation, Reaffirm Long-Term Partnership

Thimphu, Bhutan – 06 March 2026

During an official visit to Bhutan, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck and Mr. Wolfgang Egger, Founder of the PATRIZIA Foundation based in Augsburg, signed a Deed of Partnership Reaffirmation, reaffirming their shared commitment to a long-standing partnership.

“Education is one of the most powerful means to help people live better lives and build stronger communities,” said Wolfgang Egger. “Our partnership in Bhutan is based on trust and long-term commitment to improve education and employment opportunities for young talents in remote regions of this great nation.”

The visit underscored the strength and continuity of their collaboration in advancing education and development priorities in Bhutan. A key focus of the visit was to further strengthen the existing partnership and to reaffirm the agreement. The objective reflects the partners' intention to strategically collaborate on their individual strengths to support Bhutan's development goals in the field of education in a sustainable and long-term manner. The ceremonial signing took place at the Gawailing Happy Home, a shelter founded and supported by Her Majesty that provides protection, care and support for women and children affected by domestic and Gender based violence.

Her Majesty the Queen Mother is widely respected throughout the country and beyond, particularly for her long-standing commitment to social welfare and empowerment of women and children. Her umbrella organisation, the Gyalyum Charitable Trust, together with its implementing partner RENEW, selected the PATRIZIA Foundation as an international partner for education focused initiatives in Bhutan. Together with the founding partner, the Akelius Foundation, the partners are establishing a Vocational Training Centre in Bumthang, a remote region where access to vocational education remains limited.

Reflecting on the collaboration, Her Majesty the Queen Mother stated: “I am deeply grateful for the steadfast support of Mr. Wolfgang Egger, the PATRIZIA Foundation, and the Akelius Foundation, whose partnership has strengthened our shared efforts to advance education in rural Bhutan. Their unwavering commitment is enabling us to create sustainable learning opportunities that will empower generations to come.”

A cornerstone of this collaboration is the establishment of a new Vocational Training Centre in Bumthang, being realized in close partnership with the Akelius Foundation. Scheduled to begin operations in 2028, the centre will offer practice-oriented vocational training tailored to local and regional needs. As a flagship initiative, the centre is designed to improve education and employment opportunities for young people across the region over the long term.

PATRIZIA Country Programme Bhutan

The PATRIZIA Country Programme Bhutan provides the framework for engagement in the education sector. With a strong focus on vocational training, the programme seeks to improve young people's access to the labour market and strengthen education pathways from secondary school to employment, including in remote areas and underserved areas. Through this long-term programme, access to quality education for approximately 100,000 children and young adults will be ensured over a period of at least 25 years.

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Background information on the PATRIZIA Foundation:

The PATRIZIA Foundation was established in 1999 by Wolfgang Egger and has since enabled 800,000 children and young people worldwide to access high-quality education, healthcare and safety, giving them the chance to lead self-determined lives in freedom. The foundation's goal is to reach one million children and young people worldwide by 2030. All KinderHaus projects are supported for at least 25 years. True to its guiding principle of 'Building Better Futures', the PATRIZIA Foundation always works with local partners to build and operate schools, training centres, children's hospitals and other infrastructure in order to develop sustainable social structures. The foundation guarantees that 100% of donations go to KinderHaus projects and benefit disadvantaged children and young people. Since 1999, 25 KinderHaus projects have been opened in fifteen countries on five continents. Three more are currently in development. In 2024, the PATRIZIA Foundation expanded to the United Kingdom.

Visual material:



From left to right: Wolfgang Egger (founder of the PATRIZIA Foundation), Her Majesty the Queen Mother Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Sabine Wunderlich (member of the Board of Trustees of the PATRIZIA Foundation UK & project mentor), Aradhana Khowala (expert in local regenerative tourism & international project mentor)