

BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

July – December, 2024



Sherubtse College, in collaboration with UNDP and [UNICEF Bhutan](#), organized a five days certificate course on Social Policy to the Hon'ble Members of Parliament at Paro, from 29th July to 2nd August, 2024.

Seminar on Biomass Gasification and Solar Power at Sherubtse College

(August 21, 2024)

Sherubtse College hosted a seminar on Biomass Gasification and Linear Mirror Power for BSc Physics and Chemistry students.

Led by Mr. Parsu Ram Sharma, a former faculty member now pursuing a PhD. at the University of Udine, Italy, the seminar explored the potential of biogas and solar energy in Bhutan and their job implications for youth. The three-hour session addressed topics from improving biogas quality to advancing solar energy use.

The event concluded with Mr. Sharma expressing gratitude to attendees for their engagement.



Seminar by Japan International Cooperation Agency

(August 29, 2024)



The College of Natural Resources recently had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Shunsuke Ishida, Project Manager, and Dr. Kurihara Yuka, Project Coordinator from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Their seminar provided valuable insights to our BSc in Animal Science students and faculty members, enriching their knowledge through JICA's collaborative projects.

The seminar spotlighted two pivotal projects:

1. **Effective Microorganisms Technology in Poultry:** *In collaboration with the Department of Livestock, Tsirang, this project aims to enhance poultry management practices through the application of effective microorganisms.*
2. **Basic Marketing Mindset Program in School Agriculture Program:** *Partnering with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD), this initiative seeks to instill a marketing mindset among students involved in school agriculture programs.*

The seminar wrapped up on a high note, with optimistic wishes for continued collaboration and a memorable group photo to commemorate the occasion.

Report on the 3rd India-Bhutan Youth Summit

(September 9-18, 2024)

The summit was organized by the Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies (RIGSS), Bhutan, in collaboration with the Centre for Escalation of Peace (CEP), India.

The primary objective of the summit was to deepen the understanding and appreciation of the youth regarding the significance of India-Bhutan friendship. It aimed to create a network of young ambassadors from both nations who would carry forward this special relationship and foster long-term collaboration. The summit provided a platform for engaging discussions on various aspects of India-Bhutan cooperation while also promoting networking and camaraderie.



A total of 22 students: 11 from different colleges under the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) and 11 from various colleges in India, participated in this enriching experience. Together, we explored Bhutan's stunning landscapes, beginning from the base of Phuentsholing town to the mountain peaks of Bumdrak in Paro.



Beyond the scenic adventures, we engaged in thought-provoking discussions about the past, present, and future of India-Bhutan relations.

Personally, this summit allowed me to forge new friendships with fellow participants from both countries, broadening my perspectives and deepening my appreciation for this unique bilateral relationship. It was truly a wonderful and transformative experience that I will cherish for years to come.



Workshop on Cyber Guardianship: Behind the Tik, Tech and Tok

(September 11, 2024)



The Elective Tracks team at Sherubtse College, in collaboration with the Dean of Academic Affairs Office and the college management, organized a half-day PD workshop themed “*Cyber Guardianship: Behind the Tik, Tech and Tok.*” The workshop was led by Frances Yong, Founder of WhiteByte.org and an Academic Consultant at Sherubtse College for CPS and Entrepreneurship Elective Modules.

The staff development workshop aimed to equip educators with a deeper understanding of the digital landscape, the various cyber spaces frequented by students, the online risks these young individuals face, and the most effective strategies for providing support. Through interactive discussions, lecturers and staff were given insights into the latest trends in social media, gaming, and online communication, enabling them to create a safe and positive online environment for their students.

By bridging the gap between adult perceptions and the digital realities of children and teens, the workshop aimed to empower teachers to guide their students through the challenges of the digital world with confidence and compassion.

The workshop was also beneficial for staff and faculty members as parents, providing essential strategies for fostering responsible and safe online experiences for their children, empowering them to be their digital guardians.

