

The RUB Connection

A biannual newsletter of the Royal University of Bhutan

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the ninth issue of the RUB Connection, a biannual newsletter of the Royal University of Bhutan. Excellence in teaching, research, service and community engagement within the overarching vision of an internationally recognized university steeped in GNH values.

This semester, faculty and students took the opportunity to visit different countries such as Japan, Cambodia, Poland and USA for their programme related activities, to take part in competition and for student exchange programmes. The University is also expanding our services to the community by offering tailor-made programmes to professionals in various agencies. The University is also conducting various out of the textbook activities to enhance their teaching and learning such as summer schools, conferences, seminars and symposiums. A series of research capacity building were conducted which resulted in national and international research collaborations.

Finally the students, faculty and management of the Royal University of Bhutan would like to join the Nation in offering our heartfelt felicitations and prayers to His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen on the Royal Birth of His Royal Highness Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck, the heir to the Golden Throne.

As we work towards researching new heights, the RUB Connection will continue to bring you the latest news on teaching and learning, research and innovation, services, community engagements.

With best wishes,

Nidup Dorji
Vice Chancellor

Certificate Course on Social Policy

20th January 2016, Sherubtse College and the Institute for Gross National Happiness Studies (iGNHaS), in collaboration with UNICEF and Jindal School of Government Public Policy, New Delhi launched a Fifteen day Certificate Course on Social Policy.

The programme was delivered by Sherubtse College with technical assistance from the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy (JSGP), New Delhi and UNICEF, Bhutan, in both the design and delivery of the course.

The partnership between RUB-UNICEF-JSGP aims at

Transformative Leadership at all levels to design and implement effective and evidence based policy making for positive change. Bhutan is in the transition to Middle Income Country in few years to come and with a strong commitment towards SDGs thus the course becomes even more important to ensure specific focus on equity and efficient service delivery for children, women and vulnerable population.

Eleven Members of Parliament, 10 Chief/Deputy Chief Planning Officer of the Ministries, and Directors of CSOs were enrolled in the first batch of the course.

This course aims at equipping professionals/parliamentarian/Civil Society Organizations with a range of analytical, management and problem solving skills on policy formulation, enactment and effective implementation that in the best interests of women, children and the poor. It also aims at understanding the emerging critique of the gap between policy making and the ground realities including live case studies on policy issues in Bhutan.

It is expected that the program will continue annually with hope to upgrade the course to diploma or higher degree in future.

JNEC signs MoU with Construction Development Board



On 1st March, 2016, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Jigme Namgyel Engineering College (JNEC) and Construction Development Board (CDB), Thimphu.

The main objectives of the MoU is to promote cooperation and exchange of expertise between the two agencies. As per the MoU, CDB desires to collaborate with JNEC in enhancing the quality and professionalism of contractors whereas JNEC agrees to collaborate with CDB to provide educational and training services.

Shes-Rig PAGES Launched



On 30th March 2016, Shes-Rig PAGES – the biannual newsletter of Samtse College of Education was launched. Shes-Rig PAGES is a tribute to our beloved Third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk.

Dr.Karma Utha, Shes-Rig PAGES coordinator, shared a brief history of how the newsletter idea was conceived, team formation, themes selection and quality assurance processes. Dr. Dorji Thinley, Director of the college, read out the ‘Welcome’ note followed by Karma Gayphel and KezangChoden, lecturers of the college, and Sangay Dema, student, reading out an excerpt each from the newsletter.

The newsletter covers eight themes namely Learning & Teaching, Campus Life & Experience, Research Initiatives, Events, People Infocus, Body-Mind Harmony, Kalapinka – The Voice, and Our Alumni. A copy of newsletter was distributed to all students and staff of the college. Copies were distributed to secondary schools, institutes and relevant organizations also.

Hands on training for Computer Science students

The School of Mathematics and Computer Science at Sherubtse College conducted a series workshop for the computer science students.

“The main reason behind conducting this workshop is to enhance the skills of graduating students by providing hands-on training,” said Professor Balamurugan.

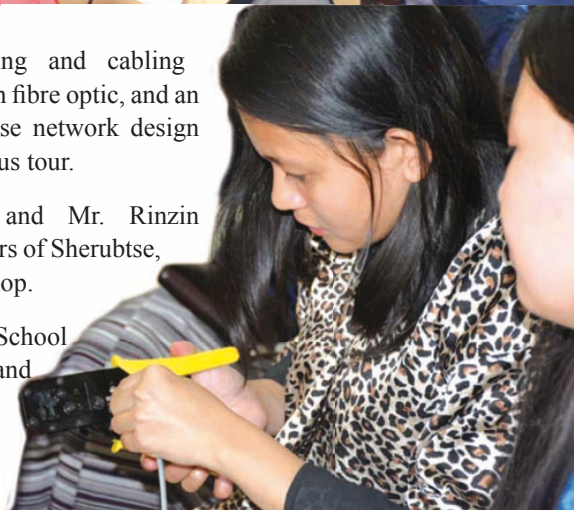
On 14th -15th May 2016, Basic network administration workshop was organized where students were introduced to basic networking, basic cisco command & configuration, vlan, aample network and IP addressing, network monitoring tools such as LibreNMS, Rancid and Smokeping. The second-day continued with training on cable crimping and



cable testing, cabling and cabling specification, basic on fibre optic, and an overview of Sherubtse network design with a network campus tour.

Mr. Chimi Dorji and Mr. Rinzin Phuntsho, ICT Officers of Sherubtse, resourced the workshop.

In continuation, the School of Mathematics and Computer Science at



Sherubtse conducted a network trouble shooting and hardware maintenance workshop for third year Computer Science students on 30th April – 1st May 2016, .

“We expect more of such practical workshop or activities to be carried out to enhance the skills of the students besides reading the textbook,” said one of the third year students.

Mr. Vijay Kumar, a Lecturer of Physics Department, resourced the workshop. The college funded the workshop. The Head of the Department and the third year students acknowledged the college management for the successful programme.

Forest Plantation Survey by B.Sc. Forestry (Nested)



During the spring semester of 2016, as part of their module (Applied silviculture), BSc. Forestry (Nested) of College of Natural Resources carried out forest plantation survey for a week. Under the guidance of the module tutor, students chose to survey college campus.

The module provides theoretical background and practical skills on tending and thinning of trees and also application of different silvicultural systems. It also offers knowledge on silvicultural characteristics of selected species of Bhutan. The module provides students with the knowledge and skills in operation and management of forestry nursery and plantation.

The main purpose of the survey was to find out the area of plantations site and to decide on species selection. Plantation area survey to map as also conducted understand the plantation area, to estimate the number of seedling needed based on spacing and design, calculate perimeter to estimate fencing materials and cost and plantation cost estimation.



Students involved in the survey said that the activities has very useful as they were made to see importance of protection, plantation and enrichment of forest coverage of our nation.

Practice-Oriented Area Studies in Japan



Three students accompanied by a faculty member from Sherubtse College visited Kyoto University for a practice-oriented area studies on depopulation and rural development in Japan from 26th January – 8th February, 2016. As a part of academic exchange, the group visited Sasari (depopulated village) in Miyama and Simoseya (depopulated village) in Miyazu, Kyoto Prefecture. In these villages, they had the opportunity to observe the locality and interact with the local people which enabled the participants to have a first-hand experience on the problems faced by a depopulated community. As per their observation, some of the major problems faced were aging, abandonment of farming practices and lack of labour for community services.

ADVANCEMENTS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

While, the two weeks stay in Japan gave the Bhutanese participants a glimpse of Bhutan's future given they follow the Japanese path of urbanized economic development approach; the Bhutanese participants in return provided the Japanese with a possibility to revitalize their lives and societies based on Bhutan's development philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH). The two weeks stay in Japan proved to be an intensive exchange of knowledge and implications between the two countries regarding the issues of

depopulation and rural development. This exchange program also served as a platform for the participants to foster personal and academic relationship.

The MOU between Sherubtse College (SC) and Center for South East Asian Studies (CSEAS) was signed in 2011. Since then it has been an enriching collaboration and continues to be so with a batch of different participants from Sherubtse College getting the opportunity to visit Japan biannually.

CLCS celebrates first Dzongkha Literature festival

College of Language and Culture Studies observed Dzongkha Literature Day on 16th April 2016, coinciding with Zhabdrung Kuchoe.

The festival was organized to celebrate the joyous occasion of the Birth of His Highness the Gyalsey. The festival was also attributed to the 60th birth anniversary of His Majesty the fourth Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Singye Wangchuck. Most importantly, it was dedicated to Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal

who lead the foundation and promoted literature in Bhutan, said the coordinator Dorji Gyeltshen, a Dzongkha lecturer.

More than 300 students took part in writing articles. Kinga Norbu, a second year student took the first prize. One of the committee members Sonam Zangpo said that the main purpose of the festival was to "our preserve and promote language and literature". "This is the base of national etiquette, and also

the national's identity", he added.

Also to mark the day, a 3 hours long documentary film on the biography of Zhabdrung Rinpoche was screened in the evening. The film is packaged and promoted by second year students of Bhutan Himalayan Studies, coordinated by Lopen Ngawang Dorji, Lecturer. Lam Neten, Dasho Dzongda and other officials from Trongsa also attended the launch of the film.

Political Satire at Sherubtse

The Department of Political Science and Sociology organized a Political Satire on 6th April 2016.

It was an inter-departmental competition with the objective to impart knowledge on politics and the role of the politicians and to critic politics with humor. A political satire is a part of satire that specializes on gaining entertainment from politics. Political satire is humorous, ironic or sarcastic examination of the political area and is an attempt to expose absurdity and hypocrisy in politics.



