

# the rub connection

A Biannual Newsletter of the Royal University of Bhutan



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Royal University of Bhutan



## THE ROYAL 60TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

“ The faculty, staff and students of Royal University of Bhutan offer our prayers and best wishes to His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck for his continued good health and long life. We pray that His Majesty’s wisdom and compassion will continue to inspire and guide us in all that we do to serve our nation”.



## *The RUB Connection*

A biannual newsletter of the  
Royal University of Bhutan

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### Advisor

Dasho Nidup Dorji,  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor

### Editorial Team

Managing Editor  
Dorji Thinley (PhD)  
Director, DRER

### eNews Coordinator

Sonam Wangmo,  
Research & Communication Officer  
OVC

### Editor & Layout

Tshetrim Dorji,  
Asst. Research, Communication  
Officer & Graphics Designer, OVC

### Reporters

Karsang Ugyen - CST  
Ratna Bdr. Dalal - PCE  
Chandrika Neopane - PCE  
Tshering Pem - RTC  
Anand Moktan - RTC  
Rasham Tamang - ILCS  
Kinley Pem - ILCS  
Sangay Dorji - SCE  
Nima Gyelpo - Sherubtse  
Sangay Chezom - Sherubtse

# welcome to the RUB Connection

## Dear Readers



Welcome to the seventh issue of the RUB Connection, a biannual newsletter of the Royal University of Bhutan.

Excellence in teaching, research, services, and community engagement within the overarching vision of Gross National Happiness (GNH) are the primary goals of RUB. Since the university became autonomous in June 2011, consistent efforts have been made on all fronts and at all levels to work towards these goals.

I am pleased to inform you that in the past six months, many new programmes have been introduced in many of our colleges, which will effect the lives of our young men and women and our society as a whole. In the domain of research, there is increasing evidence of faculty interest in action based studies and a fast growing awareness of the need to disseminate the new knowledge for social good. The university continues to build meaningful collaborations and partnerships with institutions within the country and outside.

Take a few minutes to learn more about the developments in our national university whose stories we have told briefly in this issue. I hope you will enjoy this issue and we welcome your comments. As we work towards reaching new heights, the RUB Connection will continue to bring you the latest about teaching and learning, research and innovation, services and our community engagements, among others.

For e-copy, please visit <http://www.rub.edu.bt/index.php/newsletter>.

With best wishes,

Nidup Dorji  
Vice Chancellor

### WHAT'S NEW

#### Diploma in Physical Education to launch at Paro College of Education

**T**wenty five students will now undergo diploma in physical education at the Paro College of Education starting autumn semester 2015.

The new programme started by the RUB will produce physical education teachers and sports coaches for schools and colleges across the country in the near future.

Selection for the programme took place at the gymnasium of Paro College of Education on March 26 and 27, 2015. A total of 613 class 12 graduates were shortlisted for the programme.

The 25 selected candidates will be trained for two years in physical education and sports such as volleyball, football, basketball and badminton.

The module for the course include sports, adaptive inclusion, growth and development, functional information technology (FIT) and dzongkha basic communication skills.

“Though bachelors in education (pri-



Candidates undergoing training session in the football field

mary) students are offered with physical education module, it seemed to be ineffective as students give more importance to their academic subjects,” said Chador Tenzin, physical education lecturer at Paro College.

He also added that, the Department of Curriculum and Research Development (DCRD) is planning to send specialized physical education

teacher to schools by 2016.

Jit Maya Subha, one of the candidates said that the test and activities were enjoyable and pleasing. She added that the test will encourage them to be an active physical education teacher once in the field.

The selected candidates will join the college from autumn semester along with B. Ed first year students.

#### Training on student-centred competence-based academic learning programmes

**T**he training on ‘Designing and Delivering Student-centered and Competence-based Academic Learning Programmes’ was conducted at the College of Natural Resources (CNR), Royal University of Bhutan from February 3 to 7, 2015.

Conducted in collaboration with the Center for Development and Innovation (CDI), Wageningen University, Kingdom of the Netherlands, it was aimed at strengthening the capacity

of CNR faculty in designing interdisciplinary and market-oriented curricula that seeks to build students’ competencies towards sustainable development.

A total of 20 faculty members representing all the departments in CNR attended the training.

The five-day training consisted of creating safe and powerful student-centered learning environment,

learning and assessment methods, developing activities and innovative teaching, learning and assessment methods and recognizing the important teaching skills for continuous professional development.

The training was funded by NUFFIC under the Tailor Made Training (TMT) programme and was facilitated by two competency based educational experts Judith Jacobs and Hansje Eppink.



## One act plays performed to recreate the past

The first visual one act play competition was organised at Sherubtse College among all English combination courses on April 17, 2015.

The competition organized by Sherubtse Ensemble Theatre was staged to celebrate the English writers and to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

The objective of the one act play competition was to provide platform for students and tutors to promote and demonstrate creative ideas in their work. It was also aimed to explore the potentials of the young minds and to give a platform to exhibit their talents.

The competition hopes to instill values amongst students to be more sensitive and appreciative towards local arts.

Jigme Tshomo, claims that she has seen many programs such as dance and singing competitions but never seen activities related to play or drama since she joined the college. "This was the first time and it is a morale booster and students also realized the need of confidence which is important in one's life" she added.

Kuenzang Tobgay, a second year student said that he gets tired of reading books and gets lost in trying



Play in progress: an actor and actress from a Shakespearean play

to retrieve information. "Watching the drama based on the actual work of English writers is interesting and joyful and I would absolutely go to this kind of show" he added.

**“I would absolutely go to this kind of show”**

- Kuenzang Tobgay

The organizer hopes to support the effort of the nation to encourage the use of the English language amongst students.

Rinchen Pelzom, a first year student said, "the theatre presentation was very competitive and entertaining. Many scenes in the drama were

pleasurable and informative."

"It must have probably helped participants to be courageous and confident, because drama is something that needs lots of confidence, courage and accuracy to present in real," she added.

Shakespearean plays and Bhutanese play 'Hero with Thousand Eyes' were acted during

the competition.

Prizes were awarded to the top three performances, for the best poster design and to the best actor and actress. Certificates and mementos were also awarded to creative contributors and technical supporters.

## Media literacy training programme

A two day training on media literacy was held at the Paro College of Education on April 17 and 18, 2015.

The training led by Monira AY. Tshewang, Chief of Department of Infocom and Media, Ministry of Information and Communications, saw participants learn the meaning of media, the role of media and media literacy.

The workshop was aimed to make the teacher trainees aware of media literacy and to build the capacity development of the trainees to teach effectively through catering knowledge of media and information literacy (MIL).

“In this century, we are provided with media and a lot of information and we need to be critical and analytical when we hear, see, and read” said Monira AY. Tshewang.

In question to why MIL in school curriculum, DCRD Specialist, Wangchuk Rabten who was part of the training team, stated that media literacy act as a tool that can be very useful for teachers to teach effective-



Participants involved in group discussion

ly in the form of co-curricular activities in schools.

Thinley, a teacher trainee of Paro College of Education who participated in the workshop felt that the workshop was very important and he is fortunate to take part in it. “I would impart the knowledge that I gained here to students in the future” he added.

Pema Choki, a member of the college media club said that the workshop was of immense benefit to her.

“I will stay away from the fake and exaggerated advertisements since I learned about the difference between news and advertisement” she added proudly.

“Before I was carried away by advertisements and consumed the products without knowing what is really in it, now I will not be fooled” she added. She expects that such programme continues in the future.

The training was funded by Ministry of Information and Communications and Ministry of Education.

## Picture Story:



Newly recruited academic staff of colleges Sherubtse, JNP, ILCS, GCBS and CST underwent “Introduction to University Learning and Teaching” from 5-15th January 2015 and new academic staff of JNP, ILCS, CNR, CCST and faculty of Nursing and Public Health of the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan 15-25th June 2015.



## Engineers trained to meet workplace demands

**W**ith the rapid development in construction sector, the recruitment of engineering personnel in job market is on the rise.

Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic (JNP), a premier institute for applied engineering, management and technology provided a training on 'construction management and site supervision' to new civil engineers from June 15 to 26, 2015.

Aimed the importance of the role of construction management in the rapidly developing construction industry the training was organized.

18 participants from various organizations such as DHI-INFRA, Office of Vice Chancellor (OVC), colleges under the Royal University of Bhutan and private sectors attended the training.

Through this training, participants were expected to develop professional strengths, learn about techni-



Engineers from several sectors at the training in JNP

cal and leadership skills, gain knowledge of construction materials and its processes, apply skills in estimating project, blueprint interpretation and gain confidence at workplace as supervisors.

Three faculty from JNP and one chief engineer from Ministry of Education led the training.

Similar trainings were conducted by JNP on computer application in engineering, survey training on total station, and seminar on sustainability. Workshop on infrastructure maintenance and on supervision of infrastructure maintenance was also conducted.

## First batch of Bhutanese and Himalayan Studies graduates

**T**he first batch of 123 students holding Bachelor of Arts in Bhutanese and Himalayan Studies (BHS) graduated this summer from the Institute of Language and Culture Studies.

This degree is first of its kind in the Royal University of Bhutan's system and in entire South Asia. Only some modules in this course are taught in other institutions. The course offers in-depth study addressing the cultures, history and heritage of Bhutan in the context of other Himalayan cultures.

The course was initiated mainly because Bhutanese culture and history was missing in the programmes of American institutions that offer similar course.

BHS students are taught history, religion, culture, tradition and the heritage of Bhutan and its neighbors in the Himalayan region. In addition, students also learn about contemporary issues and challenges for Bhutan and the philosophy and uses of Gross National Happiness in Bhutan and at the international level.

