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Culturally Speaking

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY RESOURCES

INTRODUCING OUR NEWSLETTER

I am glad to introduce the **Cultural Diversity Resources (CDR)** Newsletter, *Culturally Speaking*. We plan to publish the newsletter quarterly and our intent is to inform the community about the events and opportunities available through CDR and throughout the Fargo-Moorhead community. On this first issue we will focus on updating you about CDR and introduce you to the staff and volunteers who make the progress of CDR possible. Please feel free to submit any news you would like to share with the community, comments or suggestions to:

Marysol Q. Hankel
Community Coordinator
E-mail: mhankel@culturaldiversityresources.org
Ph: 701-526-3000

I look forward to your emails ☺

OUR MISSION:
TO BUILD
COMMUNITIES
THAT VALUE
DIVERSITY



303 Roberts St N
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: 701-526-3000

www.culturaldiversityresource.org



MEET THE STAFF

Executive Director: Yoke-Sim Gunaratne (pictured on left)
MIRC Coordinator: Hatizda Murad
Community Coordinator: Marysol Q. Hankel
Front Desk Coordinator: Brooke Pederson
Volunteer: Bushra S. Ahmad

New Americans Committee Development Program

Established: November 2011

NACD MEMBERS:

- *Eman Yassin-Iraq
- *Toby Yak-Sudan
- *Juwle Nagbe-Liberia
- *Ben Boway-Liberia
- *Nirmala Adhikari-Bhutan
- *Fartun Adbulkarim-Somalia
- *Ahmed Banat-Sudan

NACD GOAL:

To unite, develop and strengthen diverse refugee communities as 'one united group.'

FIRST WORKSHOP BY NACD:

DATE: Wednesday December 14, 2011

LOCATION: Moorhead Public Library.

The focus of the workshop was to help New American community members with the job seeking process.

PRESENTERS:

*Deanna Claire, Customer Service Specialist of Job Service of North Dakota. Deanna provided attendees with a detailed presentation on how to access and utilize the Job Service of North Dakota website www.jobsnd.com.

*David Dietz, Certified Staffing Professional of Preference Personnel, spoke about American Culture and Interviewing Techniques.

*Jay Thoreson, Career Center Director of Concordia College. Jay Thoreson presented the information on Resume and cover Letter Preparation.

Thank you to all of our presenters and attendees.

NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER PROJECT

109 9th St S * Fargo, ND 58102

P: 701-365-08-32/ 701-365-08-33

*PRAIRIE ROSE SEMINOLE-COORDINATOR

*ELVERNA VILAS-PROJECT ASSISTANT

*AMBER MATTSON-PROJECT ASSISTANT

Note: More information on NACP in our next quarterly newsletter ☺

PANGEA

CDR hosts PANGEA "Cultivate Our Cultures" every fall in partnership with Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County. The purpose of PANGEA is to educate the community about the different cultures that reside in the F-M area. PANGEA is a daylong event filled with delicious food sampling, dance, music, fashion show, and presentations showcasing cultures from around the world.



The 2011 PANGEA event was held at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead on Saturday November 12. A great turnout this year, attendance from the community was 1400 people! New this year was the Somali food booth which featured both Somali and Middle Eastern cuisine, a crowd favorite. Another popular event was the fashion show which introduced the audience to the traditional clothing worn by men, women and children from around the globe. Didn't get to attend our 2011 Pangea? Don't worry our 2012 Pangea is scheduled for fall 2012, more details soon!



**If you would like to participate in our
upcoming 2012 PANGEA
Please Call 701-526-3000**

2011 HIGHLIGHTS: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

MIRC

CDR offers a variety of resources to the community including interpreting services through **Metro Interpreter Resource Center, MIRC**. MIRC provides both interpretation (spoken) and translation (written) language services in Cass & Clay counties through funded and fee-for-service program. MIRC also provides ongoing training to create a pool of professional interpreters to meet the social, medical and economic needs of schools, social services, businesses, health and community agencies. MIRC served at least 300-400 clients in several languages which include Bosnian, Spanish, Arabic, Somali, Mandarin, etc.

In 2011 MIRC served at least 500 clients over 510 interpreting hours for 25 different community agencies (e.g. Juvenile, Federal & Municipal Courts, LSS Youth Program, Freedom Resource Center, Public Defenders Office, Nilles Law Firm, Auto Insurance Company etc.). Interpretation was provided in the following languages: Arabic, Croatian, Bosnian, Albanian, Mandarin, Swahili, Russian, Urdu, Kurdish, Chinese, Kirundi, Krahn, French and Vietnamese.

For more information you may contact:
MIRC Coordinator, Hatizda Murad at 701-526-3000.

SELF SUFFICIENCY AND COMMUNITY REFERRALS

In addition to MIRC services, CDR also offers various self-sufficiency and community referrals for low income individuals/families in need of food, clothing, furniture and discounted bus passes. CDR partners with FM agencies such as the Emergency Food Pantry, Clothing Connections, New Life Center, and Metro Area Transit, and Dress for Success to assist as many people as possible in the community meet their basic needs. In 2011 we served a monthly average of 45-55 people.

Are you hosting a community event? OR Would like to share an announcement with the F-M community? If so please submit to:

mhankel@culturaldiversityresources.org

MULTICULTURAL COUNSELOR

CDR would like to thank our volunteer counselor Bushra S. Ahmad for all of her hard work and dedication in assisting F-M community members with her Counseling expertise.

Bushra S. Ahmad MA, LAPC has been helping individuals, families and groups with issues of depression, employment, education, marriage, children and teenagers for 20 years.

