

## CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL DAY AT WANGCHU SCHOOL

The 112th National Day 2019 was celebrated at Wangchu Middle Secondary School. The students & teachers of eight schools of upper Chhukha, sector and regional heads, armed forces and business communities and local leaders of 11 Gewogs participated in the historic celebration.

The main event on the day was the live telecast of His Majesty the King's National Day Address from Changlimithang stadium. The day was also marked with the launching of Chhukha Dzongkhag Newsletter, awarding

of certificates to the best performing Gewogs and the award of certificates to the civil servants performing in 'outstanding' category by DASHO DZONGDAG.

In the chronological event of the Dzongkhag, the day will be remembered for initiating Annual Chhukha Award System and the heart touching cultural performance of the students, teachers, civil servants and business communities dedicated to His Majesty the King's long and healthy life.

- Ugyen Chada, Cultural Officer

## HIS EXCELLENCY LYONCHEN VISITS NGOEDRUP-TSE DZONG

On 15th October 2019, His Excellency Lyonchen Dr. Lotay Tshering visited Ngoedrup-Tse Dzong and met with the staff and regional heads in the Dzong. His Excellency highlighted on the government priorities and long-term plans on health care system, quality of education and economy uplift of the country.



The Dzongkhag Administration arranged potluck lunch for his Excellency and the delegates followed by offering of Khadar to His Excellency.

Later in the evening, HPM visited Chhukha Central School and Tsimalakra Hospital met with the students, teachers, health staff and business community.

## INSTITUTIONAL MEMORIES THAT WAS

- 17th December, 2019: Celebration of 112th National Day
- 12th December, 2019: 2nd Annual Darla Tshochu
- 11th December, 2019: Civil Service Award Ceremony
- 9th December 2019, Inter Gewog Traditional Archery Tournament final
- 1st December, 2019; Annual Dzongkhag Staff Picnic
- 12th November 2019; Moderation Exercise 2018-2019
- 5th November, 2019: Annual Chhukha Tshochu
- 21st October 2019; APA Signing with the Local Leader.
- 18th October 2019; Annual Dzongkhag staff health check up
- 7th September, 2019: Annual Dzongkhag Taekwondo Tournament

# GOOD GOVERNANCE

## THE BEST PERFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN GOOD GOVERNANCE

Good governance is “a way of measuring how an organization conducts public affairs and manages public resources in preferred way”. Many development literature reviews indicates that good governance lies behind all those successful organizations. In the 12th FYP, “Good Governance and Decentralization Enhanced” is one of the 16 Local Government Key Result Areas (LGKRA).

In realization to this, the assessment and evaluation of Performing Local Government (LG) in Good Governance was carried out within the principal framework of Annual Chhukha Award System Initiative (ACASI). Since the Local Governments are under the purview of the Dzongkhag Tshodue (DT), the Secretary of DT shouldered the sole responsibility of this new undertaking.

Covering fiscal year of 2018-19, the assessment and evaluation of 11 LGs was based purely on broad components of good governance of the international standards such as transparency, accountability, rule of law, responsiveness, participation, inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency. The LGs were evaluated each of these areas out of 100. The highest scorer was declared as the Best Performing LG in GG.

The criteria for assessment were set and thoroughly discussed during the Annual Chhukha Award Steering Committee meeting. It was further consulted with the local leaders for common consensus and implementation. As per the set criteria the assessment was done through desk assessment, site visits and interviews.

## ASSESSMENT APPROACHES AND REPORT- METAKHA LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Category		Indicators	Mark	Score	Means of verification	Observations
Rule of Law (30)	Regulatory Enforcements	SRF encroachment	4	4	No. of cases, how is it monitored? Action taken from Gewog, Discussion in relevant forums/meetings.	Gewog has system of reporting to the Gewog from Chiwogs on illegal land encroachment
		Waste Management Act	3	3	How is it monitored? People fined? Delegation of responsibilities in Chiwogs? Discussion in relevant forums/meetings.	Waste management committee formed at Chiwog level and fine system instituted.
		Rural House Construction	4	3.5	No. of illegal construction, Monitoring done by Gewog, action taken from Gewog.	Gewog has system of reporting to the Gewog from Chiwogs on illegal construction. Informed/ discussed in GTs .
	Absence of corruption/ irregularities	Complain to ACC against the administration of Gewog/Chiwogs within Gewog	5	5	<b>Source: IA</b> , 5: No complains, 4: only complain, 3: if 2 complains, 2: if 3 complains, 1: if 4 complains, 0: if more than 4 complains	
		No. of audit memos	5		<b>Source: Preliminary Audit Report</b> , 5: No memos, 4: 1-3 memos, 3: 4-6 memos, 2: 7-9 memos, 1: 10-12 memos, 0: if more than 12 memos (memos will be considered those reflected in preliminary audit report issued to respective Gewogs regardless of their resolution with justification in exit meeting)	
	Implementation of Acts/RRs/By laws	No. of advocacies conducted on any Act, RRs)	3	3	Evidence document required.	Forestry, dispute settlement, law and order, PSL, waste, land, Disaster management, domestic violence, health and sanitation, census.

Category		Indicators	Mark	Score	Means of verification	Observations
Transparency and accountability (25)	Information dissemination.	Availability Public Notice Board	5	4.5	The evaluators will mark based on the information and contents displayed	Displayed all information
		Institution of coordination meetings.	5	5	Refer minutes	Monthly management meeting instituted.
		Follow up on resolution (GT & coordination meetings)	5	4.5	Random evaluation from minutes	Done
		Gewog Working Calendar.	5	5	Evidence document required.	Prepared comprehensively.
		Adoption of mechanism to disseminate information (facebook page, wechat, messenger, telegram, etc as group)	5	5	Evidence document required.	Facebook page, Metakha fraternity 2019, Chiwogs has separate group, Gewog Group, NFE group.
Participatory & Inclusiveness (20)	Community Engagement	Dzomdu participation	4	3	Attendance register	Record maintained.
		Absentee of GT members in GTs.	4	4	Refer GT attendance	No absentees.
		Conduct of GT	4	4	Formal/traditional proceedings	
		Disable friendly programs, infrastructures	4	3.5	Carry out observations	Tarayana support, Kidu proposal submitted to Dzongkhag.
		Functionality of user groups	4	3.5	Evidence document required	Has 6 user groups with proper bylaws.
Effective and efficient service delivery (25)	Service delivery standard	SOP/TAT for service delivery	5	3.5	Evidence document required	Service book maintained but no time mentioned.
		Functionality of CC	5	4.5	Field visit	Functional
		Gewog strategic road map	5	4.5	Evidence document required	Prepared comprehensively
		Financial achievement	5	2	Past FY achievement ( <b>Source: Finance Section</b> ) 5 points: >=94, 4: 89-93, 3: 83-88, 2: 77-82, 1: 71-76, 0: <70	81.50%
		Institution of grievance re-addressal mechanism	5	4.5	Evidence document required	Has register maintained for grievances (refer photograph), 17 cases resolved and maintained record in mediation book, suggestion box installed, mediation committee formed.
<b>100</b>			<b>100</b>	<b>83.5</b>		

Based on the highest score, Metakha was adjudged the Best Performing Local Government in Good Governance among the 11 Local Governments in Chhukha. The certificate, bearing signature of the Honourable Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs was awarded to Gup during the 112th National Day Celebration at Wangchu Middle Secondary School.