The institute hopes that this group

of students will perform better in the Bhutan Civil Service Examinations compared to other programmes since the course is bilingual.

Dean of academic affairs, Khenpo Tshering Dendup said that, in terms of the job market it will not be a big problem. The course is very relevant to the current society, and it offers a larger scope and a wider perspective of culture and history.

"Students can therefore handle administration, culture related fields, teaching, and research. Selection of course, will also depend on the

capacity of individual students” he added.

Lungtan Gyastso, director of the institute said that “the Institute will wait for a five year cycle to see the performance of the programme. Thereafter it will be reviewed, and we will bring changes to the module structure if necessary.”

Phub Dorji, a final year student, said that “I am very lucky and fortunate to take this BHS course and be among the first batch of students in entire South Asia. I would not have learned about the cultural history of the Himalayan region if I had opted for a different course.”



The group of students holding the B.A. in BHS degree

## Students oriented on standardization by BSB

A team from Bhutan Standards Bureau (BSB) conducted a day-long awareness workshop on ‘Delivering Quality Products and Services through standards’ to the final year students of College of Science and Technology.

The director general of BSB, Dasho Phuntsho Wangdi talked about BSB, which was recently established. He said, not many are aware of the services BSB provides. Services like promoting quality products in Bhutan by forming standards.

The aim of the awareness workshop was to make the students who are about to graduate aware with standards, metrology and conformity assessment system which ultimately results in delivering a quality products and services.

Dasho highlighted on providing standard in anything that comes in market. “Even the Bhutanese suja and cheese can be standardized” he added.

He compared standardization to electrical energy in the college multipurpose hall in which the workshop was taking place. He mentioned how unstandardized system does not get noticed unless it fails.



DG of BSB address students

Presentations were made on standardization, conformity assessment

Few of the CST students also made presentations. Question and answer sessions were kept at the end of each presentation.

“Even the Bhutanese suja and cheese can be standardized”

- DG of BSB

The programme ended with vote

and metrology (measurement system), International Electrochemical Commission (IEC) and Certification; these are some of the important factors in standardisation.

of thanks by the dean research and internal linkages of CST.



## The Club for a Cause

To extend the help to unfortunate people nearby, the Helping Hand Club of the Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic organized various program to raise fund, on such program was 'The Fashion Show Contest' on 13 May 2015.

The program was unique and first of its kind in the college. Students and staff members participated with creative ideas.

Student and staffs member alike are bit shy and imprecise in the beginning. They gradually developed confidence and displayed sense of confidence and challenge among each other

The show generated a amount of Nu. 52,436 for the Helping Hand Club to benefit the deprived community. With the amount generated, the club will provide help to a village called Serthi under Jomotshangkha gewog on 23rd and 24th of May 2015.



Member of Helping Hand Club with villagers of Serthi

The village was chosen based on the condition of the people, since most of the children are supported by single parent and broken families,

Since JNP is a institute that values GNH, the club will assist the college in helping the communities in the area and spread happiness to the entire region.

The Club helps individuals who are

financially or physically disadvantaged, provide financial help and stationery items to poor school goers and over all the club works for the holistic benefit of the community. The club provided similar help to areas like Rikhey, Marthang and Domphu communities in the past.

The club was officially formed on November 22, 2011.

## Picture Story:



Participants of Dzongkha debate at Royal Thimphu College pose for photo shoot, on theme "The advantages of technology in fulfilling the profound idea of GNH in Bhutan" on May 20, 2015

## Staff Night: creating social harmony

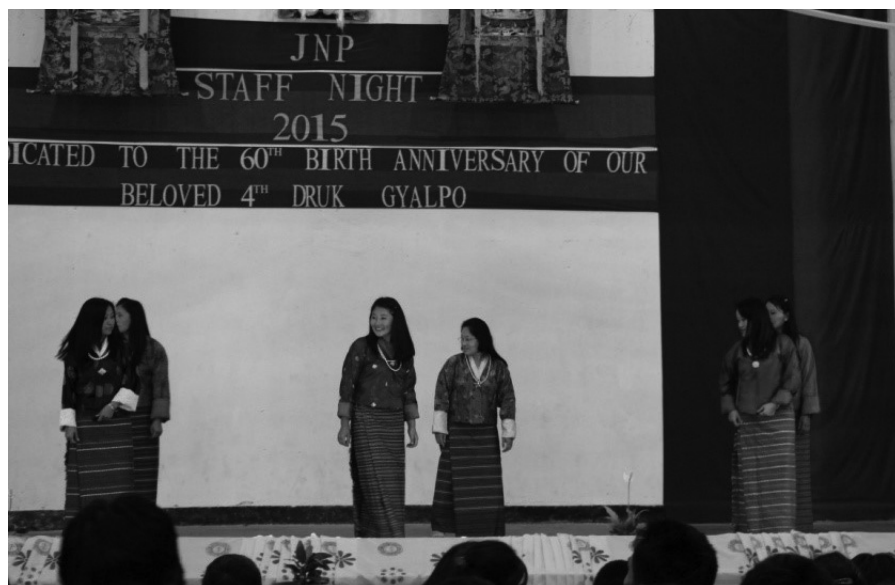
With the sense of friendship and mutual relation, Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic held its staff night on 18 April 2015 after two-year gap

It is one rare cheerful and momentous occasion, where the staffs showcased their month long hard work after office hours. The staff members practiced in class rooms, auditorium and empty corners of the academic block.

The staff night was organized to present friendly gesture from staff to their students to build relation and enhance learning environment outside classroom. It was also aimed at building mutual respect, trust and openness of students to teachers.

“I always find students unnecessarily fearing their tutors, this show might give them some lesson on how cheerful we are” said Shah Bir Rai, faculty in engineering department.

The show was warmly received by



Staff members showcase their effort

the students. “I am seeing such show by staff for the first time and it is un-

promote that” said Phub Dorji, a first year student.

“Students and teachers’ relation is very important and this is a good way to promote that”

- Phub Dorji

Staff night as unique and undying program in the Institute, which is still cherished event. It is a sign of generating deeper understanding between staff and students and preserving culture that creates sense of care, happiness and in the institution.

The staff night is held after every two years.

expected and beautiful” said Dawa Tshering, a first year student. “Students and teachers’ relation is very important and this is a good way to

## College Profile



Name:- Sherubtse College  
Location:- Kanglung (about 25 Km from Trashigang)  
Established:- 1966  
Course offered :- Liberal arts and science  
Foundation laid by:- Third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck  
First Principal:- Father William Mackey (1968)

### Time line

- 1966:- Foundation laid
- 1968:- Opened as Sherubtse HSS
- 1976:- Upgraded to Junior College
- 1978:- Arts and Business courses offered
- 1983:- Affiliated to Delhi University
- 1989:- First Bhutanese Principal (Dasho Zangley Drukpa)
- 2004:- Became member of Royal University of Bhutan
- 2011:- Became autonomous



## Library of Paro College of Education gets upgrades

To ensure security and easy management, the library of Paro College of Education was updated with security gate.

The 3M Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) security gate was installed in September 2014 and became operational December 2014. RFID technology from 3M ensures that books and other materials that moves out of the library faster and more secure. Using a this system library users can check out multiple items at once, and resulting in less time spent waiting in line at the circulation desk.

The library material are tagged with a microchip that contains a memory that can be programmed and re-programmed with the information that is required to identify and track library materials. Once the material is tagged, the gate will detect the library material that is being passed through the gate and will trigger the alarm to notify the librarians, ensuring that no library materials are taken without registering.

The college will combined RFID technology with automated material handling systems, which can also speed the process issuing CD, DVDs, videotapes and books alike. The student of the college were briefed on the working of the system by the administration.

Paro College of Education now has the Integrated Library Management System which RFID system is integrated with KOHA, a automation software for library and all the bibliographical details of the library collections have been converted to 3M RFID.

However when there is slow network connection, issuing library material will become more difficult as the KOHA system depends on internet.

Currently library is updating with book-drop system which is expected

to be operational soon. This system will be connected to KOHA system which will enable every book that is dropped into the book-drop to be automatically checked-in into the main holdings thereby clearing off the dues list. Once the library has drop-book system operational, the time spent in sorting books manually can be reduced.

It was installed at the cost of Nu. 4.5 million, of which Nu. 3M was funded by the Royal Government and rest by GOI



Illustration of how 3M RFID works

## Picture Story:



Students of Community Based Scouts of Paro College of Education with the founder of the Clean Bhutan and Druk Waste Collector initiated the cleaning campaign to Taktsang on 5th April 2015

## International seminar on Renewable Energy & Sustainable Development

Three day international seminar on Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development (RES2015) was held at the Office of Vice Chancellor, Royal University of Bhutan from 15-17 June 2015.

Researchers from about thirteen countries including United Kingdom, United States, Singapore, Japan, India, and Italy participated in the seminar. Participants from Nepal could not participate due to the recent events as per the organizer.

The seminar was held in Bhutan since there are less technical development unlike the developed countries. “We also want the world to know about Royal University of Bhutan and the researches done here” said Dr. Shukla, co-organiser of the seminar. The western paying the price of development in terms of climate change and energy crisis according to him. “Bhutan is a developing country and the world should know about the energy consumption and resource management, thus by Bhutan will not make the mistake like other developed countries” he noted

A total of about 47 researchers including Scientists, Professors and Students participated in the seminar. Almost half of the participant were students from College of Science & Technology, India and other participating countries. There are about 139 research papers accepted for the publication but only 47 papers were presented during the seminar, out of which ten papers are from Bhutan.

