

Brief Training Report on the 10 days Intensive practical based quality improvement workshop on Babzo, Patra and Souvenir Making

The Agency for Promotion of Indigenous Crafts (APIC) in collaboration with the National Institute of Zorig Chhusum, Thimphu recently conducted a 10 day intensive practical based quality improvement training workshop on Babzo, Patra and Souvenir productions from 22nd July– 31st July, 2013 at National Institute of Zorig Chhusum, Kawangjangsa.

The training was conducted mainly to improve the quality of masks & carving pieces and to create few souvenir items. It was attended mainly by the graduates of the above two institutes, graduates of the Choki Traditional Art School and few interested artisans



residing in various places in the country such as Tashiyangtsi, Paro, Chukha, Tashigang, Zhemgang, Lhuntse and Thimphu. It was encouraging to note that a physically challenged artisan from the Youth Development Fund was also a participant at the training. It was facilitated with the hiring of 3 national experts in wood and patra from Thimphu, Tashiyangtsi and the National Institute of Zorig Chhusum.

Besides the actual training, the 19 participants were also briefed on the need to have continuous improvent/improvisation within the context of general demand from the prospective buyers. The artisans were also briefed on the need to have a continuous supply of the products at a reasonable price unlike the present practice of having a few poor quality products at very high prices.



At the end of the 10 days training on improvement in quality of the masks and wood carving products, the participants have produced 6 Throbaps, 8 Dhongchens, 10 Patra pieces and over 50 numbers of souvenir items including both the old souvenir and new products with acceptable qualities worth benchmarking.

The Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, DASHO SONAM TSHERING graced the closing session as the Chief Guest and awarded certificates to the artisans and the resource persons, commending on the produce at the end of just 10 days, the importance of such crafts as a unique cultural identity of Bhutan and on the dignity of labour to earn a livelihood through the means of one's own skills and expertise.



The training was conducted with financial assistance from the UN office in Bhutan under the UN Support to Development of MSMEs and Employment generations.