

## Report for the 2016 Bhutan Lacquerware Training Program (outline)

### 1. Program Goals:

Lacquerware artisans from the Kingdom of Bhutan came to train in Fukui Prefecture's lacquerware production area. The purpose of this program was to further advance lacquerware techniques as well as develop lacquerware products oriented towards tourists. Additionally, this program is expected to help promote and contribute to the continuation of the art of lacquerware in both countries.

### 2. Program Contents:

#### (1) Project Outline

Dates	13 September 2016 (Tues.) ~22 December (Thur.)
Trainees	<u>Mr. Pema Lethro</u> – lacquerware instructor from Trashiyangtse Institute for Zorig Chusum in the Kingdom of Bhutan <u>Ms. Sonam Peldon</u> – lacquerware artisan from the Kingdom of Bhutan
Instructors	4 Echizen lacquerware craftsmen
Training details	The trainees received practical instruction regarding the process of Echizen lacquerware (woodturning, foundation work, top coating, and decorating)

#### (2) Main Contents of the Program

##### (Training Schedule)

Dates	Project Content
13 September (Tues.)	(Arrived in Japan)
15 September (Thur.) ~7 October (Fri.)	Instructed on woodturning
10 October (Mon.) ~4 November (Fri.)	Instructed on foundation work
7 November (Mon.) ~2 December (Fri.)	Instructed on the top coating for lacquerware
5 December (Mon.) ~20 December (Tues.)	Instructed on decorating
20 December (Tues.)	Meeting regarding the results of the program
22 December (Thur.)	(Returned to Bhutan)



Receiving instruction



Featured in a Bhutanese newspaper (Kuensel)

### (Details on every step of the process)

#### ◆ Woodworking

- Created two types of bowls – Japanese bowls and Bhutanese bowls
- Instructed on how to use an electric wheel for woodcarving, as well as how to create tools
- Practiced making bowls of the same size



Shaping the wood using an electric wheel and a wood plane

#### ◆ Foundation work

- To help reinforce the wood, the trainees were instructed on how to apply a base coat
- Practiced applying the base coat and shaved off excess after the coating dried
- Instructed on how to create a wooden spatula (*hera*) for applying a base coat
- Instructed on how to repair bowls that were damaged



Making a *hera* and learning how to use it

#### ◆ Top coating

- Practiced how to filter the lacquer for the top coating
- Instructed on how to use the brush for the top coat, and how to care for it
- Received explanations on how to properly dry lacquer



Applying lacquer alongside Echizen lacquerware artisans

#### ◆ Decoration (*maki-e*)

- Instructed on the decoration process of *maki-e*
- Used tracing paper to apply both Japanese and Bhutanese designs.
- Practiced using a brush and how to use polishing powder to create a glossy texture.



Painting along the design that was copied onto the bowl with tracing paper

### 3. Project Results:

The lacquerware artisans learned how to use a gauge to produce bowls that are consistently of the same size and thickness. Electric wheels for carving wood are already commonplace, but using a steel chisels and gauge will help improve the carving process.

In Bhutan, a base coat is not applied. However, this process is necessary when applying lacquer that has been colored with a pigment, so we will continue to give training on implementing this part of the process.

Regarding decorating, the trainees had a strong interest in the method of using polishing powder to give the product a glossy finish; there are hopes for utilizing this method to develop new products.