The seminar was divided into two categories; research and posters. The area of researches are mainly on cli-

mate change, energy, sustainable development, hydro power, biomass & solar energy. This areas are related to Bhutan and has more potential in the future according to the organizer.

According to Dr. Shukla, Bhutan depends mostly on hydropower and imports some few percentage fuel for transport sectors and he added that since Bhutan is covered with forest, we can look for alternate fuel. “Bhutan can focus on biofuels from plants which can be grown easily everywhere, in few years’ time Bhutan could be self-sufficient in energy consumption” he added.

This international seminar was first for many student participants. Kabi Raj, a final year student from CST was one of them. “This was my first

this seminar was valuable source of new ideas and innovation that can be used for the development of nation. “I want to continue research which is social oriented and is helpful in development of the society” she added.

Dr. Martin Elborg from Germany, was one of the international participants. He presented a paper on self-sufficient residential solar electricity system: Exploring new possibilities and a joint research paper Prospects for high efficiency Intermediate Band Solar Cells using dilute nitride III-V semiconductors.

According to him, Bhutanese researchers must focus on people and development and decide what is useful. Technology has positive as well as negative side and evaluating this

“We also want the world to know about Royal University of Bhutan and the researches done here”

— Dr. Shukla

time attending and presenting a paper inform of experts and I was nervous but it was worth it” he added. He presented the paper on performance comparison of grid-tied and off-grid solar photovoltaic systems with his team. He said, “It was privilege to present and interact with experts”. He explains that he is inspired and wants continue research.

Srizane Khawash, a fourth year student from CST, presented a poster on GIS approach to distribution network of Phuntsholing town. “It was very educative and exposes us to learn more” she said. According to her,

it is very important in a developing country like Bhutan, so in future the country will not face adverse effect of it, he explains

The seminar was a success according to Dr. Elborg. “I got lot of positive feedback on my research and I am very happy that students here can present research papers very good,” he notes. He adds that he hopes to discuss and present more papers in future in Bhutan. “I am grateful to present my papers in Bhutan and hopes to benefit the country” He added.



At the end of the three day session, the participants were awarded on the different categories such as best researcher (general & student), best poster (general & student), best presenter (general & student) and best note taker.

Out of those awards, only one of participant from Bhutan received the

the x-ray and ultraviolet radiation released by the Sun during a solar event. Bhutan being dependent of hydropower is risky if solar flare hits earth, thus is it important to monitor the changes in ionosphere.

Dorji explains that by using a receiver to monitor the signal strength from distant VLF transmitters and noting

dience with curiosity towards the research made the seminar a successful one, according to Dr. Shukla. There are lot of papers presented during the seminar and choosing which is helpful to us matters as per Dr. Elborg. "Choosing technology is necessary, choosing wisely is more important" he added.



Seminar in Progress, at RUB, iGNHaS hall

award of Best Poster (Student). Gom Dorji, a student from CST presented a poster on Monitoring of Sudden Ionosphere Disturbance (SID) using super SID Space Weather Monitor at College of Science and Technology. "I didn't expect to win but it is an honor and I am happy."

Earth's ionosphere reacts strongly to

unusual changes as the waves bounce off the ionosphere, we can monitor and track these Sudden Ionospheric Disturbances (SIDs). "This will be useful but there will be less measures in case of solar flare" he added.

With about 35 quality research, lot of students participating with enthusiasm in presenting the papers and au-

The papers presented will be published in Bhutan Journal for Research & Development, the Journal of the Royal University of Bhutan.

The seminar was organized by College of Science and Technology in collaboration with World Energy & Environment Technology (WEEN-TECH), based in United Kingdom.

## Picture Story:



Various events was organized by ILCS such as car washing, selling chatpatti (Indian snacks), screened movie, Door to door Diwali (asking for donation) and Selling of foods in the hostels and surrounding areas to raise fund to help Nepal earthquake victims

### Conference on Assessing Climate Change Impacts on the Economy of Bhutan.



Participants pose for a group photo

A two and a half day faculty development workshop on the Geospatial Methodology for Assessing Climate Change Impacts on Traditional Economy of Bhutan was conducted at the College of Natural Resources.

This was organized as an outcome of the joint project research between Interfaculty Department, Z\_GIS, Salzburg University of Austria, College of Natural Resources and Sherubtse College of Royal University of Bhutan,

The participants comprised of faculty and some students who had basic background on GIS (Geographic

Information System) and Remote Sensing from the College of Science and Technology, Sherubtse and College of Natural Resources.

Thematic areas of the workshop were on physiographic modelling, analysis of climatic data, land cover/land use change analysis and use of satellite imageries of Remote Sensing to detect changes.

Subsequent to the workshop, a two day conference on the same thematic areas was held at the complex of the Office of Vice Chancellor in Thimphu with the co-funding from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) Coordination office locat-

ed in Thimphu.

The conference provided common platform to the participants from academia, industry and relevant organizations for sharing their Geospatial knowledge and practices as well as for disseminating the outcomes of the GeoM-4-CCAS project.

There were about 100 participants who presented and exhibited posters on various topics centering on the climate change and Bhutanese traditional economy.

The conference was inaugurated by the Resident Coordinator of Austrian Development Cooperation, Thimphu.

## Solar Micro-grid

To monitor the progress on Solar Micro-Grid, Resident Representative of UN to Bhutan, visited the campus of CST.

The Solar Micro- Grid project was carried by Center of Renewable and Sustainable Energy Development (CRSED) research center on 17th March 2015.

7 kW solar grid-off systems currently supply the powers to light and runs

the fans of library reading room of the college. It is intended to provide uninterrupted power for 10 hours per day, while the remaining solar power of 5kW is synchronized with BPC-Grid.

The prototype micro grid is envisioned not only to provide the lighting and save energy for CST campus but also to serve as a platform for education, training and research in the field of renewable and sustain-

able energy.

The center has a motive to replicate such smaller micro-grid system in other parts of the country in the near future. CRSED has further plan to work on other alternative renewable energy sources such as wind and bio gas.

The solar micro grid is funded by GEF-Small Grants Program under UNDP

## Mobile phone cinema launch at Sherubtse

Usually the celebration of teacher's day at Sherubtse College is marked by dance competition but this year, to celebrate 60<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Fourth Druk Gyalpo, Mobile Phone Cinema was launched by People's Initiative in Celebrating the Sixtieth Anniversary (PICSA) and teachers day.

Today, we all are equipped with the technology especially mobile phone to record the moments in video and everyone is now a creative movie maker. To show their creativity, PICSA on May 2<sup>nd</sup> gave every Bhutanese amateur an opportunity to explore movie making by launching a Mobile Phone Cinema (MPC).

Launching of the Mobile Phone Cinema, according to Tshering Zam, media officer with PICSA, was the fourth of eleven events scheduled to commemorate the sixtieth birth anniversary of fourth Druk Gyalpo. As an 8<sup>th</sup> program, on September 23<sup>rd</sup> the award ceremony of Mobile Phone Cinema will be held at Tarma-Linca resort in Thimphu. "The Festival marks the advent of a new form of creative expression which is simple, basic, affordable and very convenient to use" she added. Almost all movies in stores be it feature film or music videos are expensive to produce and requires hi-tech cameras and other equipment. MPC aims to give a platform to make easy, cheap and simple movies.

Anyone having phone with camera can participate the MPC festival if their short films have a concept to deliver. Though Bhutanese feature films hardly gets international recognition, the short films like THE RED DOOR is known worldwide.



**Pelden Drukpa Gyalo: tribute to Fourth King**

Tshering Zam said that the winner of the MPC will be sent to international film festival, fulfilling their objective 'to actually inspire creative amateur filmmakers to live to their potential and realize the opportunity to fulfill their dream'.

"This is an exciting opportunity for

cated to the fourth king. The shadow dance, depicting the life of fourth king, was staged where the victory of a nation under the command of fourth king in 2003 over ULFA, KLO and other insurgents. "The dances revived the history which almost got buried in our memories" said Sangay, a student.

**“The dances revived the history which almost got buried in our memories”**

— Sangay

all of us to make a movie without sophisticated cameras" said Sangay, a media student. "I am really excited for MPC festival and I am planning to produce one short movie, which was my dream for long time" said Rinzin a third year students.

The day also included the usual Rigser competition amongst the department. Most of the dances are dedi-

Karma Tshering, the project coordinator on his meeting with the winners of the Rigser competition said that, they chose Sherubtse to launch MPC because he finds potential in Sherubtse students. MPC was launched by the chief guest, Lyoenpo Norbu Wangchuk.



## A Royal Exhibit as final year contribution

**N**amgyal Phodrang, a Royal Exhibit, was constructed as part of the final year students of 2015's contribution to the college and to commemorate the 60th birth anniversary of Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuk.

The construction started with ground-breaking ceremony in January and the foundation stone was laid in February. The decision to construct the exhibit was reached with consensus from all the final year students.

The president of the Forum for International and National Affairs (FINA), Dorji Wangdi, said that after announcement was made during the morning assembly, all student leaders with a few final year students met to decide on the project.

Further clarification was made to the rest of the final year students and consultative discussions were also held with the college director and engineer. Dorji Wangdi added that the project was not selected by few but elected by the decisions of many.

The college director suggested the site for the project. The president and vice president of FINA and three treasurers, one among whom is not a student leader, led the project.

It was initially decided that a student who has not assumed any leadership role be elected as chairperson. But because no one turned up, so FINA took over the responsibility.

The Namgyal Phodrang was dedicated to the monarchs of Bhutan according to Dorji Wangdi. "It is a token



**Namgyal Phodrang- A Royal Exhibit at Sherubtse College**

of appreciation from the students to the monarchs of Bhutan for their selfless contribution in building the nation," he added.