"Political Satire is one of the newest introductions of event in the college which was started last year. The department plans to continue to conduct this event every year and, hopes to see more participants in the following years," said the coordinator.

There were four acts. Hilarious copter to the rescue bagged the first prize of Nu. 5000 followed by the Irony behind the law with a cash prize of Nu. 3000. The act, Just imagine took the third prize with a cash prize of Nu. 1000.

WWF Scholarship at RTC

The panel of judges was from Bhutan Broadcasting Service (Kanglung), Jampeling Higher Secondary School and from the Department of Economics, Sherubtse College. The prizes were awarded by the Associate Professor, Dr. Dolly Menon.

The Royal Thimphu College and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Bhutan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Thursday, 5 May, 2016. This partnership will provide a total of 6 scholarships each year under two categories - 2 full and 4 partial - will be provided for the 3 year BSc in Environmental Management programme at RTC. One of the full scholarships will be awarded under the Late Mingma Norbu Sherpa memorial scholarship fund.



WWF believes that investing in training and education is critical for biodiversity conservation. Thus, for over two decades, the Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program (EFN) has been providing financial support to proven and potential conservation leaders in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to gain the skills and knowledge they need to address the conservation challenges in their home countries. EFN supports conservationists to pursue graduate

studies, attend short-term training courses, and train local communities in WWF priority places.

Started in 1994 to honour the late Russell E. Train, Founder, President, and Chairman of the board of WWF. Russell E. Train was founder and Chairman Emeritus of the World Wildlife Fund.

Each year, WWF supports committed conservationists from target countries to receive financial

support for their studies and field research. Considering that Bhutan has rich biodiversity and strong conservation priorities, it is critical to encourage the youth of Bhutan who will play an important role in taking the country's conservation efforts to greater heights. The WWF - Russell E. Train EFN Programme has come at a right time to provide the WWF Train Legacy Scholarships to nurture and train young Bhutanese.

Field Excursion for Forestry Diploma Trainees

23rd Diploma Forestry trainees from College Natural Resources returned to the College after active participation during training the Community Forest Management(CF) Group Members in resources assessment and data collection from assigned CF area to formulate Community Forest Management Planning for new CF in Barshong Gewog under Tsirang Dzongkhag. This was coordinated

by Mr. Kinley Dorji, the Gewog Extension Sr. Ranger. He was accompanied by two lecturers from College of Natural Resources; Mr. Yeshey Khando and Mr. Jambay from Forestry Department and three Extension Sr. Rangers; Mr.Sangay, from Mendrelgang Gewog, Mr. Birkha Bdr. Mongar from Tsirangtoe and Mr. Dorji Rinchen from Goserling Gewog.

The training was completed with a reliable Community Forest Management Plan and By Laws for the rural benefits and sustainable forest management at the grassroot level. Chunyekhang Gongphel Community Forest is expected to benefit 40 households of the remotest village of the Barshong Gewog in Tsirang.

ADVANCEMENTS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

The program started on May 9, 2016 to May 14, 2016. The Gup of Barshong Gewog Mr. Santalal Powdrel on behalf of his people was indeed grateful to the College of Natural Resources for providing technically talented batch from 23rd Diploma Forestry who will be graduating by in June 2016. On the final day all the participants celebrated memorial dinner with Tashi Lekmoen dedicated to Mr. Phento Tshering who is the new Director for Department of Forest & Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture & Forests.



Trees for the Earth Debate

On 22nd April 2016 Department of Geographical Society, Sherubtse College organized a departmental debate competition among the school of social sciences with the theme *Trees for the Earth*.

The debate topic was 'Bhutan is preserving more trees than is required'. "The main reason behind the competition was to celebrate the earth day," said the coordinator Sonam Lepcha.

There were 11 participants divided into two groups; for the motion and against the motion. The participant from department of Eco-Population, who spoke against the motion, received the best department award. Dawa Phuntsho Sherpa, a second semester student from Political Science and Sociology bagged the certificate of best speaker.



All the participants were awarded the certificate of participation.

Media & Information Literacy

On 23rd March, 2016 the final year students of Jigme Namgyel Engineering College attended the sensitization programme on media and information literacy, resourced by the four officials from Department of Information and Media under Ministry of Information and Communication.



Sensitization on media literacy began as a result of the study conducted on Media Impact in 2008 where it was found that media literacy is important for all walks of life. This was to build better citizen in democratic society, inspired by Gross National Happiness. It was also to be the best consumer and best producer of the information.

The programme was mainly to showcase the 21st century approach to educate in understanding the use of mass media. Although the audiences are of engineering background yet the programme was found appropriate. The aim of the programme was to empower decision making and enhance good governance.

Through the programme students were able to learn on constructing positive values from media. Moreover it was a platform in enhancing the students' analytical and critical thinking skills. This was also to promote active participation and live in an information –based society.

Deans of Student Affairs Learns Basic Counseling

Deans of Student Affairs (DSA) of Colleges under Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) attended a five day Basic Counseling Skills workshop at Samtse College of Education (SCE) from 23rd to 27th May 2016.

As deemed necessary for the DSA's to have basic counseling skills, the Office of the Vice Chancellor (OVC), RUB advised SCE to design and offer the training. The training comprised of the understanding the concepts of counseling, processes and techniques involved in counseling.



Tenzin Jamtsho, DSA of the College of Language and Cultural Studies, Taktse, Trongsa, said that he is conceptually clear about what is counseling and gained some skills to deal with the students. Similarly, Karma Kelzang Eudon, DSA, College of Science and Technology, Phuntsholing said, "I learned a lot through sharing of real time cases and would take back two basic steps of counseling, i.e. normalizing and validating during student interaction".



Karma Gayphel, Lecturer in Counseling, one of the facilitators of the training reflected, “It was a wonderful learning experience as it was for Deans who are not going to be fulltime counselors”. He added that it was the first of its kind, and therefore, it challenged the facilitators in terms of contents and skills.

The training was funded by Office of the Vice Chancellor, Royal University of Bhutan.

A visit to Japan under JENESYS Programme

A delegation of 7 students along with one supervisor from Jigme Namgyal Engineering College (JNEC) visited Japan on the invitation by the government of Japan from January 17th to 27th, 2016 under the “Japan-SAARC Network Programme of People to People Exchange (JENESYS). University students from member countries of SAARC also participated in that short-term programme.

The JENESYS Programme (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) is a project advanced by the Japanese government from the standpoint of providing a sound foundation for strong solidarity within Asia through large-scale youth exchange.

The Japan International Cooperation Center(JICE) is in charge of conducting the programme in cooperation with various local governments, schools, and international exchange organizations in each area.

The objectives of JENESYS are:

- To promote mutual trust and understanding among the people of Japan and Asian countries
- To promote a global understanding of Japan's society, history, diverse culture, politics and foreign policy
- To convey information on Japan and experience acquired through the program to the general public of the participants home countries through the participants of this project.
- Under the programme, the students and other participants were given opportunities to deepen their understanding on Japan's cutting-edge high technologies and its support for local and creative industries, experience Japan's traditional culture and to communicate with local people. The students also visited the energy sector to observe how Japan is efficiently meeting its energy needs while protecting its nature and environment. Students were taken to places like Shibaura Water Reclamation Center and Ariake Incineration Plant, the waste disposal plant in Tokyo.





Since the programme also focuses on student exchange program, the visiting students were taken to Teikyo University, Utsunomiya and were made to interact with the students in the university.

Under the homestay programme, the visiting students were made to stay in the Japanese homes with Japanese family. The host family treats the visiting guest as one of their own family member. Homestay is one of the most valued and fascinating programme.

Media literacy for Community Radio

A twenty five upcoming community radio student members and four faculty of College of Language and Culture Studies (CLCS) were sensitized on Media Literacy by a team from Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD) on 9th and 10th March 2016.

The team was led by Program Officer of BCMD Mrs. Tshewang Lhamo and Assistant Program Officer Mr. Sherub Dorji with Mr. Dawa, a popular news anchor of Bhutan Broadcasting Service Ltd.

The first day began with a presentation on an Open Society, the benefits of an open society and the media literacy. Yeshi Wangmo, a participant said that it is very important to understand our role in an Open Society, its core concepts and its benefit.

Sherub Dorji said that the main objective for conducting such workshop is to sensitize the members for upcoming community radio program by providing them with the understanding of what media is and how media plays a great role in the community.

The resource person Mr. Dawa said that media plays a huge role in a democratic society especially in a small community like ours. “But there are also lots of challenges that the reporters face in covering most critical and true stories.”, he added.

Dawa, a first year student from BA in Language and Literature said that he has now become familiar with what media is and how it plays a greater role in a democratic country.



Different is Beautiful



The Bhutan Youth Foundation (BYF) at Sherubtse College organized a fashion show titled 'Difference is Beautiful' on 2nd April 2016. The BYF aimed to ignite creativity among the students and also to manage waste at the college. Waste materials such as junk wrappers, bottles, cartoons and old cloth pieces were used to design dresses for the models.

A total of 21 students participated in the competition with 7 designers and 14 contestants.

A final year student said that she was amazed by the student's creativity to transform waste into a magical art. 'Young Sherubtse students are really versatile and, at times, I wonder if those designers are professionals. In the long run, I expect them to become professionals in modeling,' she said.

"The 'Difference Is Beautiful' was a successful and wonderful programme", Sonam Choden, the coordinator of the Bhutan Youth Foundation, said. She initiated the donations from Kanglung and Trashigang shops to provide cash prizes to the winners.