"I came to the United States with my parents in 1964. After completing High School and College I went to work in Ghana with my husband as Teacher. I returned to US and had my four children now they are all grown up and doing well. I'm available to help you as you climb the steps big or small to assimilation in the US." – Bushra S. Ahmad



Multicultural Counseling & Consulting of F-M

Cultural Diversity Resources Building
303 Roberts St. N.
Fargo, ND 58102.

Counseling is provided in a safe and confidential environment.

All counseling services are provided for a small fee, but no one will ever be refused services due to their inability to pay.

**If you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment
Please call 701-200-0367**

CDR is recruiting volunteers for their Employment Readiness Program. Volunteers will be assisting people of diverse backgrounds who wish to enter the workforce.

The volunteer will guide and assist the client with resume development, online job applications and job seeking as needed. Resume development experience and computer knowledge preferred. Volunteers are asked to come in from 9-12pm or 1-4pm, twice a week.

If interested please call 701-526-3000

2011 DIVERSITY CONFERENCE & CHAMPIONS FOR DIVERSITY AWARDS



2011 DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

CDR partners with the Tri-College (Concordia College, North Dakota State University & Minnesota State University Moorhead) to coordinate an annual Diversity Conference on a variety of subjects. The 2011 Diversity Conference: **Managing Diversity in Times of Change and Development** was held at the MSUM Comstock Memorial Union. Topics of discussion included: how to develop a diversity strategy, working with a diverse workforce, Census 2010 impact, and how to practice safe stress during times of change. The goal of the conference is to educate and prepare professionals in business, education and the community for a growing diverse workforce. We had a great turnout at the conference from community members, students, and professionals attending this year.

2011 CHAMPIONS FOR DIVERSITY AWARDS

In addition, this year CDR hosted its first **Champions for Diversity Awards Ceremony** with great success. The awards were initiated in order to recognize the contributions made by businesses, community agencies, and educational institutions which demonstrate, encourage and promote diversity and inclusion in our region. The ceremony emcee was **Christine Chapweske** who welcomed everyone and set the tone to a wonderful evening. We also had the privilege of having a distinguished community member speak at the awards ceremony, **Margie Bailly former Executive Director of the Fargo Theatre**. The evening proceeded with the awards ceremony, in the categories for: Community, Education, and Business.

Congratulations to the 2011 Champions for Diversity Award winners!

- *Community Category Award Recipient: **MSUM's Japan Club**
- *Education Category Award Recipient: **Project English at Carl Ben Eielson Middle School in Fargo**
- *Business Category Award Recipient: **Hornbacher's Northport Location, Brett Gilbertson**



Pictured from Left:

- *Japan Club Members;
- *Project English: Ryan McManus;
- *CDR Executive Director: Yoke-Sim Gunaratne;
- *Hornbacher's: Brett Gilbertson;
- *Emcee: Christine Chapweske

THE 2012 DIVERSITY CONFERENCE AND CHAMPIONS FOR DIVERSITY AWARDS WILL BE HELD AT NDSU ON OCTOBER 30TH 2012 PLEASE VISIT WWW.CULTURALDIVERSITYRESOURCES.ORG FOR UPDATES



PASSPORT TO.... THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN

QUICK FACTS

OFFICIAL NAME:
DRUK-YUL
(KINGDOM OF BHUTAN)

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Dzongkha

NATIONALITY: Bhutanese

CAPITAL: Thimphu

POPULATION: 708,427

RELIGION:
*Lamaistic Buddhist
*Indian- and Nepalese-
influenced Hinduism

Did you know?

- *Television was introduced in Bhutan in the 1960's
- *Bhutanese names do not include a family/ last name
- *When offered food one must say *meshu meshu*, covering one's mouth with the hands in refusal according to Bhutanese manners, and then gives in on the second or third offer

Join me into a glimpse of the culture of the Kingdom of Bhutan, commonly known as Bhutan. Bhutan is ideally situated between two powerful countries, India to the south, and China to the north. The location of Bhutan has played a huge role in protecting the country from outside and cultural influence. But most recently Bhutan has opened its doors to the world, thus allowing us to capture a glimpse of the last Himalayan Kingdom.

The people of Bhutan are considered Bhutanese and have a rich and vibrant culture which is present in every aspect of their lives. Bhutanese people divide into three major ethnic groups: Ngalops, Sharchops, and Lhotsampas. Ngalops make up the majority of the population and are believed to be of Tibetan origin. It is through the Ngalops that Buddhism is brought into Bhutanese culture. Sharchops are predominantly of the Buddhism faith, and are located in the eastern part of the country. The Lhotsampas, make up 35% of the population. They are of Nepali heritage and practice Hinduism.

The country abides to a national dress code known as *Driglam Namzha*, every citizen is required to follow the dress code.

Men wear a *gho*, a heavy robe tied with a belt and women wear blouses with knee length skirts called *kira* (pictured below). In terms of citizen rights women lead, they are independent strong leaders of the community who are allowed to own land. Men are also participant of many rights, they contribute to duties outside and inside the home. Surprisingly enough divorce is not uncommon and newlyweds usually live at the bride's family home.

In the early 1960's Bhutan allowed television into their country. You might ask yourself why until 1960? Considering Bhutan's giant neighbors, it was a way of protecting national identity. Bhutanese people are very proud and protective of their culture and television was seen as a potential threat to their identity. Although television caused social changes in Bhutan, the people remain very aware of protecting both their national identity and the natural environment of their country. They take great pride in nature which is reflected in every aspect of Bhutanese life especially in their music.

Best for last Bhutanese food!
Bhutanese diet includes stews, vegetables, rice, dairy products, and meat. Bhutanese food has one predominant flavor - chili. This small red condiment is not only added to every dish but is also often eaten raw. *Ema datshi*, is considered the national dish, comparable to chili con queso in the states, the dish consists of cheese and of course chilies, *Meshu Meshu*.