In general, this conformity assessment committee observed that there is need for the LGs to focus more on good governance improvement plan, instituting robust monitoring system, strengthening the roles and responsibilities of local leaders and empowering Gewog Administrative Officers in taking the LGs to the top.

**- Tshewang Dorji, Secretary, Dzongkhag Tshogdue**



## SENSITIZATION ON GEWOG ANNUAL GRANT GUIDELINE

On 1st July, the Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Finance, the officials from Department of National Budget, GNH Commission and Government Performance Management Division conducted a day long sensitization on Gewog Annual Grant (GAG) Guideline to the Gups, GAOs, Planning Officers and Finance Officers of four Dzongkhags (Samtse, Chhukha, Haa & Paro) in Phuentsholing.

As a milestone of progressive decentralization process, the Government introduced Gewog Annual Grant from the Financial Year 2019-2020.

The day long program was carried out with the view that the major chunk of the budget are being directly released to the Gewogs and that it is important for the LGs to understand the Guideline for implementation. The Government introduced GAG with the objectives to:

1. Empower Gewog and deepen decentralization process.
2. Enhance citizen-centric local development, growth and service delivery.
3. Enhance flexibility and discretion in planning and use of Gewog budget.
4. Promote transparency, accountability and ownership in the use of Grants and



5. Ease disbursement and reduce bureaucratic procedures.

Dasho Dzongdag of Chhukha, Drungpa and Thrompon of Phuentsholing, Superintendent of RBP, Phuentsholing and Members of Parliament from Samtse, Chhukha, Haa and Paro Dzongkhag attended the meeting.

- Wangdi Gyelpo, Sr. Planning Officer

## ANNUAL CHHUKHA AWARD SYSTEM INITIATIVE

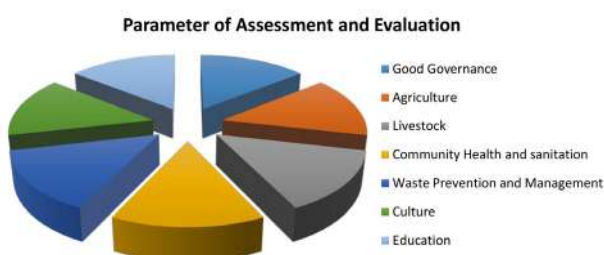
The country has seen rapid socio-economic development with institutionalization of the democratic constitutional monarchy in 2008. There is paradigm shift in both fiscal and administrative power to the local governments. For instance, there is an increase of 50 percent of financial and human resources from the Central to Local Governments [LGs] in the 12th FYP.

Against this backdrop, the LGs in Chhukha have initiated within the scope of their mandates, a simple monitoring system that ensures the resource allocation are properly monitored and efficiently used for the well-being of our people. The Dzongkhag also undertakes overall monitoring of the activities related to the Local Government Key Result Areas [LGKRAs] and Dzongkhag Performance Indicators [DKPIs].

Introduced in line with the decision made in the 11th Dzongkhag Monthly Management Meeting, Annual

Chhukha Award System Initiative [ACASI] is one of the strategies of Dzongkhag Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism that drives the achievement of LGKRAs. Specifically it intends to leverage the initiatives and best practices of the Local Governments. It is a check-in to see how well internal procedures are meeting the initial objectives of the 12th FYP and LGKRAs. In nutshell, the ACASI measures the big picture performance of LGs [11 Gewogs] across the broad parameter such as good governance and vibrant democracy, waste prevention and management, preservation and promotion of culture and tradition, community health and sanitation, education, agriculture and livestock productivity. Each range of areas were assessed and evaluated out of 100. The highest score out of 700 (7 areas) was declared as the Best Performing LG of Chhukha Dzongkhag.

In order to achieve the aforementioned objectives of the ACASI, the coordination meeting was organized on August 29, 2019. The meeting discussed and formed the Annual Award Steering Committee members comprising: Dasho Dzongda, Sr. Dzongrab, District Planning Officer, DT Secretary, Dy. Chief District Health Officer, Chief District Education Officer, Dy. Chief District Livestock Officer, Dy. Chief District Agriculture Officer, District Culture Officer and District Environment Officer. The meeting also discussed and decided the time-frame work



plan, areas of assessment and criteria, approaches, prizes and certificates to be awarded to the performing LGs coinciding with the celebration of 112th National Day. The consultative meetings with the local leaders and GAOs were organized for communication, coordination and collaboration as per the resolution of the steering committee meeting.

Subsequently, the different sector heads assessed and evaluated the LGs' performance as per their set criteria through desk assessment, site visits and interviews. The information collected and picture recorded were maintained properly for evidences and future reference. The assessment and evaluation covered the fiscal year,

Sl.no.	Areas of Assessment & Evaluation	Performing Local Governments
1	Good Governance and Vibrant Democracy	Metakha
2	Waste Prevention and Management	Chapcha
3	Preservation and promotion of Culture	Bjabcho
4	Community Health and Sanitation	Metakha
5	Education	Bjabcho
6	Agriculture	Phuentsholing
7	Livestock	Sampheling
8	Performing Local Government of the Year	Metakha

2018-19. After more than a month long assessment and evaluation, the committee finally sat together on December 12, 2019 and identified the performing Local Governments of Chhukha in eight different areas:

To maintain institutional memory and also to mark the historic celebration of 112th National Day, Dashi Dzongdag, the Chief Guest and other distinguished



*The local government of the year- Metakha.*

guests for the grand event awarded certificates signed by Ministers of respective Ministries to the above performing Local Governments. All in all, Metakha Gewog was declared as the Performing Local Government of the Year, and was awarded with the certificate-bearing signature of the Honourable Prime Minister of Bhutan and Cash Prize of Nu. 1.00 m from Dzongkhag Development Grant.

Sharing information and capitalization of best practices during such National Celebration created a sense of competition among the Local Leaders and was the good motivating factor for their organizational improvement. Through this first kind of award system, the Local Governments in the Dzongkhag have already adapted what worked well and understood why those particular LGs have taken those initiatives. In general, this initiation not only promoted a clear sense of direction for the LGs in pursuit of accomplishing their LGKRAs but has also provided a mechanism of providing the professional support services/technical backup to the local leaders by the concern sector heads in particular. In realization of the coordination and monitoring objectives of the 12th FYP, the ACASI started in 2019, will be one of the annual events of the Dzongkhag.