An advance of Nu 150,000 was taken from the college administration to meet the initial expenses. A total

of three carpenters who constructed the exhibit.

The exhibit was completed and handed over to the college administration in April this year.

"It was a collective dream and seeing

“It was a collective dream and seeing it completed was the proudest moment for all of us”

— Dorji Wangdi

of 460 donation booklets have been printed to raise funds for the project. The project is estimated to cost Nu 450,000.

The winner of Shingzo Kheba medal during the national day celebration at Kanglung was among the team

it completed was proudest moment for all of us” said Dorji Wangdi.

The graduates of 2014 constructed a Namgyal Khangzang Chorten as their final year contribution to the college.

## Sherubtse claims maximum gold in national karate championship

The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Karate Championship was organized at Paro College of Education from 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2015.

About 63 students from Paro College of Education, Taktse and Sherubtse College and members from Thimphu Karate Club participated in the two day tournament. The Director General of Paro College of Education attended as the Chief Guest on the first day.

According to the Director General, such event is important for the participants to exhibit their talents in what they have practiced. The second day event was graced by Her Royal Highness Ashi Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck and Her Royal Highness Ashi Sonam Dechen Wangchuck.

According to the president of Bhutan karate association Ugyen Wangchuk, he said that the event was organized to encourage the participants and to uniformly hone karate skills in the country. He also added that such competitions will enable them to understand the standard of participants in karate skills.



Her Royal Highness Ashi Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck and Her Royal Highness Ashi Sonam Dechen Wangchuck with the participants

One of the participants from Sherubtse College said that, he was interested to participate in the championship because there is opportunity for interaction among the participants and opportunity in building good relationship with students from other colleges. He also added that he was planning on running a Karate Club in future if he cannot find a job after completing his studies.

The main challenge in promoting the spirit of Karate in Bhutan is fund. Since there is a limited budget for

the association the tournaments are conducted with the aid from private sponsors. Academic schedules of the colleges also adds to the challenges in promoting karate in Bhutan.

The participants were awarded medals and certificates by the chief guests. The overall winning trophy was bagged by Sherubtse College.

The event was organized to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Fourth Druk Gyalpo by Bhutan Karate Association.

## ILCS takes reading year celebration to another level

The Institute of Language and Cultural Studies came to life as the grand celebration to mark 2015 as the Year of Reading started on May 18, 2015.

The Bachelor of Arts in Language and Literature (BLL) students greeted the surprised students and faculty with exciting performance of the reading theme song "Ga gi lab mo, nga

reading me ga say" which was pro-

duced by Bhutan Centre of Media and Democracy.

“It was indeed a unique way of convincing the audience to read!”

- A second year student

Students were dressed in costumes of characters from the various books accompanied by two playful "Atsaras". The students danced and clapped to the ruthem song, extolling the joys of reading and waving their books in the

## EVENTS

air. Most of the students were completely taken aback by the unexpected performance of creative energy.

"I've never seen anything like this" remarked a first year. According to Choni Dorji, a lecturer, the element of surprise was important in setting the purpose for the day- "to shock the students into an awareness of the value of books, the enjoyment of reading and the importance of developing a reading habit".

To celebrate Read Fest, the BLL 3rd year students formed into two group which they then presented a novel to the students in various form. The students acted, put up poster, produced to tell the themes and events in the book they read.

The campus was filled posters, book displays, staged performances, and impromptu drama. Some wandering characters even visited classrooms, ordering unsuspecting students to "Drop Everything and Read"; others checked college mates throughout the day, demanding to see their book. The lucky ones were rewarded



**Students dressed as characters from books**

with highlighters, candy and small amount of cash. Those without reading material were jokingly scolded and ordered off to the library. "It was indeed a unique way of convincing the audience to read!" said a second year student.

The response to Read Fest 2015 was positive and enthusiastic. At the end of the day, many students expressed

a renewed interest and motivation to read. "I've heard many things about the importance of reading but only this Read Fest has really inspired me to make friends with a book!" a student commented.

The colorful and interactive event was organized by the final year students in BLL and coordinated by two English lecturers.

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## Unexpected visitor for joyful moment

Samtse College of Education organized "Royal Jam Session" after the Royal Command following the visit of His Majesty the Fifth Druk Gyalpo to the college on March 14, 2014.

The football ground was chosen as the arena and dance competition among classes on various forms of dance were organized. It was attended by Director General, Lectures and student-teachers of the college. The stage was beautifully decorated and Disc Jockey (D J) was hired from India.

Half way through the program, unexpected guest arrived with loud announcement. The show was halted by thunder, & lightning with little storm. "It was the first time that such types of weather appear in our college since I joined the college" said Dorji Tshering, a first year student. The weather got worse with heavy rain.

The weather continued while leaving the students with anger and despair. There were cries and shouts from every corners of the gathering. The

event finally ended and all the students disappeared to their rooms.

Kinley Tshering Dendup, a first year student said that though the show was very interesting and enjoyable however the weather was unfavorable and made the show incomplete. "I hope it will be reorganized again" he added.

As a command from His Majesty, that moment was cherished and students enjoyed every second of it.



## CST bids farewell to graduating students

The College of Science and Technology bid final farewell to their 121 graduating engineer with the “Farewell Jam Session” on 16th May 2015.

After four years in the college, the students of the 2011 batches will graduate in June 2015. The event started with ushering the graduates to the venue hall, where the junior Chief Councilor, Kabi Raj Puri of third year electrical offered them “khaddar” and as a memory the final year students left their palm print in different colors on a canvas.

Students cheered with loud applause as the graduates signed autographs on the college T-shirt. The program was followed by series of cultural programs and games. The most enjoyed show was the “pulling the tail,” where participants tried to pull the tail from other participants. The balloon dance and paper dance were among many other program.



Students enjoying jam session

Some of the third year expressed their gratitude for showing them a noble path during their stay in the college and they promised to carry the sense of brotherhood and sisterhood in them even once they are gone.

After the cultural program, the final year students along with the first and second year student took part in jam session till 12:00 AM.

There were many farewell and gath-

erings for final year from respective departments, clubs, high school mates. Among 121 engineers, 49 holds degree in civil engineer, 43 in electrical, 31 in electronics and communication and 18 in information and technology.

The event was organized by the current second year students of the College.

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## Aa-Yang: the music culture to preserve traditional music

Aa-Yang musical group is sensitizing the youth of Bhutan on the importance Bhutanese music culture and to train them in using various traditional and modern musical instruments.

Paro College of Education joined the Aa-yang music club early March this year with around 75 members.

The Aa-Yang team visited Paro College of Education to train the students eleven different musical instruments both such as the flute, dramnyen (Bhutanese guitar), chi-

wang (violin), keyboards, guitar, drum sets are used for training the vocal on zhundra and boedra

The students can choose the musical instrument they want to focus, practice, and learn separately. The student will undergo two year training and on completion they will be awarded certificates. Then they can opt for music teacher.

“Many people get confused about the name Aa-Yang. Aa is the first and the last sound of a human being and yang is the short name of music

goddess Lhamo Yangchenma.” Said Jigme Drukpa.

“I love guitar, so I joined the guitar class” said Jigme Thinley. “First, we are taught the basic theories and then the practices” he added

Jigme Drukpa said that the students and the college have been supportive and active and he hopes that it continues.

Aa-Yang is a non-profit musical group led by Jigme Drukpa

## Best of CST, 2015

College of Science and Technology organized the “Best of CST” event On 9th May 2015.

The event is graced by the college Director as the chief guest. The program started with a welcome dance from the cultural group of the college. The “Best of CST” is a event where students can show their creativity in dancing and singing.

The performance by the students are judged on four categories, which includes coordination or synchronization, choreography which includes creativity, artistry, style and originality, presentation and costume.

Coordination and choreography was given the maximum weightage. However judges’ points was brought down to 70% as 30% was left for the votes form the audience.

The “Best of CST” was bagged by third year electrical engineering group, who put on the stage a ramp walk and later dances with various tradition dresses of the country including those, which are at the edge of extinction.



Students performing a Hindi dance

A group of fourth year students took the first runners up place and Second runners up was taken by third year civil engineering group.

The chief guest handed over the prices and expressed his congratulations for the winners and appreciation for the participants.

Jamtsho, cultural councilor said that the program was organized mainly to keep good trend of the college and also to provide a platform for the students with different talents either in

dancing or singing. “The show went beyond my expectations and I am happy for this success”, he added.

“That was perfect show to refresh ourselves from stressful weekdays”, said Yeshe Dorji, a fourth year Civil Engineering students who attended the show.

The cultural group of the college organizes ‘Best of CST’ every year and this is the 3rd such event.

## Sherubtse for Nepal, a way to help the victims

Bhutan, who is considered to be an economically weak country has donated one million dollar as a relief fund to Nepal. And 78 members of medical team have been sent as an aid to a wounded country. Nothing could be more inspirational than showing a bit of humanity.

Inspired by the fine example demonstrated by our Heroes- our king, the Prime Minister and the Dessups, a small group of Sherubtse students

initiated fund raising activities on may 2nd and may 3rd. “It touched my heart to see the contribution our country made on the command of our beloved king” said Neelam Rai.

Moved by the heartbreaking images

and the news that flooded the face book page, Neelam Rai wrote on Face Book calling for an action. “I asked my friends if they would want to join the cause. Because I could do very little but together, I knew it could make sufficient differences”,

“It touched my heart to see the contribution our country made”

- Neelam Rai

she supplemented. To her calling, many of her friends responded and on their first meeting on April 28, a Team Sherubtse for Nepal was born.