Designer Deki Dolkar and her contestant Kezang Choden and Wangchuk Gyelpo bagged the first prize of Nu 3,000. Karma Yangchen, a designer for Tashi D Wangmo and Dorji Namgay took the second prize of Nu 2,000. Designer Karma Youden with her contestant Tshering Dekar and Tshewang Rinzin, took the third position with a cash prize of Nu 1,000.

The Director of the college and the IMTRAT officer of Kanglung awarded the prizes to the winners and certificates to all the participants.

Aerobic fitness festival strikes PCE



On 8th of April 2016 at 6:30pm in the court yard of Paro College of Education (PCE) an aerobic fitness festival was organized for the first time.

The court yard was filled with eager and excited student-teachers and lecturers ready to dance along to the aerobic video being projected on a wall of a building. The participants' enjoyment was evident from their involvement in the workout and sweat soaked bodies were a clear indication of a through workout.

The event was a collaborative idea of few lecturers along with the 2nd year student teachers who are currently studying the Health and Physical Education (HPE) module. Mr. Puspallal Sharma, the HPE module tutor said that the idea of making it as a festival was to create awareness among the people to live an active life style.

One of the participants said that, "Many people find physical education, a waste of time and a work load. Some parents blame the school for involving their

children in play as they just want their children excel in academics only”. However, these kind of awareness events can make them realize the importance of physical fitness.

Exercise is the only solution for keeping ourselves physically, mentally and emotionally fit. “Aerobic fitness dance is one of the important topics for second year and fourth year students and I have been teaching this module since 2009. I am glad to see my students becoming conscious about their nutrition and their fitness, which shows a positive response to the module”, Puspapal added.

The festival lasted for more than an hour. The participants expect similar programmes in the future. Refreshments organized by the college management were served at the end of the event.



Media and Information Literacy in GCBS

On 27th of April 2016, the Department of Information and Media, Ministry of Information and Communication organized a Media and Information Literacy (MIL) awareness program at Gaeddu College of Business Studies (GCBS).

The program was conducted for the final year students pursuing B.Com and BBA, where a total of five officials from the MIL gave a presentation in five different rooms, to have more interactions with the participants and share their view on Media and Information Literacy. The main objectives of the presentations was to build critical thinking among the students and be an active citizens in a Democratic Society.

During the one day program, MIL explained about the basic concepts, skills and values of media, nature of media and its influences; how to apply Media and Information Literacy skills in day-to-day life in a media saturated environment and they also talked about how to become better/active citizens of a democratic society.

The student participants mentioned that they learned a lot about media and information and what MIL does. The videos shown by the presenters encouraged the students to build critical thinking on how the media conveys its message and how should the consumers or the public analyze and perceive it.

A very powerful video that conveyed the message was a video clip from BBC about the penguins flying and migrating to other countries, but it is a well known facts that penguins can't fly. Since the video was from BBC people believed it right away. The lesson learned at the end was that fact of penguins do not fly and BBC had created April fool day video.

The MIL was established in 2009 consisting of three broad programs namely; a. Media and Information Literacy and the public, b. Media and Information Literacy in schools and c. Capacity Development of Teacher Trainees of Colleges and institutes and Teachers on Media and Information Literacy.

Data Analysis workshops

In pursuit of enhancing research capacity of the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) faculty members, Department of Research and External Relations (DRER) in collaboration with research centers in the colleges organized a series of workshops on “DATA ANALYSIS” using SPSS.

On 6-9 May, 2016 DRER in collaboration with College of Natural Resources organized a quantitative research methodology workshop specifically, titled Data analysis using SPSS

Graphical User Interface Workshop. 26 faculty were trained by Mr. Changa Dorji, DRER (OVC), Dr. DB Gurung, DRIL, CNR and Dr. Om Katel, CNR as the resource persons for the workshop.



On 17-20th March 2016 DRER in collaboration with Centre for Business Research and Entrepreneurship Development, GCBS organized a quantitative research methodology workshop specifically, titled Data analysis using SPSS Graphical User Interface Workshop. 20 faculty of GCBS were trained in research writing, data analysis and publications. and the workshop was resourced by Mr. Changa Dorji, DRER, OVC and Ugyen Lhendup, DRIL, GCBS.

Learning outcomes of the two workshop were:

- Design data entry form in EpiData and export data to SPSS for analysis
- Prepare a code book and assign variable labels and value labels to the data
- Check data for error and make correction and prepare data for analysis
- Conduct data transformation and use utility functions in SPSS
- Generate graphs and descriptive statistics
- Examine the relationship using both parametric and non-parametric test, and examine the difference between groups
- Use SPSS syntax to conduct data preparation and analysis

SPSS statistics (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) is a software package used for statistical analysis. The four day workshop included step-by-step approach for data analysis; getting basics on using SPSS software, preparing, screening, cleaning and transforming the data, preliminary and descriptive analyses of the data, exploring relationship between contingency tables, correlation and partial correlation, comparing T-test, one-way ANOVA, two-way ANOVA and also programming in SPSS using syntax. This in-house capacity building workshop was essentially conducted to train faculties and researchers, so as to encourage high quality researchers.

The two workshop was one of the planned activities under the GoI project with iGNHaS in enhancing research capacity of the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) faculty members.

Student Research Meet

On 30th April, 2016, College of Science and Technology held its first Student Research Meet (SRM). SRM was organized by the College Research Committee (CRC).

The 1st SRM was organized with the objectives to build research culture within the student community and to encourage and promote inter-departmental research projects. The event commenced at 8:00am on Saturday morning and there were 12 research presentations from the final year students, three from each department, namely the department of Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEAD), department of Electrical Engineering

(EED), department of Information Technology (IT) and department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE). The participants of the event were third year students and interested second year students. The critical friends for the student research meet were Dr. Cheki Dorji, Dr. Tshewang Lhendup, all head of the departments (HOD) and interested faculty members of CST.

The 12 final year project groups got the opportunity to present the project that they have been working on for almost a year. The project coordinator of each department nominated three research projects for SRM.

Although it was first of its kind, the audience received it well with scopes to make it a inter-department research projects. The participants got better idea for their final

year research projects and were motivated by the current final year research projects to explore further into the subject of research.

CRC was formed in 2011, with the mandate to look into the research activities of the college. CRC is chaired by Dean of Research and Industrial Linkages. The CRC members include one senior faculty member from each department.



Are we aware of their disabilities?

BUSSI-EN (a Japanese non-profit organization) organized a workshop on creating awareness on disabilities at Paro College of Education (PCE), on 16th March 2016.

The lecturers and students of the teachers' college who are involved in teaching students with special needs took part in the two hours' presentation along with the speakers from BUSSI-EN, Ability Bhutan Society (ABS). The speakers presented and discussed on various

topics to find better ways to respond to the multiplicity of the students' with special needs.

Dawa Dukpa, a lecturer of PCE presented a short video clip on autism titled 'Dear Future Mom'. He stressed on inclusion of the students with special needs in the general school and stated that it is a process, a never ending search to find a better ways of responding to diversity.

Khandu Dorji, another lecturer of PCE presented the statistics of the past and present view of disability and the special educational needs in our country. She said, "There are 12 schools catering to children with special needs in the country and majority of the students are with learning difficulties".



Tshering Lhabu from ABS explained on different types of disabilities which are caused by depression, trauma, injury, nutritional deficiency and when one is too much on drugs. And some disabilities are hereditary. Dechen Dema, a student of PCE said that by attending the workshop on disabilities, she gained lot of knowledge. "It helped me in changing my attitude towards people with special needs." She added.

The session ended with a word of thanks by Mr. Tamiki Nakashima, the director of BUSSI-EN.

CST collaborates with DGPC and BPC

The College of Science and Technology (CST), Druk Green Power Cooperation (DGPC) and University of Rostock, Germany are working together under 'University-Business partnership' MoU for three year project titled "*Analysis and Modelling of Bhutan's Hydropower and Allied activities*" funded by DAAD, German Academic Exchange Programme from Dec 2013-2016.

Every year few faculty members and students of College of Science and Technology along with few engineers from DGPC visited Rostock University and learn from faculties of University of Rostock, who visited Project sites. In December 2014 based on the interest and requirement, Bhutan Power Cooperation (BPC) also signed MoU for the Project and now working on the joint project "Modelling and Analysis of BPC Network". Till date

works are already in advanced stage completing the modelling of Tala Power Plant and team has starting modelling Chhukha Power Plant.

According to Mr. Cheku Dorji, a lecturer of CST in Electrical Department, "On 14th September 2011, the North Eastern Grid of India failed during which all the running units of Tala (THP), Chhukha (CHP) and Kurichhu (KHP) could not withstand the grid isolation except the Basochhu (BHP)."

This made DGPC to ensure its generating facilities are prepared to operate in the fast changing network scenario. Therefore they must evaluate the static and dynamic performance of all of its generating units (controls included) for which DGPC at present has set up the Centre of Excellence for Control & Protection (CoECaP). The CoECaP has been striving to develop the

expertise and facilities to achieve self-sufficiency in high-quality engineering and testing services for electrical systems.

The engineers from CoECaP and lecturer and students from CST are working together to develop technical capability to model in detail, simulate, and test the control systems of its generators. The scope of the project are modelling, simulating, and testing hydro-generators and its controls (governor and exciter) from the viewpoint of system stability, restoration, and islanded operation.

The University of Rostock, Germany has developed an excellent technical expertise in the field of simulation and testing of generator controls through its extensive research in hydropower plants in many countries. On collaboration with Rostock University and DGPC,

Students and lecturers of CST are already nearing results.