- Sherub Dorji, Sr. Dzongrab

## CIVIL SERVICE AWARD CEREMONY, DECEMBER 11, 2019



## ONLINE MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEM

The monitoring and evaluation is one of the integral parts of management cycle. It is very critical for organizational effectiveness. A lack of coordination and monitoring system is one of the national issues reflected in the 12th FYP documents.

In line with this, the participants of Sector Retreat - Policy Dialogue for Effective Change organized in June 2019 at Tenzingling Resort, Paro discussed in depth the monitoring issues and challenges spearheaded by Dasho Drungpa, Phuentshogling. After series of group dialogue, the floor agreed to institute the three levels of online monitoring and reporting system (OMRS). That is a system at Dzongkhag, Sector and Dungkhag/Gewog levels. The retreat also recommended the District Planning Officer (DPO) and ICT Officer (ICTO) to develop the standard operational procedures (SOP) taking advantage of the information communication and technology facilities.

### Modality of Monitoring and Reporting System

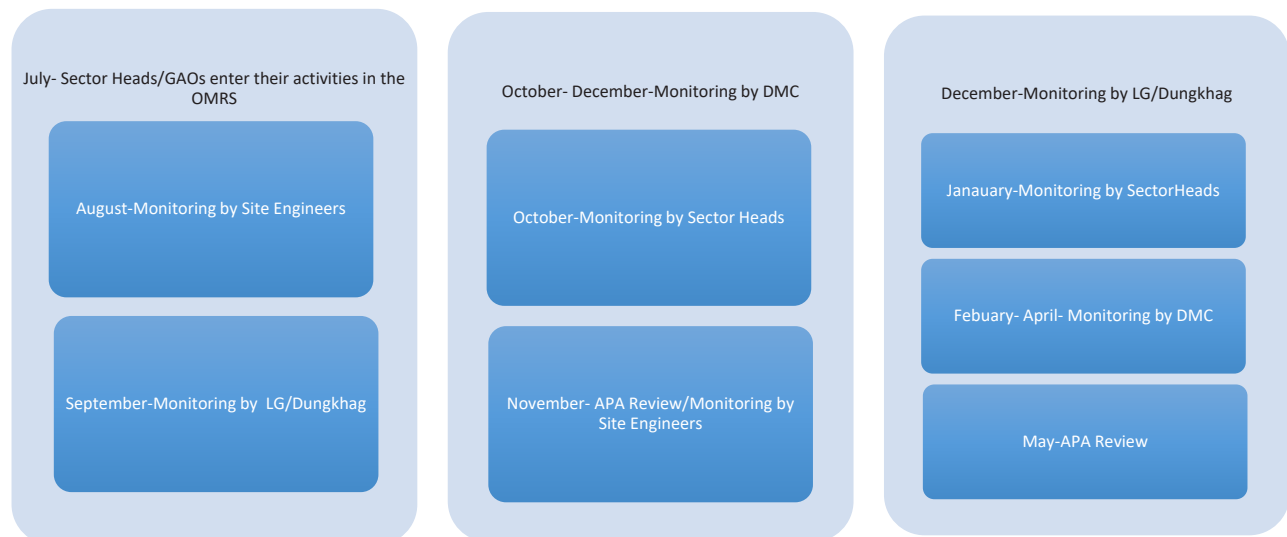


Subsequently, the DPO and ICTO made the following presentations in the 12th Dzongkhag Monthly Management Meeting: The Online Monitoring Operation and Its System, Purposes of Monitoring, Committee Members, Approaches and Frequency of Monitoring, Follow-up Mechanism and Annual Monitoring Work Plan. The meeting also formed the Dzongkhag Monitoring Committee (DMC): Dasho Dzongdag/Dzongrab (chairperson), Dz. Planning Officer(member secretary), Dz. Finance Officer and Procurement Officer as members. The DMC was entrusted fully with the responsibilities to: ensure a proper and timely planning and execution of all the capital activities, conduct a proper and timely monitoring and supervision, point out the rectification works to the contractors which do not meet the standards, check the overall progress of the capital activities in the Dzongkhag, work out strategies to improve the implementation of the programs, enhance the Sectors and Gewogs' monitoring system and, put up the cases requiring the high level decision to the Dzongkhag Tender Committee(DTC) for immediate action.

Before implementation of the system, the committee ensured that all Sector Heads, Dungkhag and Gewog Administration enter their activities of the financial year 2019-20 in the OMRS. That was as per the format developed and launched in the Dzongkhag website. The concerned officials were fixed accountability for timely online entry and information reporting on quarterly basis. They members were given access to the OMRS. With such system in place, the monitoring of activities is carried out at three different levels.

The site engineers carry on the first level of monitoring and reporting. They are on the frontline of the Dzongkhag monitoring system. At least once in a month, they

### Annual DMC Work Plan





monitor and ensure the implemented activities are as per the drawing and designs. Most importantly, they provide monitoring and professional support services to the contractors/ beneficiaries and address the issues if any. Finally, the site engineers reflect the action taken/ recommendations/ issues of site visits in the OMRS.

Since the different plan activities belong to different sector heads/Dungkhag and Gewogs, they play pivotal roles by being accountable for timely and quality completion. Therefore they conduct site visits as and when required as per the recommendations and issues reflected in the OMRS by the site engineers. More so they discuss with site engineer and relevant stakeholders to resolve the issues. Then the sector heads/Drungkhag/ Gewogs compile and reflect the pertinent issues, physical progress and overall progress on quarterly basis in the OMRS.

As an overall monitoring body of the organization, the DMC takes immediate action after reviewing the issues/recommendations made by the site engineers/ sector heads/Dungkhag/Gewogs in the OMRS and conducts monitoring and supervision on quarterly basis according to the Annual Work Plan. Besides scheduled monitoring program, the DMC carries out monitoring

based on the directive of the DTC. On need basis, the DMC also conducts site visit and monitor the activities under Dungkhag Administration spearheaded by Dasho Dzongdag. The DPO, member secretary of the DMC takes lead role in compiling reports, implementation issues, overall physical progress and financial achievement in Sector-wise/Dungkhag and Gewog and, present it to Dasho Dzongdag for overall feedbacks.

This is how the overall monitoring and reporting on planned activities of the Dzongkhag are maintained. It is one of the approaches of how the OMRS enhances the concern sector heads and LG leaders to be on toes and provides overall picture of their level of performance on quarterly basis. It not only promotes the transparency and professionalism amongst the stakeholders but also fixes accountability for managing their plan activities efficiently. Since this OMRS is instituted at Dzongkhag, Sector and Dungkhag/Gewogs levels in July 20019, it is already proving crucial in providing facts and figures as per the APA mandates for review and updates.

