

"Three gifts" from Bhutan



Dr. Richard von Weizsacker calling on the Chairman of the Lhengye Zhungtshog, Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba

Respect for nature, emphasis on culture and traditions and the care provided to the young generation were "three gifts" that Bhutan could give to Germany, according to the former President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Richard von Weizsacker, who was on a goodwill visit to Bhutan this week.

"It's the combination of these three gifts of the country which you can rarely meet anywhere in the world," he said. "And you needn't have a larger country or more people." Bhutan had also shown a "strong and very impressive progress" in all spheres of development.

Dr. Weizsacker said that he had come to Bhutan to "deepen" the relations between Bhutan and Germany and between Bhutan and the European Union.

During the three-day visit, Dr. Weizsacker and his nine-member delegation were granted an audience by His Majesty the King. They also called on the Chairman of the Lhengye Zhungtshog, Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba.

Born in 1920, Dr. Weizsacker was the President of the Federal Republic of Germany from 1984 to 1994 and presently heads the commission "Common Security and the Future of the German Federal Armed Forces".

In 1999 Dr. Weizsacker was chosen as one of the "Three Wise Men" by the President of the European Union to elaborate suggestions for an institutional reform of the European Union to integrate new member states.

Dr. Weizsacker, who was the Vice President of the Bundestag from 1979 to 1981 and the governing mayor of Berlin from 1981 to 1984, has also co-chaired the independent working group on the future of the United

Nations.

He left Bhutan today to attend the World Economic Forum in New Delhi.

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