One of the students who visited Rostock said that it was the best experience of his life and he is interested in any future such opportunities.

Mr. Cheku Dorji also mentioned that the project will cause mutual sharing of technical expertise and work cultures between the institutions of the two countries, thus fostering long-term cooperation.

Moreover the project nurtures future engineers and trains them in a field which will definitely help the country directly while it is technically very beneficial for both DGPC and BPC.

Weather Station at Sherubtse College

PICTURE STORY



Sherubtse College installed the Campbell Scientific Automatic Weather Station in December 2015. The station has been fully functional since January 2016. Prof. Konrad Steffen, Director of Swiss Federal Institute WSL donated the station through contribution to High Asia Runoff from Ice and Snow (CHARIS) project, University of Colorado Boulder partnership.

“The purpose of the station is to measure the climate and its variability over time, study the variations of air temperatures from daily cycles to seasons, monitor the solar radiation and the chance of surface reflectivity, and is a basic teaching tool for students to study the meteorological parameters,” said the CHARIS project coordinator Mr. Dhendup Tshering.

Apple Project between Hirosaki University and CNR

On 27th May 2016, with the initiative of JICA Partnership program, a team from Hirosaki University, Japan visited College of Natural Resources for a project on “Capacity building and introduction to innovative technologies to improve apple production, productivity and processing in Bhutan”. The team included research personnel from Hirosaki University, President & CEO of Harada Nursery Co. Ltd.



During their visit Renewable Natural Resource Research and Development Center, Yusipang, Thimphu a training on apple plantation, techniques in training and pruning was organized. Two faculties from CNR also participated in the training. A total of 336 apple rootstock of Chinese Apple *Malus prunifolia* var. *ringo* were planted at the project site. The resource persons also shared some of their improved techniques such as nurseries production, pruning and fruit thinning in apple production.

Techniques on safe production of processed fruits such as cider and freeze-dry will also be taught to the target group who in turn will teach core farmers and is intended

to be further disseminated to general farmers. In addition, apple processing machines for making cider, freeze-dry and jam will also be introduced at CNR. The project

fund is routed through JICA to Hirosaki University and then to Bhutan

Sensitization workshop on Sustainable Management



Sherubtse College hosted a sensitization workshop on 'Sustainable Management of soil, land and watershed, and REDD+ readiness', organized by National Soil Services Center and Watershed Management Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, with the support from Bhutan REDD+ Readiness Programme on 13th May 2016.

The workshop was organized mainly for the students of Life Science and Environmental Science.

The workshop consisted of presentation with question answer session.

"The workshop is very informative and it is closely related to our syllabus," said one of the senior Environmental Science students.

They have conducted similar workshop in six other colleges under the Royal University of Bhutan.

MatLab for Engineers

On 11-15th April 2016 DRER in collaboration with College of Science and Technology and Jigme Namgyel Engineering College organized quantitative research methodology workshop specifically for engineering faculty.

The two Engineering Colleges proposed a training on "Basic MATLAB for Scientific Research" covering research methodology and technical writing. Training on technical research software tool like MATLAB, was found to be one of most important software tools to technical researchers for research problem analysis and modelling.

Eleven faculty from JNEC and nine from CST participated in the the training which was resourced by Mr. Kamal Kumar Chapagai, Lecturer, ECED, CST and Mr. Hemlal Bhattarai, DRIL, JNEC. The main objective of this training was to develop the research capacity of the research faculty members on basic features of software MATLAB for numerical computations and some advance topics that focus application aspects of MATLAB platform for problem solving using various toolboxes.

The workshop outcomes were as follows:

The new and beginning researchers were educated on MatLab software and were able to

- a. Use the tools for their research problem analysis and modelling,
- a. Teach/guides their students while doing final year research projects.
- b. Provides research methodology and technical writing concept to new faculty members

- b. Provides an opportunity for faculty members to promote intercollege relation and joint
- c. Research project between JNEC and CST
- d. Promote research culture of the Colleges and University at Large in engineering fields.

Research Methods workshop in Dzongkha

On 17th – 20th March 2016, the Department of Research and External Relations (DRER), Office of Vice Chancellor in collaboration with College of Language and Culture Studies (CLCS) organized workshop on Qualitative Research Methodology for Dzongkha faculty titled ‘Zhabsol Thablam/ Research Methods in Dzongkha’.

The workshop aimed at developing the research capacity of the Dzongkha faculty in carrying out qualitative research independently. During the workshop, Dzongkha faculties were educated on research techniques, methods, and challenges of doing qualitative research.

A resource person, Dr. Gembo Tshering said that the main reason of conducting such workshop is firstly to encourage Dzongkha lecturers in carrying out qualitative research in Dzongkha. Secondly to promote Dzongkha based research resources and ultimately to promote national language.

Kencho Tshering, a Dzongkha lecturer of CLCS said it is very informative and understandable through Dzongkha as a medium of the workshop. “During the workshop, team work was very essential which enhanced my understanding of qualitative research.”, he added.

Chimi Dorji, a lecturer of Sherubtse College said that the workshop is very helpful. He added that the skills and information he learnt will not only benefit him in teaching and learning but most importantly in writing about culture and religion based articles which requires research methods.



The four day workshop covered on principles of qualitative research, designing the research project, skills development and each groups telling the stories of their research project.



Chemical, Environment and Health Seminar



A seminar on “CHEMICAL, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH” was conducted at the college convention hall on May 5, 2016. Attended by CNR students, the seminar was aimed at advocating the hazards of chemicals and a sustainable approach to prosperity while keeping the planet healthy and clean.

The speaker was Mr. Doe Doe, Plant Protection specialist at National Plant Protection Center, MOAF. He attended his toxicology course in Thailand. The seminar opened setting the context on which our national development paradigm is based and how the topic is prudent in Bhutan. It then explained the inevitable detriments of chemical contamination from landfills. It also showed the apparent affiliation between human and toxic chemical wastes, as well as introducing to the most common chemicals of concern present and their associated health risks.

Chemicals such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls, phthalates and acrylamide can have severe health implications, most of which comes from goods used in our daily lives such as clothes, bottles, food, beverages, etc. The need for proper mechanisms to regulate these chemicals was stressed at length.

“You should be aware of what you are exposed to because health regimes priority over everything,” Mr Doe Doe said. “Knowing and understanding the information is not enough, realization and implementation should be taken care of as it can harm a nation as a whole”

This was the fourth time the seminar was conducted in the college; hitherto attended by more than 300 students. It will end with a final talk to the MDP students on May 6, 2016.

Visual celebration of Shakespeare

The Sherubtse Theater Ensemble under the Department of English 'Organised a glamorous exhibitionism of Shakespearean theater' – One Act Play Competition among English combination students on 30th April 2016.

The main reason behind the competition was to support the nation's efforts to encourage the use of the English language amongst students, to encourage students to appreciate drama as it promotes integration and inculcates moral values, and to provide the opportunity for students to show their talents and creativity in the art of dramatization; the usage of English which incorporates script writing, directing, stage management and other technical aspects.



There were six groups in the competition. The Tempest bagged the first prize of Nu 10,000, performed by the Media English combination students of sixth semester. The Dzongkha English combination students with King Lear, stood second and won a cash prize of Nu 7,000, followed by Media English combination fourth semester students with a cash prize of Nu 4,000 for Hamlet.

"The drama competition serves as a platform for students and tutors to promote and demonstrate creative ideas in their work. Drama motivates students to use English, and therefore improves their command of the language. It is hoped that drama can also instill values amongst students to be more sensitive and appreciative towards local arts," said the Professor P Babu Raj.

The staff moderator of Sherubtse Theater Ensemble, Program Leader of English department, and the student coordinator Tshering Namgay coordinated the competition.

The Director of the college awarded the prizes and certificates to all the winners and runners up.



Japan Day

To mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relation between Japan and Bhutan, College of Science and Technology (CST) organized a Japanese culture based program on 30th April 2016 under the initiative of the Japanese faculties, Mr. Toshide Tsuboto and Mr. Kazuhiro Muramatsu.

Thirty years passed since the establishment of Japan-Bhutan diplomatic relation and Japan has been an important development partner since the formal relations started. The 30th anniversary of this friendship



is blessed by three important events in the history of Bhutan- the birth of Gyalsey, the birth year of Guru Rinpoche and the 400th year of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal's arrival in Bhutan. The 3-hours program kicked off at around 1 pm with the entry of our Director in Japanese costume-Kimono. Our Japanese faculties along with other two Japanese guests Mr. and Mrs. Sakane, currently working at Phuntsholing Thromde, exhibited their traditional sword fight, dance, books, toys, cuisine and many other.



Many students put on kimono, acted out samurai sword fight, flipped through the pages of Manga (Japanese comics) with fascination and tried their best to sing along with the Japanese organizers. The joy and bliss of the event was seen in the smiles of the students and faculties

Lhak-sam Advocacy Education



A team of five, led by Mr. Wangda Dorji, the coordinator of the Lhak-sam group visited Sherubtse College on 25th April 2016.

According to Mr. Wangda Dorji, they came to Sherubtse College to create awareness campaign on HIV/Aids and Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex (LGBTI).

They shared the difficulties and challenges that they face as a HIV positive patient. They also educated the students of Sherubtse on LGBTI.

"The talk was very informative and, creating such kind of awareness is going to benefit the Bhutanese," said one of the second year students.

On the following day, Lhak-sam group also conducted a panel discussion with the students of Sherubtse College.