- Wangdi Gyelpo, Dz. Planning Officer



**Signing of APA in between Dasho Dzongdag and Local Leaders, October 22, 2019**

# ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION

## WORLD OZONE DAY OBSERVATION

Chhukha Dzongkhag Administration observed "World Ozone Day" on 16th September, 2019 at Chapcha Middle secondary school. The day was observed on the theme "32 Years & Healing". It's been 32 years that all the nations around the world worked hard to restore the depleted ozone layer and the efforts are still being made to heal the Ozone Layer.

The day was graced by DASHO DZONGDAG and officials from Dzongkhag, Chapcha Gewog Administration, nearby school staff and local communities. The importance of Ozone Layer was highlighted in the gathering and urged all participants to advocate on the importance of using ozone friendly products along with shouldering individual responsibility of being an ozone ambassadors amongst other programs.

Bhutan became party to Vienna Convention & Montreal Protocol in 2004 and further ratified Kigali Amendment in June 2019 which forms the Multilateral



Environmental Agreements for the protection of ozone layer at the international level.

- **Thukten, Vice Principal, Chapcha MSS**

## THE BEST PERFORMING GEWOG IN WASTE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

Recognizing the significance of wholesome planned development, the Royal Government of Bhutan has always placed important priority in environment conservation and waste management is no exception. The Government has formulated waste flagship program which intends to manage wastes through the integration of feasible waste management models and up-scaling initiatives; the issue of waste management poses a phenomenal challenge and as such it is increasingly becoming a major environmental problem that needs immediate attention from all stakeholders and citizens, at large.

Considering the importance of waste management and also in taking stock of similar efforts, Chhukha Dzongkhag Administration initiated an assessment on waste category amongst all 11 Gewogs under the aegis of "Annual Dzongkhag Award System, 2019". All waste management reports received from respective Gewog Administrations were evaluated and rated on following agreed criteria(s):

- Plan in place: 20 %
- Implementation of plan: 30 %
- Advocacies (or) sensitization programs initiated and conducted: 10 %
- New innovative ideas (or) activities initiated and its sustainability: 30 %
- Outreach of the waste management initiatives: 10 %

In essence, all Gewogs were found to be forthcoming towards this initiative and also observed implementing various waste management programs at their levels;



notably, most of the Gewogs have initiated plan formulation, village sanitary committee formation, monitoring and enforcement at the local levels and collaboration amongst institutions/schools amongst many other cross-sectoral advocacy programs including the observance of Zero Waste Hour. Nonetheless, all Gewogs are encouraged to continually strategize their efforts towards improving waste management in the locality and beyond as mandated under the WPMA 2009 and its Regulations.

Chapcha Gewog Administration bagged first prize in waste category and was recognized through certificate of appreciation. The award was presented to Mr. Tobgay, Chapcha Gup coinciding with the National Day Celebration at Wangchhu Middle Secondary School, Chhukha on 17th December, 2019. In the coming years, the administration is hopeful that this exercise will spur more competition amongst the Gewogs, which in itself is a public education on wastes intended to bring about positive behavioural change in the minds of our people.

- **Sangay Norbu, Environment Officer**



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE – 'OUR GYENKHUR' PROGRAM

The less frequent but a beautiful sunny day in Tsimasham on Saturday 17 August saw 53 'non-subsidized' LPG cylinders taken by the participants at the Citizen's Initiative – Our Gyenkbur' program. The Venerable Lam Neten of Ngoedrup-Tse Rabdey Dratshang was the Chief Guest alongside DASHO DZONGDAG, DZONGRAB, DRANGPON and Commandant of Special Reserve Police Force (SRPF), TASHIGATSHEL. The Chief Engineer of CHEP (CHPC) and Regional Managers of BDBL and Bhutan Telecom and the Principal of Chhukha Central School and Teachers of Chapcha High School participated in the event. Present were also the Police from Tsimasham Police Station. Our Sectors were equally represented.

The event was made more special with the involvement of private entity, Bhutan Oil Distributors of Tsimasham, who did all the necessary Chadri and tea arrangements. The RTIO was represented by Mr. Sonam Dendup, Sr.



Trade Officer and Mr. Tawla, Yeshey Wangchuk and Lekey who all worked hard to make the event successful.

**The Economic Development Officer coordinated from the Dzongkhag side.**

**- Sangay Thinley, Sr. Economic Development Officer**

## TAPPING THE TOURISM POTENTIAL OF CHHUKHA

The Poverty rate of Chhukha Dzongkhag including Phuentsholing Thromde is 3.5%. It has decreased drastically from 11.2% in 2012 but the poverty rate of the Dzongkhag without the Phuentsholing Thromde is 4.8% (PAR, 2017). The Dzongkhag also has the 2nd highest unemployment rate in the country with 2.9% against the national average of 2.0% (BLSS, 2017). There are 1834 unemployed people out of which 562 men and 1272 are. The high rate of unemployment attributes to high level of rural-urban migration to Chhukha mostly youth. The Dzongkhag has the fourth highest proportion of population who were migrants with 62.86% (GNH Survey, 2015). There are 152 cottage, small and medium registered under Chhukha Dzongkhag (CSI Report, 2018). About 80% of them flourish in Phuentsholing and Sampheling town leaving other Gewogs with no opportunity to enhance its economic growth through CSMIs. There is a need for Dzongkhag to diversify production and most importantly to spread out the establishment of new CSMIs and employment generation at the rural areas away from the Thromdes.

The Dzongkhag aims to create 500 new jobs in 12th Plan. All these jobs will be created by facilitating the

establishment of 20 farms related CSMIs and 10 non-farms related CSMIs which is expected to generate income at household level and reduce poverty of all forms and levels. The above aims for job creation through establishment of CSMIs will require an overhaul in the way we perceive and conduct economic development initiatives at the LG level and the efforts at the LG should contribute towards drafting the 21st century economic road map of the country.

Chhukha is well known for regional tourists who enter through Phuentsholing and travels to the rest of the country. The number of tourists passing through the Dzongkhag is high mostly during the winter months.

So if tourism has to be promoted in Chhukha, two of the areas to focus are: 1). Regional Tourists & 2). Winter months

The Prime Minister of Bhutan pronounced the need to "take tourists to the south for specific reasons and to bring tourists during winter". The promotion of regional tourism through off season promotion have also been the focus of tourism promotion strategy of the Tourism Council of Bhutan.

On 11th September 2018, the first consultation meeting

between Tourism Council of Bhutan and Chhukha Dzongkhag Administration was held in Chhukha to identify tourism products for development. The meeting was attended by the Gups and Gewog Administrative Officers of 11 Gewogs and the Sector Heads from the Dzongkhag. Following tourism products were identified during the meeting:

1. Recreational parks and roadside amenities along Thimphu-Phuentsholing Highway
2. Rafting from Lingden-Amochu Bridge
3. Cycling route from Damsite-Chanachen-Gedu via Shawgayla Lake
4. Development of Dagala-Tshamdra and Dagala-Paga Trails

With the appointment of new Economic Development Officer in 2019, the above proposals were further reviewed and formulated as the Dzongkhag Economic Development Plan in the 12th FYP.