With the help of her friends, they wrote an application to The Dean of Academic Affairs, asking his approval to raise funds from students on volunteer basis. As a first steps towards fund raising, the team started asking for donation within the campus on May 2nd. "Help us to help them" was boldly painted on the donation box. "The victims of Nepal earth quake needed immediate help, and it was

better to start off from home, from single penny" said Chimi Rinzin, a volunteer.

On the eve of Teacher's day, the team organized a fund raising jam session. "After a hectic Rigser competition, jam session was perfect way to relax them and a perfect means for us to raise the fund" said Sangay, a fund raiser. "We are grateful to PICSA for providing us light and sound system" said Jigme Tshewang, a final year student.

On May 3rd, the team headed to-

wards Trashi Yangtze and Trashigang to collect fund. "I know the collections will not be huge, but enough to buy those thirsty victims a bottle of water" said Jigme choden, holding the donation box. The team went on shouting, 'Sherubtse for Nepal, help us to help them'

"We raised around 55 thousands from fund raising activities" says Neelam, with a big smile. The team of twenty students did their part as educated humane citizen and the donors fulfilled their responsibility as friend to Nepalese.

## Royal Thimphu College elects student executives

The Royal Thimphu College held its Student Government elections for the executive posts of President, Treasurer and the Secretary on the 27<sup>th</sup> May for the academic year 2015-2016.

A total of seven students from first and second year contested for the executive posts. There were four contesting for the post of President and two for the post of treasurer. While there was only one candidate for the post of secretary, he was elected via a vote of 'yes' or 'no'. There were no female constants for the post of student executive. Prior to election, each candidate for the executive posts delivered a speech for three minutes which highlighted their mandates and promised for RTC.

Gelay Nima, a second semester student of business was elected as the President by a total vote of 154. Chimmi Dorji, a second year student also from business, was elected as the Treasurer by a vote of 286. Gyem Tshering, second year studying BA English/Dzongkha was elected with

370 'Yes' vote as secretary. A total of 432 students cast their votes for the candidates.

"I think the students cast their votes wisely. People know who they must choose and I feel that in a democratic situation, it is essential to vote wisely. I am sure the elected members won't

Services Coordinator (male and female), two Events Coordinator (male and female), a Day scholar Representative, a B.A Representative, a Business Representative, a BCA Representative and two First Year representatives (male and female). The election of the non-executive members was done by paper ballot



Contestants for the executive and non-executive post

disappoint their supporters and the college as a whole. I wish them good luck," said a student.

The Registrar also announced the candidates who will be contesting for the non-executive posts of two

election and the results declared via the college website.

The elected members would take over their responsibilities officially from the Fall semester in August 2015.



## Football, the sport of choice in CST

Notice board of College of Science and Technology hostels never gets empty because every day there will be at least one reservation of football ground signed by the games councilor.

Reserving the ground is only the way to play football and it is purely based on first come first. The ground is always reserved such that when two teams are playing in the field there will be another two teams outside the field waiting for their turn.



Sometimes students go to nearby schools such as Reldri HSS, Phunsholing HSS, and Phunsholing Sports Association (PSA) for the match.

This love of game must also be the reason for college for winning Royal University Sports Federation of Bhutan (RUSFoB) against Jigme Namgyel Polytechnique (JNP) from 13th till 17th December, 2014 some student remarked.

Most of the student in the college are member of football club and in hostel almost all students are addicted to TV. The TV room is always full at late nights to watch English Premier League (EPL) and La Liga matches.

CST football lovers never misses matches of clubs such as Chelsea FC, Manchester United & City FC, Real Madrid FC, Barcelona FC and Liverpool FC. Student manages time during exam days to watch football.

### The football: never ending game in CST

The spring football tournament is played with great joy and energy. Fourteen clubs participates and it usually takes about one month to complete.

The final of spring tournament of 2015 was played on May 7, 2015. Nyakams Perfect Squad and Team Play Boys played against each other and Team Boys which was founded in 2011 won the season in four year.

April 6, 2015, four students from final year batch booked the ground for weeklong where in league match was played within the final year departments. Fourth year Electronics and Communication Engineering took the first position followed by fourth year Civil Engineering Department in runners up place.

On mid-March 2015, two students from final year organized a tournament called "CST Thundrel". Lecturers and students formed groups under that name "Taag", "Seng", "Chung", etc. The tournament took more than three weeks to complete and there were 14 teams in total and team "Taag" grab the title of CST Thuendrel.

The college football team is took part in football tournament organized by Samtse College of Education in early May, 2015.

CST students may be busy with their studies, research works and project works but they will find a time to get in football field because.



## Events from Gaddeu College of Bussiness Studies

The spring of 2015 was very busy and full of successful international and domestic programs and significant visitors to the College. In that time, the College also completed construction of Doduel Jangchub Chorten.

The Chorten was initiated by a student, Dorji Tshering, with support from the College and the community, for the well being and long life of the beloved Fourth King. The Chorten was inaugurated by the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, and consecrated by Pedtsheling Truelku and His Eminence Sangay Nyenpa Rimpoche.

The College was blessed by the visits of many Rimpoches. His Eminence Garab Rimpoche visited on 9 March 2015 and gave spiritual discourse to the students and teachers followed by the visit of His Eminence Pedtsheling Truelku on 11 March 2015, who also blessed the local people of Gedu. On 15 May 2015, the College hosted His Eminence Sangay Nyenpa Rimpoche who gave an audience to the students and staff and

spoke of the four Noble truths in our lives.

### 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Human Values in Higher Education (4<sup>th</sup> ICHVHE)

On 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, Punjab Technical University, Hindu Banaras University and Royal University of Bhutan (Gaeddu College of Business Studies) came together to explore the concept of universal human values in the context of GNH in higher education. The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Human values in Higher Education had the theme of “Educating for a GNH Society: with Universal Human Values”.

The event was graced by Her Royal Queen Mother Ashi Doji Wangmo Wangchuck; and the conference was attended by more than 150 professors and academics including 17 Vice Chancellors from 9 countries.

### RIGSS Policy Seminar

On 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015, the Royal Institute of Governance Strategic Studies

conducted their first ever seminar on the theme “The unemployment challenges”. For this session, Dasho Tashi Wangyel, Member of Parliament, was the moderator and the panelists were Dasho Pema Wangda, Secretary of MoLHR, Dasho Karma Tsheltrim, Chairman of RCSC, Dasho Phup Tshering, Secretary General of BCCI, Dasho Nidup Dorji, Vice Chancellor of RUB, Dasho Karma Ura and two representatives from Gaeddu College of Business Studies.

### Vist by Royal Audit Authority team

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, 2015, the Auditor General Dasho Ugyen Chhewang, made a visit to Gaeddu College of Business Studies. The Auditor General and his team highlighted about the background and the mandate of the Royal Audit Authority (RAA) to the students and faculty of the college; the participants were sensitized on the RAA's roles in promoting accountability and transparency in the use of public resources.



Gaeddu College of Business Studies

## From the heart of a true winner

For his dedication and service to Sherubtse College, Dorji Wangdi, the 26<sup>th</sup> Forum for International & National Awareness (FINA) President was awarded the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk Gold Medal for Best Graduating Student on May 30, 2015. Dorji Wangdi is from Radi, Trashigang.

He spent his pre-college days in Radi Middle Secondary School, Trashigang MSS & Khaling Higher Secondary School. In 2011, Dorji joined the College of Science and Technology but alas deteriorating health forced him to look for better climate. He then got readmitted to Sherubtse College in 2012.

Simple and graceful, Dorji Wangdi is a gifted leader. He was elected as FINA executive three years in a row. The student, management and staff of Sherubtse appreciated his tenure as the FINA President.

In this column, we talked with Dorji Wangdi about his journey and his works as a student executive, which won him the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk Gold Medal for the Best Graduating Student.



**RUBC:-** How do you feel after winning the award?

**Dorji:-** After Serving College for three years as a student executive from First Year Representative to President, I feel that hard works are rewarded and I am satisfied and happy.

**RUBC:-** What are your contributions to the college?

**Dorji:-** Contributions are of different types, like physical and mental. Physical contributions are the things we do by working and using physical force. As FINA president, I have coordinated the construction of pentagonal abode “Namgyal Phodrang Chorten- a Royal Exhibit”.

Mental contribution are mostly to deal with students in the activities to serve as a guide and to advise the students in making the right choice. As a student leader for three year, we always have to be in any student activities thus the contributions are numerous.

**RUBC:-**What do you think made you win this award?

**Dorji:-** Well, the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk Gold Medal is awarded for those students who excel in character, studies, activities, leadership quality and significant contributions to the college and outside during his stay at Sherubtse College. I think serving the College as executive member for three year shows the leadership, character

and contribution of one self. I have also won the Academic Excellence Award from the political department. I think, these factors put me on the road to win the prestigious award.

**RUBC:-** Whom would you dedicate this award?

**Dorji:-** I would like to dedicate this award to my parents. My mother always advised me to focus on academics, where as my father always forced me to focus on co-curricular activities. The advice from my mother and father put me on the right track because education and co-curricular should be side by side in order to excel.

**RUBC:-** What are your future plans?

**Dorji:-** I would like to follow the right path in the future to contribute to the growth of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

**RUBC:-** What message do you have for the student leaders be it in schools or colleges?

**Dorji:-** Students be it in school or in colleges, leaders are expected to lead, but most fails at this task. It is important for the leaders to be open to suggestions. If not familiar to certain situations, ask those who understands and choose a path that is right. As a leader it is not always about leading, sometime you need to push as well. Only then, work however small or big can be done easily.