CNR Celebrates Social Forestry Day

College of Natural Resources (CNR) celebrated Coronation Day of the fourth King of Bhutan together with Social Forestry Day by planting trees below Chimi Lhakhang and college campus on 2 June, 2016. The theme for the day was "Plant and Nurture Trees for a Green and Healthy Environment". The inaugural planting was graced by Dasho Dzongda of Punakha Dzongkhag, Director General of CNR and Chief Forestry Officer of Wangdue Forest Division. The event is also in keeping with the national effort to plant trees in celebration of the Birth of our gracious Royal Highness, The Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck and fulfilling the World Earth Day theme to plant 7.8 billion trees by 2020.

CNR in celebration of Social Forestry Day 2016 had gathered in Chimipang. Over 500 participants consisting of forest



officials from Forest Division of Wangdue and Punakha, DeSuups, and staff of Aman Kora also gathered in same spot. To revive the burnt area below Chimi Lhakhang, the volunteers planted over 3000 tree saplings of species like *Pinus roxburghii* (chir pine), *Quercus griffithii* (Oak) and *Syzygium cumini*.

A total of 588 tree saplings were planted in College Campus: 464 tree saplings in the Upper Hostel and 124 tree saplings in Arboretum that is below new the Dining Hall of the college. The Students involved in planting in-Campus were the students from 23rd Forestry Diploma, B.Sc. Animal Science, B.Sc. Agriculture and Master of Development Practice. In the evening there was singing competition of a song dedicated to the college for upcoming silver jubilee in November 11, which is the college foundation day.



3rd National Karate Championship at Sherubtse College

Sherubtse College hosted the 3rd National Karate Championship on 18-19 March 2016, organized by Bhutan Karate Association with the support of Bhutan Olympic Committee.

There were 61 participants in total for the Karate tournament. College of Language and Culture Studies emerged as the victor of the 3rd National Karate Championship winning a cash prize of Nu. 10,000, with 24 participants. Sherubtse College emerged



second with 13 participants. Paro College of Education stood third with 15 participants followed by Faculty of Nursing and Public Health with 9 participants.

“Sherubtse College won National Karate Championship hosted by Paro College of Education last year. Therefore, we had to organize this year’s tournament at Sherubtse,” said the Sports Coach of Sherubtse.

This year’s winner will be organizing the 4th National Karate Championship at the College of Language and Culture Studies for the year 2017.

All the participants were awarded certificates of participation.

National Soil Service Centre presentation at GCBS

On 17th of May 2016, the final year students of the Gaeddu College of Business Studies (GCBS) were given a sensitization workshop on “Sustainable Management of Soil, Land and Watersheds, and REDD+ readiness”. It was organized by National Soil Service Center and Watershed Management Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest and the program was supported by Bhutan REDD+ readiness. The Program Director Madam Karma Dema Dorji, Program Manager Madam Sigyel Delma and the other two staffs (Mr. Phuntsho Gyeltshen and Mr. Tshering Dorji) talked to students about the importance of soil, land watershed. They also mentioned about their role in protecting and educating others as they graduate and go home to their parents and neighbors.

The presentation covered on the evolution of land management activities which were taken from the 5th to 7th Five Year Plan and before this era, the farmers were given incentives by the Government of Bhutan. They touched upon climate smart agriculture to better adapt and to mitigate the climatic change. Formulation on sustainable land management to combat degradation. They focused on the various technologies that will help to prevent soil erosion from the heavy rainfall such as fodder grass hedgerows, stone buds, orchard trace, check dams, creating buffer zone and soil fertility management practices.

Bhutan is one of the 195th member countries of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) since August 2003 after the rectification by the 81st NA session. It is the guiding document for the country on land degradation programs and plans where Bhutan have National Action Plan or Program which was implemented in the 2010.

Gyalsey Cup final



The Forum for International and National Awareness (FINA) at Sherubtse College organized a departmental football tournament on 3rd April 2016.

For men’s category, the final was played between the departments of History and Science Forum, resulting in a score of 1-3 in favor of Science Forum.

The winner of the Gyalsey Cup football tournament took the cash prize of Nu 16,000 and Nu 11,000 by the runners up.

For women’s category, Dzongkha department won with a goal, followed by department of Geographical Society. The cash prize of Nu 10,000 and Nu 7,000 was awarded to the winners and runners up respectively.

Kinley Jamtsho, one of the players from History department was recognized as the best player. Sherub Pem from the department of Geographical Society received the women of the match recognition.

According to the former President, Jigme Norbu, the main reason behind organizing such a tournament was to welcome and celebrate the Birth of Gyalsey.

All the participants were awarded with the certificate of participation. The tournament that lasted almost three weeks came to an end on 23rd April 2016.

Annual Rimdo at CNR

Coinciding with the first day of third month of the Bhutanese calendar, the college conducted its Annual Rimdo (ritual) for 2016 on 8 April, 2016.

The rimdo was presided over by His Eminent Tse-Zimpon with 18 monks from Puna Dewa Chhempoi Phodrang, commonly known as Punakha Dzong.



Performing Annual Rimdo carries two important reasons; firstly, it is a celebration of the successful completion of past 12 months, without sicknesses and misfortunes. Therefore, it is a thanks giving ritual to the triple gem and local deities. Secondly, from the day of Rimdo, we are taking refuge to the triple gem and local deities, until the time the next annual Rimdo is being conducted. Here, we make wishes and prayers for peace, harmony, happiness and successes another year or so.

The annual rimdo is the event of paying homage to Gembo Chamdrel Sum (protective deities Pel Yeshey Gembo, Palden Lhamo and Lekhi Gembo Jaro Dongchhen) among other local deities.

The Annual Rimdo is also an occasion to make food offerings to the god, goddesses and deities and get blessed for wellbeing of all sentient beings.

Inter-Departmental Championship



The Forestry (nested) team emerged as the winner of inter-departmental knock out football tournament held on 31st March, 2016. In a tough and exciting finals Forestry (nested) defeated the 4th batch Sustainable Development team by three goals to one. The media club (MC) of CNR managed to interview the nested team

MC: How do you feel after winning the match?

Team: We feel proud, satisfied and we think that we have played well.

MC: How hard was the match?

Team: We encountered an unexpected defeat in last year's departmental tournament and this year we tried our level best as a team, with full cooperation in achieving this victory.

MC: What attracted you to this targeted victory?

Team: More than the attraction to the targeted victory, it was our teams' cooperation, morale and good individual skills that inspired us to make victory as our target.

MC: How do you think you performed? Was there anything that you wished you did different?

Team: [Excellent!, exclaimed one of the team members.] We wish we could have given them more pressure in the first half and we also wished to have a well organized play in terms of passing, throws and so on."

MC: What did you learn from this game?

Team: We learned that team work, the ability of players and to know the weaknesses of individuals is a must.

MC: How do you plan to improve (or continue to do well) in the future?

Team: We will practice more and will be equipped with different skills in future.

MC: What was the most exciting part of the game?

Team: When we scored the third goal because it clearly defined our victory and when the final whistle was blown because we came out as the victors.

MC: What area of your game do you think you need to improve the most?

Team: We need to improve our skills and positions in the field and give more time for practice.

MC: Who is the best player in your team?

Team: Though everyone tried their level best to win this tournament, the credit mainly goes to the goalie (Lobzang Dawa) for his desperate efforts and spectacular saves.

Fourth Recitation of Jigten Wangchuk

On the sacred occasion of Zhabdrung Kuchoe and to mark the 400th anniversary of Zhabdrung's arrival in Bhutan, the Jigten Wangchuk Committee of Dewathang led by Director of Jigme Namgyel Engineering College as a Chairperson of the committee along with members of Dewathang community and college, joined the nation to offer prayers and recite Jigten Wangchuk in the college campus.

The occasion of 4th Jigten Wangchuk recitation was presided over by venerable Lam of Royal Bhutan Army, Dewathang in presence distinguished members from Dewathang Community and participating members from Royal Bhutan Army, Dewathang Thromde, Dungsam Academy, Garpawoong Middle Secondary School, Dewathang Primary School, Rikhey Community Primary School and Jigme Namgyel Engineering College.

On the occasion, mini *Thongdrel* of Zhabdrung Nangsay Zilnon was displayed in the campus to offer prayers. The sacred statue of Zhabdrung was also handed over by venerable Lam of Royal Bhutan Army to college. A total of one thousand three hundred participating members gathered to offer prayer and recite Jigten Wangchuk as an annual event.



2nd JNEC Open Champions



GCBS team emerged as the champions in the 2nd JNEC Open football tournament by defeating the Dragon FC by 3-0 in the final played on 15th May at Thangzor Stadium, Jigme Namgyel Engineering College.

It was a close contest, but the GCBS emerged as the favorite team to win this year's JNEC Open trophy. The remarkable skills and pace of the GCBS team outplayed the Dragon FC.

Kelzang Namgay opened the scoring by converting a corner kick with a stunning header and GCBS took the lead in 18th minutes. In the 28th minutes Tashi Dorji found the net and made it 2-0 after a brilliant assist from Ngawang Tashi, the top scorer of the team. Ngawang Tashi was looking to snatch the highest scorer prize money but he was rarely given a change. However he managed to score towards the end of the first half to take the score tally to 10 goals in the tournament but 2 goals short to take the top scorer prize. Jigme Wangchuk, the striker of JNEC XI team took the highest scorer prize with 11 goals. Dragon boys failed to capitalize on few changes they got in the match. In the dying minutes in the first half Dorji Wangchuk of Dragon FC shot a brilliant ball only to be denied by the goalie. Again in

the 67th minutes, Tshering Wangchuk struck a stunning ball but the GCBS goalie made a fine fingertip save.

GCBS lifted the trophy with a cash prize of Nu. 70,000/- while the runners-up team took a cash prize of Nu. 35,000/-.