1. Rafting from Lingden-Amochu Bridge, Phuentsholing
2. Chhukha Dam site for Tourism, Bjabchog
3. Organic Model Village, Chanachen, Geling

4. Development of Dagala-Tshamdra and Dagala-Paga Trails, Chapcha
  5. Development of Gedu Chorten Area as a Tourism Product, Bongo
  6. Development of Orchid Park in Gedu Forest Range, Bongo
  7. Rhododendron Park in Noedruptse Dzong premises, Bjabcho
  8. Promotion of Phaktshoding Trek, Gedu, Bongo
  9. Development of Eco-Tourism in Jigmechu, Darla
  10. The Smartest Gewog Project, Metakha
  11. Chhukha Natural Branding
  12. Farm House establishment in Dungna, Getana and Lochina
  13. Development of Recreational parks and roadside amenities along Thimphu-Phuentsholing Highway
- Considering the accessibility and unexplored potentiality in tourist destination, ecotourism in Chhukha Dzongkhag has been identified as one of the local development priorities and will play a pivotal role in transforming the Dzongkhag into economic prosperity.

- Sangay Thinley, Sr. Economic Development Officer

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## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

### GOOGLE APPS REFRESHER COURSE

A half-day program on 6th August to refresh Dzongkhag staff on the various functionalities under G-Suite was conducted by the Dzongkhag ICT sector as part of the Google Apps refresher course. Even after more than five years of government efforts to use G-Suite across all institutions, we have few who still use only Gmail and cannot make use of all the Google Apps. It may be because users are not well aware of or not confident of using it.

Thus, with the objective to refresh on the usage and benefits of various apps in G Suite and to improve coordination, collaboration and communication between different institutions at the LG levels, the Dzongkhag ICT sector initiated the refresher course.

At the program, hands-on exercises were involved. The outcome of the course was that the staff were able to develop individual working calendars using G-Suite and collaborate on tasks using G Docs, Sheets, Slides and



Drive. The use of video conferencing by the sectors to engage with the field staff in the Gewogs was encouraged to minimize on the travel costs. Sr. Dzongrab chaired the event.

- Tshering Zam, ICTO

# EDUCATION

## EIGHT PRIMARY SCHOOLS RECEIVE DAY FEEDING PROGRAM

Day Feeding Program was started in eight primary schools from August,2019. The primary schools (PS) were: Lingden PS, Pachu PS, Meretsemo PS, Shemagangkha PS, Tashilakha PS, Rangaytung PS,Khatekha PS and Alaykha PS.

The Day Feeding Program makes learning fruitful for the children with their basic needs fulfilled. It helps children not having to carry heavy lunch boxes to schools or having to walk back to their homes for lunch.

More schools will be proposed for the program by the Dzongkhag to the School Health and Nutrition Division (SHND) of Ministry of Education.

- Lham Tshering, Dy. CDEO



## ANALYSIS OF CLASS X STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Chhukha Dzongkhag Education fraternities tirelessly work towards better academic results and wholesome development of students. Student's academic performances (Academic Learning Score) have been the area of interest for all the schools across the country and to the higher education institutions. Quality of education has been a point of discussion over the past years and individual Dzongkhag and schools were strictly advised by the Ministry to work on upscaling of academic performances considering major curriculum reviews and thinning. Researchers has carried out studies on factors related to the academic performance of university students and has become a topic of growing interest in higher educational circle. Hanson (2000) reported that Student performance is affected by different factors such as learning abilities, gender and race. Simmons, et al. (2005) concluded that family income level, attending full time, receiving grant aid and completing advanced level classes in high school having statistically significant effects on college persistence among first generation college students.

Students' attitude towards attendance in classes,

level of parental engagement in school activities, time allocation for studies, parents' level of income and abundance of teaching learning materials are some of key factors that affect performance of students. This report explains in detail about the performance of class Ten (X) students in various Secondary Schools under Chhukha Dzongkhag.

Theoretical framework above shows that academic performance depends on learning skills and learning skills depends on school and home environment. Also academic performance depends on academic interaction and academic interaction depends on study habits and home/school environment. It means academic performance can be estimated for any student by its home and school environment and learning skills. And it is also by its academic interaction, study habits, and home environment. By examining the three possible paths of estimating academic performance, the strongest path is the home environment which affects the learning skills and ultimately learning skills lead to affect the academic performance.

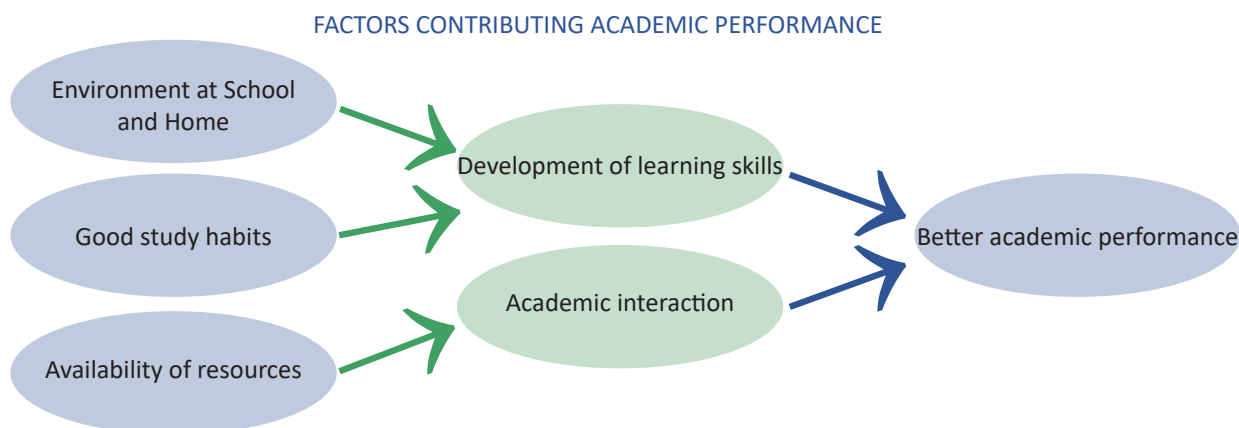


Fig.1. Theoretical framework depicting factors contributing towards academic performance



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

CLASS X RESULT ANALYSIS YEAR: 2017, 2018, 2019								
Class level	Year	No of students with average marks $\geq 45\%$ (A)	No of students with average marks $\geq 60\%$ (B)	No of students with average marks $\geq 70\%$ (C)	% above 45% (A/T*100)	% above 60% (B/T*100)	% above 70% (C/T*100)	Total No. of Stds in class X.
X	2017	709	341	108	92.6	44.5	14.1	766
X	2018	825	411	137	94.8	47.2	15.7	870
X	2019	732	417	145	95.3	54.3	18.9	768

Table: 1. Academic learning score (ALS) of class X for three consecutive years

In the light of above result, we can determine that the Class X BCSE performance of Chhukha Dzongkhag is progressive in the past three consecutive years.