## From the view of foreign student

This is the first time that the College of Science and Technology hosted a exchange student. This is the interview with Mr. Gusts Sprogis, from Latvia, Ergli, born in the city but lived in the capital, Riga.

**RUBC:-** What are your Inspirations?

**Gusts:-** Actually I am a Christian, and most of my inspirations come from my own believe in god that he has put me up for a task or some sort of assignment. Of all I believe that the greatest reason I am here is because I have faith in god.

**RUBC:-** Have you made new friends? Are they friendly?

**Gusts:-** Yes. People here are very, very nice and they are a lot friendly people then in Latvia. Actually some of them even told me to call them and mingle with them. It's actually easy to make new friends here.

**RUBC:-** How is Bhutan treating you? Do you like the place, weather and food?

**Gusts:-** The weather is adjustable since Latvia also has hot summers but the air is more humid here. In Latvia it is the tiring heat of the sun so it is not a new thing for me. And about the food, I don't really know the food by the name but then yes I tried the food and it is very spicy and they usually put a lot of chilies. I need to get used to food here. We don't go for spicy food in Latvia.

**RUBC:-** How is Bhutan different from Latvia?

**Gusts:-** It is a lot different. People in Latvia aren't so friendly but people here make me feel comfortable. Another thing would be Bhutan has more mountains but Latvia has plane surface. Mountains are the reason why I choose to come to Bhutan. I had to make a choice between Bhutan and Nepal and I choose Bhutan. And I feel a lot safe in Bhutan. I researched about Bhutan and then found it is going to be more peaceful place to stay. The streets are different, roads, architecture, street lights and signals and a lot more different than what Latvia is.

**RUBC:-** Did you hear about Bhutan before you came here?

**Gusts:-** I heard about Bhutan for the first time when I was attending the Erasmus seminar. When I told my people I

am going to Bhutan no one knew where I was going. They never heard about it as well.

**RUBC:-** What are your hobbies and interests?

**Gusts:-** well I love playing beach volleyball and then riding bicycle, but then here it is too risky to go for biking. In Latvia I always use bicycle to run errands. I used to play football also when I was in high school but then now I don't play much. I spend a lot of time going to church and since I recently turned a Christian it is interesting to learn about it. I joined church in January of this year. Most of my friends are from church and they are very friendly also.

**RUBC:-** What is your project on?

**Gusts:-** It is about making concrete with activated water. With water we can get some special property, like magnetized water, that is when you run water out to a magnetic field and it magnetizes the water and when we use this kind of energized water to make concrete, it should be a better compared to what normal concretes are. I don't really know if it is going to work but then I have to work on it, make some specimens, some samples, designed structure and compare and see if they are different. Who knows they might be the same also. The experimental part is quite an interesting one but the theoretical part must be hard. But then I have 10 months for that so I don't really worry or I am not in haste.

**RUBC:-** Is there anything that you don't like about Bhutan? At the moment?

**Gusts:-** I don't like that I cannot move around freely and I have to make paper works for every small things. Even though the people are nice as I mentioned earlier, but then I don't like it that I need to do so many paper works for everything like to travel and go to another place. Nothing more than that at the moment.





## A graphic glance of student population at JNP

After completion of Bhutan Higher Secondary Examination Certificate (BHSEC) in the year 2013, with 2511 Science students, 14.5% students were enrolled in Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic (JNP) this year. As compared to the intake of 2013, there is an increase of only three per cent in students' population.

Although the Institute had enrolled only 14.5% of students from the country yet students are represented from all Dzongkhags. Except for Gasa Dzongkhag followed by Haa, Thimphu and Wangduephodrang with only one, three and six students respectively.

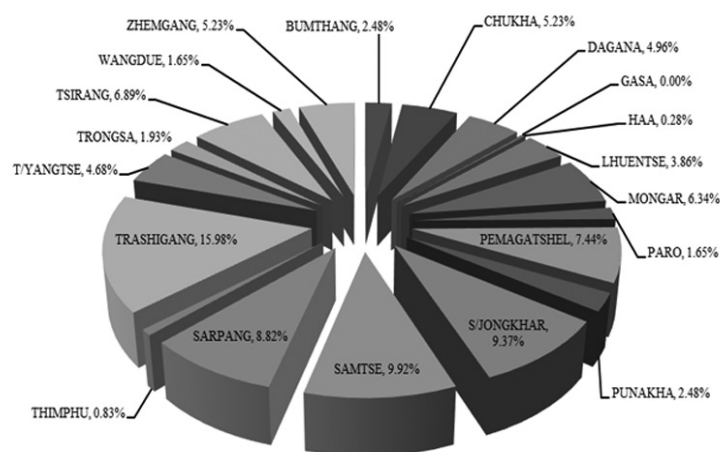
The highest number of students comes from Trashigang, the largest Dzongkhag with 58 students. Including Trashigang the total intake from Samtse, Samdrup Jongkhar, and Sarpang and Pemagatshel Dzongkhags make 51.5% of students.

The largest number of students undergoing Diploma course at JNP; every year is from Trashigang Dzongkhag with 104 students fol-

lowed by Samdrup Jongkhar, Samtse and Pemagatshel.

As usual the female population is always less in JNP. In 2013 it was around 25% from 363 total students while in 2014 it is 24.2%.

Consecutively the highest numbers of students were enrolled from Nima Higher Secondary School, Thimphu with an average of 37 students. Thereafter Kuenga higher secondary school in Paro followed closely with an average of 35 students.



Dzongkhag-wise Student Distribution

From 44 HSS in the country 36 HSS qualified students were enrolled in JNP. However this year, 3 more HSS were increased adding to the student diversity.

Currently, there are 742 students studying in six different Diploma programmes. In the next academic year, JNP will have more intake of student with the inception of Diploma in Stores and Procurement Management and B.E. in Power Engineering.

## A family of students

Resham Tamang aged 30, is from Samkhar, Jig-micholing, in Sarpang district. He is a regular in-service student, doing his BA in Bhutanese and Himalayan Studies at the Institute of Language and Culture Studies in Taktse, Trongsa.

Resham has worked for 10 years in the Trongsa hospital but with the introduction of the position classification system by RCSE,



Kinga Rabten. He is married and has a six year old son. His wife is also

he was left with no option than to upgrade his education. So he is currently on study leave for 3 years.

Every day he travel 20 kilometer to attend his classes and activities at the institute from

continuing her studies at Gedu College of Business Studies and his son is also studying.

Resham considers education an important tool the modern world, where without education, achieving the ultimate happiness in life is difficult.

Currently Resham is in his final semester, but he still has two more year to unite with his wife in order to unite the family whole again, but till then "Three in Family, all are Student"

## Drop out, unemployed now a successful businessman

**H**ard work is the key to success” is an old cliché, so old that no one even takes it seriously anymore, but Ash Bdr. Tamang is not one of them. He has always believed in this idea and even achieved his success through it.

Ash Bdr. Tamang, a 35 years old business man from Sarpang who runs a canteen and a general shop in Ngabiphu area just few minutes away from the Royal Thimphu College (RTC) is now a successful business man.

He has been running his business for past 8 years and is making a good living out of it but attaining his current state was not an easy task. Ash Bdr. Tamang had his shares of highs and lows before he finally started earning enough for him and his wife.

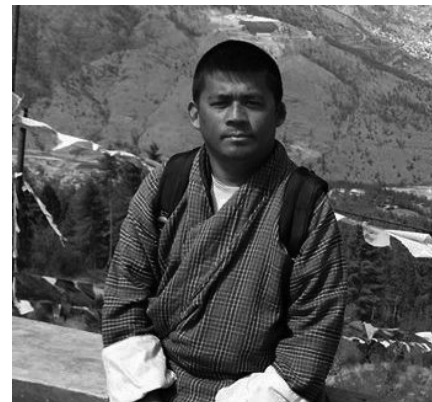
After completing his high school Ash

Bdr. Tamang had a hard time managing his life for 3 years. Being unemployed, he started business on his own.

After getting initial financial support from his family and friends, he came to Thimphu started running a canteen in a small shack in Ngabiphu area. With the support from his wife, he ran a small canteen with just 3 plastic tables and 14 plastic chairs.

With passage of time, students visiting the canteen increased for the canteen makes good fried rice. As popularity increased the ‘Ngabiphu Shop’ evolved its name to “Bangoli canteen” for the foreign (Indian) workers buys their goods from it.

Bangoli canteen is now a new hang out place for the RTC students. In the evening, RTC students would rush down to the canteen to grab a good meal and hang out with their



Ash Bdr. Tamang,

friends after a tiring day.

Tamang dream is finally achieved. After 3 years, Tamang shifted his small restaurant from a shack to a building with new appliances. He now runs restaurant and Xerox and have 2 employee.

Today he earns about Nu. 15,000-30,000 a month and he hopes to expand his business in future.

## Whereabouts of 2nd year students

**I**t is March some of the classrooms are empty yet students in Paro College of Education goes on with their usual classes and activities. They have missed something big. There is not a single second year students on the campus and no one seems to know about their whereabouts.

“I never realized anything unusual but then, I later found out there were no second years” said Pema Yangzom, a final year student.

There is no second year students because of late admission of first year students to the college” said Thubthen Gyatsho, Director General of the college. Unlike other colleges

under Royal University of Bhutan which enroll first year students in fall, Paro College of Education and Samtse College enroll first year student in March. But now two educational

“I never realized anything unusual but then, I later found out there were no second years”

- Pema Yangzom

college have started enrolling first year’s student like other college.