The Wednesday PD program is a new initiative aimed at keeping our staff and faculties well-informed on new knowledge and upskilling them to meet the learning demands and needs of the students.

White Byte CEO Frances Young Raises Cybersecurity Awareness at Sherubtse College (September 18, 2024)



Frances Young, CEO of White Byte and a consultant from Singapore, visited Sherubtse College on 18th September 2024 to raise awareness about cybersecurity. During her visit, she highlighted the dangers of cyberbullying and shared real-life cases where victims, targeted by scammers using fake photos for blackmail, suffered severe consequences, including suicide.

Young also emphasized the role of generative AI in collecting personal information without users' knowledge, warning students to stay vigilant online. Her talk focused on the growing risks in the digital world and the need for proactive cybersecurity measures.

Bridging Cultures: Edith Cowan University Students Engage in Exchange at SCE (September 22, 2024)



On September 22, 2024, a group of twelve undergraduate students from Edith Cowan University (ECU) in Australia embarked on an enriching educational and cultural experience at Samtse College of Education. This initiative, established in 2019 and funded by the New Colombo Plan, aims to provide students with hands-on learning opportunities that deepen their understanding of counselling, psychology, and social sciences.

Under the guidance of Professors Vicki Banham and Karen Anderson, the students engaged in a variety of activities that expanded both their academic knowledge and their appreciation of local culture and community. The ECU students were accompanied by several B.Ed. volunteers, facilitating a dynamic cultural exchange between the two groups. Through this interaction, both parties shared their cultures and values, fostering mutual understanding.

The students participated in classes, attended a full-day Dzongkha language learning session, and engaged in mindful practices, all of which contributed to a holistic learning experience. Their stay at SCE concluded on October 9, 2024, after which they travelled to Paro for a brief visit. This programme highlights the commitment to fostering international collaboration and understanding, enriching the educational journey of the participants while promoting cross-cultural exchange and learning.

Prof. Andrej J. Zwitter Delivers Talk on Ethics and Governance at Sherubtse (September 28, 2024)

Sherubtse College hosted a thought-provoking lecture on Ethics and Governance in the Modern Era delivered by Prof. Dr. Andrej J. Zwitter on September 28, 2024 attended by faculty and students from the Political Science and Sociology (Pol-Soc), Economics, and new programme.

Prof. Zwitter, who serves as the Professor of Political Theory and Governance at the University of Groningen, brought valuable insights from his extensive experience. His talk focused on the ethical challenges facing modern governance systems and the importance of innovation in addressing them.



The talk also highlighted the Humanitarian Intelligence, a key area of Prof. Zwitter's research, which examines the factors affecting humanitarian space, such as local organized crime, terrorism, counterterrorism, and the growing professionalization of humanitarian aid. He highlighted coordination challenges among humanitarian stakeholders and the critical need for accountability.

Prof. Zwitter discussed the role of AI-driven analytics and big data in humanitarian contexts and emphasized the need for theory-driven data collection and analysis to ensure effective humanitarian interventions.

The event sparked engaging discussions and offered attendees valuable perspectives on ethics, governance, and humanitarian interventions in today's complex world.

Royal University of Bhutan and Musashino University Formalise Partnership with MoU Signing (November 12, 2024)



The Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) and Musashino University (MU), Japan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on November 12, 2024. This collaboration aims to strengthen academic and scholarly cooperation, particularly between the College of Science and Technology (CST) as RUB's primary exchange partner and MU.

The Vice Chancellor of RUB and the President of MU formalized the partnership by signing the MoU at OVC on November 12, 2024.

G-Fest 2024 Highlights: Building Financial Literacy and Sustainable Entrepreneurship (October 22-24, 2024.)

The 5th edition of G-Fest, organized by Gedu College of Business Studies (GCBS), took place from 22 - 24 October 2024. Themed "Building a Financially Literate Community that Fosters Sustainable Entrepreneurship," the event included participants from various colleges, including Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) from India.

Day 1:

- Opening ceremony with diverse participants.
- Exhibitions showcasing innovative ideas.