In the year 2017, 709 students out of 766 in Secondary Schools under Chhukha Dzongkhag scored more than or equal to 45%, 825 out of 870 in 2018 and 732 out of 768 in 2019. The data shows that every year there is rise in numbers of students who qualified beyond 45% which is remarkable. It is significant for students to score more than 45% in BCSE as it determines the pass certificate awards while calculating academic learning scores.

**Pie chart showing percentage of students scoring above 45% in three years**

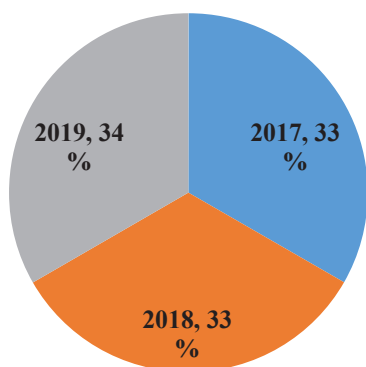


Fig.2. Pie showing percentage of students scoring above 45% in the past three years

Out of 766 students, 341 scored more than or equal to 60% in 2017, 411 out of 870 in 2018 and 417 out of 768 in 2019 which depicts that there is continuous increase in the numbers of students who scored more than 60% in the national examination.

Dzongkhag education performance rating marks on higher scale and can become competitive with other

Dzongkhag if more number of students score more than or equal to 70%. 108 out of 766 students scored more than or equal to 70% in 2017, 137 out 870 score more than 70% in 2018 and finally 145 out 768 students scored

**Percentage of students scoring above 70 in past three years**

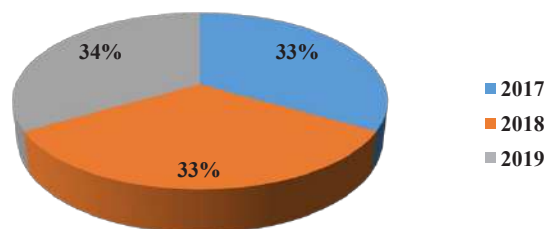


Fig.3. Percentage of students scoring above 60 in BCSE in 2017, 2018, 2019

**Students scoring above 60% in three years**

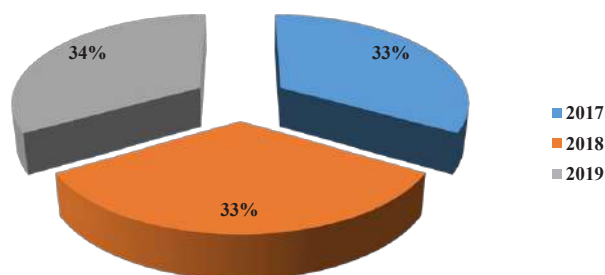


Fig. 4. Students who scored above 70% in 2017, 2018, 2019

above 70% in 2019 academic year.

Table 2 summarizes a steady increase in the number of students qualifying from BCSE national examination in Secondary schools of Chhukha Dzongkhag. It is also evident that constant rise in the academic performance is due to the rigorous efforts put in by the Dzongkhag Education Sector in collaboration with schools and various stakeholders.

Year	Pass %
2017	92.6 %
2018	94.8 %
2019	95.3 %

**Table: 2. Pass percentage in past three years**

### INITIATIVES AND WAY FORWARD

In order to boost the academic performance, Dzongkhag Education sector has taken various initiatives and most remarkable one was ‘Academic Accelerating Activities’ (3 As) whereby intervention measures were put in place and ample of academic enhancement discussion at different levels held at Dzongkhag level. Schools were



Name: **Kezang Choden**  
**Whole Bhutan Third in Arts Stream**  
Percentage scored: **83.5**  
Stream: **Arts**  
Year: **2019**  
School: **Chukha Central School**

given an opportunity to explore the best possibilities to overcome academic deficiency.

For high Academic Performance, we will be working out with the students to basically improve their Home and school Environment and Study Habits like give proper study time, proper revision of preparing notes, avoid activities interfere in planned schedule of study, then their Learning Skills like especially presentation skills, reading the material related to course content besides the lecture notes and Academic Interaction especially academic discussions with other class fellows and teachers. Dzongkhag education sector will also be exploring the possibilities for professional development programs, exchange programs for teachers and instating culture of action research for better performance.

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- Tshering, Principal, Darla MSS

## CULTURE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION

### ANNUAL CHHUKHA TSHECHU

The three-day Annual Chhukha Tshechu was organized inside the Dzong from 5-8, November, 2019. The Dzongkhag dancers and monks performed the mask and folk dances. A flower exhibition and sale also organized for the first time by the Dzongkhag Beautification Sector. The was Annual Lottery Raffle draw initiated by Upper



Chhukha Dessup to raise fund for their daily substance. The interesting event of the Tshechu was the performance of the Dzongkhag Theme Song by the Dzongkhag Staff.

On the final day, Thongdroel was unfurled for general public at 6.30 am. Unlike in the past this year Tshechu observed thousands of public gathered to witness the Tshechu.



## BEST GEWOG IN CULTURE & EDUCATION



Receiving the Certificates for the Best Performing Gewog in Culture and Education.

The Award for the Best Gewog in Preservation of Culture & Tradition was awarded to Bjabcho Gewog during the 112th National Day Celebration at Wangchu MSS. The Gewog bagged the award for initiatives in promoting Dzongkha language in both spoken and written forms, promotion of Driglam Namzha and inception of Traditional Archery competition as an annual Gewog event.

Maximum official correspondences made in Dzongkha

language and number of awareness and trainings on Driglam Namzha conducted were the criteria for the assessment. The Gewog is also the recipient of performing local government in Education, Thus, we the officials and public of Bjabchog Gewog felt proud and valued for promoting our national identity and quality of education for the benefit of general public.

- Pema Loday, GAO, Bjabchog Gewog

## INTER-GEWOG TRADITIONAL ARCHERY TOURNAMENT FINAL

Chhukha traditional archery tournament final was organized on December 9, 2019, in between the four teams of Bongo, Geling, Phuentsholing and Dzongkhag. Initiated to promote our dying traditional sports, a year long tournament was first organized at Gewog level involving the teams from the Chewogs and then the winners from the Gewogs took part in the cluster level tournament.

The Yellow Colour Team of Dzongkhag came as the winners of the tournament followed by Red Colour Team of Bongo and then by the Blue Colour Team of Phuentsholing Gewog.