Dr. Andu Dukpa, the Director of Jigme Namgyel Engineering College and the Chair-person of the JNEC

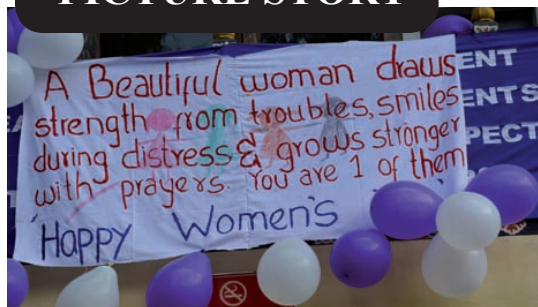
Open organizing committee, in his closing remarks congratulated both the finalist and thanked all the teams who participated in the tournament. He said that the tournament was organized to bring harmony in the community and also to promote the importance of health and wellbeing through sports and physical activities.

Zhabdrung Kuchoe



As Bhutan celebrated 400 years of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel's arrival to Bhutan, Sherubtse College joined the nation in conducting a series of prayers and Rimdros. Coinciding with the naming ceremony of HRH The Gyalsey on 16th April 2016, the Gejor Tshogpa conducted prayers and rituals for the longevity of the royal family.

PICTURE STORY



The day began with the offering of butter lamp by the faculties in the morning. A total of 300 students and faculties participated in the recitation of Jigten Wangchuk prayer at the college multipurpose hall. Simultaneously a rimdro was performed at the college Zangdopelri to commemorate the auspicious day.

1: Sherubtse College joined the nation in celebrating "International Women's Day"

Teachers Day

Coinciding with the birth anniversary of the Third Druk Gyalpo, Sherubtse College joined the nation in celebrating the Teacher's day on 2nd May 2016.

The program began with the reception of teachers by the outgoing student leaders for offering butter lamps, followed by Moentsig and cake cutting ceremony. The students organised several cultural programs to acknowledge and pay their gratitude to their teachers.

The inter-departmental Rigzar dance competition was also organised as a part of the celebration. The department of Dzongkha won the competition with a cash prize of Nu 15,000. The certificate was awarded to the president of the department.

The Science Forum was awarded the best department with a cash prize of Nu 10,000. The president of the department was awarded the certificate.

The Degree Hostel-IV took the cash prize of Nu 10,000 for the best hostel for the year 2015-2016. The certificate was awarded to both the councilors.

Professor Balamurugan Raju was awarded the best lecturer of the year 2015-2016.

The student body (FINA) has initiated this award for the first time in Sherubtse. 'We have initiated this kind of award, mainly to encourage the students and lecturers of Sherubtse,' said the outgoing president Jigme Norbu.

The program also included the planting of trees in the college campus by the faculty members in honour of Druk Gyelpo Jigme Dorji Wangchuk's visionary leadership.

Towards the afternoon, the Director of Sherubtse inaugurated the new basketball court. The opening ceremony match was held between the teaching faculty and the non-teaching staff followed by women lecturers versus student leaders and the outgoing student leaders versus the new student leaders respectively.



Sherubtse Graduation Day

Sherubtse College celebrated *Graduation day* on 28th May 2016. The day began with lots of excitement among the students and staff alike. The graduating students, and staff, all dressed in colorful outfit, entered the hall by 9:30 am, and the event went till 13:00.



Some of the highlights of the day are: entertainment programs, awarding of certificates, and prizes, and photography session. The certificates were awarded to the Unit Coordinators and

Following students were conferred prestigious awards for their outstanding services.



Jigme Dorji Wangchuck Gold medal was awarded to the outgoing President Jigme Norbu.

Mr Kinely Lekpa, the coordinator of social service unit (SSU) and Mr Tenzin wangchuck, the coordinator of Young Voluntary in Action (YVIA) were awarded the *Director's medal*.



Mr Namgay Wangdi, a coordinator to community base scouting (CBS), the games and sports custodian, Ms Pema Selden, and Ms Pema Tshomo, a Vice-President to FINA were awarded the certificate of *special award*.



Vice-Coordinators, President and Vice-President of the respective departments, Hostel Councilors, Mess representative, and Forum for International and National Awareness (FINA) Executives. The merit certificates were also awarded to the overall academic toppers.

Towards the evening, FINA hosted a *Graduation night* with a variety of shows performed by the outgoing students.

RTC Students in Japan

As a part of the academic partnership between the Royal Thimphu College and SEISA University, Japan, 10 RTC students accompanied by a faculty member were in Japan on a 10-day cultural exchange programme from January 31st - February 9th, 2016.

The exchange programme was established to provide RTC students with opportunities to attend sessions ranging from Japanese traditions to some of the latest technological developments. The students experienced a wide variety of enriching activities such as learning about the Japanese culture, history, customs, traditions, education, sports and language.

As part of the cultural exposure, the students had the



opportunity to visit places like the Furukawa Mega Solar Power Plant, where they had the honor of attending a lecture by the CEO, Mr Furukawa, and the executives of the Furukawa Corporation on how the solar power plant came to be an alternative source of energy especially after the destruction of major nuclear power plants. They also had the chance to meet Mr. Nakasaki, Oiso Mayor, as well.

While visiting the Kentyo-ji temple and the Tsurugaoka-hachiman Shrine, the students had an interactive session on the history of the temple and basic differences between the type of Buddhism followed in Bhutan and the one followed in Japan. Students also had an evening of interactions with the distinguished faculty of SEISA University at the Yokohama campus, where RTC students delivered a presentation on “Education in Bhutan”.



The students visited the Panasonic Digital Network Museum (Ri-Su-Pia) at Odaiba during the trip. The students also had the chance to interact with SEISA High School students, where the group delivered a presentation on Bhutan.



The RTC-SEISA MoU was signed in 2010, and since then, RTC students have had the opportunity to visit and learn about Japan every year. RTC hopes that the exposure gained will help the students to gain a better understanding of Japan and build a strong institutional partnership between the two institutions. The exchange programme also serves as a platform for Bhutanese students to interact with international students and experience student life in a foreign country. So far, 52 RTC students have visited Japan and 29 SEISA students have come to RTC.

RTC will also be hosting 12 students and a faculty member of SEISA this March, 2016, as a part of the exchange programme and in commemorating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Kingdom of Bhutan.

CNR's Silver Jubilee Celebration

As part of the "CNR's Silver Jubilee Celebration", singing competition was held in the college coinciding with the Coronation Day of the Fourth Druk Gyalpo. It was organized by Lhab Tshering (SD, 4th Batch), under the stewardship of Mr. Tandin Gyeltshen (Lecturer).

There were a total of eight singers who composed their own lyrics and tunes. CNR lecturers and teachers of Lobesa Middle Secondary School judged the competition.

Winners;

- First: Chimi Dorji and Yeshi Choden (ECS)
- Second: Kinzang Thinley and Gayley Namgay (AG, 6th Cohort)
- Third: Tshering Wangchuk (ECS)



The event envisions toward culminating into a music dedicated to the 25 years of college's establishment. The winning song will be set as the "College Theme Song".

FINA Election

The Democracy Club at Sherubtse College conducted the election for FINA (Forum for International and National Awareness) Executives on 9th April 2016.

There were seven candidates for the election. Mr. Changa Dawa from BSc. EVS, Mr. Pema Jamtsho from B.A Dzo/His and Ms. Thinley Zangmo from B.A Dzo/Eng contested for the FINA President-ship. The contestants for the FINA Secretary were: Mr. Ngawang Tenzin from B.A Dzo/Eng, Mr. Ugyen Wangchuk from B.A Eco/Geo, Ms. Phuntsho Choden from B.A Pol/Soc and Ms. Rinchen Kelzang Wangmo from B.A



Eco/PPS.

In order to promote gender equality, each slot was allocated separately for the man and woman. The winner of the election would serve as the President or Secretary, and the runners up; either man or woman would be elected as the Vice-President or Vice-Secretary.

"The election office at Trashigang helped us with providing electronic machine for this election. The voting

was kept open and the eligible voters had the option to vote through Mobile SMS," said the Democracy club Coordinator.

A total of 1529 students voted including Faculties and Staff, out of which 53 were voted through Mobile SMS.

Mr. Pema Jamtsho won the election for President-ship with 1104 EVM and 14 SMS votes followed by Ms. Thinley Zangmo for the post of

Vice-President with 172 EVN and 12 SMS votes.

For the post of male Secretary, Mr. Ngawang Tenzin won with 627 EVM and 6 SMS votes followed by Ms. Rinchen Kelzang Wangmo for the post of female Secretary with 269 EVM and 4 SMS votes.

"The election was scheduled on a holiday to ensure the regular classes were not disturbed," said the Staff Moderator of the Club.



The Staff Moderator and the Coordinator of the Democracy Club are thankful to the college management and Election Office (Trashigang Dzongkhag) for the success of the program.

RTC success in the Mekong Challenge

Two teams of students, representing both Royal Thimphu College and Bhutan, have won 2nd place and 4th place in the regional Mekong Business Challenge held in Cambodia on Saturday, March 12, 2016.

The Mekong Challenge is a “business model” contest, with over 100 teams from South-East Asia competing (Thailand, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Lao, China, and Bhutan for the first time this year). This is greatly different from the traditional “business idea” or “business plan” type of contest. The “business model” contest requires each competing team not only to develop an idea or plan, but also requires very extensive field work to talk with potential customers, suppliers, financing sources, potential competitors, government officials, etc.). This work was diligently accomplished by the RTC teams over the past three months after they were confirmed for round two of the competition. Each team continuously revised their initial plans and assumptions as they gained more insight and data from these sources. In this way, the process mirrored that of a real entrepreneur, who is continuously learning from, and adapting to, new information from the market.