“Two educational institutes have proposed about the change in enrollment of the first year students from

spring semester to fall semester and was later endorsed in the Academic Board Meeting” he added.

This was mainly done to reduce the

work for lectures and aims to give more time to do research. This also give students enough time to decide their career in teaching.

“During the gap, students will get

## PEOPLE

enough time to think through and those who really want to peruse their career as teacher can join and it also gives the administration time for the preparation” said the Director General.

Although the work load for lectures in general reduces but work for deans remains the same. “We always have same amount of work even in holi-

days” Kelzang Tshering, Dean of Student Affairs said.

Some hostels room are remained unoccupied unlike previous years. This reduces the work for provost but Amina Gurung, a girl provost said the work for provost who also teaches remains the same. “I have to teach and I have to look after the management and the disciplines of

the hostel and the work load remains the same” She added.

It would be only by July 2015 that PCE will have the whole set of students. As the current first years will be upgraded to second year and there will be recruitment of a batch of first years.

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## With of the author of “la Ama”

The Reading Club of Royal Thimphu College held an hour long conference with Chador Wangmo, a former teacher and now the author of the book “la Ama” on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

Chador Wangmo made her presence to Royal Thimphu College and talked mainly about her new book “la Ama” and also discussed the hardship of

Chador Wangmo came across a lot of students whose parents were divorced and were misled in life. She was not pleased with such scenario and in order to bring a change, she decided to write the book “la Ama”

However, being a writer was an interest she always had since her childhood. Her uncle and aunt ran a book

store and having been interacting with books since a young, she had a great influence to be a writer.

Having discussed about the book, she talked about the challenges she faced as a full time author and one of the biggest challenges she faced was time. She said that being a mother and a wife makes it really difficult to find time for her interest.

“Writing is not about person’s vocabulary but it’s about expressing emotions with words”

- Chador Wangmo

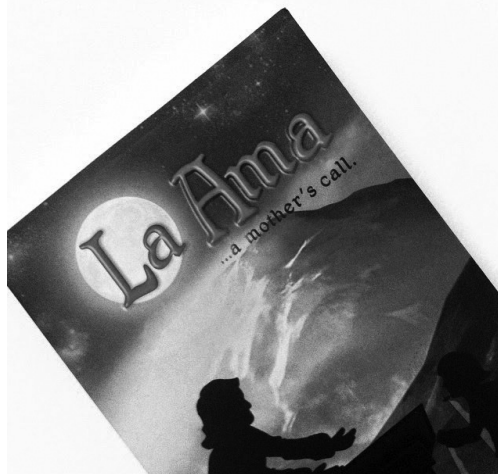
She also said that getting financial support for publishing books in Bhutan is difficult since a lot of Bhutanese do not practice reading. She encouraged us to practice reading books and help inculcate the reading habit in Bhutanese.

being a full time Author in Bhutan.

The book “La Ama” is a story about a girl who is abandoned by her parents and highlights the abuses she goes through as a result of trusting the wrong people.

When asked about what inspired her to write this story, she told us that the main source of her inspiration were the students who belonged to divorced parents.

As a teacher in her earlier days,



Apart from talking about her book “La Ama” and the challenges she faced, she also gave us a glimpse into her future plans which obviously involved a lot of writing, but she told us she wanted to focus her writing more towards the traditional folk tales.

And eventually when the conference came to an end, she encouraged us to read and write to learn more and said, “Writing is not about person’s vocabulary but it’s about expressing emotions with words.”

## 4th SEISA visit to Royal Thimphu College

The Royal Thimphu College welcomed the 4th group of representatives from SEISA University in Japan this March as an exchange program.

SEISA is one of the many educational institutes around the world with which RTC has academic partnerships. The partnership was established in 2010 and, since then, every year selected RTC students attended 2-week cultural visit to Japan. In return, RTC hosts a group from SEISA every year as well.

This year's SEISA group included 8 students, teachers and staff from SEISA headquarters. The group resided on-campus at RTC and attended classes such as history and politics of Bhutan. With RTC family presented traditional cultural performance and in return they talk on 'Buddhism in Japan' and displayed the beautiful Japanese tea ceremony.

During their stay in Bhutan, the



Visitors from SEISA University with the students of RTC

group visited historical places such as Tashichho Dzong, National Memorial Chorten, and the Druk Wangyel Chorten. They also visited the Institute of Traditional Medicine and the Institute of Traditional Art to learn more about Bhutan's traditional ways. In addition, there were visits to schools and CSOs like Draktsho.

This exchange program is one of the many efforts of RTC to provide international learning opportunities for its students. So far, RTC has hosted around 3 dozen individuals from SEISA.



In Picture: Office of the Vice Chancellor, Royal University of Bhutan



## A Interview with Samdrup Rigyal (PhD)



Samdrup Rigyal, PhD joined the Office of the Vice Chancellor in March 2012. Prior to this, he was teaching agricultural extension and communication at the College of Natural Resources at Lobesa. He joined the civil service in March 1990 and worked in various organizations including the Ministry of Agriculture in Bhutan and SAARC Agriculture Centre, a regional office of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**RUBC-** You started your career in the Ministry of Agriculture and then moved to the erstwhile NRTI as a lecturer and now you are the Director of Planning and Resources of RUB. Please mention some of the highlights of the journey.

**Dr. Samdrup Rigyal-** I graduated in March 1989 and immediately after passing the Royal Civil Service Commission Examination in 1990, we were given appointments in the various sectors of the government. I joined the then Research and Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture. At this point of time, our nation was going through serious crises due to the problems in southern Bhutan.

Then, the Ministry of Home Affairs was struggling with limited manpower to complete the population census of southern Bhutan that was initially commenced in 1988. Given the exigency of the situation, a group of us graduates from various Ministries were deputed to assist in rounding up the population census exercise in the southern Dzongkhags including Samtse, Sarpang, Samdrup Jongkhar, Tsirang and Dagana.

It was only after my return to the Ministry of Agriculture in May 1992 from the South that I really got the prospects of fully engaging in the chores of real agricultural extension activities. I was immediately entrusted with a special assignment to establish a new information and publications unit under the Extension Division.

I took it up as a challenge and played a pivotal role in first identifying an empty space and then setting up an office with the support of one EU-funded project called Devel-

opment of Agriculture and Support Services (DASA) – an office that stands today in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests as the Information and Communication Services (ICS) under the Department of Agriculture.

I served in this office until 2000 when I was transferred to the then Natural Resources Training Institute (NRTI) as a Lecturer of agricultural extension and communication. I remember joining NRTI at Lobesa together with the ninth batch of the three-year course Diploma students. However, before my batch mate students could graduate from NRTI, I had to temporarily leave Lobesa to take up a new assignment at the SAARC Agriculture Information Centre (SAC) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, as the Deputy Director (Policy Planning).

At the end of my three-year assignment at SAC in 2006, my term was extended but after staying back one more year, I rushed back to Bhutan as there were so many new developments taking place in Bhutan at that critical juncture including the establishment of constitutional monarchy and preparations for the historic democratic elections. Of course, taking a part in that new development was least on my mind but I presumed I was anxious I might miss my place in the change sweeping the whole environment. So I landed back to Lobesa. By that time NRTI had become College of Natural Resources (CNR). The ownership had changed from the Ministry of Agriculture to Royal University of Bhutan.

As fate would have it, it was not very long before I was compelled to seek a transfer of service to Thimphu at the Office of the Vice Chancellor (OVC) due to an inevitable domestic problem. At the OVC, I tried doing something

very different. I worked as the Chief Human Resource Officer, until an occasion arrived to compete for the current position.

**RUBC-** You have taught in CNR for over 10 years? What do you remember the most?

**Dr. Samdrup Rigyal-** Literally, I was there at CNR for 10 years. Therefore, I should have taught for 10 years. But I didn't. I take no pride in saying that. I was transferred to CNR in 2000. But from January 2003 to January 2007, I worked in Bangladesh. Again, a greater part of 2008 to 2011 were spent pursuing my Ph.D. study. But I must mention that the best part of my entire career so far was spent at Lobesa. There I was for the first time in the midst of knowledge seekers bustling with academic activities day and night and continuously sharing the joys and pains of students. As a matter of fact, teaching is a tedious job.

It was indeed hard work, but for someone who is inspired by a life of hard work, sincerity and dedication, it was nothing short of a challenge to work even harder. I realized that working at an academic institution, the pains of the days are always recompensed with the reward of not having to carry the worries on your head to your home in the evening, unlike offices in other organisations. Moreover, CNR was blessed with the most accommodating group of staff and faculty completely blended with immeasurable joy and warmth for one another that one would rarely imagine there could be such harmony and peace in a closely knit small society. Only good Karma would bring someone in the company of such people and I remain fully contented today that I had that Karma to live in such a society even if it meant only for a while.

**RUBC-** You were also on deputation to Bangladesh? Please highlight some of the experiences. How do you use it in your current position?

**Dr. Samdrup Rigyal-** SAARC has several regional centres in different member states, including SAARC Forestry Centre in Thimphu, and SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) was the first regional centre of SAARC established in 1989. I was the first civil servant from Bhutan to have been deputed in a regional centre of SAARC. To run these centres, the member states share the costs according to the SAARC apportion formula. Therefore, since the member states are paying to keep these cen-

tres alive and running, these centres should benefit each member state by way of providing services or engaging the citizens through paid assignments.

As the Deputy Director for Policy Planning, I was involved mostly in coordinating the development of programmes in agriculture, livestock, fishery and forestry and implementing these programmes in the member states mainly through local experts based in the research and extension centres in the member states. It has been altogether a very enriching experience as I had the opportunity to work in an environment where there are diversity of experiences and outlook. I learnt the significance of knowledge management and networking to expedite economic growth in a region that has the highest levels of poverty and deprivation.