- Sangay Tshewang,  
Traditional Archery Sports Coordinator



## ANNUAL DZONGKHAG PICNIC

Annual Dzongkhag staff picnic was organised to bring all the staffs and families together and know one another and to refresh ourselves from daily works. 1/12/2019 at Wangchu.





## LIVESTOCK SECTOR

### A PROMISING RURAL DAIRY ENTERPRISE IN SAMPHELING

Dairy farming has been one of the priorities activities for the farmers of Sampheling Gewog. It started 20 years ago with few farmers who owned few numbers of quality Jersey-Cross cattle and struggles they faced to market their dairy produce.

Rapid increase in human population with urbanization uncovered the opportunity for those farmers who had keen interest on dairy farming. On top of that the help and support bestowed by Royal Government of Bhutan in the form of subsidy, capacity enhancement through training and awareness programme, supply of improved breed of cattle and support to farmers group formation and registration has further helped to morally boost their interest towards dairy farming.

The dairy group known as “Sampheling Meday Gonor Gongphel Detshen” run by the elected management committee members, has been in its successful operations for many years. Each household in the area who are the member of the group are being provided with facility to have well-structured cow shed with quality Jersey

Cows producing 32-35 liters per day. With more than 50 households contributing milk in the Milk Collection Centre (MCC) the group has three milk vans hired for milk collection twice in a day; once in the morning and in the evening.

The MCC location is further advantaged with the available beer factory established nearby. The spent grains from the beer factory is used as additives in the cattle feed which the group members collect from the factory on regular basis. It adds nutritive value to the feed and in turn contributes towards better milk production.

With the increased production, the group also prepares for the uncertainties’ of the future to market the dairy produce. To this end, the group has its future plan to upscale quality productions through product diversification, value addition, improved packaging to meet the growing market demand. The group looks forward to strengthening itself with further technical and financial support from the Chhukha Dzongkhag Livestock sector and the government.

- **Purna Bdr. Mahat, Livestock Incharge, Sampheling Gewog**

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### PAKSHIKHA GONOR GONGPHEL DETSHEN FORMED

A Dairy farmers’ group have been formed for Pakshikha community with completion of drafting of group’s By-Laws on 27th and 28th January 2020 which was initiated by Bongo Gewog Administration with technical support from Dzongkhag Livestock Sector. Each and every member of the group actively participated in framing

by-Laws which was formulated in accordance with the Cooperative Amendment Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2009 and subsequent Cooperative Rules and Regulations 2010. Almost a year ago the farmers were provided training on the concept of group and its importance by the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector, and began functioning as saving’s group.

The group comprises 17 members mainly of Dairy farmers who aims to improve dairy farming in their community through introduction of quality Dairy Cows to enhance milk production and work towards processing, value addition and marketing of the produce. The group will also carry out installation of biogas plants in their respective households to provide alternative energy source of cooking and lighting.

The group will be soon registered with the Department of Agriculture Marketing and Cooperatives under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.

- **Sherab Tenzin, Dy. Chief Livestock Officer**



## SAMPHELING- THE BEST LIVESTOCK PERFORMING GEWOG

The Annual Dzongkhag Award System in Chhukha Dzongkhag has been conceptualized and instituted as a regular feature and priority initiatives within the Dzongkhag development programme starting 2019. This annual feature is aimed at ensuring pro-active participation of grassroots in every field of development that enable to boost the all-round development of the community ensuring better rural livelihood in the area of socio-cultural and economic development in relation to sustainable utilization of natural resources.

Pro-Livestock initiatives Gewog is one priority list considered for this award system. The Award Tasks Force Committee comprising Sector heads had been formed who were entrusted with the responsibilities to develop assessment protocols and tools, and carry out assessment for the ADAWS. The activity involved field visits assessing and verifying the ground realities through evidence based, desk top reviewing with updated database, formal and informal interview with the Gewog Tshogdey members.

A Task force committee used ten criteria to assess the Gewogs performance in the area of Livestock activities. The assessment period covered the first fiscal year 2018-2019 of the 12th Five Year Plan.



The means of verification used were:

- Documentation- Annual Livestock Census and Production data Collection
- Physical assessment by a team through field visit
- Perceptions (TAT)- through informal Interview

Sampheling Gewog stood first in Livestock programme scoring 81 % and received the Certificate recognizing it as the best Livestock Performing Gewog for the period of 2018-2019 fiscal year. Following are some of the salient features which credited the scores deserving the best Performing Gewog.

1. More than 4 Livestock products were diversified and value added.
2. Gewog constructed more than 20 Biogas plants till date.
3. More than 10 Livestock farmers group established, registered and some revitalized
4. Ten and above households adopted quality Livestock breeds under improved housing and quality rearing.
5. More than 10 Livestock innovative activities are implemented.
6. The Service Turn Around Time (TAT) is assessed to be less than 5 hours.
7. More than 21 jobs were created to reduce the unemployment status in the Gewog
8. About 21-40 acres of fallow land has been effectively utilized for Livestock farming.
9. The Gewog's sufficiency in almost all Livestock Products stands 20 % and above.
10. More than 5 categories of Livestock are reared by the people of Sampheling Gewog crediting this Gewog as Livestock Priority area.

- Sherab Tenzin, Dy Chief Livestock Officer

## AGRICULTURE

### FARM ROAD TO GELING GONPA

The construction of fifteen kilometres farm road from Chanachen to Geling Goenpa will benefit over one hundred twenty households. Without road connectivity, sixty households in Layakha remained empty. Over three hundred people settled in Kamji and nearby areas. Even the Gewog officials provide services from a temporary office in Tsimasham. Farm road in Chanachen village in Chhukha is bringing back people who once migrated to Kamji and nearby areas three decades ago. People in the village are happy with the inauguration of construction of another farm road, which will connect the remaining three Chiwogs in Geling Gewog.

- Sonam Penjor, BBS, P/ling





## FARMERS MARKETING GROUPS (FMGS) MARKETING LINKAGE



From 29-30 November, a two day consultative workshop on linking of Farmers Marketing Groups (FMGs) with domestic markets was held in Phuentsholing chaired by DASHO DZONGDAG. It was coordinated by Department of Agriculture Marketing and Cooperatives (DAMC) and Chhukha Dzongkhag Agriculture sector.

There were more than 80 participants from different sectors which included Drungpa of Phuentsholing, Dzongkhag, Tshogde Thrizin of Chhukha, representatives from Department of Agriculture and Department of Agricultural Marketing & Cooperatives, Ministry of Education, Finance, Procurement sector heads, Gewog RNR staff, School Principals, Chairperson of Farmers' Marketing Groups (FMG) and representative from hotels,

hospitals and colleges.