Remarkably, two of RTC’s initial three teams won in the first round of the competition in November: Bhutan Interlocking Bricks, and Menjong Pasta. Only 11 teams out of over 100 in the initial round were chosen for the second round, held in Phnom Phenn, Cambodia.

The Bhutan Interlocking Bricks team won the Silver Medal (2nd place) along with a smartphone each to the three team members, and an all-expense paid trip to Singapore, to meet with the Google office. The Menjong Pasta team came in 4th, with the jury particularly impressed by the team’s serving of their actual pasta product – this received considerable appreciation for their original idea.

In light of RTC’s very strong performance, officials of the Mekong Challenge are exploring the possibility of RTC being the host for next year’s regional competition.



Snake Rescuer at the College of Natural Resources

College of Natural Resources has been known for the most venomous snakes in the campus. Therefore, snakes are kept to the safest place for species conservation and reduction of snake bites. This service is extended to the nearby community as well with the help of Sunil Sapkota.

Sunil Sapkota a student from Nepal taking B.Sc. Forestry Nested at CNR under the Madenjit Singh scholarship catch snakes from the college premises and the nearby community under the

supervision of Dr. D B Gurung. Sunil Sapkota gets calls from the students of the college whenever they see snakes. Even the community near the college seeks help for the snake rescuer. He has an experience of 8 years working as a volunteer at Chitwon National Park at Nepal.

College and the nearby community are benefited and made aware of snakes and the snake bites, with the immediate rescue of snakes and saving human life.



Medals For JNEC Karate Team



JNEC karate team bagged a total of 7 medals and a best fighter trophy in the Karate Tournament held in Thimphu at Naxhoen Pelri Hall from 7th-8th may 2015. The international level tournament was organized by Bhutan Institute of Martial Arts.

A total of 158 participants participated in Kata demonstration and fighting. JNEC team won 3 gold medals, 2 silver, 2 bronze and a best fighter trophy. In the individual Kata demonstration, JNEC team bagged one silver and a bronze medal. In the fighting category the team bagged the best fighter trophy, one silver and a bronze medal. In another category of Karate demonstration JNEC team were crowned champions with three gold medals.

Chairman of National Council visits Sherubtse



The Chairman of National Council, accompanied by seven members of National Council visited Sherubtse College on March 10, 2016. The members of National Council talked about the new enactment of laws, tourism, substance abuse etc. to the students and staff of Sherubtse College. "The main objective of the visit is to make awareness of the new laws, so that the students can pass the same messages to the villagers," said His Excellency.

The talked ended with a questions answer session.

The Minister of Labour and Human Resource visits Sherubtse College.

On March 10, 2016 the Hon'ble Minister for Labour and Human Resource, Lyonpo Ngeema Sangay Tshempo visited Sherubtse College. His Excellency talked about the importance of sharing information with the people of Bhutan on what is happening in the parliament. "Whatever we discussed in the parliament through question answer session may not be enough to understand through live telecast," said the Lyonpo.

He also talked about the challenges that the new government is facing in poverty reduction. The poverty rate is still 12 percent and the government is working closely with Gross National Happiness (GNH) Commission to understand their findings. His Excellency emphasized not to worry about the country's economic crisis. "We take loan only if we can repay back," said His Excellency.

The Lyonpo also talked about issuing Indian Currency (IC), initially up to Rs 50,000 to the Bhutanese people who are interested to go for pilgrimage in India. The government has opened three counters in Phuntsholing and one in Gelephu. With this, the government expects that the business people and the Bhutanese people who go on a pilgrimage will be helped.

His Excellency is concerned about the youth unemployment issues, and is hopeful to achieve 100 percent employment. Pertaining to the youth unemployment issues, the government has initiated nine technical training education institutes and the government is projecting 1500 technical training institutes in the country. The government has allocated a separate budget to train job seekers, internship program, and partner with Cooperate and Private sectors program. Hon'ble Minister also mentioned that the government has sent several youth for training in the field of beauticians, hairdressers etc. to India. Bhutanese citizens are also sent for training in various countries like India, Thailand, and European countries. Moreover, the government has partnered with the Overseas Agency to send job seekers abroad. In that way, the government is expecting to acquire skills and exposure from other countries, which will help them be self-employed or start businesses, or on the job. The ministry is also working on the issue of an increasing number of unemployed women.

The government has formed an organization called



Business Opportunity and Information Center (BOIC), providing loans to youth to start up small cottage industries in order to be self-employed.

The talk ended with a slide presentation and questions answer session.

Film Director Tshering Gyeltshen at CLCS



On 5th March 2016, one of the popular film directors Mr. Tshering Gyeltshen visited the final year students of B.A in Bhutanese Himalayan Studies of the College of Language and Culture Studies (CLCS). He talked about how film

production contributes to the cultural preservation and the challenges the Bhutanese film industry.

The talk began with his personal journey in the film industry. He said, "When I was little, I saw what my dream and aspiration was." He added that his profession is a passion driven profession and he worked really hard to have reached at this stage of his career. He also said

that at first, he worked as a journalist at Kuensel and gradually he got involved in film production. “I pushed myself to where my dream was ... [although] my parents dream for me to become a doctor. Of all other good opportunities I got, I just focused on my own dreams and turning them into realities.” He said with a smiling face.

Director Tshering Gyeltshen also added that he always focused on the cultural aspects of the country when he makes any film. He said, “I do

not and cannot even think of making films which disrupts the cultural heritage of Bhutan.” He also added that he has very high expectations in the future from his movies and that he can be a role model in Bhutan.

Neten Dorji, a BHS ‘D’ final year student shared his concern of Bhutanese film industry maybe deteriorating the rich culture and tradition of Bhutan as western dressings and hairstyles is prevalent in the film. The film director responded that it is true

but generally in film production “Artistic Freedom” of the film makers is respected. He added that this trend is becoming so inevitable in Bhutan that even the board is unable to overcome these.

He said, “making a rich cultural film requires lots of manpower and primitive resources which is so difficult to find them now.” He concluded that they are hoping for support from the Government to promote culture based films in the country.

RTC students at Wheaton College, USA

As a part of the academic partnership between the Royal Thimphu College (RTC) and Wheaton College of Massachusetts, USA, a group of 5 students and staff from RTC visited Wheaton College from 5th – 21st February 2016. During the 2-week exchange programme, the RTC students lived at the Wheaton campus with Wheaton students who had previously studied at RTC. The group attended various events that were happening on campus and also took part in many out-of-classroom activities. The students attended various lectures and seminars to gain a first-hand understanding of the typical American college experience. The group also gave presentations on Bhutan and showcased Bhutanese cultural items to various schools in the area and for the Introduction to Anthropology class at Wheaton College.

As part of the itinerary, the group also made a weekend trip to New York City and explored famous cultural, historical and tourist sites. The group also visited Boston and its environs. As much of the important events of the American Revolution took place in and around Boston, the group was

able to walk back into the annals of history by following the freedom trail which led them to celebrated sites such as Paul Revere’s House, Old North Church, Faneuil Hall and much more. For all RTC participants, this was their first visit to the US and a highlight of their time at the college.

RTC has had a partnership with Wheaton College for the past 5 years. As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two colleges in 2009, between 5-12 Wheaton students study at RTC each semester and earn credits that are recognized by Wheaton College. Since 2010 there have been 10 batches comprising a total of 83 students who have spent a semester at RTC through this partnership.

The Royal Thimphu College and Wheaton College further strengthened their partnership in March, 2014 with a revised MoU that allowed for a two-way exchange programme, making it possible for this first RTC group to visit Wheaton College. The programme will continue each year with an increased number of RTC participants.



RTC currently has formal partnership with 9 educational institutes around the world and the Wheaton-RTC programme has been the flagship of RTC’s efforts to provide more international learning opportunities for its students. RTC currently has 17 international students from 5 countries around the world.



Kinley, PhD, Senior Lecturer received his Post Graduate Certificate in Education from Samtse College of Education (SCE), Royal University of Bhutan in 1999, Master of Scientific Studies from University of New England, Australia in 2006, and PhD in Educational Technology from Aalborg University, Denmark in January 2016. Since 2006 until the present he has been working as a Lecturer at SCE. Currently, he is teaching Introduction to Research Methods in Education for B.ED II Secondary Science B, PgDE C and Teaching Strategy for B.ED II Secondary Science C at SCE. He is also leading a research group at SCE and have been actively participating in the college research activities.

Sir, congratulations on completing your PhD from Aalborg University, Denmark this year, How and why did you chose ‘Integration of ITC into the teaching- learning processes at the RUB. ‘ as your research topic?

Students today are engrossed extraordinarily with technology that they are pushing learning into new dimensions. Technological experience is carried into the learning space, and this should remind teachers to be aware of the learning experiences learners are exposed to so as to create a relevant learning environment. In this 21st century, one cannot escape the penetration of technology and its impact on the education, thus the Royal Government of Bhutan has made various initiatives to remain abreast with the changing scenario. At Samtse College of Education (SCE) since the introduction of moodle in 2004 investments were made on resource and human capacity building. Until now no studies had been done to find the impact of professional development programs and the status of practice on ICT usage for teaching.

