

- HIMALAYA FILM FESTIVAL TOKYO 2008 - Report



NPO Himalaya Archive Japan
Pres. Kunihiko Tanaka

January 31, 2009

Overview

- **Host:**
Himalaya Archive Japan (Japanese voluntary organization (at that time) / NPO (present))
Himalaya Archief Nederland (Dutch NGO)
- **Support:**
Indian Embassy; Netherlands Embassy in Japan; Alpine Tour Service Co, Ltd.;
Gallery E&S(Himalaya-related goods); Wanderlust Inc. (organick-cotton clothes)
- **Term:**
October 31 through November 4, 2009 (4 days)
- **Location:**
[National Olympics Memorial Youth Center](#) (Yoyogi, Tokyo)
- **Screened films:**
[30 films](#) (28 foreign films and 2 Japanese films)
- **Visitors:**
About 400 persons
- **Foreign guests :**
John Wehrheim (Producer of "[Bhutan - Taking the Middle Path to Happiness](#)")
Tenzin Dhemi Archief Nederland (Bhutanese Student living in Japan)
- **Related events:**
1) Lecture by [Arjia Rinpoche](#), a prominent Tibetan Buddhism monk entitled
"How Buddhism deals with Global Warming Himalaya Archive Japan
2) "[Photo exhibition on Tibet by 50 persons](#)"
- **Media coverage:**
[The Yomiuri Shimbun](#) / Mainichi Newspapers / [The Japan Times](#)

Details



Himalaya Film Festival Tokyo 2008 began on Oct. 31 with a related event, the lecture by [Arjia Rinpoche](#), a prominent Tibetan Buddhist monk. He is a former abbot of Kumbum Monastery in Tibet. It was there in the former that

Tsongkhapa, the founder of the Gelugpa sect of Tibetan Buddhism was born. Arjia Rinpoche escaped from Tibet in 1998 and is now in the U.S.. In the lecture, he talked about several topics including the global warming issue from the Buddhism point of view. The unique lecture impressed Japanese audiences. Responding to a question, he said he hoped that the Tibet issue will be solved as soon as possible, using the words of “Free China, “ namely the democratization of China.

From November 1st to 3rd, 30 films were screened. Since the film festival was held during a period of national holidays when many other cultural events also took place in Tokyo, unfortunately, we couldn't get many audiences as expected. Every film was well received. Among them, “Bhutan - Taking the Middle Path to Happiness”, “Forbidden Team” and “Tibetan refugees: A Struggle Beyond Generations” got more audiences. The appearance of the guests of “Bhutan” and the Tibetan uprising arose in Tibet last March provably aroused people's interest more.

After showing his film, Mr. John Wehrheim did Q&A with his friend Miss Tenzin Dhemi Bhutanese woman studying in Japan. They added the information on the film's theme, “ [Gross National Happiness.](#)”



Several fine exhibitions at the venue such as mandalas, organic-cotton clothes and especially the “Photo exhibition on Tibet by 50 persons” also attracted many people.



In the preparatory stages of the film festival, we faced many problems, especially financial one and feared the realization of the festival. However, thanks to kind supports from film directors, Dutch partners and volunteer staffs, we finally could make it. We again truly thank the people.

Himalaya Archive Japan, the one of the hosts of the festival became an incorporated nonprofit organization last December. Following the concept of the film festival, we'll keep doing our best to establish a space in Japan where independent film directors can show their films and communicate each other. Finally, one of our volunteer staffs, Sachiko Shiota wrote about the film festival in her blog. It's worth reading!

＊ [Casual Japanese Bystander](#)