South Asia is a poor region but its huge population has so much knowledge and expertise but due to lack of proper knowledge management, there is limited interactions among people, structures and technology, where much of these knowledge never reach those who need them. Networking again builds and nurtures personal and professional relationship with people who can be helpful to you, your employer or your organisation. These are some of the experiences that I am mindful of today in my own work.

**RUBC-** Please mention some of the key responsibilities of the Director of Planning and Resources of RUB.

**Dr. Samdrup Rigyal-** This is certainly a very challenging position. Based on the working experiences, the terms of reference of this position still needs to be further refined and clarified with that of the office of the Registrar. The key mandate of this position is formulating the University's Strategic Plan and preparing the Five-Year Plans using the strategic plan as the basis. The Royal University of Bhutan is an autonomous agency but in terms of resources it remains overly dependent on the government. Much of my works involve having to liaise with the other sectors of the government mainly to mobilize resources and monitoring, evaluation and timely reporting on the implementation of planned projects.

The Ministry of Finance and the GNH Commission are two sectors in the government where my Department has to maintain loosely and adaptable correlation with their officials. The other direct responsibilities include man-

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agement of the University budgets and expenditures, planning and monitoring the implementation of the infrastructure development of the University's estate, and also together with the HR unit, determining the necessary staff establishment for the University.

**RUBC-** How has the University changed over the years? What opportunities do you see for the University?

**Dr. Samdrup Rigyal-** The change is really on the people working in the University. The transition period of having established the University is over. People working in the University are beginning to accept that the University is their home ground and everything is going to revolve within that arena. People are beginning to take ownership of the University which is really good.

People are also beginning to realize that the University has got enormous opportunities to offer. The University is now strengthening the institutional linkages with other institutions of higher learning at the international levels which is going to offer a window for the staff and faculty to acquire the best knowledge and skills and maximum exposure in terms of teaching and learning.

The RUB is also going to stand as a role model for other universities and colleges that would be coming up in Bhutan. The people working in the RUB have the best knowledge and skills to run and operate a University and in the determination of any policy on tertiary education in Bhutan, the officials of the RUB will always be a part of it. This remains as the key strength of the RUB.

**RUBC-**What is your advice to young and upcoming lecturers who are just beginning their careers in University?

**Dr. Samdrup Rigyal-** My advice is to take ownership of the RUB. This will do good both to the individual and institution. The RUB has got so much to offer to these young lecturers. This is what the potential group of people should understand when they make a decision to join the fraternity of RUB. Once they have joined, they should be prepared to give heart and soul for the betterment of the University to pave their own future prospects and wellbeing.

The ultimate aim of any endeavours is to attain peace of

mind and contentment, and my experience in working in an academic atmosphere found that a life of teaching and learning provides so much scope to make these dreams a reality.

At the same time, our young lecturers working in the Colleges should be fully conscious of some of the challenges confronted by the University at this critical point of time. The RUB is an autonomous agency but it is excessively dependent on the state support for its sustenance. Like any other Universities in the world, the state support is gradually declining, and so is RUB sensing the continuing decline in government funding. This would put to test the future sustainability of the University. And that is where we need to establish a clear understanding on the parts of stakeholders on, what University autonomy means and the readiness of the people working in it to support innovative ideas for its sustained growth.

Having the autonomy is good but the autonomy to manage a new University could be altogether a daunting challenge, especially when the University remained almost entirely dependent on government subsidies. Therefore, the settings in the RUB demands ongoing innovation in policy and practice across all aspects of University operations, including employment and workplace arrangements.

Most importantly, besides making the current workplaces suitable to the new settings, RUB also needs to instil a sense of self-responsibility in the intellect of its people for enhancing the student learning experience and concentrate their talents and energies on research and innovation.

The RUB should prepare itself and its people with the capability to generate original ideas to undertake initiatives that could increase revenue and income. As it is said, the economic future of any organisation depends on her ability to create and preserve wealth by continuously advancing creativity, fostering innovation, and promoting entrepreneurship. In pursuing these initiatives, RUB can never afford to have non-performing people but only the best who could excel and outperform all other sectors to create for Bhutan a knowledge-based society.

# A comprehensive experience on folk study



**S. Chitra (PhD)**  
**Assistant Professor in English**  
**Sherubtse College**  
**Royal University of Bhutan**

Folklore, a part of the human culture since the very beginning of the human society comprehends a whole range of material called as 'folk literature'. The generic term 'folklore' designates the customs, beliefs, traditions, tales, proverbs, songs and so on representing the "accumulated knowledge of homogeneous unsophisticated people, tied together" by social, cultural and moral bonds, giving it unity and individual distinction. Such folk items which real people use for real reasons can be more suitable to impart values and skills in RUB English graduates than the contrived ones. Studying the culture of England, India, Africa and Bhutan through folktales and mythical texts has undoubtedly widened the scope of my teaching and learning through innovative research practices. From literary and inter-disciplinary points of view, the branch is extensive enough to make detailed research on oral traditions in relation with sociology, history, religion, anthropology, and value education. In my observation, both at personal and professional levels, folk materials seem to be flexible and feasible for multiple approaches in terms of practice, preservation, learning and research.

## History of Folk Study:

Folklore is mainly oral in tradition since societies all over the world passed their stories in spoken form from one generation to the other. Similar to oral history, memory is the core of oral stories from which meaning and its significance can be extracted and preserved. Ironically, researchers tend to focus on the 'Great Tradition of the reflective many' authorized by texts, letting go the 'Little Traditions of the anonymous unreflective many', largely seen as local literature, mostly oral and carried by the illiterate. (Ramanujan, A.K., 1991, p. xviii). Now we need a new emphasis, a larger view regarding oral traditions of every kind – the local, the written and the oral, the verbal and the nonverbal – all these engaged in an 'interacting continuum' as literature themselves. Also, the local literature – folk songs, stories and sayings – provide a

unique insight into the physical and mental world of the ordinary. The oral tradition of Bhutan, though surviving in bits and pieces, and researched only in parts, is in danger of vanishing as mere survivals of the past. Even the remote villages today have a dominant inroad of modern urban-like culture influenced by the idioms of preponderant television channels. On their part, the adolescents remain preoccupied with web mania, video game, social network and other attractions, only to lose their creative and cultural interests. As a result, the younger generation is hardly aware of many of their own cultural elements. Therefore, in order to renew the folk traditions of the past, academicians, scholars, zealots and parents need to revive the study by setting the tradition in a new direction to safeguard the indigenous unique identity of Bhutan.

## Opportunities for Innovation:

### Revival of Storytelling through Narration and Performance:

As an extended learning experience, the story-telling performance was materialized for the first time in the lives of the adults. For instance, the learners formed groups and performed stories using props, along with the narration. It paved way for an inter-cultural communication to discover and explore the other and the self. The purpose was that adults could test themselves on their narrative skill which was different from reading a story and the session proved to be an entertaining yet enterprising activity to drive home the message.

### Literary Re-telling of Tales - Creating Avenues for Employability:

In the digital world, the interest of youth channelized toward cartoon stories focusing on characterization, language, dialogue exchanges, voice modulation, tone and expression of emotions, an auditory cum visual learning



style, would enable them identify innovative employment opportunities in future. Also, the possibility to rewrite folk tales in line with the needs of the contemporary media became evident. As a fundamental writing task, learners were to select a Bhutanese Folktale from the collection, brainstorm the possibilities of modification and create new variations yet retaining the traditional characteristics of original folktales. Similar such retold tales of Angela Carter and Perrault on the famous Little Red Riding Hood were introduced. This exercise consisting of entrepreneurship ideas is expected to benefit the society at large. Moreover, the attempt would also address the recent concerns raised in the local dailies about cartoons in other languages invading the Bhutanese children. Provided the project becomes successful, in few years' time, the possibilities of cartoon stories becoming more indigenous in one's own tongue or in Standard English, would keep the influence at check. However, children becoming multilingual would be a gain than a loss. Such a creative exercise prepares the youth to become more self-reliant and innovative.

### **Research-based Study: Field Trip, Translation and Project Reports.**

Organizing field trip with an objective to collect the oral traditions, myths and legends, offer avenues for research-based study, to derive first-hand information on folk topics. Also, it provides an opportunity to see the rare artifacts and listen to the veteran old men and women

narrate how certain customs, tradition and culture were prevalent in the past. In the process, youth can pick the interviewing and interacting skills. Further, the collected details equip the learners with new knowledge of their own culture, thus helping them to reflect and equate the need to balance the present with the past for a prosperous future in terms of identity and happiness. The possibility of translating the collected tales and songs from local dialects into English can result in the trans-creation of oral material, a contribution to children's literature. Preparation of project report at the end of the visits could develop the cognitive and academic skills of the learners, with hands-on research experience.

During my teaching, the folk study offered space to integrate variety of approaches for the enhancement of teaching - learning and research activities. Folk items, being as old as the human society itself, were realistic with contemporary relevance. The words of A.K.Ramanujan, "Cultural forms (such as stories) make people what they are as much as people make culture", aptly demonstrate the fact that "communities and generations depend on exchanges and transfers" (1991, Introduction).

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**Royal University of Bhutan**

*“Reaching New Heights”*

# Mandala of RUB Colleges



ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF BHUTAN  
Office of the Vice Chancellor, Lower Mothithang  
Thimphu, Bhutan, P. O. Box 708  
PBAX: +975-02-336454, Fax: +975-02-336523  
[www.rub.edu.bt](http://www.rub.edu.bt)