The main objectives of the consultation were to:

- 1) Create awareness on White Paper on School-Hospital Feeding Program
- 2) To review and renew the annual contractual agreement between FMGs and linked schools
- 3) Create awareness to potential markets for agricultural produce for hospital, schools and hotels.

The appropriate strategy to sustain the linking program between institutions and the FMGs were developed. At the end of the workshop, contractual agreements for linkage between the FMGs and 23 schools, 3 hospitals and 2 BHUs were signed.

- Sonam Phuntsho, ADAO



## FARM ROAD TO THE FURTHEST CHIWOGS OF CHHUKHA

The Honourable Member of Parliament, DASHO TSHEWANG LHAMO and Sr. DZONGRAB inaugurated Phusa to Daga-Tashigang Farm Road under Getana Gewog on 11th August. The 13.5 km farm road construction project is scheduled to complete within 15 months and will benefit 43 households of Daga and Tashigang Chiwoogs of Getana - the remotest Gewog of Chhukha.

- Kinley, Gup, Getana





## HEALTH

### ANNUAL HEALTH SENSITIZATION



Early in the morning of 18th October, staff of Chhukha Dzongkhag provided blood samples at the Dzongkhag Conference hall to assess for blood sugar and cholesterol levels and to carry out regular blood investigations. This was the initiative of Dzongkhag Health sector and Tsimalakha hospital as part of the Annual Health Sensitization and Screening Program for the civil servants working under Chhukha Dzongkhag.

Chaired by Sr. Dzongrab, 85 staff attended the program. At the program, the Doctor of Tsimalakha hospital and the health workers briefed on various health issues like prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), information on traditional medicine, oral health and hygiene, Sowa Rigpa and Mindfulness Meditation. Screening of investigation was carried out in the morning. Various questions were raised by the participants on health-related issues and it was undoubtedly one of the successful programs for better health and wellbeing of every staff of the Dzongkhag.

- Gopal Hingmang, Dy. CDHO

## ELECTION AND DEMOCRACY

### THE NATIONAL VOTER'S DAY - 'PARTICIPATION AS NATURAL RESPONSIBILITY'



On 15th November, the National Voter's Day for Chhukha Dzongkhag was observed at Pakshikha Central School on the theme 'Participation as Natural Responsibility' through Democracy Club Meets to Engage and Empower the Youth'.

A total of 110 democracy club members along with the club coordinators, staff of Pakshikha Central School and

invited guests from the four political parties attended the program.

The Guest of honour at the occasion was Chhukha Dzongdag. A poster competition among the school democracy clubs with the theme 'Bhutanese Democracy of My Dream' was one of the highlight events of the day.

- Pema, Chief Dz. Elector Officer

# BEAUTIFICATION

## STATUS REPORT ON BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT INITIATIVE

In close collaboration with other Sector and Regional Heads, Corporate and Business Communities in the Dzongkhag, not even a year old Beautification Sector has been in position to spread its sense of purpose of developing a clean and beautiful place where we live in. With limited knowledge and experiences, the Sector likes to put into record the following achievement starting from July 2019 - December, 2020:



Activity	Target	Achieved	Completed	Remarks
Advocacy Program on Beautification Plan and Policies.	10	70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dzongkhag Staffs and Sector Heads.</li> <li>➤ Regional Heads of Tsimasham and Tsimalakha</li> <li>➤ Business Community of Tsimasham and Tsimalakha</li> <li>➤ 7 Schools.</li> <li>➤ Gewog Gups of Chhukha Dzongkhag</li> <li>➤ Regional Heads and Business community of Gedu town</li> <li>➤ Regional Heads and Business Community of Phuentsholing Thromdey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staffs of Chhukha Hydro power project</li> <li>✓ Staffs of Tala Hydro power project</li> <li>✓ 30 schools</li> <li>✓ Shedras of strategic areas</li> <li>✓ 14 BHUs</li> </ul>
Dzongkhag Flower Exhibition	1	100%	Organized during Three-day Annual Chhukha Tshechu.	
Establishment of Dzongkhag Greenhouse	1	70%	Installed in 1 acre of land above the old Dzong.	
Gedu Chorten Beautification		100%	Completed	
Hillock Development		100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wall construction around hillock.</li> <li>▪ Lumo statue installation.</li> </ul>	Interior development under process
In-house Dzong Beautification.		60%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Filling and refilling of flowerpots with FYM and orchid plantation.</li> <li>✓ Placement of flower pots at main gate entrances</li> <li>✓ In front of DT hall</li> </ul>	Inside DT and Conference hall All 3 Dzong entrances
Establishment of Recreational park	54	2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tsimasham Mani Dungkhor and Tendrelthang</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 37 schools</li> <li>✓ 14 BHUs</li> <li>✓ Gedu Moelan Chenmo area.</li> </ul>
Establishment of Floriculture & Nursery Bank	7	4	In Phuntsholing, Bongo, Darla and Bjabchhog Gewogs	Kambji school, Darla school and Chhukha CS

- Tshering Norbu, Dzo. Beautification Officer

# URBAN PLANNING

## TSIMALAKHA KIDU PLOT RECONFIGURATION 2019

The report on “Reconfiguration of Kidu Plots in Tsimasham” was published and released on the 30th January 2020. It is basically a local area plan [LAP] with proper development control regulation and first of its kind in Chhukha Dzongkhag (excluding Structure Plan of Phuntsholing, 2013). One LAP for Tsimasham and three LAPs at Gedu including the Above Meritshem LAP, Below Meritshem LAP and Laptakha LAP were prepared in 2001. However, these LAPs only comprise of a basic map without any other documentation.

The plan preparation process initially started after His Majesty the Fifth King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk awarded kidu plots to 37 shopkeepers of Tsimalakha on 23rd August 2017 as all the shops in the town centre of Tsimalakha were previously built on government land. Since then, the Department of Human Settlement in collaboration with Chhukha Dzongkhag

initiated reconfiguration of these kidu plots along with endowment of basic infrastructures as the kidu plots were very irregular in shape without adequate basic infrastructures including proper sanitation, drainage, recreation spaces, etc. Furthermore, the town centre is also at a high risk of fire hazard, as most of the buildings are traditional buildings built very close to each other, if not without setbacks.

Various analysis including slope analysis, aspect analysis, SWOT analysis and existing scenario analysis were conducted during the preparation of the plan. In addition, two public consultations with the landowners of the kidu plots were also conducted to gather opinions and suggestion made of the landowners and other relevant stakeholders. Accordingly, proposals for action including plot reconfiguration and infrastructural proposals are being reflected in the LAP. Figure 2 shows the final map of Tsimalakha after plot reconfiguration.

- Jigme Namgyel, Dz. Urban Planner



Figure 1: shows the existing scenario of Tsimalakha town.



Figure 2: Map showing kidu plots of Tsimalakha after reconfiguration and proposed open spaces, footpaths, parking and communal septic tank.

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