I have been an observer and participants of the evolution ICT usage in SCE Reading books on pedagogy, reflecting the pedagogic practices at SCE, and interacting with colleagues and scholars raised many questions. While serving as a Head of the Department for Professional Studies from 2009 - 11 I was prompted to rethink pedagogy for teaching in the 21st century. It was seen that the workshops, trainings, professional development investments did not bring significant changes in the pattern of using ICT for teaching at SCE. I was curious and determined to find a new strategy to professional development to enhance the usage of ICT for teaching.

Thus, I formulated my study topic as *Professional Development Through Participatory Design: An Attempt to Enhance ICT Use in Teaching at the Royal University of Bhutan*”.

Can you mention the significance and contribution of your work?

The backdrop of the practice of professional development, workshops, and training usually are that:

“The design of professional development being dominated by policy considerations, no enabling conditions for teachers to collaborate with the wider professional community, many short term trainings for teachers where they are kept as passive recipients of information, and fast paced implementation of the innovations” (Little, 1993, p. 129).

The work I have done negates many of these mistakes, but the contribution is not merely to show that they can be negated. The point is to show HOW it can be done. This study has provided both illustrative and descriptive accounts of using the future workshop principle with the participatory design approach to professional development while implementing new practices. The findings from this study demonstrate that using these approaches has brought about positive results.

The overall findings show that the use of an intervention workshop within the future workshop framework and the use of a participatory design approach with scaffolding during pilot projects enhance the use of ICT in teaching. Therefore, the research approach and its findings contribute to the field of professional development in general.

How did you get/apply for the scholarship? What were the process to get into the programme?

The PhD study stems from the bigger projected Royal University of Bhutan – Aalborg University (RUB – AAU) Joint Research Project, supported by Danida with an objective for capacity building in research at RUB during the transition phase after becoming autonomous. A team of researchers from Aalborg University (Pär-Ola Zander and Marianne Georgsen) in Denmark and a team of researchers from SCE (four members) came together undertaking the research project titled “ICT Integration in teaching and learning across the curriculum in the Institutions of Royal University of Bhutan (IIC-RUB)”. The PhD project was nested within this group project.

The research department from OVC sent out calls for application for Danish-Bhutanese Research Partnership to all RUB colleges in the beginning of 2011. The concept note required participants to form a group of four members (PhD student, Project Manager, Lead Researcher, and co-researcher) and then find collaborating partner from a Danish University. It was competitive, time consuming, and little complex procedure as it was the first time for me and my group members from SCE in making an application for international funding. We submitted the application 1st October 2011 and the results were out end of December. Fortunately, my group was successful in finding collaborating partners from Aalborg University and also being successful with the application.

Your defended your PhD in Thimphu, Bhutan, which is a first of its kind in the country, briefly describe how it came about and what was the experience like?

The research project itself was conceived with an intent to build research capacity at RUB. The former Vice Chancellor of RUB (Dasho Dr. Pema Thinley) and my supervisors had envisioned that having a PhD defense at RUB will enable RUB to originate the bases for having PhD degree at RUB colleges. Moreover it was considered as one of the key output of the IIC-RUB project. Further, Aalborg University sought to showcase its PhD defense procedure at RUB.

I feel great! It has been a double achievement for me, as beside presenting and defending my thesis to the examiners I also had the opportunity to showcase my work to the Vice Chancellor and RUB staff (including some colleagues from SCE), representatives from important and strategic organizations, my siblings and relatives, and my personal friends. Before the defense I was fully stressed and filled with anxiety but at the end of the defense I realized that I have done it, and done it to the level of my own satisfaction to all that were present during that day. I know it; I would have not done it better than that. It was the most memorable day of my life. I feel very fortunate to have had this opportunity.

How are you using the research knowledge in the class?

Besides working on my PhD project I had the opportunity to attend international conferences and seminars which allowed me to interact with international researchers and Nordic researchers. All PhD students at Aalborg University are required to earn 30 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System), and for this I had to attend a number of PhD courses and/or summer schools. These opportunities enabled me to improve my communication skill (written and oral), critical and analytical thinking skill, social skills, and most importantly the skill of endurance and working for long hours. Therefore, the knowledge, skills, and experience obtained through the PhD journey enables me to perform better in classroom teaching as well as other administrative support task at the college.

What would you advice our aspiring faculty who are also thinking of apply for a PhD scholarship?

Making application for a PhD do not happen overnight, though the procedure will depend depending on different funding agency, however, in general the process gets lengthy. Through the application process you will need to have good communication skills, social and networking skills, and have to be proactive. There is no guarantee in being successful with one application, therefore endurance, patience, and commitment is very much necessary. A strong interest and ability in pursuing and conducting independent work/research is a must and finally, getting a good supervisor and identifying the right topic for research is utmost important.

Creating Culture of a Different Kind

Towards a Vision of Teaching and Learning Excellence at the College of Language and Culture Studies (CLCS)



About the Author:

Clare Myers is an Adult Educator, English as an Additional Language (EAL) instructor, and Intercultural Communications consultant. Clare has over 25 years of experience in academic, community and organizational contexts in Canada and abroad. She brings both an intercultural lens and a passion for learning and teaching to her work with diverse learners. Clare recently completed 2 years of teaching English at the College of Language and Cultural Studies (CLCS) in Bhutan. Now, as a faculty development coordinator at CLCS, she looks forward to continuing to learn with, and from, her Bhutanese friends and colleagues.

Clare would like to thank the Director of CLCS, Lopen Lungtaen Gyatsho, and the Academic Dean, Tshering Dhendup, for their vision, leadership and support, and Dr. Deki Gyamtso for her inspiration and mentoring.

It's February 2016. The setting is a small conference room at the College of Language and Culture Studies (CLCS) in Taktse, Trongsa, Central Bhutan. Twelve faculty members, all lecturers from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, are standing in small groups at various places along the walls, frantically reading strips of paper as they engage in a task that appears to involve a great deal of talk, negotiation, and placement of strips on a wall chart. The room is buzzing with focused energy and excited laughter. It's a timed task on the differences between teaching-centered and learning-centered education, and each group in this, the first CLCS faculty training cohort on active learning, seems determined to demonstrate their knowledge and be the first to successfully complete the activity! As I look around the room from my perspective as the learning facilitator, I am struck, yet again, by the eagerness and sincerity, the energy and enthusiasm that my colleagues from CLCS bring to this opportunity for professional development training. I feel both happy and blessed!

I came to Bhutan from Canada in 2013, and with a background in adult education and TESOL, I was privileged to teach 2 years at CLCS as a lecturer in English. It was during this time of working alongside Bhutanese lecturers that I began to sense the practical challenges many of my colleagues were facing in understanding and creating classroom environments that put learning, rather than covering subject content, at the center of instruction. The *concept* of learning-centered education was certainly not new to them; indeed, the Wheel of Academic Law (RUB, 2015) clearly mandates

a learning-centered approach, and the Centre for University Learning and Teaching (CULT) has been in existence since 2008 to support college educators in their shift from a traditional, teacher-centered model of education, to a more learner-centered pedagogical approach.¹ However, for lecturers at CLCS who are new to teaching, or for those schooled in a more traditional monastic approach, translating the concept into practice requires a degree of familiarity, confidence and skill beyond their current capacity. So it was in response to this situation, as well as in wise recognition of the integral connection between teaching skill and learning effectiveness, that a forward-thinking administration at CLCS embraced the notion of developing a college-wide professional development training initiative, entitled "*Educating for GNH*:"

Creating a Learning-Centered Community in the College Classroom".

Launched in February 2016, the training consists of a series of practical, experiential and skill-based workshops, delivered face-to-face over an intensive four day period. The training, which is tied to the Bhutanese context and informed by the research studies and active learning framework developed by Gyamtsho and

1 Maxwell, T., Reid, J., Gyamtso, D., & Dorji, K. (2008). *Changing the CULTure of learning and teaching at the Royal University of Bhutan: Report on the establishment of the Centre for University Learning and Teaching (CULT)*. Thimphu, Bhutan: Royal University of Bhutan.

Maxwell (2012)², aims to help college lecturers better understand and apply the concept of learning-centered teaching in the planning, teaching and assessment stages of their classroom practice. Since training alone has little in the way of “staying” power, the face-to-face component of the training is complemented with personalized, follow-up classroom observation and coaching. Now it has become my job, indeed, my *joy*, to help facilitate this professional development model and to work with a committed group of colleagues who are eager to try out active learning strategies in their classrooms, who are willing to sit down with me before class to plan and talk about the learning outcomes, and who beam with joy at the end of a class where students were motivated and engaged in learning tasks rather than listening passively to lecture.

Faculty response to a single professional development initiative at CLCS has been overwhelmingly positive, and therein lies the crux! Educators know from research and from our own experience that “one-shot” professional development initiatives have little or no sustainable impact on either instructor skills or on the

larger teaching-learning culture. Learning to teach well is a developmental and dynamic process; change occurs incrementally when teachers are *regularly* exposed to new ideas and information and have *ongoing* opportunities to engage with peers in shared inquiry. Given this reality, the CLCS faculty training initiative has significance only as a *first* step in creating a new culture of teaching and learning excellence at the college. The interest, enthusiasm, and developing competence of CLCS lecturers participating in the training and coaching initiative is a strong and encouraging indicator of how highly they value expertise in teaching, and how committed they are to learning and improvement. Now is the time to build on the success and momentum created by the training, and to begin addressing the larger question: how can we, as faculty members of CLCS, begin to create a culture that values teaching and learning excellence alongside scholarship and research? Well, we’re not there yet, but here at CLCS, the journey has started, and in the famous words of renowned adult educator Myles Horton, “We make the road by walking!”

2 Gyamtso, D., & Maxwell, T. (2012). Practices and background to teaching and learning at the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB): A pilot study. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, 24 (1), 65-75.