Day 2:

- Events like "Brain Buffet," "Rhetorical Rumbles," "Escape the Room," and "Dreamers' Dialogue."
- Dance performances.

Day 3:

- Finalists in "Rhetoric Rumbling": SRCC and GCBS.
- Additional events: "Cine Odyssey" and "Group-Up Genius."
- Closing ceremony: SRCC overall winner, GCBS runner-up.

G-Fest inspires creativity and innovation, though turning ideas into real-world ventures remains a



GCBS and EoC Sign MoU to Boost Local Entrepreneurship

In celebration of its 16th Foundation Day, Gedu College of Business Studies (GCBS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Entrepreneurs of Chhukha (EoC). This partnership, initiated under the Centre for Business Research and Entrepreneurship Development, aims to strengthen

Key Initiatives:

- **Training & Education:** Programs to enhance skills and knowledge.
- **Incubation & Mentorship:** Support services for budding entrepreneurs.
- **Professional Services:** Legal, marketing, and business consulting.
- **Acceleration Programs:** For early-stage entrepreneurs.
- **Sectoral Skills Development:** Focus on agriculture, livestock, tailoring, and homestay management.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Promoting eco-friendly business methods.



The collaboration also includes organizing annual Entrepreneur Festivals and capacity-building programs. This partnership will provide local entrepreneurs with essential resources and prepare GCBS students for real-world business challenges, contributing to the community's long-term growth and transformation.

This Newsletter has been compiled by the External Relation Division with supports from ROs of the respective colleges under the Royal University of Bhutan.

Meeting between Michigan State University (MSU) and the College of Natural Resources (November 19, 2024)



A meeting was held between the Michigan State University (MSU) and the College of Natural Resources (CNR), focusing on potential areas for collaboration. Both institutions expressed a strong interest in exploring joint research initiatives and faculty exchange programs as key priorities for future partnership.

Additionally, the discussion delved into the broader role of higher education, considering whether colleges and universities should prioritize educating students or primarily focus on preparing them for the workforce. This exchange of perspectives contributed to a meaningful dialogue and strengthened the rapport between the two institutions, leading to an exchange of ideologies.

Three-Day Workshop on Satellite Mission Payload (December 9-11, 2024)



A three-day workshop on Satellite Mission Payload, facilitated by the GovTech Agency in collaboration with the Electronics and Communication Engineering Department (ECED), began on December 9, 2024, with great enthusiasm. The first day covered space science, satellite technology, and the economics of space, along with brainstorming sessions for innovative mission ideas.

Students from BE3ECE, BE2ECE, and two B.Sc Physics students from Sherubtse College actively participated, contributing to a dynamic and collaborative atmosphere. By the second day, participants had developed promising mission concepts, which they presented on the final day to a panel of Chiba counterparts, GovTech officials, and ECED faculty. The panel provided valuable feedback to refine these ideas. The workshop sparked creativity and progress, with follow-up sessions planned to further develop and enhance the mission proposals.

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Bhutan Foundation and the College of Natural Resources (13 December 2024)



The MoU was signed between the Bhutan Foundation and the College of Natural Resources. Under this partnership, Bhutan Foundation will support five scholarships over the next three years, enabling Bhutanese professionals from both government and non-government sectors to pursue a master's degree in Natural Resource Management or Conservation Biology at CNR.



The event highlighted a shared commitment to advancing education and research in Bhutan. Representatives from both organizations emphasized the importance of this partnership.

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN) and the College of Natural Resources

(19 December 2024)



The Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN) and the College of Natural Resources have officially entered into a partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. This collaboration is designed to strengthen efforts in scientific research, capacity building and educational development, aligning with the shared goals of both institutions.

The MoU outlines several key initiatives, including the implementation of joint research projects, support for graduate and research students and the development of collaborative studies.

Additionally, the partnership will focus on organizing seminars, workshops and conferences to promote knowledge sharing, alongside co-authoring research publications. Through these collaborative efforts, both institutions seek to enhance research capabilities and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of education and sustainable development.