

NEWS RELEASE

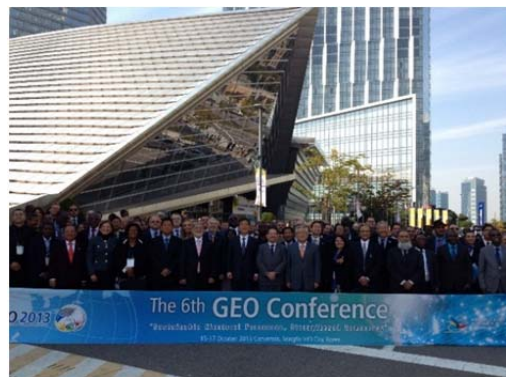
The Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan attended the Inaugural Assembly of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) with its headquarters in Songdo, Incheon, South Korea on 14th of October 2013. It was attended by more than 300 delegates from Election Management Bodies of 105 countries and more than 50 international and non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme. The Chair of Korea's National Election Commission will serve as the first Chair and the Chair of the Election Body of the Dominican Republic as Vice Chair of A-WEB.



The goal of the A-WEB is to promote free, fair, transparent and participatory elections worldwide, helping to establish fair elections and building the necessary legal framework, infrastructure and training election officials of the member Bodies. It aims to strengthen democracies around the world by building a database on each country's election system and establishing international standards for democratic elections.

Emphasis was also given to the expectation of the Asian and in particular the South Asian Nations for bigger representation at A-WEB Executive Board.

With A-WEB membership, the Election Commission of Bhutan is a Founding Member of this first-ever World Election Body besides being a Member of the Regional Electoral Body, the Asian Association of Electoral Authorities (AAEA) and current Chair of the sub-regional Group , Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA).



The Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan also attended the Sixth Global Electoral Organization Conference (6th GEO Conference) organized subsequently from 15th to 17th of October 2013, by the UNDP's Division for Electoral Assistance and co-hosted by the National Election Commission of South Korea.

A wide-range of issues of related to elections and democracies were discussed, amongst which the inclusiveness of women and persons with disabilities in electoral



and political participation were highlighted. It was a useful opportunity to interact with other EMBs and share the experience of Bhutan conducting two Parliamentary Elections and the local government elections. Information was shared on innovative approaches adopted in Bhutan in the conduct of its elections at the conference.

link to the video: <http://youtu.be/iDr6Vbc3uNU>

Dated: 23rd of October 2013

Media Unit,

Election Commission of Bhutan